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Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – November 2022

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Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – November 2022

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Vegan Day: November 1st

- Every year, **World Vegan Day** is celebrated on **November 1**.
- This day is observed to raise awareness of the advantages of veganism for humans, non-human animals, and the natural environment.
- Vegan Day is an opportunity to raise awareness about the advantages of a vegan diet and veganism in general.
- **Louise Wallis**, then-Chair of **The Vegan Society** in the **United Kingdom**, established the day in **1994** to commemorate the organization's founding and the coining of the terms "vegan" and "veganism."
- The date of November 1st was chosen by the **Vegan Society's President**.
- This is now recognized as the date on which the **Vegan Society** was founded, as well as the date on which **Vegan Day** is observed.

All Souls' Day: 2nd November

- **All Souls' Day 2022** is observed on the **2nd of November 2022**.
- All Souls Day commemorates baptized Christians who are believed to be in purgatory.
- The day is also known as the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed.

History:

- Roman Catholic doctrine holds that the prayers of the faithful on earth will help cleanse these souls to fit them for the vision of God in heaven, and the day is dedicated to prayer and remembrance.
- Requiem masses are commonly held, and many people visit and sometimes decorate the graves of loved ones.
- From antiquity certain days were devoted to intercession for particular groups of the dead.
- The institution of a day for a general intercession on **November 2** is due to **Odilo**, abbot of **Cluny** (died 1048).
- The date, which became practically universal before the end of the 13th century, was chosen to follow All Saints' Day.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – November 2022

- Having celebrated the feast of all the members of the church who are believed to be in heaven, the church on earth turns, on the next day, to commemorate those souls believed to be suffering in purgatory.
- Priests celebrate mass wearing vestments of varying colors—black (for mourning), violet (symbolizing penance), or white (symbolizing the hope of resurrection).

Central Vigilance Awareness Week - October 31st to November 6th:

- **Vigilance Awareness Week** is being held this year from **October 31 to November 6, 2022**, with the theme "**Corruption-free India for a Developed Nation.**"
- The week that includes **October 31st, late Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's birthday**, is known as **Vigilance Awareness Week** and is observed by the **Central Vigilance Commission**.
- The Central Vigilance Commission conducted a **three-month campaign in advance of Vigilance Awareness Week 2022** to emphasize certain preventative vigilance activities as key areas for all the Ministries, Departments, and Organizations.
- To raise public awareness about the dangers of corruption and to enlist the support of all the stakeholders in the anti-corruption campaign, public meetings will be held at the district and block levels during Vigilance Awareness Week.
- Participants will include students, young people, academics, current and former government officials, self-help groups, NGOs, and members of civil society.
- According to the **Central Vigilance Commission Act of 2003**, the Central Vigilance Commission is responsible for policing public administration for integrity and preventing corruption.

World Tsunami Awareness Day: 5th November

- **World Tsunami Awareness Day 2022** is observed on the **5th of November 2022**.
- World Tsunami Awareness Day 2022 Theme setup for this year is "**Early Warning and Early Action Before Every Tsunami**"
- On **November 5th, 1854**, **Hiomura** a little village which is located in the western part of Japan started celebrating their Traditional Practice, the **Burning of Rice Sheaves**.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – November 2022

- A farmer who lived in the village anticipated that a big Tsunami would come when he noticed the lowering of the Tide and the natural decrease in the level of Well Water which is a natural sign for a Tsunami warning.
- Later the Villager guided the entire village to the hilltop by burning rice sheaves to indicate the sign of danger.
- Later from the hilltop, they witnessed the tsunami destroy their village.
- They understood that the Fire saved them from the Tsunami.
- Japan proposed this day as **World Tsunami Awareness Day** because of the intent to protect the precious lives of people.

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

- **International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict 2022** is observed on **6th November 2022**.
- On **5th November 2001**, the **UN General Assembly** declared the **6th November** of each year as an International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the environment in War and Armed Conflict.
- On **27th May 2016** **United Nations General Assembly** passed a resolution to recognize the role of a healthy ecosystem and sustainably managed resources in reducing the risk of armed conflict
- The United Nations ensured strong commitment to the full implementation of the Sustainable Development goals according to the resolution passed on **27th May**.
- The **United Nations Organisation (UN)** and **European Nations (EU)** have made partnerships to help countries to identify and prevent the War conflict on natural resources as a part of peacemaking.

Infant Protection Day: 7th November

- **Infant Protection Day 2022** is observed on the **7th of November 2022**.
- In 1990 nearly 5 million infants died due to a lack of awareness of protecting Infants.
- So in the early **1900s**, many Countries decided that steps should be taken for better child health care and to **reduce Infant Mortality Rate (IMR)**.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – November 2022

- Europe first started a campaign to improve child health care. Europe Countries established Infant Protection Day to create awareness among the people about Child Care Services and to reduce Infant Mortality Rate (IMR).
- The Infant Mortality Rate has decreased from 100 to 10 deaths per 1000 births because of the awareness created by this day.
- Later America joined in this and started to celebrate Infant Protection Day to create awareness among the People.
- So Infant Protection Day was celebrated every year on 7th November.

National Cancer Awareness Day: 7th November

- **National Cancer Awareness Day 2022** is observed on the **7th of November 2022**.
- National Cancer Awareness Day 2022 is celebrated on 7th November after the birth anniversary of **Nobel Prize winner Scientist Marie Curie** who discovered Polonium and radium and her remarkable service for cancer treatment.
- The National Cancer Awareness day celebration was **first announced by Dr. Harsh Vardhan**, the Indian Union Minister for health and family welfare in **September 2014**.
- A **committee was formed in September 2014** and decided National Cancer Awareness Day will be celebrated on 7th November every year.
- National Cancer Awareness Day is celebrated every year to create awareness about the early detection of cancer and prevention methods
- Dr. Harsha launched a state-level cancer control process that encourages early detection and research in finding a cancer cure.
- In **1975 National Cancer Control Programme** was started to arrange treatment facilities for cancer.
- In 1984-85 some changes were made in the National Cancer Control Programme to make the Cancer treatment process more efficient and available to all.

World Radiography Day: 8th November

- **World Radiography Day 2022** is observed on the **8th of November 2022**.
- World Radiography Day 2022 is celebrated **every year** for one of the great discoveries of a new **Electromagnetic wave called X-ray**.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – November 2022

- The day is celebrated worldwide by various national radiographers' associations and societies.
- The **International Society of Radiographers and Radiological Technologists** has celebrated 8 November as **World Radiography Day** since 2007.
- In India, the **Radiographers Association of Madhya Pradesh** is celebrating this day since 1996 and the theme for this day was raised by Shivakant Vajpai, secretary of the Madhya Pradesh Radiographers Association.

Guru Nanak Dev's Birthday: 8th November

- **Guru Nanak Dev's Birthday** in 2022 is observed on the **8th of November 2022**.
- **Guru Nanak Dev** was born on **15th April 1469 A.D.**
- He was born in **Lahore, Punjab**.
- **Guru Nanak** was the **son of Mehta Kalu Chand and Mata Tripti Devi**.
- He got married to **Bibi Sulakhani** and was blessed with two sons, **Srichand and Lakshnichand**.
- He was religious from a small age, so he left the home and went to the woods to meditate.
- He started to Preach about God and the life of humans to reach God.
- His hymns were recorded in **Japji Sahib**, a holy scripture in Sikhism, which is a part of **Guru Granth Sahib** as well.
- It is a description of the stages of a man's life before he departs this life.
- His first devotee was **Mardana**, and **Baba Nanak** travelled across the land to preach to the public
- His birthday anniversary is celebrated in November every year on a special day
- **Guru Nanak** took his last breath at the age of **69** in **1538 A.D.**

National Legal Services: 9th November

- **National Legal Services Day 2022** is observed on the **9th of November 2022**.
- The Day aims to increase public understanding of the rights of litigants as well as the various parts of the **Legal Services Authorities Act**.
- Every year on November 9th, National Legal Services Day is marked to mark the beginning of the **Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987**, which went into effect on that date in 1995.
- State Legal Services Authorities across the nation hold legal awareness events on National Legal Services Day to inform people about the availability of free legal help.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – November 2022

- Additionally, every year campaigns are held across the country to inform the public of the many services offered by Legal Services Authorities.

9-15 November 2022: International Week of Science and Peace

- Every year, the **International Week of Science and Peace** is commemorated from **November 9 to November 14**.
- **This week is an initiative launched by the United Nations (UN)** with the hopes of encouraging and promoting peace around the world.
- People inspire and promote peace in their countries during this week, as well as produce breakthrough technology for a better way of life.
- Worldwide, various events and activities are arranged, and individuals from all over the world participate.

History:

- The **International Week of Science and Peace** was established in **1986** as part of the **International Year of Peace** celebrations.
- The non-governmental organization of events and activities for the week was undertaken; the International Year of Peace secretariat was notified of the preparatory activities and the final summary of events that transpired throughout the week.
- The organizers attempted to promote as much international participation in the commemoration as possible.

World Science Day for Peace and Development: 10th November

- **World Science Day for Peace and Development 2022** is observed on the **10th of November 2022**.
- World Science Day for Peace and Development 2022 theme is "**Basic Sciences for Sustainable Development**"
- The **first World Conference on Science** was held in **1999** and was coordinated by **UNESCO** and the **International Council for Science**.
- The **gathering was held in Hungary**, where various delegations concurred on the importance of educating the public about science.
- It was agreed upon by everybody that science should have a special day or week.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – November 2022

- To establish a strong relationship between science and society, actions were initiated in 2001.
- World Science Day for Peace and Development was first observed in 2002.

National Education Day: 11th November

- National Education Day 2022 is observed on the 11th of November 2022.
- National Education Day is first observed by the Ministry of Human Resource Development on November 11, 2008.
- It is observed every year after the birth anniversary of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad who was the first Educational Minister of Independent India.
- He served as Educational Minister for over Ten Years.
- The Day is celebrated to honour the First Educational Minister of India and his incomparable contribution made to the Education system of India.
- Maulana Abul Kalam Azad helped with the establishment of two major education governing bodies of India - the University Grants Commission (UGC) and the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE).
- The First National Education Day was celebrated on 11th November 2008 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, and was first inaugurated by then President Pratibha Patil.

World Pneumonia Day: 12th November

- World Pneumonia Day 2022 is observed on the 12th of November 2022.
- World Pneumonia Day 2022 Theme for this year is "Pneumonia affects Everyone".
- The main purpose of observing World Pneumonia Day is to create awareness about the disease Pneumonia.
- Pneumonia is one of the oldest and deadliest diseases among the children age group less than 5 and older age group more than 50.
- World Pneumonia Day was first observed on 12 November 2009.
- It was observed under the "Stop Pneumonia" initiatives by the Global Coalition Against Child Pneumonia, a coalition of various institutions all together to fight child mortality due to respiratory infection.
- Streptococcus Pneumoniae is the most common bacterial Pneumonia in Children.

World Kindness Day: 13th November

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- **World Kindness Day 2022** is observed on the 13th of November 2022.
- World Kindness Day 2022 Theme set up for this year is “**Be Kind Whenever Possible**”.
- World Kindness Day is celebrated by nearly 27 countries around the world.
- But yet the **UN has not officially celebrated this day**.
- Some of the countries which celebrate **World Kindness Day** are **India, Brazil, Australia, Canada, Japan, Italy, etc.**
- World Kindness day was **first celebrated in 1998 at the Tokyo Conference**.
- World Kindness Day Movement has been started which helped to bring small Organizations together for the World Kindness day Celebration.
- Now it helped to conduct a mega event to promote Kindness globally.
- Now It turned into a WorldWide Movement which helped to spread Kindness quicker because kindness among people will help to reduce conflict between Nations.

Children's Day in India: 14th November

- **Children's Day in India** is observed on the 14th of November 2022.
- **Jawaharlal Nehru** was born to a **Kashmiri Brahmins Royal family** on November 14th, 1889.
- Later he moved to Delhi and completed his Scholarship.
- His father's name was **Motilal Nehru**. Jawaharlal was the eldest of four children, two of whom were girls.
- A sister, **Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit**, later became the **first woman president of the United Nations General Assembly**.
- Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru was called **Chacha Nehru** by the children.
- Jawaharlal Nehru believed that Children are the real strength of the nation and the foundation of society.
- After the death of Jawaharlal Nehru in 1964, a resolution was passed in the parliament unanimously to honor him, declaring his birth anniversary as the official date of Children's Day.

World Diabetes Day: 14th November

- **World Diabetes Day 2022** is observed on the 14th of November 2022.
- World Diabetes Day 2022 theme set by WHO is “**access to diabetes education**”.
- World Diabetes Day became an **official UN day** in 2006.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – November 2022

- World Diabetes day was established in 1991 by the International Diabetes Federation with support from WHO for the growing concerns about the health and economic threat posed by diabetes.
- Diabetes occurs due to insufficient secretion of Insulin by the Pancreas.
- To meet Insulin secretion in the body research took place and finally, Insulin booster Injection was discovered by Sir Frederick G Banting (pictured), Charles H Best, and JJR Macleod at the University of Toronto in 1921 and it was later purified by James B Collip.

National Press Day 2022 - Nov 16

- National Press Day is observed on November 16 every year to acknowledge and honour the Press Council of India (PCI).
- The day marks the presence of an independent and responsible press in India.
- National Press Day 2022 will mark the 56th anniversary of the Press Council's establishment.

World Press Freedom Index 2022:

- According to the World Press Freedom Index 2022, India's ranking dropped to the 150th position from 142nd rank among 180 nations in 2021.
- Norway (1st) Denmark (2nd), Sweden (3rd) Estonia (4th) and Finland (5th) grabbed the top 5 positions, while North Korea remained at the bottom of the list of the 180 countries and territories.

Additional Info :

- Press Freedom is protected under article 19(1) (a) of the constitution, which states - "All citizens shall have the right to freedom of speech and expression".

About PCI :

- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India
- Chairman : Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai
- The PCI is a statutory, adjudicating organization in India formed in 1966 by its parliament.
- In 1966 on 16 November, the PCI was formed.
- It is the self-regulatory watchdog of the press, for the press and by the press, that operates under the Press Council Act of 1978.

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- It also examines the **quality of reportage** of the Indian press and keeps a check on journalistic activities.

International Day for Tolerance Observed on 16 November

- International Day for Tolerance 2022 is annually observed on the 16th of November 2022 by the United Nations (UN).
- In 1993, at the initiative of UNESCO, the United Nations proclaimed 1995 as “The Year for Tolerance”.

Significance :

- The day marks the signing of the **Declaration of Principles on Tolerance** by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) on Nov 16, 1995.
- In 1995, to mark the **United Nations Year for Tolerance** and the 125th anniversary of the birth of **Mahatma Gandhi**, UNESCO created a **prize** for the promotion of tolerance and non-violence: the **UNESCO-Madanjeet Singh Prize** with an amount of **US \$100000**.
- The prize is awarded **every two years** to individuals or organizations on International Tolerance Day.
- This Prize rewards significant activities in the **scientific, artistic, cultural or communication fields** aimed at the promotion of a spirit of tolerance and non-violence.

About UNESCO :

- Established: 16 November 1945
- Headquarters: Paris, France
- Director General: Audrey Azoulay
- UNESCO is a **specialized agency** of the **United Nations (UN)**.

Aim :

- To **promote world peace** and **security** through international cooperation in education, arts, sciences and culture.

International Students Day: 17th November

- **International Students' Day**, is celebrated on **November 17th** to remember the courage of student activists during the **1939 Nazi attack** at the University of Prague.
- The first observance took place in **1941** at the **International Students' Council** in London.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – November 2022

- It was there that students decided to introduce International Students' Day, to be observed every November 17.
- The day commemorates the anniversary of the 1939 death of **Czech student Jan Opletal**, who was killed by the Nazis during a student protest.
- On International Students Day 2022, Students will organize many events in their Universities insisting on the right to education and supporting multiculturalism.
- Students will bring different groups together for an engaging day of discussion, film, music, and art from around the world.

National Epilepsy Day: 17th November

- In India, **National Epilepsy Day** is observed on **November 17** each year to increase understanding of the condition.
- The Epilepsy Foundation of India created National Epilepsy Day as a national campaign to reduce the prevalence of epilepsy in India.
- National Epilepsy Day 2022 is observed to raise public awareness of **epilepsy**. Epilepsy is a **chronic brain disease** that is characterised by recurrent "fits" or "seizures."
- National Epilepsy Day will be observed in 2022 by several governmental and non-governmental organisations to increase public awareness of the causes and symptoms of epilepsy.
- Since 1969, the Epilepsy Foundation has recognized **November** as **National Epilepsy Awareness Month (NEAM)**.

World Antimicrobial Awareness Week: 18-24 November

- Every year, **World Antimicrobial Awareness Week (WAAW)** takes place from **November 18 to November 24**.
- The subject of WAAW this year is "**Preventing Antimicrobial Resistance Together.**"
- It's an international campaign to raise awareness about the **growing problem of antibiotic and antimicrobial resistance**.
- The goal of the week is to raise awareness of global antimicrobial resistance and to encourage best practices among the general public, health professionals, and policymakers to prevent the emergence and spread of drug-resistant illnesses.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – November 2022

- In 2015, the World Health Organization established "World Antibiotic Awareness Week" to raise worldwide awareness and support action to prevent the emergence and spread of antibiotic-resistant bacteria.
- In 2020, the campaign was renamed "World Antimicrobial Awareness Week."
- With cause, the World Health Organization (WHO) conveys a sense of urgency surrounding the worldwide issue of antibiotic resistance.
- You may die if you develop a disease or infection that cannot be treated with antibiotics in a typical manner.

International Men's Day: 19th November

- **International Men's Day 2022** is observed on **19th November**.
- International Men's Day 2022 celebration also focuses on Men's Health.
- International Men's Day 2022 Theme set up for this year is "Helping Men and Boys".
- This day is first celebrated in February.
- Then later it was celebrated in November.
- In 1968, an American journalist named John P. Harris communicated that there is a celebration for International Women's Day for female workers but failed to deliver a male counterpart
- In the early 1990s Thomas Oaster, the director of the Missouri Center for Men's Studies, invited organizations in the U.S., Australia, and Malta to hold small International Men's Day events during February.
- Oyster celebrated this small event for two years successfully and later the celebration does not take place well.
- Malta is the sole country that celebrated this event continuously.
- Teelucksingh understood the importance of a male role in society as his father had been an excellent example for him and chose to celebrate International Men's Day on November 19th, the day of his father's birthday as well as the day a local soccer team had united his country with their endeavours to qualify for the world cup.
- After that, all Countries celebrated International Men's Day on 19th November.
- Malta celebrated in February then changed the celebration day to November.

World Toilet Day: 19th November

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- **World Toilet Day 2022** is observed on the **19th of November 2022**
- It is celebrated to inspire action to tackle the global sanitation crisis and help **achieve Sustainable Development Goal 6** which promises sanitation for all by 2030.
- **Jack Sim, a philanthropist from Singapore, founded the World Toilet Organization on November 19, 2001, He declared that day as World Toilet Day.**
- Toilets are only the first stage of sanitation apparatuses.
- World Toilet Day was made to spread and increase public awareness of broader sanitation systems such as wastewater treatment, stormwater management, and hand washing.
- UN Sustainable Development Goal 6 says that waste should be safely processed. Their efforts to call attention to the sanitation crisis were strengthened in 2010.
- In 2013, the Government of Singapore and the **World Toilet Organization led to Singapore's first UN resolution called "Sanitation for All."**
- This resolution decided to take action to end the **world sanitation crisis by 2025.**
- As a result, World Toilet Day was declared an official UN day and the resolution was adopted by 122 countries at the **67th session of the UN General Assembly in New York.**

Universal Children's Day 2022 Theme and History: 20th November

- **Universal Children's Day 2022** is observed on **20th November.**
- It is celebrated to create awareness of the problems children face in every corner of the globe, improve the welfare of all children, and promote the education of children, health, proper care, and nourishment.
- Universal Children's Day 2022 Theme set for this year is **"Equality and Inclusion, for every child"**.
- **Children's Day was first officially declared a national holiday by the Republic of Turkey in 1920 on April 23.**
- Children's Day has been celebrated nationally since **1920 by the Turkish government** and they declared as the day for children.
- However, it was decided that an official confirmation was needed to clarify and justify this celebration and the official declaration was made nationally in 1929 by the founder and the President of the Republic of Turkey, **Mustafa Kemal Atatürk.**

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – November 2022

- Though **Universal Children’s Day** was established by the **United Nations** in 1954, it wasn’t until **November 20, 1959** that the **UN General Assembly** adopted an extended form of the Declaration of the Rights of the Child.
- Originally acquired in **1924** by the **League of Nations**, the **UN** adopted this document as its own statement of children’s rights.

World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims: 20th November

- **World Day of Remembrance for Road traffic Victims 2022** is observed on the **20th of November 2022**.
- World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims 2022 **theme set by the WHO** this year is **“Remember. Support. Act”**.
- **Brigitte Chaudhry MBE** was living with his husband and her only son. At the age of 26, her son met with a fatal accident.
- A Van jumps the Red light signal and hits his son at the junction.
- She lost her son due to untimely first aid and negligence in proper medication.
- Chaudhry founded RoadPeace, a British charity for road crash victims. RoadPeace operates a 24/7 helpline, providing emotional support and practical advocacy to the people affected by road crashes.
- In 1993, RoadPeace founded **The World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims** to give **public recognition** to the pain and suffering of millions of people.
- The day has reached more than 30 countries within the last decade and is now a global event, observed in solemn remembrance of the lives we have lost to the senseless tragedy of road crashes.
- The remembrance has also helped the U.K. Government change its posture towards the victims of road crashes and understood the enormity of the crisis.

World Television Day: 21st November

- **World Television day 2022** is observed on the **21st of November 2022**
- The **UN General Assembly** decided to name **November 21 World Television Day**, not to celebrate the object itself, but the symbol for communication and globalization in the contemporary world that it represents.

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- In 1927, a 21-year-old inventor by the name of Philo Taylor Farnsworth invented the world's first **electronic television**.
- Neither of them knew the television would become the emblem for an international day promoting the spread of global information.
- On **November 21 and 22 in 1996**, the **United Nations held the first World Television Forum**.
- UN leaders recognized that television could bring attention to conflicts, raise awareness of threats to peace and security, and sharpen focus on social and economic issues.
- Television has an undoubtedly presence and influence on world politics.

International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women: 25th November

- **International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women 2022** is observed on the **25th of November 2022**.
- On November 25, 1960, the **Mirabal sisters of the Dominican Republic** were assassinated by dictator **Rafael Trujillo**.
- The sisters, who had been active in movements against the Trujillo regime, were beaten and strangled to death, then placed in a Jeep that was driven off a mountainous road to make their deaths appear accidental.
- According to a report by the United Nations, 19 per cent of women between the ages of 15 and 49 years of age have experienced physical and/or sexual violence “by an intimate partner.”
- In some cases, this violence ends in the woman's death.
- In **December 1999**, the **United Nations General Assembly** designated **November 25** as the **International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women**.

Constitution Day: 26th November

- **Constitution day 2022** is observed on the **26th of November 2022**.
- On **November 26, 1949**, the **Constituent Assembly of India** formally adopted the **Constitution of India**.
- It came into force on **January 26, 1950**.
- **Constitution Day** aims to bring awareness about the importance of the Constitution and **Dr. B R Ambedkar**.

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- **Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar**, chairman of the drafting committee, is considered to be the chief architect of the Constitution of India.
- He is also called the **Father of the Indian Constitution**.
- The Constitution of India was drafted by the members of the Constituent Assembly.

International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People: 29th November

- **International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People 2022** is observed on the 29th of November 2022.
- It has been a long struggle to **partition Palestine and Israel into two independent states**.
- They are sharing borders with Jerusalem.
- **Palestine is an Arab-dominated country and Israel is a Jewish-dominated Country**.
- For decades, there has been a need to separate and make both states independent.
- This resulted in the adoption of a New Resolution by the UN.
- The UN Resolution simply meant the creation of independent Arab and Jewish states and a Special International Regime for the city of Jerusalem.
- But it was never fully implemented, however, with the outbreak of a one-year civil war in Palestine.
- Following that, **Israel became independent in 1948, but an Arab state was never formed**.
- In **1977, the United Nations General Assembly called for an annual observance of the resolution on the partition of Palestine, which was to start in 1978**.

IMPORTANT BANKING & ECONOMY NEWS

Healthsure and ManipalCigna Health partner to launch Flexi top-up insurance

- **Employee benefits insurance technology Healthsure** has partnered **ManipalCigna Health Insurance** to launch **India's first Flexi top-up insurance** which allows employees to **personalize and upgrade** their corporate health insurance plans.

About the first Flexi top-up insurance :

- Flexi-top-up is powered by Healthsure's technology platform through which a policy is issued **digitally within 30 seconds** of making a purchase.

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- This policy does not require any extra loading premium for pre-existing diseases, nor does it have a co-payment clause.
- By paying a nominal add-on premium, employees can upgrade their cover, which can even be continued in a personal capacity post-employment.

About Healthsure :

- Founded: 2021
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Founder & CEO : Anuj Parekh

About ManipalCigna Health Insurance Company Ltd :

- Founded: 2012
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- MD & CEO : Prasun Sikdar

Tata AIA Life partners with Medix to offer specialized critical illness cover

- Tata AIA Life Insurance Company Limited (Tata AIA) has tied up with Medix, a global company in medical management solutions, to offer consumers access to a local and global network of accredited medical specialists during serious illnesses.
- This service is complimentary for policyholders who have purchased eligible life insurance products across the term, savings, and pension plans.

Key Highlights :

- This alliance would offer a Personal Medical Care Management facility in India, bringing world-class, healthcare advice to consumers.
- This will include a reassessment of the medical case, diagnosis thereof, and tailoring an optimized treatment plan with quality care including referrals to leading local specialists and coordination of care.
- Through this service, Tata AIA's consumers can track, manage, communicate with dedicated medical teams, and receive updates on their medical journey, ensuring quality-driven continuity of care.
- According to a study by Harvard University, 5.2 million medical errors occur every year in India.

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- **Cancer (38%), Vascular events (29%) & Infectious diseases (13%)** account for 80% of these errors.

About Tata AIA :

- **Founded:** 23 August 2000
- **Headquarters:** Mumbai, Maharashtra
- **MD & CEO :** Naveen Tahilyani
- **Tata AIA Life Insurance** is a joint venture company, formed by **Tata Sons Pvt. Ltd.** and **AIA Group Ltd. (AIA)**.

About Medix :

- **President and CEO :** Ms. Sigal Atzmon

BSE completes India's first successful EGR transaction

- **Leading stock exchange BSE Limited** has completed **India's first successful creation, transaction, and settlement of electronic gold receipts (EGRs)**.
- EGRs are **electronic receipts** issued based on a deposit of physical gold.
- This would pave the way for the operationalization of a **gold exchange** in India.

Key Highlights :

- According to the platform, the first transaction that took place on **24 October 2022** during the **Muhurat Trading session**, was successfully settled on **T+1 day**, as investors benefited from access to liquidity using the newly created EGRs.
- During **Muhurat trading**, **BSE** launched **two new EGR products** of **995 and 999 purity**, and trading will be in **multiples of 1 gram** and **deliveries** in **multiples of 10 grams and 100 grams**.
- In **September 2022**, **BSE** received **final approval** from the capital markets regulator **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** for introducing the **EGR segment** on its platform.

About BSE :

- **Founded:** 9 July 1875
- **Headquarters:** Mumbai, Maharashtra
- **Chairman:** Just. SS Mudra
- The **Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE)**, is an **Indian stock exchange** and is the **leading stock exchange** under the ownership of the **Ministry of Finance, Gol.**

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BSE Technologies launches of KYC Registration Agency

- BSE Technologies Pvt Ltd, a subsidiary of the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE), launched the Know Your Customer Registration Agency (KYC KRA), which maintains KYC records of investors in an electronic form.
- KRA is a SEBI-regulated intermediary that grants the market participants authorization for investors' Know Your Client (KYC), which is mandatory for investment in the securities market.
- In April 2022 SEBI issued fresh guidelines for KRAs whereby such agencies will have to independently validate the KYC records of all clients from July 1, 2022.
- Under the guidelines, KRAs need to independently validate records of those clients (existing as well as new) whose KYC has been completed using Aadhaar as an Officially Valid Document (OVD).
- The move came after Sebi, in January 2022 notified new norms to make KRAs responsible for carrying out independent validation of the KYC records uploaded on their system by Registered Intermediaries.

SEBI clears govt proposal to turn Vodafone Idea dues into equity

- India's capital market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) approved the government's proposal to convert dues of over \$1.92 billion by telecom operator Vodafone Idea to equity.
- Among India's 3 major telecom players, including Bharti Airtel and Reliance Industries' Jio, the government package was seen as a bailout for Vodafone Idea, which was on the verge of bankruptcy.
- The government's stake in Vodafone after the conversion could be more than 30%, the official added, which would make it one of the largest shareholders in the company along with UK's Vodafone Group and Aditya Birla Group.

About SEBI :

- Established: on 12 April 1988 as an executive body and was given statutory powers on 30 January 1992 through the SEBI Act, 1992
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Chairman: Madhabi Puri Buch

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- SEBI is the **regulatory body** for **securities** and **commodity markets** in India under the ownership of the **Ministry of Finance** within the Gol.

Infibeam Avenues gets RBI in-principle nod for payment aggregator license

- **Infibeam Avenues Limited (IAL)**, which operates **CCAvenue**, has received **in-principle approval** from the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** to operate as a **payment aggregator (PA)**.
- The move will enable its flagship brand, **CCAvenue**, to scale offerings and help onboard a greater number of **micro-entrepreneurs** onto its fold.
- The approval will also allow Infibeam to further expand its reach in **multiple business segments** across both online and offline arenas
- Of these, players such as **Razorpay, Mswipe, Pine Labs, Stripe, and Cashfree Payments** have already received an in-principle nod for the license.
- The startup's core payment gateway business claims to offer **more than 200 cross-border payment options** enabling payment processing in **27 international currencies** across the globe.

About IAL :

- **Founded: 2007**
- **Headquarters: Gandhinagar, Gujarat**
- **MD & Founder: Vishal Mehta**
- The startup provides **end-to-end eCommerce payment solutions** to enterprises and retailers.
- It also provides marketplace software technology to large enterprises and institutions, including state-backed **Government eMarketplace (GeM)** and **Jiomart**.

RBI launches the pilot project of the Digital Rupee in the wholesale segment

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has commenced India's first **Digital Rupee pilot project** to implement the **central bank digital currency (CBDC)** or **digital rupee** in the **wholesale segment**.
- The first pilot in the **Digital Rupee - Retail segment** is planned for launch **within a month** in select locations in closed user groups comprising customers and merchants.
- RBI has identified **9 banks** for participation in the Digital Rupee's wholesale pilot project which are
 1. **State Bank of India (SBI)**

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2. Bank of Baroda (BoB)
 3. Union Bank of India (UBI)
 4. HDFC Bank
 5. ICICI Bank
 6. Kotak Mahindra Bank
 7. Yes Bank
 8. IDFC First Bank
 9. HSBC.
- The use of the **E-Rupee** is expected to make the **interbank market more efficient**.
 - The **Government of India** announced the launch of the **Digital Rupee** from the fiscal year **2022-23** onwards in the **Union Budget** tabled in Parliament on **February 1, 2022**.

What is Digital Rupee?

- A **Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC)** or **Digital Rupee** is a **digital form of currency notes** issued by a **central bank**.
- Digital currency or the rupee is an **electronic form of money** that can be used in **contactless transactions**.

CBDC can be classified into two types

- 1) **Retail (CBDC-R)**: Retail CBDC would be potentially available for use by all
- 2) **Wholesale (CBDC-W)** is designed for restricted access to select financial institutions.

Difference between the digital rupee and cryptocurrency :

- A cryptocurrency is a **decentralized digital asset** and a medium of exchange based on **blockchain technology**.
- However, it has primarily been controversial due to its decentralized nature, meaning its operation without any intermediary like **banks, financial institutions, or central authorities**.
- On the Contrary, **Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC)** issued by the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** will be a **legal tender** in a **digital form**.

About RBI :

- Established: 1 April 1935

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- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Governor : Shaktikanta Das
- Deputy governors: Mahesh Kumar Jain, M. Rajeshwar Rao, Michael Patra, and T. Rabi Shankar

HDFC ERGO launches first-of-its-kind satellite index-based Farm Yield Insurance Policy

- HDFC ERGO launched a **technology-backed farm yield insurance policy** for farmers, a **first-of-its-kind insurance solution**, where a **satellite-based index** will be used to provide **localized farm-level coverage**.

Key Highlights :

- It will provide comprehensive coverage across the **crop life cycle** from **sowing to harvesting, based on satellite-based data**.
- The product is targeted at farmers under **corporate/farm input company (FIC) contracts** and is valid for food, oilseed, commercial, or horticulture crops.
- A **threshold Index value** is calculated for **every yield** by using the **historical satellite imaging data** of the **specific crop** and a **remote sensing mechanism** available in the public domain.
- The threshold/benchmark index will be then compared with the actual index value arrived at by the **reference satellite** for the **insured crop**, to determine if the yield is at loss.
- The farm yield insurance cover will provide composite insurance to crops across stages of the cropping cycle, without the requirement of **tedious manual surveys**.

About HDFC ERGO :

- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD: Mr. Ritesh Kumar
- HDFC ERGO is a **51:49 joint venture** firm between HDFC and ERGO International AG, one of the insurance entities of the **Munich Re Group** in **Germany**.

SEBI Reduces Face Value for Debt Issues to Rs1 Lakh

- The **Capital and Commodity markets regulator Securities Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** reduced the face value of debt security and non-convertible redeemable

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preference shares issued on a private placement basis to Rs 1 lakh from the current Rs 10 lakh will be applicable from 1 January 2023.

- The face value has been reduced to enhance liquidity in the corporate bond market.
- The issuer thereof will have the option while raising funds through a tranche placement memorandum, to keep the face value at Rs 10 lakh or Rs 1 lakh.
- Face value is the money amount promised to the holder of the bond upon the maturity of the bond.

About SEBI :

- Established: 12 April 1988 and it was given statutory status by the SEBI Act 1992 on 30 January 1992.
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Chairman: Madhabi Puri Buch
- It comes under the Ministry of Finance, Government of India.
- It is the regulator of the Capital market and Commodities market in India.

India donates USD 2.5 million to UNRWA for the welfare of Palestine refugees

- The Government of India (GoI) presented USD 2.5 million (the second tranche of a total contribution of US\$ 5 million for the Financial Year 2022-2023) to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), to support Palestinian refugees.
- The UNRWA services for Palestinian refugees involve education, health care, relief, infrastructure, camp improvement, protection, and microfinance.
- The financial contribution was presented to Ms. Xuran Wu, Associate Donor Relations and Projects Officer, Department of External Relations, UNRWA at the Representative Office of India in Ramallah, Palestine.
- India is a dedicated donor to UNRWA, having given USD 20 million in support of core UNRWA services to Palestine refugees across the Middle East since 2018.

About UNRWA :

- Established: 8 December 1949
- Commissioner-General: Philippe Lazzarini

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- UNRWA is a UN agency that supports the relief and human development of Palestinian refugees.

RBI imposes Rs 5 lakh penalty on LIC Housing Finance

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed a monetary penalty of Rs 5 lakh on LIC Housing Finance Ltd for non-compliance with certain provisions of the National Housing Bank (NHB).
- The non-banking finance company has not complied with certain provisions of "The Housing Finance Companies (NHB) Directions, 2010" issued by the NHB on July 02, 2018.
- The penalty has been imposed in the exercise of powers vested in the RBI under the provisions of clause (b) of sub-section (1) of section 52A read with clause (aa) of sub-section (3) of section 49 of the National Housing Bank Act, 1987 (NHB Act).
- Karnataka's Mysore Merchants Co-operative Bank has been fined Rs 5 lakh for violation of directions issued under Management of Advances-UCBs (Urban Co-operative Banks).
- The RBI also imposed a monetary penalty of Rs 2 lakh on The City Co-operative Bank Ltd, Mysore for non-adherence to directions issued under Management of Advances-UCBs.

Zaggle partners with NPCI to issue contactless credit cards on the RuPay network

- Zaggle, a profitable SaaS FinTech company and a pioneer in digitizing business spending, has collaborated with National Payments Corp. of India (NPCI) to issue contactless credit cards on the RuPay network.

Key Highlights :

- Zaggle and NPCI along with partner banks would use this platform to launch multiple credit cards to address the ever-growing demand of corporates, SMEs, and consumers.
- The cards would be enabled for international as well as domestic transactions, making business travel convenient and easy.
- Also, users would be able to use this credit card for contactless transactions as well.
- Zaggle would focus on enhancing the user journey through digital onboarding and instant issuance along with intuitive in-app customer experience, spend insights, credit score, etc.
- This would be supplemented by product innovations like gamification, customized partner offers, and other ancillary services.

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- Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) announcement to link credit cards with a Unified Payment Interface (UPI) will provide a huge boost to this segment.
- Recently India witnessed nearly 9.4 billion transactions of ₹10.25 trillion led by UPI.

About Zaggie :

- Founder and chairman: Raj N
- MD & CEO: Avinash Godkhindi

About NPCI :

- Founded: 2008
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO : Dilip Asbe
- The NPCI is the specialized division of the Reserve Bank of India which is under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Finance, Government of India.

South Indian Bank launches app-based foreign outward remittance

- South Indian Bank has launched a foreign outward remittance service through the 'SIB Mirror+' mobile banking application.
- Non-resident external (NRE) and resident savings bank account holders can make foreign outward remittances through the bank's 'SIB Mirror+' mobile banking application.
- The service is also available on its Internet banking platform 'SIBERNET'.
- Customers can transfer foreign currency abroad without visiting the bank's branch.
- The feature allows outward remittance 24x7 in dollars, and other currencies during market hours.
- The per day limit for resident customers is \$10,000 and in FY \$25,000; for NRIs the daily limit is \$25,000 and the FY limit is \$100,000, within the Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS) limit.
- Through this newly launched feature, customers can now initiate foreign outward remittances in more than 100 currencies across the globe.

About South Indian Bank :

- Founded: 1928
- Headquarters: Thrissur, Kerala, India
- MD & CEO: Murali Ramakrishnan

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- Tagline: Experience Next-Generation Banking

Bank of India launches special deposit scheme: star super triple seven FD

- The **Bank of India (BoI)** launched a **special fixed deposit scheme Star Super Triple Seven Fixed Deposit** which will offer a **7.25% rate of interest (7.75% for senior citizens)** on a deposit for **777 days**.

Key Highlights :

- Apart from the special deposit scheme, the Bank of India has raised the interest rate on its **existing 555-days fixed deposit scheme to 6.30%**.
- On other maturities from **180 days to less than 5 years**, it has raised interest rates by **25 basis points**.
- Bank of Baroda has also revised interest rates on **“Baroda Advantage Fixed Deposits”**.
- Meanwhile, the newly formed **digital first Unity Small Finance Bank** has launched **“Shagun 366, a 1-year fixed deposit scheme** that will fetch depositors an interest rate of **7.80%**.
- This is a limited-period offer and is available for deposits booked up to **November 30, 2022**.

About BoI :

- Founded: 7 September 1906
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO : Atanu Kumar Das
- Tagline: Relationship Beyond Banking

Aegon Life Insurance Unveils iGuarantee Max Savings Plan

- **Aegon Life Insurance Company** has launched a **traditional insurance policy iGuarantee Max Savings Plan** that offers **savings and life cover**.

About iGuarantee Max Savings Plan :

- The policyholder can choose a policy term between **5 and 20 years**, depending on their savings goal.
- The **minimum monthly contribution** for the plan is **Rs.500**, which can be done online with **no paper works**, and subscribers could gain higher tax-free returns on their savings.

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- The plan would enable families to meet their **medium-to-long-term savings goals “affordably”** while protecting them against financial shocks in the wake of the policyholder’s sudden death.
- Premium payment options on offer are **regular pay (pay throughout the policy term), limited pay (pay for a fixed duration, lower than the policy term), and single pay (pay a lump sum front)**.
- In the event of the **death of the policyholder**, if the policy is in force and **all due premiums** have been paid, an amount equal to the sum assured on death plus accrued guaranteed additions, if any, shall be paid.

About Aegon Life Insurance Company :

- Founded: 2008
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO: Satishwar Balakrishnan
- It is a joint venture between **Dutch Aegon N.V.**, a multinational insurance, pensions, and asset management company, and **The Times Group (also called Bennett Coleman & Co. Ltd)**, one of India’s largest media conglomerates.

Aviva Life Insurance launches Aviva Protection Plus policy

- **Aviva Life Insurance** company has launched the **Aviva Protection Plus**, a **Non-Linked Non-Participating Individual Life Insurance Savings Plan**.

About Aviva Protection Plus :

- Aviva Protection Plus offers attractive features with the **Maturity Benefit of return of premiums, Enriched Protection, and Savings Booster options**.
- It ensures that the **family is financially secured** with a **high death sum assured**, payable in case of an unfortunate event.
- Additionally, the plan comes with the flexibility of **single or regular premium paying terms**.
- Also, one has the option to choose from **multiple premium payment frequency modes** and avail benefits like life coverage up to **80 years**, direct and indirect tax benefits, and rebate on high sum assured

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SEBI extends the deadline for rules on direct ETF transactions to May 1, 2023

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) extended the deadline for implementation of the Rs 25 crore-threshold rule for direct Exchange Traded Fund (ETF) transactions with asset management companies to May 1, 2023.
- This is the second time the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has extended the deadline.
- Initially, the rule was to come into force from July 1, 2022, and the same was extended till November 1, 2022.
- To enhance liquidity in units of Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs) on stock exchange platforms, Sebi decided that direct transactions with Asset Management Companies (AMCs) will be facilitated for investors only when the transaction amount is greater than Rs 25 crore.

SEBI to develop the world's First system for securing stock exchanges from cyberattacks

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) in collaboration with India's two largest stock exchanges the National Stock Exchange and the Bombay Stock Exchange is developing a system to mitigate the risk of cyber attacks.
- The event was organized by the Indian Institute of Management Bangalore (IIMB).

About SEBI :

- Established: on 12 April 1988 as an executive body and was given statutory powers on 30 January 1992 through the SEBI Act, 1992
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Chairman: Madhabi Puri Buch
- SEBI is the regulatory body for securities and commodity markets in India under the ownership of the Ministry of Finance, Gol.

Aditya Birla Sun Life Mutual Fund Launches SAHYOG

- Aditya Birla Sun Life AMC Limited, a subsidiary of Aditya Birla Capital Limited and an investment manager to Aditya Birla Sun Life Mutual Fund, has launched SAHYOG, an initiative to empower its support staff and their families.
- SAHYOG is a first-of-its-kind initiative, by the mutual fund industry, targeted at improving the financial health of support staff through steady, long-term investments.

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- MD & CEO of Aditya Birla Sun Life AMC Limited : Mr. A. Balasubramanian

Bank of Baroda launches two Premium Debit Cards with Visa

- Bank of Baroda, one of India's leading banks, and Visa, the global leader in digital payments, launched two new premium Debit Cards for Bank of Baroda customers
1. **bob World Opulence** – a super-premium Visa Infinite Debit Card (Metal Edition)
 2. **bob World Sapphire** – a Visa Signature Debit Card
- PV Sindhu, India's badminton icon and Bank of Baroda's brand endorser, unveiled the cards at the launch event.

Key Highlights :

- The two debit card variants come with a **best-in-class** and **powerful rewards proposition** exclusively designed for the **Bank's High Networth Individual (HNI)** customer segment
- The bob World Sapphire card will come in two sub-variants – **bob World Sapphire (Male)** and **bob World Sapphire (Female)**, offering customized privileges to customers.

Features & Benefits of BoB World Opulence & BoB World Sapphire :

- Complimentary Airport Pickup and Drop Service
- Airport Lounge Visits
- Complimentary Club Marriott Membership for a year
- Golf Programme: Complimentary sessions at select Golf courses
- Complimentary dining benefits and curated experiences at select hotels
- Room upgrades, late checkouts, and complimentary benefits at select hotels, which are a part of the **Visa Luxury Hotel Collection**
- Joining Fee for BoB World Opulence: **Rs 9,500/-** (for the first year)
- Joining Fee for BoB World Sapphire: **Rs 750/-** (for the first year)

About BoB :

- Founded: 20 July 1908
- Headquarters: Vadodara, Gujarat, India
- MD & CEO: Sanjiv Chadha

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The credit card base of major issuers erodes in Q2 over RBI's norms

- Credit card issuers saw significant erosion of their card base during the July-September 2022 quarter as the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) norms mandated the deactivation of cards that have been inactive for a year.
- The second quarter of the current financial year saw an outstanding cards-in-force decline by 2.55 million to 77.7 million.
- HDFC Bank, the largest credit card issuer in the country, saw a net reduction of 1.62 million credit cards in Q2 of FY23, the highest by any card issuer.
- Its cards-in-force dropped to 16.32 million at the end of September from a high of almost 18 million in July 2022.
- Axis Bank was second in the pecking order as it saw a net reduction of over 1.10 million credit cards during this period.
- On the other hand, ICICI Bank lost 409,147 cards during this period (Q2).
- In September 2022 alone, ICICI Bank saw a net reduction of over 620,000 cards.
- Among other major players, Canara Bank saw a net reduction of 354,413 cards in Q2.
- YES Bank and Standard Chartered saw a net reduction of 40,567 cards and 104,432 cards, respectively
- However, SBI Card gained during this period as it saw a net addition of 293,368 cards in Q2.
- The impact of RBI norms on the bank was limited because 95% of its portfolio is dominated by fee-based cards.
- Similarly, Kotak Mahindra Bank has seen a net addition of 247,813 cards during this period.
- IDFC First Bank, IndusInd Bank, and RBL Bank saw a net addition of 161,443, 108,334, and 92,545 cards, respectively.
- HDFC Bank's market share has dropped to 21.01%, down 133 basis points from Q1.
- On the other hand, SBI Card has increased its market share to 19.08%, up 90 bps.

Bank of Baroda (BoB) unveils special FD scheme - Baroda Tiranga Plus Deposit Scheme

- The leading public sector lender Bank of Baroda (BoB) launched the "Baroda Tiranga Plus Deposit Scheme", with higher standard interest rates of up to 7.50% p.a. for 399 days which includes 0.50% p.a. for senior citizens and 0.25% for non-callable deposits.

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- The scheme is applicable on retail term deposits below Rs 2 crore.
- BoB has also increased the premium on Non-Callable Retail Term Deposits from 0.15% per annum to 0.25% per annum.
- Hence, non-callable deposits will now receive 0.25% per annum extra.

About Baroda Tiranga Plus Deposit Scheme :

- The scheme comes with two specific tenors of 444 days and 555 days.
- On callable deposits maturing in 444 days, BoB is now offering an interest rate of 5.75% to the general public and 6.25% for senior citizens whereas on callable deposits maturing in 555 Days will fetch a standard interest rate of 6.00% and 6.505 for senior citizens.
- On non-callable deposits maturing in 444 days, the bank is offering a standard rate of 6.00% and 6.50% for senior citizens whereas those maturing in 555 days will fetch an interest rate of 6.25% for the general public and 6.75% for senior citizens under the old Baroda Tiranga Deposit Scheme at Bank of Baroda.

Aditya Birla Health Insurance & IDFC FIRST Bank Partner for Bancassurance

- Aditya Birla Health Insurance Co. Limited. (ABHICL), the health insurance subsidiary of Aditya Birla Capital Limited (ABCL), a leading non-bank financial services conglomerate announced its bancassurance partnership with IDFC FIRST Bank, a new-age bank, for the distribution of health insurance products through the Bank's state-of-the-art digital platform and its wide distribution network.

About the Partnership :

- This bancassurance partnership will help further strengthen ABHI's distribution and unlock growth opportunities through the Bank's wide network.
- This tie-up will help reach the extended market base with 'Health First' insurance solutions thereby increasing insurance penetration in India.

About Bancassurance :

- Bancassurance is an insurance distribution model where insurance companies partner with banks to sell policies.
- Both the bank and the insurance company get to benefit from this arrangement.
- While the bank earns a commission from the insurance company, the insurer gains from the distribution network of the bank.

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About ABHICL :

- Founded: 2015
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- CEO: Mayank Bathwal
- ABHICL was incorporated as a **51:49 joint venture** between **MMI Strategic Investments (Pty) Ltd, MMI Holdings Limited, Aditya Birla Nuvo Limited, and Aditya Birla Capital Limited (ABCL).**

About IDFC FIRST Bank :

- Founded: October 2015
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO : V. Vaidyanathan
- Tagline: Always You First

Niva Bupa and IDFC First Bank partner for bancassurance

- **Niva Bupa Health Insurance Company Limited (formerly known as Max Bupa Health Insurance Company), has partnered with IDFC First Bank to provide best-in-class health insurance solutions to the bank's customers.**
- It is the **first bancassurance partnership of NBHICL for FY 23.**
- With this partnership, NBHIC can expand its reach through the bank for its **services**, and **address the healthcare-related concerns** of the bank's customers.

About Niva Bupa Health Insurance Company Limited :

- Founded: 2008
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India
- MD & CEO : Krishnan Ramachandran

Aditya Birla Sun Life partners with Karza to offer insurance on WhatsApp

- **Aditya Birla Sun Life Insurance (ABSLI) partnered with Karza Technologies (part of Perfios Software Solutions Pvt. Ltd.) and a few other technology vendors to launch end-to-end onboarding journeys of customers on the WhatsApp platform.**

Key Highlights :

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- It will allow customers to select premium amount, term, illustration generation, and premium payment within the WhatsApp journey only.
- The use of Karza's next-generation tech solutions by Aditya Birla Sun Life Insurance to comply with **KYC norms**, extract data through APIs, and even get confirmation from customers is a revolution in itself.
- This solution will enable customers to purchase insurance products using WhatsApp **within 5 minutes** with **secured KYC verification** and an encrypted chat option provided by WhatsApp.

About Karza Technologies :

- Founded: 2015
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- MD, and CEO : Kamlesh Rao

Chqbook & NSDL Payments Bank tie up to launch a zero-balance digital current account

- Fintech firm Chqbook teamed up with National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL) Payments Bank to open a **zero-balance digital checking account** for small business owners.

Key Highlights :

- **Small business owners** like kiranas, and chemists, among others, can **open a current account instantly** on the Chqbook App from their smartphone and in a language, they are comfortable with.
- The current account is available in **8 languages** making it **more accessible** and **easy to understand**.
- The account offers all the features including downloading account statements to **reconcile transactions**, adding and managing beneficiaries, providing transaction history, ensuring easy fund transfers, and features enhanced biometric security.
- Further, customers receive the advantage of a **zero-balance current account** along with a free debit card.
- The customers can also avail of a **Point Of Sale (POS) machine** with **one single click** on the Chqbook App.

About Chqbook :

- Established: September 2020

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- Headquarters: Gurugram, Haryana
- Founder & CEO: Vipul Sharma
- Chqbook is India's first neobank for small business owners offering world-class financial services through its five pillars of banking, lending, insurance, khata, and rewards.

Bayer, Rabo Partnerships & MasterCard tie up to build a digital ecosystem for agri-finance

- **Bayer, Rabo Partnerships, and Mastercard** have come together to launch a scalable program to advance the digitization of the Indian agricultural finance ecosystem.
- This collaboration brings together the expertise of three companies in digital, agri finance, and payments technology to bear upon the task of expanding access to agronomic knowledge, products, services, and partnerships.

Key Highlights :

- **Over 5 years**, the program aims to benefit 10 million smallholder farmers in India by enabling them to gain access to formal financial services.
- **Smallholder farmers account for 86%** of India's agrarian economy but have difficulty sourcing quality farm products and are often at the mercy of middlemen when it comes to pricing.
- **Mastercard's Farm Pass** is a digital ecosystem platform that works offline, even with feature phones, connecting buyers, Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), and other agriculture ecosystem players with farmers digitally, and helping them get the best value for their produce.
- The solution, which serves over **600,000 farmers** in India and **2 million globally**, creates a standard interface for farmers and buyers that facilitates greater efficiency in the agriculture value chain.

Benefits :

- **Financial Inclusion:** Farm Pass provides access to financial services for a customer segment (farmers) that otherwise couldn't be reached.
- **Inclusive Growth:** Farmers build credit profiles and histories.
- **Higher Incomes:** Farmers gain access to marketplaces and more buyers, improving their livelihoods.
- **Convenience:** Payments are disbursed digitally, reducing cost, time, and effort per transaction.
- **Transparency:** Near real-time visibility of end-to-end value chain transactions.

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- **Operational Efficiencies:** Reduced sourcing costs as Farm Pass aggregates produce through agents.
- **Trust & Transparency:** Stronger ties between agri-sector partners and greater visibility of produce.

About MasterCard :

- Founded: 1966
- Headquarters: New York, United States
- CEO : Michael Miebach
- Mastercard Inc. is the **second-largest payment-processing corporation worldwide.**

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

- India Post Payments Bank (IPPB), conducted India's First Floating Financial Literacy Camp with an initiative called 'Niveshak Didi' to promote Financial Literacy 'By the women, for the women, in Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir (J&K).
- The floating financial literacy camp was conducted under the supervision of **Shri Gursharan Rai Bansal, Chief General Manager & Chief Sales & Marketing Officer**, and **Shri Vishwanath Divya, Asst. General Manager (Marketing)** along with IPPB & DoP team from Srinagar, J&K.

About 'Niveshak Didi':

- As part of the launch of the 'Niveshak Didi' initiative, IPPB conducted India's First Floating Financial Literacy Camp by a newly appointed 'Niveshak Didi'.
- The Floating Financial Literacy Camp was conducted among the **residents** around the **world-famous Dal Lake** of Srinagar, J&K.
- Niveshak Didi' initiative is based on the **ideology of women** as **rural area women feel more comfortable** sharing their queries with a **female** itself.
- Niveshak Didi, a **female dakiya**, having a **deep social connection** to rural masses, will be able to collaborate and resolve their queries in a comfortable environment, at the same time enhancing the financial awareness, especially for the women".
- To take the Financial Literacy drive ahead, IPPB, in collaboration with the **Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA)** under the aegis of the **Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA)**, launched the initiative called 'Niveshak Didi' to promote Financial Literacy.

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About IPPB :

- Founded: 1 September 2018
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India
- MD & CEO : J. Venkatramu
- Chairman & Director: Vineet Pandey
- IPPB, is a division of **India Post** which is under the ownership of the **Department of Post**, a department under the **Ministry of Communications of the GoI**.

About Ministry of Communications :

- Cabinet Minister: Ashwini Vaishnaw
- Minister of State : Devusinh Chauhan

Asian Development Bank funds the farm efficiency initiative of Smartchem Technologies

- Asian Development Bank (ADB) has announced that it would fund the farm efficiency initiative of Smartchem Technologies Limited (STL), a wholly owned subsidiary of Deepak Fertilisers And Petrochemicals Corporation Limited (DFPCL), through a \$30 million loan facility with a tenor of 5 years.
- This is ADB's first agribusiness "Blue Loan", and the first such blue loan in India in the agribusiness sector across institutions.
- The loan will be used to **finance capital expenditure** as well as research and development of **enhanced-efficiency specialty fertilizers**.

Key Highlights :

- STL was chosen as a **suitable candidate** for Asian Development Bank (ADB) support because of its
- **Leading market position** in the **enhanced efficiency specialized fertilizers (EESF)** segment, with advanced technical capability and satisfactory financial performance
- **Growth potential** from the enhancement of fertilizer production capacity to provide quality inputs
- Actions to encourage the application of EESFs, which will support the sustainable transformation of agriculture in India while improving its resilience to climate change.
- ADB has also approved a technical assistance grant of **USD 5,00,000** for building capacity for **Soil Nutrition Management among Smallholder Farmers and Climate Resilience in India**.

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About ADB :

- Founded : 19 December 1966
- Headquarters : Mandaluyong, Philippines
- President : Masatsugu Asakawa
- Membership : 68 countries

Unity Small Finance Bank Launches increases FD rates to 8.30% for senior citizens

- Unity Small Finance Bank Limited (Unity Bank) has launched Shagun 366, a 1 year, 1 day fixed deposit, promising retail customers an alluring return of 7.80% p.a., while senior citizens will earn 8.30% p.a. for a 366-day tenure.
- This deal is only valid for deposits made before November 30, 2022.

Key Highlights :

- Unity Bank has also hiked its interest rates for **Callable** and **Non-Callable Bulk Deposits** (deposits of more than Rs 2 crore).
- Callable Bulk Deposits provide up to 7.75% interest per annum whereas non-callable bulk deposits give up to 7.85% interest per annum.
- The bank is offering 6% interest on savings account deposits up to Rs 1 lakh.
- For deposits of Rs 1 lakh to Rs 10 crore, the bank has increased yearly interest to 7%.
- Meanwhile, the **Bank of India** announced the “**Star Super Triple Seven Fixed Deposit scheme**” which provides an interest rate of 7.25% and up to 7.75% for senior citizens on a deposit for 777 days.

About Unity Small Finance Bank :

- Founded: 2018
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- MD & CEO: Inderjit Camotra
- Unity Small Finance Bank is a **Scheduled Commercial Bank**, sponsored by **Centrum Financial Services Ltd** and has **Resilient Innovations Pvt Ltd** as a joint investor.

MUFG Bank partners with M1xchange to digitize corporate trade finance

- MUFG Bank has partnered with M1xchange to facilitate digital invoice financing for the bank's clients.

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Key Highlights :

- Under M1xchange's **TReDS (Trade Receivables Discounting System)**, MSME suppliers get early funding for their receivables under a bidding mechanism, and this is **funded by MUFG Bank**, which takes on the credit risk of the corporate buyers.
- This collaboration allows MUFG Bank to **leverage the digital ecosystem** established by M1xchange, thereby enhancing the efficiency of its client services.
- The collaboration with M1xchange demonstrates MUFG's commitment to meeting the **growing trade finance needs** of the industry.
- With this partnership, the bank would offer **digital trade solutions** to clients while adding value to **Micro Small, and Medium Enterprise (MSME) enterprises** who are the end users of this supply chain."

About MUFG Bank, Ltd :

- Founded: January 1, 2006
- Headquarters: Tokyo, Japan
- President : Katsunori Nagayasu

About M1xchange :

- Established: 2016
- Headquarters: Gurgaon, Haryana
- CEO: Mr. Sundeep Mohindru

RBI Provides approval of C2FO for setting up the TReDS Platform in India

- C2FO, a global on-demand working capital platform, announced that its India arm **C2FO Factoring Solutions Private Limited** has got in-principle approval from the Reserve Bank of India to set up and operate **Trade Receivable Discounting Systems (TReDS)** platform in India.
- With this, C2FO has become the **4th platform** to get the license to operate TReDS after **Receivables Exchange of India Ltd (RXIL)**, **M1Xchange**, and **Invoicemart**.

Key Highlights :

- The fintech platform C2FO provides **working capital to businesses** and claims to be serving **more than ten lakh businesses across 160 countries**.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – November 2022

- Out of these, **2 lakh businesses** are in **India** with a significant share of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs).

About TReDS :

- The institutional mechanism TReDS was launched by the central bank in **July 2014** to **enable discounting of MSMEs trade receivables** through multiple financiers.
- According to the data by the RBI, the value of transactions undertaken on all TReDS platforms in **FY2022** doubled to **Rs 34,362 crore** from **Rs 17,080 crore** in **FY2021**, and more than tripled from **Rs 11,165 crore** during **FY2020**.
- In **August 2021**, the **Government of India** amended the **Factoring Regulation Act (Amendment) 2021** to **permit Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs)** to register on TReDS for discounting MSME invoices.

SEBI issues guidelines to standardize the usage of rating scales used by CRAs

- Market regulator **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** came out with **fresh guidelines** to **standardise the usage of rating scales** used by **Credit Rating Agencies (CRAs)**.
- The new guidelines will come into force from **January 1, 2023**.

Key Highlights :

- According to Sebi, '**rating outlook**' indicates CRA's view on the expected direction of the rating movement in the **near to medium term**.
- A '**rating watch**' indicates a CRA's view on the expected direction of the rating movement in the **short term**.
- SEBI has **specified standard descriptors** for rating watches and rating outlooks.

The following will be the rating descriptors for 'rating outlook' to be used:

- Stable
- Positive, and
- Negative

For 'rating watch', the following will be the rating descriptors to be used:

- Rating watch with positive implications
- Rating watch with developing implications
- Rating watch with negative implications

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- The rating symbols should have **CRA's first name as the prefix**.
- Under this, issuers with **'AAA' rating symbols** are considered to have the **highest degree of safety** regarding the timely servicing of debt obligations.
- While issuers with **'AA' and 'A' rating symbols** are understood to have a **high and adequate degree of safety**
- Issuers with **BBB ratings** are considered to have a **moderate degree of safety** regarding the timely servicing of debt obligations.
- Those with **BB, B, and C ratings** are considered to have a **'moderate', 'high', and 'very high risk** of default, respectively regarding timely servicing of debt obligations and issuers with D ratings are in default or are expected to be in default soon.
- **CRAs are rating agencies** that undertake ratings of **various financial instruments** under the **guidelines of different financial sector regulators or authorities**.
- They are an important part of the financial industry, as investors and institutions often base their decisions on the rating and guidance of CRAs.
- Some examples of CRAs in India include **Crisil**, and **CARE**, among others.
- The monitoring of the implementation of this circular by CRAs shall be done through a **half-yearly internal audit**, which will be conducted by **chartered accountants**, company secretaries, and **cost and management accountants (CMAs)**.

About SEBI :

- Established: on 12 April 1988 as an executive body and was given statutory powers on 30 January 1992 through the SEBI Act, 1992
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Chairman: Madhabi Puri Buch
- SEBI is the **regulatory body** for the securities and commodity market in India under the ownership of the **Ministry of Finance, Gol**.

RBI conducts special meet to draft report for govt on missing inflation target

- The **Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)** convened a **special off-cycle meeting** to **discuss and draft** the content of the report that the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has to send to the government for **missing the inflation target**.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – November 2022

- The meeting was chaired by RBI Governor Mr. Shaktikanta Das.
- All the MPC members Michael Debabrata Patra, Rajiv Ranjan, Shashanka Bhide, Ashima Goyal, and Jayanth R Varma attended the meeting.

Key Highlights :

- The report to be sent to the Government by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) under the provisions of **Section 45ZN** of the **RBI Act, 1934** and **Regulation 7** of **RBI MPC and Monetary Policy Process Regulations, 2016**
- The MPC meeting was held a day after the US Federal Reserve raised interest rates by **75 basis points** in its fight against inflation.
- **Consumer price-based inflation (CPI)**, or retail inflation, has been above the **target range** of **2-6%** for **three consecutive quarters**, or **nine straight months** from **January to September 2022**.
- This is for the **first time**, since the adoption of a new monetary policy framework in 2016, that a special MPC meeting was called under **Section 45ZN** of the **RBI Act**.
- It was the **second out-of-turn MPC meeting** this year, the first being held in May 2022.

About RBI :

- Established: 1 April 1935
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Governor : Shaktikanta Das
- Deputy governors: Mahesh Kumar Jain, M. Rajeshwar Rao, Michael Patra, and T. Rabi Shankar

Bain Capital sells 16.7 million shares in Axis Bank for Rs 1,497 crore

- Private equity major Bain Capital sold nearly 16.7 million shares, equalling a 0.5% stake in private sector lender **Axis Bank**.
- The shares were sold at **Rs 891.38** apiece for a total of **Rs 1,487 crore** by **BC Asia Investments**, according to the data provided by stock exchanges.
- Bain Capital holds a **4.24% stake** in Axis Bank as of **30 September 2022** through **three entities** - **BC Asia Investments VII**, **BC Asia Investments III**, and **Integral Investments South Asia IV**.
- Shares of Axis Bank last closed at **Rs 871.75**, down **3.8%**.

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ADB clears \$350 million loan to improve road connectivity in Maharashtra

- Multilateral funding agency Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved a USD 350 million (about Rs 2,900 crore) loan to improve the road connectivity of key economic areas in Maharashtra.

Key Highlights :

- The Connecting Economic Clusters for Inclusive Growth in Maharashtra project will further develop the state's core road network in the Ahmednagar, Hingoli, Jalna, Kohalpur, Nagpur, Nanded, Nashik, Pune, Sangli, and Satara districts.
- It will help connect underdeveloped rural communities with off-farm opportunities and markets, improve access to health and social services and improve agricultural value chains by reducing transport costs for small and medium-sized enterprises.
- It will build on the Maharashtra State Road Improvement Project approved by ADB in April 2020 to upgrade state highways and major district roads.

About the Project :

- The project will upgrade at least 319 kilometres (km) of state highways and 149 km of district roads, incorporating climate and disaster-resilient features.
- It will also construct 5 km of major district roads connecting Nanded and Telangana.
- The project will promote gender equality and social inclusion in highway programs, schools, health, and social services and set up integrated service centres to provide basic sanitation, education, and other services, adding skills training for enterprises led by poor women and disadvantaged groups will be conducted to provide livelihood opportunities.

About ADB :

- Founded : 19 December 1966
- Headquarters : Mandaluyong, Philippines
- President : Masatsugu Asakawa
- Membership : 68 countries

HDFC Mutual Fund launches two exchange-traded sectoral indices

- HDFC Mutual Fund has launched two new exchange-traded funds – HDFC Nifty IT ETF and HDFC Nifty Private Bank ETF to expand their suite of “HDFC MF Index Solutions”, which the fund house has been managing for the past 20 years.

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- These index funds offer a simple way to gain exposure to the **growing IT and Private Bank space**.

The objective of the funds :

- To provide **investment returns** that, before expenses, correspond to the total returns of the Securities as represented by the Nifty IT Index and Nifty Private Bank Index.
- The captioned new fund offers opened on **October 28, 2022**, and will close on **November 9, 2022**.

Key Highlights :

- “HDFC Nifty IT ETF has the potential to **capture the Global IT demand/requirements** through India’s leading IT companies.
- HDFC Nifty Private Bank ETF aims to **capture the potential of private banks** benefiting from India’s economic growth.
- The HDFC Nifty Private Bank ETF offers exposure to private banks which have better fundamentals relative to sector peers and **valuations below long-term averages.**”
- Both the funds consist of the **10 largest stocks** in the respective sectors listed on the NSE, and they are **rebalanced semi-annually** in **March and September**.

Emirates NBD invests USD 100 million more in India, opens two more branches

- **United Arab Emirates-based bank Emirates NBD** announced an **additional USD 100 million investment** in its India operations and **added two more branches** in **Chennai, Tamil Nadu, and Gurugram, Haryana**
- The lender, having the largest presence in the **Middle East region**, has so far invested **USD 300 million** in the **last 5 years** of its operations in India in **three tranches**, its group head for **international and group strategy**.

Key Highlights :

- The bank **does not** have a **captive development centre** in India but has contracted an **IT services vendor** here to help drive its global operations.
- India and the UAE have had **long-standing strategic and economic ties** over the years, which have further been catalyzed by the recently executed **Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)**.

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- Indians constitute the **largest expatriate community** in UAE and a **third of Emirates NBD's customer base** are Indian expatriates.
- The bank's **60-second zero-fee digital funds transfer service to India, DirectRemit**, has facilitated **2.5 million remittances to India worth nearly USD 2 billion in 2022**.

About Emirates NBD :

- Headquarters: Deira, Dubai, United Arab Emirates
- Emirates NBD is the **only UAE-based bank with a strong branch presence in India**.
- Its **current presence is not as a wholly-owned subsidiary**, which is preferred by RBI for units of foreign lenders.

Max Life ties up with Ditto for Online Life Insurance Distribution

- **Max Life Insurance Company Ltd.** has announced a **life insurance product distribution tie-up** with **Tacterial Consulting Private Limited (Ditto)**.

Aim :

- To leverage **Ditto's diversified insurance advisory platform** to offer Max Life's plans to **online customers**.

Key Highlights :

- In the **initial phase**, Ditto will sell multiple variations of Max Life's protection plan providing **comprehensive coverage against Death, Disease & Disability** along with applicable riders facilitated via a seamless digital distribution model.
- The tie-up aims to **improve Max Life's customer experience** by leveraging Ditto's insurance advisory capabilities and technological prowess to **enhance life insurance penetration** in the country.

About Max Life Insurance Company Limited :

- Founded: 2000
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India
- MD & CEO: Prashant Tripathy
- Max Life Insurance Company Limited is a **life insurance company in India** with a joint venture (JV) between **Max India Ltd and Axis Bank**.

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- It is a subsidiary of the publicly listed Max Financial Services and is the largest non-bank private-sector life insurer in India.

SME lending startup ftcash gets NBFC license from RBI

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has granted ftcash, a startup in Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) lending, a license to set up a non-banking financial company (NBFC).

Aim :

- To disburse loans worth ₹100 crores in FY23.
- The company has partnerships with Northern Arc, Ugro, and Ambit for providing credit offerings to their customers.

Key Highlights :

- Nearly 80% of all Micro Small & Medium Enterprise (MSMEs) in India lack access to funding, despite the government announcing many efforts to improve credit availability for the stressed MSMEs sector.
- The NBFC license will allow us to bridge this credit gap while offering loans with minimal documentation along with daily repayment options via PoS with equated daily instalments.
- ftcash has raised \$10.2 million in funding and is backed by several investors including Accion, FMO, and IvyCap Ventures.

About ftcash :

- Founded: 2015
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Founders : Sanjeev Chandak, Deepak Kothari and Vaibhav Lodha.
- CEO : Sanjeev Chandak
- ftcash is an RBI-registered NBFC and one of India's fastest-growing financial technology companies.
- ftcash has won numerous awards and recognitions since its inception, including a prestigious award by HRH the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, Prince William, and Kate Middleton, at the UK Trade and Investment - Great Tech Initiative
- For recognition for its work in financial inclusion by the former President of India Pranab Mukherjee in 2017.

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About RBI :

- Established: 1 April 1935
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Governor : Shaktikanta Das
- Deputy governors: Mahesh Kumar Jain, M. Rajeshwar Rao, Michael Patra, and T. Rabi Shankar

AIIB & GEAPP partners to accelerate the energy transition

- The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) and the Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet (GEAPP) announced a collaboration and strategic investment partnership for mobilizing up to \$1 billion for the financing of green energy transition and renewable energy projects, in both the public and private sectors.
- AIIB's Vice-President of Policy and Strategy, **Sir Danny Alexander**, and GEAPP's CEO, **Simon Harford**, signed the documentation.
- **Jin Liqun**, President of AIIB; **Dr. Rajiv Shah**, President of The Rockefeller Foundation; **Per Heggnes**, CEO of IKEA Foundation; and **Dr. Andrew Steer**, President, and CEO of Bezos Earth Fund joined in the ceremony.

About the Partnership :

- The partnership sees AIIB and GEAPP cooperating through a shared vision to address the energy transition challenges in Asia through the identification of co-financing opportunities for projects and programs of common interest in grid-based renewables, distributed renewables, and fossil fuel transitioning areas.
- In 2021 AIIB achieved a 48% climate finance share of total approvals in 2021.

About AIIB :

- Founded: 16 January 2016
- Headquarters: Beijing, China
- President : Jin Liqun

About GEAPP :

- Founded: 2021
- Headquarters: New York

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

- The government body for energy efficiency Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) for Micro Small & Medium Enterprise (MSMEs).

Aim :

- To promote energy efficiency financing for MSMEs and explore the internet of things (IoT)-based solutions, greening MSMEs, capacity building of various stakeholders, etc.
- The announcement comes weeks after SIDBI announced partnerships with multiple stakeholders to help MSMEs become more energy efficient in their operations to support India's Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 2030 targets.

Key Highlights :

- Meanwhile, BEE and MSME ministry jointly runs a collaborative platform Sameeksha (Small and Medium Enterprises Energy Efficiency Knowledge Sharing) to pool the knowledge and synergise the efforts of various organizations for the promotion and adoption of clean energy technologies and practices among MSMEs.
- As per India's updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to the UN's Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), India has to reduce the emissions intensity of its GDP by 45% by 2030, from the 2005 level.
- India will achieve 50% cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel-based energy resources by 2030.
- SIDBI had signed MoUs with German development agency Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH for operating a Risk Sharing Facility (RSF) that provides credit guarantees to loans from commercial banks or non-banking financial companies (NBFCs).
- Two other MoUs were signed with the Technology Information, Forecasting, and Assessment Council (TIFAC) under the Department of Science and Technology and CII to identify and promote scalable green and clean technologies by MSMEs.

About BEE :

- Established: 1 March 2002

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- The BEE is an agency of the Government of India, under the **Ministry of Power** under the provisions of the nation's 2001 Energy Conservation Act

About SIDBI :

- Established: 2 April 1990
- Headquarters: Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, India
- Chairman & MD : Sivasubramanian Ramann
- SIDBI is the **apex regulatory body** for the overall licensing and regulation of micro, small and medium enterprise finance companies in India.
- It is under the jurisdiction of the **Ministry of Finance**, Government of India.
- It acts as the **principal financial institution** for the promotion, financing, and development of MSMEs.
- It is also a project executing agency for **Partial Risk Sharing Facility (PRSF)** that guarantees energy efficiency projects.

MF penetration: Maharashtra, Delhi in lead; Jharkhand in top 10

- According to data from the **Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI)**, Maharashtra, New Delhi, and Goa have the highest mutual fund (MF) penetration in India, due to high-income levels, better literacy rates, and high inflows from corporates and net worth individuals. (HNIs).
- However, it is not that all higher-income and developed states have high MF penetration and all 'poorer' states lag.

Top 5 countries with the highest MF penetration :

Level	Country	Entry	Per Capita Average Assets Under Management (AAUM) (Rs)	Share of Equity Schemes in AAUM
1	Maharashtra	60	1,36,280	36%
2	New Delhi	42	1,66,860	47%
3	Goa	28	1,47,410	73%
4	Haryana	21	54,970	40%

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – November 2022

5	Gujarat	17	41, 720	63%
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Key Highlights :

- Jharkhand is one of the top 10 states with 13% penetration, MF penetration is not 5-6% in Telangana and Kerala.
- Jharkhand has 79% of the state's assets under management (AUM) in equity, and companies mostly invest in credit schemes.
- Jharkhand ranks 16th in terms of per AUM (Rs 10,750) despite high penetration.
- The highest AUMs per capita are in New Delhi, Goa, and Maharashtra.
- The states with the lowest AUM per capita (Rs. 2,300 to Rs. 3,700) are Manipur, Bihar, and Tripura.
- North-eastern states also have low MF penetration rates.
- The penetration rate is lowest in southern states like Kerala, Telangana, and Andhra Pradesh.

About AMFI :

- Founded: 1995
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Chairman : A Balasubramanian
- Members: 44
- The AMFI is the regulatory body for the mutual funds sector in India.
- It is a division of the Securities and Exchange Board of India, Ministry of Finance, Gol.

NPCI introduces BHIM App open source license model

- The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) an initiative by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Indian Banks Association (IBA), has announced the launch of the BHIM App open-source license model.

Aim :

- In a step ahead towards attaining the goal of 'Digital Payments for All'
- The NPCI will licence the source code of the BHIM app to regulated entities which do not yet have a Unified Payments Interface (UPI) app of their own, to empower them to launch their own UPI app.

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- NPCI intends to bridge this gap by extending all the **readily available features** of UPI to these entities through this BHIM App licensing model which will be an **economical and quick-to-market solution** for these entities
- BHIM licensing model will empower these entities to offer the benefits of UPI to their customers with a ready UPI application that will help **reduce time, effort, and costs** for the entities.

About NPCI :

- Founded: 2008
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- MD & CEO : Dilip Asbe
- The NPCI is the **specialized division of the Reserve Bank of India** which is under the jurisdiction of the **Ministry of Finance, Gol.**

NIIFL signs pact with JBIC to boost Japanese investments in India

- The **National Investment and Infrastructure Fund Limited (NIIFL)** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC)** to **promote and enhance Japanese investments in India.**
- The MoU sets a framework for collaboration between NIIFL and JBIC, which is considering the **creation of a bilateral India-Japan Fund (IJF).**

Key Highlights :

- JBIC and the Government of India will invest in the **India-Japan Fund**, which will make equity investments in **environmental preservation and low carbon emission strategies**
- The fund will also **enhance cooperation** between the two countries by investing in strategic partnerships between Japanese and Indian companies and promoting business collaboration across multiple sectors in India.
- JBIC will consider providing debt financing under their **Global action for Reconciling Economic growth and Environmental preservation (GREEN) initiative** to investee companies of funds managed by NIIFL.

About NIIFL :

- Founded: February 2015
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra

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- Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer: Sujoy Bose
- The NIIF is India's first infrastructure-specific investment fund or a sovereign wealth fund.

Objective :

- To maximize economic impact mainly through infrastructure investment in commercially viable projects, both greenfield, and brownfield.
- NIIFL is an active investor in sustainable and climate-friendly technologies and solutions through its investments in Ayana Renewable Power, IntelliSmart Infrastructure, Ather Energy, and the Green Growth Equity Fund.

About JBIC :

- Headquarters: Tokyo, Japan
- President & CEO : Tadashi Maeda
- JBIC is a Japanese public financial institution and export credit agency that was created on October 1, 1999, through the merger of the Japan Export-Import Bank (JEXIM) and the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF)

SEBI receives lesser complaints on average till Oct FY23 - SCORES data

- According to data shared by SCORES, the markets regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) received an average of 3,011 complaints every month so far in the financial year 2022-23 (FY23).
- Further analysis shows that there is a 15.4% decline over the 3,558 average monthly complaints in FY21-22.

Key Highlights :

- The average monthly figure was higher in FY21 (4,906), FY20 (4,627), and the pre-pandemic year of FY19 (3,517).
- There are now over 100 million investor accounts compared to 40 million in FY19.
- Even as complaints decrease, the number of days it takes to resolve one has dropped from 36.8 days in October 2021 to 29 days as of September 2022.
- The lowest average resolution time was in April 2022 when it hit 24 days.
- According to yearly data from the Sebi annual report, The majority of investor complaints are against stock brokers.

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- There were **11,261 complaints** filed against stock brokers in FY22.
- The next biggest source of complaints were issues related to refund, allotment, dividend, transfer, bonus, rights, interest, and redemption matters which accounted for **6,789 complaints**.
- Registrars to an issue and share transfer agents were the source of **3,877 complaints**; mutual funds were next with 3,866 complaints followed by depository participants with **3,794 complaints**.

About SCORES :

- SCORES - **SEBI Complaints Redress System platform**
- SCORES is an **online platform** designed to help investors to lodge their complaints, about the **securities market, online with SEBI against listed companies and SEBI-registered intermediaries**.
- All complaints received by SEBI against listed companies and **SEBI-registered intermediaries** are dealt with through SCORES.

About SEBI :

- Established: on 12 April 1988 as an executive body and was given statutory powers on 30 January 1992 through the SEBI Act, 1992
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Chairman: Madhabi Puri Buch
- The SEBI is the **regulatory body** for the **securities and commodity market** in India under the ownership of the **Ministry of Finance** within the Government of India.

ICICI Lombard launches a range of health insurance products

- **General Insurance company ICICI Lombard** has launched **14 new Insurance solutions across Health, Motor, and Corporate segments**.
- The offerings are propelled by the recently introduced “**Use and File**” framework from the **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** and new types of risks emerging in all sectors be it pandemic, climate change, or data privacy.

Key Highlights :

- In the **health segment**, products like **Golden Shield** focus on **senior citizens** who find it difficult to find health insurance in old age.

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- The policy covers expenses related to **room rent, intensive care, doctor fees, anesthesia, blood, oxygen, occupational therapy, and medicines**, amongst others.
- Other health insurance policies they have introduced include **Health AdvantEdge**, giving **worldwide international cover**, and **BeFit**, which is a **cashless outpatient policy** that covers common ailments like a cough or cold, and minor injuries that don't need hospital treatment.
- In the **motor segment**, **Motor floater Insurance** allows a **single policy** with a **single renewable date** and **premium** for all motor policies.
- In the **Pay-As-You-Use (PAYU) Plan**, the premium for the policy is **limited only** to the extent the vehicle is used or estimated to be used by the customer.
- In the **Pay-How-You-Use (PHYU) Plan**, a customer with **good driving behavior** can avail of attractive discounts over the base premium of the policy.
- **Voyager Travel Insurance** focuses on **both domestic and overseas travel** for up to one year.

About ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company Limited :

- Founded: 2001
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO: Bhargav Dasgupta

HDFC Bank partners with Arzoo to offer Purchase Cards to Retailers with up to Rs 1 Cr credit

- **HDFC Bank** (India's largest Private sector Bank) partners with **Arzoo** (India's fastest-growing Retail Tech Platform) to launch **Purchase cards** that have been exclusively designed for **offline retailers**.

Aim :

- To roll out over **one lakh such credit cards** over the **next 12 months**.

Key features :

- The card offers **interest-free credit** for up to a month and a **credit limit of up to Rs 1 crore**.
- Also, it is integrated with the Arzoo mobile application for ease of use during checkout.
- In 2022, Arzoo disbursed **Rs 100 Crore worth of credit** to retailers.
- There was a growth of **800%** in the number of retailers that took credit this year through Arzoo Credit.

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- Also, the sales on the platform grew by **400%** due to access to **capital headroom** and an increase in demand.
- **Over 40,000 retail partners** who are already on the Arzoo platform will now be able to manage their working capital much more **efficiently**.
- The Purchase Card will play a pivotal role in **mobilizing the economy** by providing impetus to **small and mid-sized retailers** with easy access to capital.

About HDFC Bank :

- Founded : August 1994
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO : Sashidhar Jagdishan

About Arzoo :

- Founded : 2018
- Headquarters : Bengaluru, Karnataka

Union Bank of India launches Union Vyom app & various new products on the occasion of 104th Foundation Day

- **Union Bank of India**, the country's 5th largest public sector bank, marked its **104th foundation day at Mumbai, Maharashtra** after being founded on **11 November 1919** and having its **first head office inaugurated by the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi** in 1921.
- On this occasion, Bank launched a super app – the **Union Vyom app** & various other digital products.

About Union Vyom App :

- Union Vyom App is the super app of the Bank, is a **one-stop solution for all financial products**.
- It is empowered to **deliver a unique experience** of banking to customers where customers can do transactions beyond traditional banking.
- Apart from online transactions, customers can avail of Retail, MSME loan, and credit card, make investments in **5000+ mutual fund schemes**, and buy insurance products without any assistance.

Other Launches :

- **Union Sparsh-** Touch debit card, specially designed for the visually impaired.

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- **Union Muskaan-** Zero balance saving account for children of **0-18 years ago**, having facility of term insurance, accidental death insurance, SMS banking, NEFT, and IMPS at no cost.
- Also, avail of education loans at a concessional rate.
- **Union Channel Finance-** A fully automated financing solution for finance to dealers.
- **Union Digi-Sahaj-** An online account opening platform to open a savings account instantly.
- **Union SARAS-** A portal named **Stressed Asset Recovery Automated Solution**, developed for **early resolution** and effective management of stressed assets having **end-to-end processing automation** of all recovery and legal proceedings.

About UBI :

- Founded : 11 November 1919
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO : A Manimekhalai
- Tagline : Good People to Bank With

ICICI Prudential Life Insurance launches long-term savings product - ICICI Pru Sukh Samruddhi

- ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Company Limited has launched a new participating savings product, 'ICICI Pru Sukh Samruddhi,' which provides customers with guaranteed benefits and growth potential in the form of bonuses.
- Besides, the life cover continues for the **entire duration of the policy**, including the income period, providing financial security to the family.

About 'ICICI Pru Sukh Samruddhi :

- This product also provides a **higher maturity benefit to women customers** to encourage them to embark on their savings journey and **achieve financial independence**.
- To address the varied financial needs of customers, this **long-term saving product** has been made available in **two variants - income and lump sum**.
- ICICI Pru Sukh Samruddhi Income, provides an excellent route to create a supplementary source of **tax-free guaranteed income** to meet financial goals, such as a child's education, annual vacations, or any other interim income requirement.

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- This option provides customers with a guaranteed regular income for the **specified time period** selected at the time of purchase.
- ICICI Pru Sukh Samruddhi Lump sum is ideal for customers looking to build a corpus over the long term and utilize the **lump sum maturity amount** to achieve **big-ticket financial goals** such as purchasing a house, financing children's higher education, or legacy planning
- The innovative feature of '**Savings Wallet**' allows customers to accumulate and grow their income, instead of taking it as payment.
- The unique '**Save the Date**' feature enables customers to start receiving income on a date of their choice.

About ICICI Prudential Life Insurance :

- Founded: 2001
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO: Narayanan Srinivasa Kannan
- In 2016, the company became the **first insurance company in India** to be listed on the domestic stock exchanges.

NPCI enables electricity bill payments on 123PAY for feature phone users

- The National Payments Corp. of India (NPCI) announced that **electricity bill payments service** for more than 70 electricity boards has been enabled on 123PAY, an instant payment system for feature phones.
- It is powered by **Bharat Bill Payment System(BBPS)**, this feature will facilitate a **smooth and quick electricity bill payment service** through 123PAY for users to instantly make payments directly from their bank accounts.

Key Highlights :

- 123PAY was developed by NPCI for feature phone users to allow them to **undertake digital transactions** based on **four technology alternatives**:
 1. calling an IVR (interactive voice response) number
 2. app functionality in feature phones
 3. missed call-based approach,

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4. proximity sound-based payments.

- With the launch of electricity bill payments on 123Pay, the need for feature phone users to conduct a **paper check or pay in cash** at the **utility office** will be **eliminated**.

About NPCI :

- Founded: 2008
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO : Dilip Asbe
- The NPCI is the **specialized division** of the **Reserve Bank of India** which is under the jurisdiction of the **Ministry of Finance**, Government of India.

RBI approves amalgamation of Shree Sharada Sahakari Bank with the Cosmos Co-operative Bank, Pune

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) approved the amalgamation of Shree Sharada Sahakari Bank Ltd., Pune (Maharashtra) with the Cosmos Co-operative Bank Ltd., Pune (Maharashtra).
- The Scheme has been sanctioned in the exercise of the powers under the **provisions of Section 44A read with Section 56 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949** as amended vide the **Banking Regulation (Amendment) Act, 2020 (39 of 2020)**.
- The Scheme will come into force with effect from **October 30, 2022**.
- All the branches of **Shree Sharada Sahakari Bank Ltd, Pune (Maharashtra)** will function as branches of **The Cosmos Co-operative Bank Ltd., Pune (Maharashtra)** with effect from **October 30, 2022**.

About RBI :

- Established: 1 April 1935
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Governor : Shaktikanta Das
- Deputy governors: Mahesh Kumar Jain, M. Rajeshwar Rao, Michael Patra and T. Rabi Shankar

RBI Revokes Authorisation Certificate of Chennai-Based GI Technology

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- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has revoked the certificate of authorisation (CoA) of Chennai-based GI Technology Private Limited over governance concerns and non-compliance with regulatory requirements.
- The company is in the business of issuance and operation of **prepaid payment instruments**.
- Following the revocation of the CoA, GI Technology **cannot transact** the business of issuance and operation of prepaid payment instruments
- However, customers or merchants having a valid claim, if any, on the company as PSO, can approach the company for **settlement of their claims**.

SEBI Introduces Regulatory Framework to Facilitate Online Bond Platform Providers

- Market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has introduced a regulatory framework to facilitate providers of online bond platforms that are **selling listed debt securities**.
- The move will also enhance the confidence among investors, particularly **non-institutional investors**, as the platforms would be provided by SEBI-regulated intermediaries.

Key Highlights :

- To this effect, SEBI has amended **NCS (Issue and Listing of Non-Convertible Securities) Regulations**.
- A person acting as an **online bond platform-provider without registration certificate** prior to the date of this regulation coming into force can continue to do so for a period of **three months**.
- Under the new rules, **no person** would act as an online bond platform-provider without obtaining registration certificate as a stockbroker from SEBI.
- The regulator has defined online bond platform as any **electronic system**, other than a recognised stock exchange or an electronic book-provider platform, on which the debt securities which are listed or proposed to be listed, are offered and transacted.
- Further, online bond platform-provider means any person operating or providing such a platform.

About SEBI :

- Established : 12 April 1988 as an executive body and was given statutory powers on 30 January 1992 through the SEBI Act, 1992
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Chairman : Madhabi Puri Buch

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – November 2022

- SEBI is the **regulatory body** for securities and commodity market in India under the ownership of **Ministry of Finance, Gol.**

KVG Bank renews bancassurance pact with LIC

- **Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank (KVGB), a Dharwad-headquartered regional rural bank and Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) of India have renewed their agreement through a memorandum of understanding for bancassurance (for selling life Insurance products through the branches of KVGB) tie-up.**
- The bank will market LIC's products through its **639 branches** in Dharwad, Gadag, Haveri, Belagavi, Bagalkot, Vijayapura, Uttara Kannada, Udupi and Dakshina Kannada districts.
- The bank is renewing the pact with LIC mainly to **increase insurance penetration in rural areas** and to provide better deal to customers on service and premium.

About KVG Bank :

- **Founded : September 12, 2005**
- **Headquarters : Dharwad, Karnataka, India**
- **Chairman : Puttaganti Gopi Krishna**

About LIC :

- **Founded : 1 September 1956**
- **Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India**
- **Chairman : M R Kumar**
- **Managing directors : B C Patnaik, Smt. Ipe Mini, Siddharth Mohanty, Rajkumar**

SEBI tweaks takeover code to facilitate disinvestment of PSUs

- The **market regulator SEBI** has amended its **Takeover Code to facilitate transactions** involving change in control of **State-owned enterprises or Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs).**
- Through the latest changes, the earlier requirement of **calculating 60 days volume weighted average market price (VWAMP)** for determination of open offer price in case of disinvestment of PSU Companies, wherein it results in its change in control, has been dispensed with.
- Separately, SEBI notified rules **reducing the minimum holding requirement of real estate investment trust (REITs) units by sponsors to 15% from 25% at present, a move aimed at encouraging more companies to float REITs.**

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- The REIT for a period of **at least three years** from the date of listing of such units pursuant to initial offer on a post-issue basis
- However, any holding of the sponsor and sponsor group **exceeding the minimum holding**, would be held for at least one year from the date of listing of such units.
- In another notification, the regulator has discontinued a separate regulatory framework for unlisted infrastructure **investment trust (InvIT)** & this would come into force from **1 January 2023**.

State Bank of India signs €150 million solar loan agreement with Germany's KfW

- The **State Bank of India (SBI)** has received an **additional low-interest loan of €150 million** (about ₹1,240 crore) from **Germany's Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW) Development Bank** to finance solar projects in India.
- The two banks signed the loan agreement under the **Indo-German solar energy partnership**.

Key Highlights :

- The loan **primarily funds innovative technologies**, such as automated dry cleaning of solar modules to reduce water consumption.
- This loan will further contribute to **India's "Panchamrit" goals** announced during **COP26**.
- This is the **second loan SBI has received** from the **German development bank**.
- The **first loan of €150 million (~\$150.66 million)** was granted in **2017**, to enable the construction of larger solar farms with an output **between 50 and 250 MW** and the infrastructure to connect them to the **electricity grid**.
- After securing a Euro 150 million Credit line for solar energy finance from a German financial institution, State Bank of India is in talks with European Investment Bank for about **Euro 200 million to fund climate finance**.
- In **2015**, the **Government of India** and the **Federal Republic of Germany** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to foster the **use of solar energy in India** through technical as well as financial cooperation.

About SBI :

- **Founded** : 1 July 1955
- **Headquarters** : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- **Chairman** : Dinesh Kumar Khara

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IFSCA signs MoU with RBI in the field of regulation, supervision of regulated entities

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) have inked a cooperative agreement for the regulation and supervision of regulated entities in their respective jurisdictions.
- The sharing of information and technical cooperation is made easier by this MoU.
- The agreement intends to improve the security, soundness, and stability of the respective financial ecosystems while assuring favourable business settings and economic growth.
- The MoU creates opportunities for collaboration between the two regulators, increasing the security, soundness, and stability of their respective financial ecologies and fostering settings that are ideal for company development and economic progress, according to the release.

About IFSCA

- IFSCA is a statutory organisation with its headquarters in Gandhinagar's GIFT City and was founded by the IFSCA Act 2019. Its goal is to create and oversee the financial services, financial institutions, and financial goods in the international financial services centres (IFSCs).

About RBI :

- Established: 1 April 1935
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Governor : Shaktikanta Das
- Deputy governors: Mahesh Kumar Jain, M. Rajeshwar Rao, Michael Patra and T. Rabi Shankar

ESAF Bank gets top 'Best in Class' ESG Ratings

- ESAF Small Finance Bank was awarded the “best in class” rating for the environment, social, and governance (ESG) practices from CareEdge Ratings.
- ESAF is also the first Indian member bank of the Global Alliance on Banking on Values (GAVB).
- ESAF SFB has joined the growing tide of financial corporations worldwide in their fight against the practice of “greenwashing” or faking ESG credentials.

Key Highlights :

- ESG practice gave 4 out of 5 points for the bank's commitment towards ESG integration.

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- ESAF Bank has been maintaining a **well-defined policy** towards **environmental and social sustainability** and has effectively implemented it across its business verticals.

About Greenwashing :

- Greenwashing refers to a **situation** wherein a **corporation or a firm spends more time and money** on marketing itself as **environmentally friendly** than on actually minimizing its environmental impact.
- In other words, it is a marketing ploy intended to **mislead consumers** who prefer to buy goods and services from environmentally conscious companies.

About ESAF Bank :

- Founded: 10 March 2017
- Headquarters: Mannuthy, Thrissur, Kerala
- MD and CEO: K. Paul Thomas

ICICI Venture invests 360 crores in the cello world

- ICICI Venture, the **alternative investment arm** of ICICI Bank, has invested **₹360 crores**, or around **\$44.3 million**, in **consumer houseware company Cello World**, marking its **first bet** from the **fifth private equity (PE) fund**.

Key Highlights :

- ICICI Venture's **fifth PE fund** has raised **\$325 million** within a few months from its launch, mainly from **existing investors - large sovereign wealth funds, insurance companies, banks, funds of funds, and family offices**.
- The PE major has invested in over **60 companies** across all four funds.
- Some of its marquee investments include the recently-listed **Go Fashions India, Theobroma Foods, Metropolis Health Services, Home Solutions (a subsidiary of Pantaloons Retail, owned by Aditya Birla Group), Bharat Biotech and Epack Durable Pvt Ltd**.
- Cello World is the **flagship company** of **Cello Group**, which provides consumer houseware products across steel, plastic, glass, and opalware categories.

About ICICI Venture :

- Founded: 1988
- Executive director: Mr. Mohit Batra

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- CEO: Puneet Nanda
- Currently, ICICI Venture manages 4 funds with total PE assets under management (AUM) of \$1.65 billion across four funds, India Advantage Fund (IAF) Series 1, 2,3, and 4.
- The IAF-4 fundraise was closed at \$250 million (around ₹1,900 crores) in September 2017.

Max Life launches life insurance plan - Smart Wealth Advantage Guarantee

- Max Life Insurance has launched Smart Wealth Advantage Guarantee Plan, a non-linked, non-participating individual life insurance savings plan that offers guaranteed returns, life insurance cover, and financial protection all combined in one product.
- The product offers the receipt of the annual income on a preferred date decided by the policyholder, and not necessarily at the anniversary of the policy issuance.

Key features :

Enhanced flexibility:

- The plan allows you to choose premium payment terms, deferment periods, and income duration.
- It has a 'Save the Date' feature which allows you to receive annual income on your special date of the year like birthdays, marriage anniversaries, etc.

Guaranteed income:

- It offers to get easy liquidity with income payout as early as the first month.
- Additionally, the policyholders can get income returns for up to 30-40 years with a lump sum at maturity.

Comprehensive Financial Security for your loved ones:

- The plan offers a life cover if the life insured dies untimely during the policy term.
- The plan also comes with an in-built accidental death benefit that pays an additional amount if the insured dies.

Facility to Avail Loans:

- The plan also helps you avail of loans against your policy to meet your urgent financial requirements.

Secured Retirement:

- The plan offers you to get tax-free income for life.

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- The GST is applicable on premiums as per **prevailing tax laws**.
- Under Selected Variants, policyholders can get returns of **50% of Total Premiums Payable** at the age of **85 years**, applicable under select variants only.

About Max Life Insurance Company Limited :

- Founded: 2000
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India
- MD & CEO: Prashant Tripathy
- It is a life insurance company in India with a joint venture (JV) between Max India Ltd and Axis Bank

RBI imposes Rs 12 lakh fine on six co-operative banks & 3 sahakari banks

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed a collective fine of nearly ₹12 lakh on 9 entities, including 6 cooperative banks and 3 Sahakari banks for violating various banking norms.

Penalties:

- Berhampur Cooperative Urban Bank (Odisha) has been fined ₹3.10 lakh
- Osmanabad Janata Sahakari Bank, Osmanabad (Maharashtra) ₹2.5 lakh,
- Santrampur Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd, Santrampur in Mahisagar district (Gujarat) ₹2 lakh penalty.
- Jila Sahakari Kendriya Bank Maryadit, Balaghat (Madhya Pradesh); Jamshedpur Urban Cooperative Bank Ltd, Jamshedpur, Jharkhand; and Renuka Nagarik Sahakari Bank Maryadit, Ambikapur (Chhattisgarh) have been fined Rs 1 lakh each.
- Krishna Mercantile Co-operative Bank Ltd, Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh), and Kendrapara Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd, Kendrapara, Odisha were fined Rs 50,000 each.
- The Nawanagar Co-operative Bank Ltd, Jamnagar (Gujarat) is penalized with Rs 25,000

About RBI :

- Established: 1 April 1935
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Governor : Shaktikanta Das
- Deputy governors: Mahesh Kumar Jain, M. Rajeshwar Rao, Michael Patra, and T. Rabi Shankar

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Fintech Open gets RBI nod for payment aggregator license

- Open, a neo-banking fintech, has received in-principle approval from the regulatory authority, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), for a Payment Aggregator Gateway (PA/PG) license.
- A PA provides payment services to merchants and e-commerce sites by accepting payment instruments from customers.
- In a new set of guidelines in March 2020, the RBI mandated that all PAs be authorized by the central bank.
- In May 2022 Open became the 100th Indian unicorn, a startup valued at \$1 billion or above after it raised \$50 million led by IIFL.

About Open :

- Founded: 2017
- Founders: Anish Achutan, Ajeesh Achutan, Mabel Chacko, and Deena Jacob.
- CEO: Anish Achutan
- Open focuses on small and medium businesses, startups and freelancers by offering them a business current account and services such as automated accounting, bookkeeping, expense management, compliance, and payroll.

NABARD sanctions Rs 220.50 crore to Odisha for flood protection projects

- The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has sanctioned 57 flood protection projects and 1 rural bridge amounting to Rs 220.50 crore for Odisha under the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF).
- The project would be implemented by the Department of Water Resources (DOWR- Major & Medium), Government of Odisha.

Key Highlights :

- The project will help 2 credit-starved districts of Kendrapara and Nuapada, 4 aspirational districts of Bolangir, Kalahandi, Nuapada and Rayagada, 6 LWE affected districts of Bolangir, Boudh, Kalahandi, Nayagarh, Nuapada and Rayagada and 8 disaster affected districts of Bolangir, Boudh, Jajpur, Kalahandi, Khurda, Nayagarh, Nuapada and Sonapur.
- The project envisages protection and restoration of river banks at 57 identified stretches on 32 different rivers/creeks for restoration/ stabilisation of agricultural land, and standing crops and

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providing flood relief operations by the construction of one rural bridge.

- The major items of work for flood protection include repairing and strengthening of scoured banks of the rivers **50.69 km**, construction of launching aprons and stone packing of the slope of embankments, raising and strengthening of embankments (107.74 km), construction of CC guard wall, etc,
- It also includes the construction of **93 new spurs**, the provision of a BT road on embankments for a **total length of 57.78 km**.
- The proposal also involves the construction of a **Box Cell bridge over Sankha creek in the Jagatsinghpur district**.

About NABARD :

- NABARD was established on the recommendations of the **B. Sivaraman Committee (by Act 61, 1981 of Parliament)** on 12 July 1982 to implement the **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development Act 1981**.
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Chairman: Suchindra Mishra
- It is an **apex regulatory body** for the overall regulation of regional rural banks and apex cooperative banks in India.
- It is under the jurisdiction of the **Ministry of Finance, GoI**.

Karnataka Bank launches CASA campaign

- Karnataka Bank has launched the **CASA (current account savings account)** campaign of 2022-23 for **100 days** towards the **100th year** of its existence.
- The event was graced by the Directors of the Bank, **Justice A V Chandrashekar, Dr. D S Ravindran, Shri Kalmanje Gururaj Acharya, Chief Business Officer Shri Gokuldas Pai, General Managers and Top Executives of the Bank**.

Key Highlights :

- Under this nationwide campaign starting from **15th Nov 2022 to 24th Mar 2023**, the Bank intends to **open more than 3.65 lakhs Current & Savings accounts** by the active involvement of all of its workforce in all **883 branches**, across India.
- With this campaign, the Bank aims to introduce its **attractive digitally powered savings account**

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products to its prospective customers.

- As a part of the project 'KBL-VIKAAS' and Digital transformation initiatives, the Bank has envisioned making available **self-initiated digital onboarding platforms** to the prospective customers of the Bank.
- Further, the TAB & Web Banking account opening modes for **on-boarding of SB - NTB customers (New to Bank)** will also be extensively utilised during the campaign so as to have a seamless account opening and customer delight.

About Karnataka Bank :

- Founded : 18 February 1924
- Headquarters : Mangaluru, Karnataka, India
- MD & CEO : Mahabaleshwara M. S
- Tagline : Your Family Bank Across India
- It is an 'A' Class Scheduled Commercial Bank

Maharashtra to get \$400-m ADB loan for 5,000 e-buses

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has given in-principle approval for a \$400-million loan to the Maharashtra government to bring in 5,000 electric buses.
- This was announced by the State's Principal Secretary (Transport & Ports), Parrag Jaiin-Nainutia.
- He was participating in a discussion at the India pavilion at the COP27 international climate conference on decarbonising India's transport sector using e-mobility.

About CESL model :

- Maharashtra would follow the same model as the public sector, CESL (Convergence Energy Services Ltd), did for the recently-concluded tender for procuring 5,450 e-buses.
- Under this model, bidders offer a **per-km price for running buses** on routes specified by the state transport service the best price gets the contract.
- The buses would be run by the **winning bidder's drivers**, but the ticketing and collection would be done by the transport undertaking.

About ADB :

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- Established : 19 December 1966
- Headquarters : Mandaluyong, Philippines
- President : Masatsugu Asakawa
- Membership : 68 countries
- The ADB is a regional development bank.

InsuranceDekho partners with LIC to offer latter's products across India

- InsuranceDekho, an insurtech, has entered into a **strategic partnership** with the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) through which the latter's products will be available for all customers on its platform pan-India.

Key Highlights :

- The partnership will help **provide insurance policies** and establish **100% penetration** in the remotest towns of the country.
- Currently, InsuranceDekho has more than **330 products from 45 insurers** on its platform.

About InsuranceDekho :

- Chief executive officer and co-founder : Ankit Agrawal,
- InsuranceDekho is an **online platform** that lets people compare insurance quotes from **top-rated insurance companies** and purchase the insurance policy that best suits their needs.
- It offers **car insurance, bike insurance, health insurance** as well as **life insurance**.

About LIC :

- Founded : 1 September 1956
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Chairman : M R Kumar
- Managing directors : B C Patnaik, Smt. Ipe Mini, Siddharth Mohanty, Rajkumar

Tata Power Solar Systems ties up with Union Bank of India to facilitate solar rooftop adoption in the MSME sector

- Tata Power Solar Systems (TPSSL), a wholly owned subsidiary of Tata Power Renewable Energy (TPREL), has tied up with Union Bank of India (UBI) to help the MSME (Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises) sector switch to solar solutions.

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- To improve access to green energy and save on the cost of electricity, thus making MSMEs more profitable.

Key Highlights :

- The association will be implemented under UBI's solar scheme called **Union Solar**.
- MSMEs can avail of the dual services of **Solar EPC (Engineering, Procurement & Construction)** by TPSSL, financed through a term loan facility by UBI, wherein industries can avail up to Rs 8 crore of the loan amount at interest rates (exclusive for Tata Power customers) with **nil or minimum collateral**.
- The scheme also requires a minimum down payment of **only 20%** of the project cost.

About TPSSL :

- Founded: 1989
- Headquarters: Noida, Uttar Pradesh, India
- In 2017, **Tata Power Solar** became the first Indian company to ship over 1 GW of solar modules worldwide.

About UBI :

- Founded: 11 November 1919
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO : A Manimekhalai
- Tagline: Good People to Bank with

Shriram Life gets PFRDA nod to become the annuity service provider

- **Shriram Life Insurance Company (SLIC)** is empanelled as an **Annuity Service Provider** by the **Pension Fund Regulatory Development Authority (PFRDA)**.
- The empanelment will help the insurance major manage the annuity component of the maturity proceeds under the **National Pension System (NPS)**.
- SLIC's empanelment as ASP will help it **mobilize 40%** of the NPS maturity amount which will be open to investment in annuity schemes.
- The annuity premium mobilization in India is **above ₹25,000 crore per year**.

About Annuity Service Provider :

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- Annuity Service Provider is an IRDA-registered insurance company empanelled by PFRDA for providing Annuity Services to NPS subscribers upon their exit from the system.
- ASPs will be responsible for **managing the funds (allocated for buying annuity)** and payment of the pension after a subscriber attains the **age of 60**.
- This will also enable customers to choose from an **array of insurance providers** who provide rewarding annuity plans according to their needs and lifestyle.

About SLIC :

- Founded: 2005 (commenced operations in 2006).
- Headquarters: Hyderabad, Telangana
- Chairman: T.S. Krishna Murthy
- MD & CEO : Casparus Kromhout

HDFC Capital & CREDAI collaborate to accelerate investments into realty projects in tier 2,3 cities

- HDFC Capital Advisors, a subsidiary of India's largest private mortgage lender HDFC, has **entered** into a collaboration with the property developers' body the **Confederation of Real Estate Developers' Association of India (CREDAI)** to **accelerate investments** into real estate projects in **tier II and III cities**.
- This announcement was made by CREDAI at the '**NATCON 2022**' annual event held at **YAS Island** in Abu Dhabi.

Key Highlights :

- The real estate private equity investment manager will be investing in mid-income and affordable projects in these cities through its **\$3 billion fund**.
- CREDAI also partnered with **India's first and largest integrated incubator** and accelerator for startups – **Venture Catalysts & NeoVon** – to set up a **\$100 million fund** - '**Spyre VC PropTech Fund**'.
- The fund shall invest a **100 million dollar fund** in the next couple of years across early and growth-stage startups.
- Additionally, to be able to accelerate the adoption of technology, CREDAI will launch **Credaverse**' to have a **permanent presence** in Metaverse for an immersive buying consumer experience.

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- CREDAI has also announced that it's over **13,000 member developers** have taken a pledge to turn **100% carbon neutral by 2050** in a bid to accelerate its commitment to the **UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 2030**.

About CREDAI :

- Chairman: Mr. Satish Magar
- President: Harsh Vardhan Patodia
- President Elect : Mr. Boman Irani

Navi Enters Into Co-Lending Partnership With Piramal For Digital Personal Loans

- **Navi Group**, a technology-driven financial products, and services company has **partnered** with **Piramal Capital and Housing Finance Ltd** to offer digital personal loans in India.

About the Partnership :

- The partnership would allow the fintech startup to serve **11,000+ pin codes** across India.
- Under the partnership, customers can get digital personal loans of up to **INR 20 Lakh** with a tenure of up to **72 months** via the startup's app.
- Piramal Finance will fund **80%** of the loans generated by the partnership, while the rest will come from Navi Finserv, a **subsidiary of Navi Technologies**.

About Navi Group :

- Founded: December 2018
- Headquarters: Bangalore, Karnataka, India
- CEO and chairman : Sachin Bansal

Union Bank of India Ranks Second in IBA's EASE Reform Index

- As per the report on **Enhanced Access & Service Excellence (EASE) Reforms Index** for Q1 FY 2022-23 by Indian Banks' Association (IBA), **Union Bank of India** is the **2nd Best Bank** in adopting reforms prescribed for **Public Sector Banks**.

Top 5 on EASE Reforms Index :

1. State Bank of India (SBI) - 58.4
2. Union Bank of India (UBI) - 58.3
3. Bank of Baroda (BoB)- 52.3
4. Punjab National Bank (PNB) - 41.1

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5. Canara Bank - 39.1

Key Highlights :

- Union Bank of India has been doing well in areas related to enabling various
 1. Digital journeys for customer convenience
 2. Upgrading analytics & big data capabilities for personalized offerings & proactive reach out to customers
 3. Adopting modern technology capabilities for integrated banking experience,
 4. Collaborative banking for higher efficiency
 5. Employee development and better governance measures
- The performance of PSBs is measured under **EASE 5.0 on five themes**, with **Union Bank of India setting benchmarks under two themes**, i.e., 'Modern Technology Capabilities' and 'Employee Development and Governance.
- The Bank has also secured the first runner-up position in the theme 'Digital-Enabled Customer Offering'.

About EASE :

- EASE is an **initiative** by the **DFS (GOI)** as part of the **PSB Reforms Agenda** and is currently under its **fifth iteration** which focuses on **Enhanced Digital experience, Integrated and Inclusive Banking**.

About Indian Banks' Affiliation (IBA):

- **Founded:** 26 September 1946
- **Chief Government:** Sunil Mehta
- **Headquarters:** Mumbai. Maharashtra
- IBA was formed as a **representative body of management of banking in India** operating in India - an **association of Indian banks and financial institutions based in Mumbai**.

India's economy to grow up to 6.3% in Q2 of FY23: RBI

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** expects India's economy to record **growth between 6.1% and 6.3%** for the **second quarter** of the **financial year FY23**.
- RBI stated that if these growth rates are realized then the country is on course for a growth rate of about **7% in 2022-23**.

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Over 73% of cryptocurrency users lost money

- According to a working research paper published in the **Bank for International Settlements**, over **73% of cryptocurrency users lost money**.
- After the **United States (US)**, and **Turkey**, **India** has the **third highest number of registered downloads of crypto exchange apps**.

Key Highlights :

- As of **June 2022**, there were over **30 million crypto exchange app downloads** in India.
- But in terms of **downloads per capita**, **India** features among the countries with the **lowest number of downloads**.
- This is because of its **vast population** and **crypto awareness** being mostly limited to urban pockets.
- Countries such as the **U.S.**, **Canada**, **Australia**, and the **U.K.** rank much higher in terms of **per capita downloads**.
- **India** also features among those countries with the **lowest average monthly app usage per 1 lakh people**.
- According to the study, **73%-81%** of the users would have lost money.

About Cryptocurrency :

- Cryptocurrencies are **digital or virtual currencies** in which encryption techniques are used to **regulate** the generation of their units and verify the transfer of funds.
- The first and most famous cryptocurrency, **bitcoin** was introduced in **2009**.
- A median investor would have lost **\$431**, corresponding to **48%** of the **total \$900 invested**.
- Most cryptocurrencies of the world are built on **blockchain technology**.
- Blockchain is a **decentralized and distributed database** on a peer-peer network that works based on a consensus mechanism involving every node (computer) on the network.
- Blockchain is a **peer-to-peer distributed network** that records a public history of transactions without actually **recording the identities** of the parties or the transaction details.

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ICICI Bank introduces deposit-linked loans and dollar bonds for NRIs

- ICICI Bank Limited has launched two new products namely Loan Against Deposits (LAD) and Dollar Bonds for Non-Resident Indian (NRI) customers at its branch in Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City), the Gujarat-based emerging global financial and IT services hub.

Note :

- ICICI Bank is the **first bank** to offer these products in **GIFT City**.

About LAD :

- The loan against deposits facility is similar to a loan in foreign currency against a deposit in India and includes non-resident external fixed deposits in rupees.
- Up to 95% of the deposit value can be availed of using this loan and customers can borrow for flexible tenures at fixed or floating interest rates.

About dollar bonds :

- It is an alternate investment option for NRIs, where they can book dollar bonds through ICICI Bank in GIFT City.
- For dollar bonds, ICICI Bank is offering over 50 marquee issuers and companies for such securities.

Other key offerings at GIFT City for NRI customers are:

Global Current Account:

- This is a non-interest-bearing account that does not require any minimum balance.
- It helps NRIs to deposit money in India in foreign currencies such as USD, EUR, and GBP.

Global Savings Account:

- NRIs can deposit money for the short term and earn interest in this savings account.

Term Deposits:

- They are similar to Foreign Currency Non-Resident (FCNR) deposits with a minimum lock-in period of 7 days compared to one year for FCNR in India.
- Customers can deposit in currencies such as USD, EUR, and GBP.

About ICICI Bank :

- Founded: 5 January 1994
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

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- MD & CEO: Sandeep Bakhshi

Ather Energy partners with IDFC Bank for an electric 2-wheeler financing scheme

- **Ather Energy, a smart electric scooter manufacturer** has announced its **partnership** with **IDFC Bank** to offer a **first-in-the-industry financing option** to customers.

Key Highlights :

- Customers can purchase an **Ather 450X or 450 Plus electric scooter** from the scheme with as little as a **5% down payment**.
- This is the **first time** IDFC has offered all of this in an **electric two-wheeler space**.
- This scheme is expected to make Ather scooters more accessible to customers by offering a lucrative financing option to customers and driving **faster adoption of electric vehicles**.
- Ather is the first OEM to be granted a **48-month loan term** for its scooters.
- Hero MotCorp supported start-up delivered **8,213 units** in **October 2022**, achieving its highest monthly sales ever.

About IDFC Bank :

- Founded: October 2015
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- CEO : V. Vaidyanathan
- IDFC First Bank is an **Indian Private Sector Bank** that is owned by IDFC, an integrated infrastructure finance company.

About Ather Energy :

- Founded: 2013
- Headquarters: Bangalore, Karnataka, India
Founders: Tarun Mehta, Swapnil Jain
- Ather Energy is an **Indian electric vehicle company**.

India's GDP growth to slow to 5.9% in 2023 - Goldman Sachs

- As per **Goldman Sachs**, the **economic growth forecast of India** has been reduced to **5.9% in 2023**, from an **estimated 6.9% growth in 2022**
- **Reason:** As the boost from the post-COVID reopening fades and **monetary tightening weighs on domestic demand**.
- Goldman Sachs has also expected that inflation will drop to **6.1% in 2023**, from **6.8% in 2022**.

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- Recently, RBI has also pegged the **domestic growth rate at 7%** for 2022-23.

About Goldman Sachs :

- Founded: 1869
- Headquarters: New York, United States
- Chairman & CEO: David M. Solomon
- India economist at Goldman Sachs: Santanu Sengupta
- Goldman Sachs is the **second-largest investment bank** in the world by revenue.

HDFC Bank partners with Flywire to offer Digitize Education Payments from India

- **HDFC Bank Limited** has partnered with **Flywire Corporation**, a global payments enablement and software company, to help Indian payers to **easily pay international education fees** to higher education institutions digitally.

About the Partnership :

- The collaboration between HDFC Bank and Flywire offers a new method to **international education payments** that benefits **both students and institutions**.
- The connection enables a **smooth and digital payment experience**.
- The integration also simplifies the compliance procedure for the **Reserve Bank of India's Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS)**, which allows Indian residents to transmit up to **\$250,000 USD overseas per fiscal year**.
- HDFC Bank works directly with Flywire's platform, giving Indian students a **fully digital checkout experience** for everything from application fees to tuition payments.
- Students can pay in Indian rupees and enjoy a **safe and simple payment experience**, with the confidence that the funds will be delivered to the educational institution.
- According to the **2022 Open Doors Report**, approximately **200,000 Indian students** studied in the **United States** during the **academic year 2021-2022**, a **19% increase** over the previous year.

About Flywire Corporation :

- Founded : 31 July 2009
- Headquarters : Boston, Massachusetts, United States
- CEO : Mike Massaro

About HDFC Bank Limited :

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- Founded : August 1994
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- CEO : Sashidhar Jagdishan

Federal Bank launches NRE deposits with higher interest rates

- Federal Bank launched a deposit scheme for Non Resident Indians (NRIs) titled 'Deposit Plus', which offers higher interest than the existing Non-Residential External (NRE) NRE fixed deposits.
- The maximum interest rate offered in this scheme is 7.50 percent for a tenure of 700 days.

Key Highlights :

- The interest accrued on this scheme will be added to the principal (reinvestment plan) on a quarterly basis.
- It is an opportunity for non-residents to invest their funds as the interest earned is exempt from income tax.
- The deposits cannot be closed prematurely.
- However, customers have the option of availing loans up to 75% of the deposit amount in the event funds are required prior to maturity.

About Federal Bank :

- Headquarters : Aluva, Kochi, Kerala, India
- CEO : Shyam Srinivasan
- Tagline : Your Perfect Banking Partner

Bank of Baroda opens its first dedicated mid-corporate branch in Kochi

- Bank of Baroda (BoB) has opened its first mid-corporate Branch in Kerala at Kochi.
- The branch was inaugurated by Debadatta Chand, Executive Director in the presence of S. Rengarajan, GM (Head - Mid Corporate Cluster South) and Sreejith Kottarathil, Zonal Head-Ernakulam.
- The key focus of the mid corporate branch is to increase corporate book size and income to improve turnaround time (TAT) for corporate proposals and provide enhanced service to corporate customers
- The branch will cater to mid-corporate, large corporate, and PSU borrowers and provide

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corporate loans, trade finance, forex, and cash management services.

About BoB :

- Founded : 20 July 1908
- Headquarters : Vadodara, Gujarat, India
- MD & CEO : Sanjiv Chadha

BillBox unveils wearable device for contactless payments

- **BillBox**, one of the leading customized solution providers in the payments & merchant ecosystem in India has launched a disruptive product – **TapTap** – in association with **NSDL Payments Bank & Visa**.

Aim:

- To simplify payments and offer users convenience.
- It has been launched with **silicon band**, **silicon strap** and **silicon loop** which will be available in white, black and blue colors

Key Highlights :

- TapTap is a program manager & fintech pioneer in prepaid & gift card programs.
- The tap-tap technology will be used to accessorize payments made using **wearable contactless payment devices** and will speed up the rollout of co-branded, customized prepaid cards.

About NSDL Payments Bank :

- Founded : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- President : Ashutosh Singh
- MD & CEO : Abhijit Kamalapurkar

Note :

- Managing Director and CEO of TapTap : Viraj Majmudar

Airtel Payments Bank rolls-out e-KYC based on face authentication for opening savings account

- **Airtel Payments Bank**, a fintech subsidiary of **Bharti Airtel**, has launched a **Face Authentication-based savings bank account** opening for customers.

Note :

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- **Airtel Payments Bank** is the first Payments Bank in the country to offer this facility.
- The **Business Correspondents (BCs)** of the bank would be able to open an account for the user just by undertaking the **face authentication e-KYC (Know Your Customer)**.

Features :

- The facility will further **ease** the **account opening process** making it seamless & convenient for **customers**.
- The authentication is processed using a newly developed mobile application by the **Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)**
- Airtel Payments Bank will make this service available across all of its **500,000 banking points** by the end of **2022**.
- The KYC facility uses **Artificial Intelligence (AI)/Machine Learning (ML)** based **Face Authentication Registered Device (RD) Application**, which helps in the **prevention of fraudulent activities** by cross-checking an individual's photo with the image captured in Aadhaar and allows secure customer onboarding.
- Till now, to open an account with Airtel Payments Bank, the **Aadhaar based OTP or fingerprint biometric authentication** was carried out.

Recent News :

- **Airtel Payments Bank** integrated with the **National Payments Corporation of India's (NPCI) - National Financial Switch (NFS)** to **facilitate Micro ATM transactions** for debit card users residing beyond the metro and tier 1 cities in India.

About Airtel Payments Bank :

- **Founded** : 2017
- **Headquarters** : Gurugram, Haryana
- **MD & CEO** : Anubrata Biswas
- In **January 2022**, it was granted the **scheduled bank status** by the **Reserve Bank of India** under the second schedule of the **RBI Act, 1934**.

SEBI frames guidelines for AIFs for declaring first close of a scheme

- Market regulator **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** came out with **guidelines** for **alternative investment funds (AIFs)** for declaring the first close of a scheme.

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- It has also specified the manner of **calculating the tenure of a close-ended scheme** of an AIF and prescribed a fee for change in control of the manager or sponsor.

About the guidelines :

- The first close of a scheme is required to be **declared not later than 12 months** from the date of the capital markets regulator's communication for taking the **Private Placement Memorandum (PPM)** of the scheme on record.
- In the case of **open-ended schemes of Category III AIFs**, the first close would refer to the close of their **Initial Offer Period**.
- The fee would be **paid within 15 days** of effecting the proposed change in manager/sponsor or change in control of manager/sponsor.

About SEBI :

- Established : 12 April 1988 as an executive body and was given statutory powers on 30 January 1992 through the SEBI Act, 1992.
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Chairman : Madhabi Puri Buch
- SEBI is the **regulatory body** for securities and commodity markets in India under the ownership of the **Ministry of Finance** within the Gol.

OECD - Global growth to slow to 3.1% in 2022, 2.2% in 2023

- According to the **Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Economic Outlook Nov 2022**, Global gross domestic product (GDP) growth is projected to slide from 3.1 % in 2022 to 2.2% in 2023.

Reason :

- Tighter monetary policy, higher real interest rates, soaring energy prices, weak real household income growth

Key Highlights :

- The United States economy would only **grow by 0.5% in 2023**, compared with 1.8% in 2022.
- India which is projected to have the **world's second-highest growth rate in 2022**, after **Saudi Arabia** with a 6.6% but may face a slowdown next year with an estimated 5.7% growth.
- Meanwhile, **China** is projected to grow just **3.3% in 2022** and 4.6% in 2023.

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About OECD :

- Founded : 1961
- Headquarters : Paris, France
- Secretary general : Mathias Cormann

IDFC First Bank launches India's 1st sticker-based debit card - FIRSTAP

- IDFC First Bank in association with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has introduced FIRSTAP, India's first sticker-based debit card.

Aim :

- To permit transactions by simply tapping the sticker on a point-of-sale terminal that supports Near Field Communication (NFC).

About FIRSTAP :

- This IDFC FIRST Bank Sticker debit card has a complimentary personal accidental cover, round-the-clock concierge services, and a variety of RuPay offers.
- The debit card is one-third the size of a regular debit card.
- Customers can affix the Sticker-based Debit Card on any surface of their choice, such as cell phones, identity cards, wallets, tabs, AirPods cases, etc.
- The touch-free way to pay enables payments in seconds for transactions up to Rs 5,000 without a pin, and those beyond that, with a tap and PIN.

About IDFC First Bank :

- Founded: October 2015
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO : V. Vaidyanathan

About NPCI :

- Founded: 2008
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO : Dilip Asbe
- The NPCI is the specialized division of the Reserve Bank of India which is under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Finance, Government of India.

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Flipkart & Axis Bank partner to launch 'Flipkart Axis Bank Super Elite' Credit Card

- Flipkart, India's homegrown e-commerce marketplace, and Axis Bank, the third largest private sector bank in India, have partnered to launch the 'Super Elite Credit Card.

Purpose :

- To scale the Flipkart SuperCoins reward program and enhance the customer shopping experience.

Key Highlights :

- With the new credit card, customers on Flipkart can earn a total of **eight SuperCoins** for every **Rs100 spent**.
- The customers can earn a **maximum of 200 SuperCoins** on every successful transaction.
- The Card bears a **fee of 500 rupees per month**.
- Flipkart Plus customers earn a total of **16 SuperCoins** for every **Rs 100 spent** and they can earn a **maximum of 400 SuperCoins** on every successful transaction on Flipkart.
- For all other transactions outside of Flipkart, customers will earn two SuperCoins with no upper limit for **every Rs 100 spent** on all eligible spends.

About Flipkart :

- Founded: 2007
- Headquarters: Bengaluru, Karnataka, India
- CEO: Kalyan Krishnamurthi

About Axis Bank :

- Founded : 3 December 1993
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO: Amitabh Chaudhry
- Tagline : Badhti Ka Naam Zindagi

Federal Bank Partners With JCB India To Finance Heavy Equipment Buyers

- Federal Bank has inked a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with JCB India, a leading manufacturer of earthmoving and construction equipment to finance the prospective buyers of heavy construction equipment and boost its loan portfolio.

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- Under the arrangement, Federal Bank is the **preferred finance partner** of the construction equipment manufacturer, where JCB's customers can avail of loans from the lender at competitive interest rates.
- This arrangement will **boost the financing options** for JCB's customers in India

Note :

- CEO and Managing Director of JCB India: Deepak Shetty

About Federal Bank :

- Headquarters: Aluva, Kochi, Kerala, India
- MD & CEO: Shyam Srinivasan

India's GDP growth may average 6.3% between 2021 and 2030: S&P report

- The **S&P Global Market Intelligence** projected India's real gross domestic product (GDP) growth to **average 6.3% annually** between financial years 2021 and 2030 in FY 2021-30.
- India will **overtake Japan and Germany** to become the **world's third-largest economy** in nominal US dollar terms.
- Real income per capita is projected to achieve **significant average growth of 5.3%**, with Indian households becoming the greatest spenders among **G20 economies**.
- The government was **banking on production-linked incentive (PLI) schemes** as tools to make the Indian economy **more export-driven** and more interlinked in global supply chains.
- India's manufacturing exports have struggled to gain global market share, while the share of manufacturing in India's **GDP declined from 17% in FY09 to 14% in FY21**.

About S&P Global :

- Headquarters: New York, United States
- President & CEO: Douglas L. Peterson

Canara Bank Partners with NeSL to Launches Electronic Bank Guarantee

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

About Electronic Bank Guarantee (e-BG) :

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- The platform offers several advantages such as **greater transparency, better monitoring triggers, and secured transmission of Bank Guarantees** to the **beneficiary** which shall lead to a **higher degree of compliance**.
- Now, Canara Bank offers an **API-based digital workflow** of Bank guarantees which will eliminate physical issuance, stamping, verification, and paper-based record maintenance of Bank Guarantees to pave the way to augment the integration of the **Environmental & Social Governance (ESG) framework into Business**.

Note :

- NeSL MD & CEO Debajyoti Ray Chaudhuri

Recent News :

- **Canara Bank** launched **Canara ai1, a mobile banking super app** with more than 250 features with the futuristic vision of **“One Bank, One App”** and was also **ranked 1st** under the **Digital Payment performance** as on **Mar 31, 2022 (i.e. FY 2021-22)** by the **Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY)**.

About Canara Bank :

- **Founded:** 1 July 1906
- **Headquarters:** Bangalore, Karnataka, India
- **MD & CEO:** Lingam Venkata Prabhakar

RBI Includes GSTN As A Financial Information Provider Under the Account Aggregator Framework

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has included the **Goods and Service Tax Network (GSTN)** as a **financial information provider (FIPs)** under the **account aggregator (AA)** frame to **facilitate cash flow-based lending** to the **Ministry of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)**.
- The **Department of revenue** shall be the regulator of GSTN for this specific purpose and GST returns, viz. Form **GSTR-1** and Form **GSTR-3B**, shall be the financial information
- As per the latest data, **around 2.47 million cumulative accounts** have been linked to the AA network while **2.5 million cumulative counts** of consent requests have been successfully fulfilled.

About AA :

- **Launched:** September 2021

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- Account aggregators have licensed **Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs)** that enable the instant exchange of financial data between **Financial Information Providers (FIP)** and **Financial Information Users (FIUs)**.
- So far, there are **6 AAs** in India with operating licenses and **9 AAs** with in-principle approval from RBI.

About RBI :

- Established: 1 April 1935
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Governor : Shaktikanta Das
- Deputy governors: Mahesh Kumar Jain, M. Rajeshwar Rao, Michael Patra, and T. Rabi Shankar

BOB Partners with solar start-ups ASPL & AFPL

- **Bank of Baroda** has allied with **Aerem Solutions Pvt Ltd (ASPL)** and its subsidiary, **Aerem Finance Pvt Ltd (AFPL)** and its subsidiary, **Aerem Finance Pvt Ltd (AFPL)**, for the financing of **Solar Rooftop projects** for captive use by **Micro Small Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)**.
- Aerem Solutions enables rooftop solar installations for MSMEs, while Aerem Finance is an NBFC registered with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

About the Partnership :

- Under the agreement, the public sector bank will provide **collateral-free loans** at affordable rates to MSMEs for the installation of **captive solar rooftop projects**.
- The collaboration is expected to encourage MSMEs to **adopt solar energy**, significantly **reducing power bills** and **increasing the profitability** of the business as well as supporting the development and growth of the renewable energy market in India.

Note :

- Founder and CEO of AEREM: Anand Jain

About BoB :

- Founded: 20 July 1908
- Headquarters: Vadodara, Gujarat, India
- MD & CEO: Sanjiv Chadha

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FDI Equity Inflows decline 14% During April-September To \$26.9 Billion- DPIIT

- According to the data of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) equity inflows into India contracted by 14% to USD 26.9 billion during the April-September FY23.
- The inflows had stood at USD 31.15 billion during the corresponding period of the previous year.
- The total FDI inflows (which includes equity inflows, reinvested earnings, and other capital) too declined to USD 39 billion during the first 6 months of the current fiscal year as against USD 42.86 billion in the year-ago period.
- During the first half of this fiscal, Singapore emerged as the top investor with USD 10 billion FDI.
- It was followed by Mauritius (USD 3.32 billion), UAE (USD 2.95 billion), USA (USD 2.6 billion), the Netherlands (USD 1.76 billion), and Japan (USD 1.18 billion).
- The computer software and hardware sector attracted the highest inflows of USD 6.3 billion during the 6 months of this fiscal.
- It was followed by services (USD 4.16 bn), trading (USD 3.28 bn), chemicals (USD 1.3 bn), automobile industry (USD 932 mn), and construction (infrastructure) activities (USD 990 mn).

Absolute & DigiSafe Jointly Launches Digifasal-DIY Insurance for Farmers

- Absolute, a plant bioscience company, in partnership with DigiSafe Insurance has launched India's first do-it-yourself (DIY) insurance marketplace, Digifasal.
- The product is introduced on Upaj, Absolute's agcloud ecosystem.
- Adverse climatic conditions have resulted in India losing approximately 69 million hectares of crop area in the last 6 years.

About Digifasal :

- Upaj has been developed by over 100 artificial intelligence and machine learning engineers over the course of 7 years.
- Digifasal will supplement insurance schemes such as the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bhima Yojana by providing farmers with affordable insurance options.
- Insurance penetration in rural India is less than 4% due to pricing, a lack of trust, and lengthy

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – November 2022

claim settlement processes.

- Farmers can choose **parametric insurance products** from several insurers available in their respective pin codes.
- It serves a million farmers at every stage of crop production with services such as **soil testing, advisory, and now, insurance.**

Note :

- Founder & MD of Digisafe : Anupam Shrey

About Absolute :

- Founded : 2015
- Headquarters : Bangalore, Karnataka

Sany Bharat signs MoU with Union Bank of India for Equipment Financing

- Sany Bharat signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Union Bank of India to make equipment financing an easy, efficient, and simple process.

Signatories :

- **Dheeraj Panda**, Chief Operating Officer (Sales, Marketing & Customer Support) Sany Heavy Industry India Pvt. Ltd.
- **C.M. Minocha**, Chief General Manager, Micro Small Medium Enterprise (MSME), Union Bank of India.
- Union Bank of India has opened funding for the retail and construction Equipment Sector from a 10 lakhs loan to Rs. 50 Crores.

About Union Bank of India :

- Founded : 11 November 1919
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO : A Manimekhalai

Honda Cars India signs MoU with IDBI Bank to offer finance schemes

- Honda Cars India Limited (HCIL) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with IDBI Bank to offer a host of finance schemes for its customers.

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Key Highlights :

- The collaboration between HCIL and IDBI Bank will allow customers to avail of **hassle-free affordable financing options** and schemes for purchasing Honda Car models.
- The partnership will ensure providing a **better customer experience** in terms of product and procedures.
- The benefits will include **attractive interest rates, minimum processing charges, maximum loan amount** and the **maximum repayment period**.

About Honda Cars India Limited :

- Founded : 1995
- Headquarters : Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh, India
- President & CEO : Takuya Tsumura
- HCIL is an **automobile manufacturer** in India owned by Honda Motor Co. Ltd.

About IDBI Bank :

- Founded : 1 July 1964
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO : Rakesh Sharma

VA Tech Wabag Inks Pact With ADB To Raise Rs 200 Cr Investment

- VA Tech Wabag, a leading player in **India's water industry**, has signed a **strategic agreement** with **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** to raise Rs 200 crore through **unlisted non-convertible debentures (NCDs)** carrying a **5-year and 3-month tenor**.
- This also marks **ADB's maiden investment** in a **water sector company** in India.
- The NCDs will be subscribed by ADB over 12 months.
- The capital raised through this NCD issuance is within the **current borrowing limits** and will not increase the company's debt levels.
- It will help to **crowd in urgently needed international and domestic financing** for the sector to ease water stress as demand increases

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- This project is ADB's first private-sector financing in India's water sector.

About VA Tech Wabag :

- Founded: 1924
- Headquarters: Chennai, Tamil Nadu
- MD & CEO: Rajiv Mittal
- It is focused on **water treatment for municipal and industrial users.**

About ADB :

- Founded : 19 December 1966
- Headquarters : Mandaluyong, Philippines
- President : Masatsugu Asakawa

Indian Overseas Bank enters into an agreement with SMC Global for the opening of 3 in 1 account

- Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) has entered into an agreement with broking partner SMC Global for the opening of 3 in 1 account (SB, demat account, and trading account).
- While the SB and demat account will be with IOB, the trading account will be with SMC Global.
- Now, as part of an expansion of services in addition to the existing full-service Brokerage Plan, SMC Global has offered a new brokerage plan named DISCOUNT BROKERAGE for its existing/new clients through our Bank.
- Discount Brokerage Plan facilitates the client to do trading at an attractive brokerage with a flat rate of Rs.15/- per order for intraday trades and Rs.0 on Delivery based trades.

About IOB :

- Founded: 10 February 1937
- Headquarters: Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India
- MD & CEO : Ajay Srivastava J

IMPORTANT BUSINESS NEWS

RIL is the first Indian business to publish an earnings call on Metaverse:

- The events of Reliance Industries Limited's (RIL) Q2 FY 2022–2023 earnings call were posted on the metaverse.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – November 2022

- A company has used the metaverse to interact with its stakeholders for the first time in the history of corporate India.
- In collaboration with GMetri, a no-code metaverse creation platform, the RIL metaverse was created.
- It can be accessed without wearing AR/VR headgear.
- It allows analysts following the company around the world to switch between slides and graphics displayed on various screens by the various buckets in the presentation of the results.
- Additionally, they can download the RIL Q2 22–23 media release and the media and analyst call transcript in PDF formats.
- The RIL metaverse also includes a special section with quotes from Mukesh Ambani, the company's chairman, and managing director.

The Twitter-verified badge will cost \$8 per month:

- Elon Musk announced that the Twitter Blue Tick service will cost USD 8 per month, which is approximately Rs 660.
- The coveted verified badge is included in the Twitter Blue Tick service.
- This is a result of increasing subscriptions and making social media networks less reliant on advertisements.
- The verified badge, which looks like a blue tick, indicates that Twitter has confirmed that the account belongs to the person or company claiming it.
- The service is currently free for all current users, and this will be the first time that users will have to pay fees to keep their verified badge.
- Elon Musk announced in a tweet that prices would be adjusted based on country and purchasing power parity.
- Musk also stated that subscribers would be prioritized in replies, mentions, and searches, which is critical in combating spam and scam.
- Publishers who are willing to collaborate with Twitter will receive a paywall bypass, providing Twitter with a revenue stream to reward content creators.
- There will be a secondary tag beneath the name of public figures, which is already visible on politicians' profiles.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – November 2022

- Elon Musk purchased Twitter last week for USD 44 billion.

In October, UPI transactions increased by 7.7% to \$730 million:

- **Bharat Interface for Money (BHIM) transactions increased by 7.7 per cent in October to 730 crores using the Unified Payments Interface BHIM-UPI (7.3 Billion).**
- The total value for the month exceeded 12.11 lakh crore.
- In October, the number of instant interbank fund transfers via **IMPS (Immediate Payment Service) stood at 48.25 crores, with a value of Rs 4.66 lakh crore.**
- According to monthly data released by the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), transactions increased by 4.3% compared to September.**
- In September, there were **678 crore UPI transactions with a total value of 11.16 lakh crore.**
- According to a recent report, digital payments have reached an inflection point and are **expected to triple to \$10 trillion by 2026 from \$3 trillion.**
- According to a joint report by the **Boston Consulting Group and Phone Pe, digital payments will account for nearly 65% of all payments by 2026** as a result of this unprecedented growth.
- According to the report, this means that two out of every three transactions will be digital.

GST revenue exceeded Rs 1.51 trillion in October, ranking second-highest ever:

- The gross GST revenue collected for October 2022 totaled Rs 1,51,718 crore, making it the **second-highest monthly collection** in history, according to the ministry of finance.
- Only the revenue in April 2022 is higher in terms of monthly collections, and for the second time, the gross GST collection has surpassed the Rs. 1.50 lakh crore threshold.
- The government broke down the October GST collections as follows:
- **CGST was 26,039 crore, SGST was 33,396 crore, IGST was 81,778 crore (including 37,297 crores collected on import of goods), and cess was Rs 10,505 crore (including 825 crores collected on import of goods).**
- The monthly GST collections have exceeded the 1.4 lakh crore mark for the ninth consecutive month and eight months in a row.
- 8.3 crore e-way bills were produced in September 2022, a number that was much higher than the 7.7 crores produced in August 2022.

Subsidy for fertilizer doubles as prices rise:

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- The Center announced a doubling of the fertilizer subsidy to Rs 2.15 trillion from the planned level for FY23 to protect farmers from the high price increases.
- The decision was made as a result of a recent substantial increase in the costs of urea, DAP, and MoP on the global market.
- They have safeguarded the farmers from such price increases despite growing fertilizer costs globally.
- An additional sum of Rs. 1.10 trillion is being granted to further support our farmers in addition to the Budget's Rs. 1.05 trillion fertilizer subsidy.
- Data from the fertilizer ministry show that the cost of imported urea has increased from \$380 per tonne in April 2021 to \$930 per tonne in April 2022, a jump of more than 145%.
- In a similar vein, prices for DAP and MoP increased by 66% and 116%, to \$924 per tonne and \$590 per tonne, respectively, in April 2022 compared to the same month the previous year.

Adani New Industries installed the largest wind turbine in India:

- Adani New Industries Ltd. has built India's tallest wind turbine in Mundra, Gujarat, as part of its renewable energy growth goals.
- The wind turbine is taller than the Statue of Unity and has blades that are wider than the wingspan of a jumbo jet.
- Adani New Industries Limited (ANIL) announced the installation of the largest wind turbine generator (WTG) in the country in Mundra, Gujarat.
- Mundra Windtech Ltd (MWL), a wholly owned subsidiary of Adani Enterprises Ltd., installed the turbine.
- This prototype is also Adani New Industries Ltd.'s (ANIL) first addition to its portfolio, and it has paved the path for the installation of larger wind turbine generators.
- The proto assembly took a record-breaking 19 days to complete.
- It has been built up and tested, and it will soon apply for type certification.

Morgan Stanley predicts that India would become the world's third-largest economy by 2027:

- According to Morgan Stanley, India is on track to become the world's third-largest economy by 2027, surpassing Japan and Germany, and to have the third-largest stock market by 2030, thanks to global trends and important investments in technology and energy.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – November 2022

- Overall, India's GDP is expected to more than double from \$3.5 trillion today to \$7.5 trillion by 2031.
- Over the same period, its proportion of global exports may treble, and the **Bombay Stock Exchange** could rise at an **11% annual rate**, achieving a market capitalization of \$10 trillion.
- "In a world that is currently ravenous for development, the opportunity in India must be on the radar of global investors," says Chetan Ahya, Morgan Stanley's Chief Asia Economist.
- "From 2023 onwards, **India will be one of just three economies in the world that can achieve more than \$400 billion in annual economic production growth, rising to more than \$500 billion by 2028.**"

Wipro was the first company in India to establish a European Work Council:

- The IT giant Wipro announced that it has struck an agreement with employee representatives about the creation of a European Works Council.
- The first EWC founded by a corporation with its headquarters in India is Wipro.
- The EWC's establishment improves the already fruitful partnership with employee representations in numerous European nations.
- Wipro strives to deliver the greatest employee experience while also **fostering an inclusive atmosphere that accepts everyone and fosters a feeling of community.**
- The EWC will aid us in improving since we regularly take into account employee viewpoints.
- It also shows that Wipro is implementing and embracing European employment standards as a responsible international employer.
- The **EWC formed by Wipro is the first by an Indian-headquartered firm** and builds on years of productive, successful collaboration with works councils at the local and national levels in several European nations, including Germany, the Netherlands, France, Sweden, and Finland.

Ministers' Panel Could Suggest 28% GST for Online Gaming:

- The group of state finance ministers is expected to recommend a 28 per cent GST duty on **internet gambling**, regardless of whether it is a game of skill or chance.
- Online gaming currently gets an 18% GST.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – November 2022

- The tax is levied on gross gaming income, which is the amount of money paid to online gambling portals.
- The Group of Minister's report is nearly complete and will be submitted to the GST Council for consideration soon.
- However, it is likely to propose a revised formula for calculating the amount subject to the **Goods and Services Tax (GST)**.
- The **Group of Ministers (GoM)**, chaired by Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad Sangma, proposed a **28 per cent GST** on the full value of the consideration, including the contest entry fee, paid by the player, without distinguishing between games of skill or chance in its **previous report submitted to the Council in June**.
- The Council, on the other hand, has requested that the GoM reconsider its report.

AYUSH increases from US\$ 3 billion to US\$ 18 billion:

- According to Union Ayush Minister Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, AYUSH revenue increased by **17% between 2014 and 20 to reach US\$18.1 billion**.
- Speaking at the 'AYUR-UDYAMAHA' inauguration in New Delhi, the Minister also unveiled the RIS study titled 'AYUSH Sector in India: Prospects and Challenges'.
- The **All-India Institute of Ayurveda - Incubation Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (AIIA ICAINE)**, a groundbreaking incubation facility run by the Ministry of Ayush to support startups, was also unveiled at the event.
- The union minister for Food and Processing Industries, **Shri Pashupati Paras Ji**, introduced **AIIA ICAINE**.
- Despite a decline in economic activity in 2020 due to the pandemic, the industry is predicted to reach **US\$ 20.6 billion in 2021 and US\$ 23.3 billion in 2022**, according to the **Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS)** report.

India's Current Account Deficit Is Estimated to Be 3–2.2% of GDP in FY23:

- According to Chief Economic Advisor (CEA) V Anantha Nageswaran, the country's **current account deficit for FY23 is predicted to be between three and three and a half per cent of GDP** due to strong domestic economic growth and an increase in oil import costs.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – November 2022

- In contrast to a surplus of 0.9% in 2020–21, India's current account balance showed a deficit of 1.2% of GDP in 2021–22.
- The Reserve Bank of India anticipates that the CAD will have marginally increased in the first half of 2022 (April to September), but contract in the second half (October 2022-March 2023).
- For FY23, the total amount of CAD is predicted to be less than 3% of GDP.
- According to India's chief economist, V Anantha Nageswaran, a real GDP growth rate of 6.5-7.5% in 2022–2023 is feasible to assume at this time, despite new concerns brought on by rising oil prices.

BSE Appoints TAC Security as a Cyber Security Partner:

- TAC Security, a risk and vulnerability management firm, declared that it is the official cyber security partner of the BSE stock market.
- The oldest stock exchange and the cyber security firm claim to have inked a contract that will give the BSE the best degree of cybersecurity.
- The partnership represented a significant development in the two institutions' long-standing relationship.
- Using TAC Security's ESOF (Enterprise Security in One Framework) BSE will comprehensively understand their risk-vulnerability management on a single platform.
- It is an honour and a joy to protect Asia's largest and most important stock exchange.
- They intend to provide the highest level of cybersecurity for an organization that defines the country's stock market.
- It is a significant step toward equipping enterprises around the world with the next generation of vulnerability management.

India's milk production has increased by 83 MT in the last eight years:

- India's milk production has climbed by 83 million tons in the last eight years, a massive increase.
- In 2013-14, production was 138 million tons, with a projected growth to 221 million tons in 2021-22.
- According to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, a thriving dairy sector is an excellent method to further enhance Nari Shakti.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – November 2022

- **Parshottam Rupala**, Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying, has acknowledged the government's initiatives for a paradigm shift in the Dairy and Animal Husbandry sector's policy perspective during the last eight years.
- India is the world's greatest milk producer, **accounting for 23% of worldwide milk production.**
- The situation was drastically different in the 1950s and 1960s.
- For several years, India was a milk-deficit country that relied on imports, and annual production growth was negative.
- During the first decade after independence, the annual compound growth rate in milk output was 1.64%, but it fell to 1.15% in the 1960s.
- In 1950-51, the country's per capita milk consumption was only 124 grams per day.
- By 1970, this figure had fallen to 107 grams per day, one of the world's lowest and much below the basic dietary guidelines.
- The dairy business in India was battling to survive.

IMPORTANT STATE NEWS

Gujarat celebrates new year or 'Bestu Varsh'

- **Gujarati New Year, Vikram Sanvat 2079, or Bestu Varsh** was celebrated with traditional zeal and fervor by the **Gujarati community** across the globe.
- It is celebrated as part of the **five-day Diwali Celebrations.**
- The Gujarati New Year falls on **Shukla Paksha Pratipada** of the **Kartik month.**
- Homes are decorated with **Asopalav torans** and **marigold flowers**, and an attractive Rangoli at the entrance to welcome guests on the new year.

About Gujarat :

- Governor: Acharya Devvrat
- Chief minister: Bhupendrabhai Patel
- Capital: Gandhinagar
- National Park: Vansda National Park, Gir National Park, Marine National Park, Velavadar National Park

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – November 2022

- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Jambughoda Wildlife Sanctuary, Barda Wildlife Sanctuary, Shoolpaneshwar Wildlife Sanctuary

Uttar Pradesh's 2nd elephant reserve to come up in Kheri

- The Union ministry of environment, forest and climate change (MoEFCC) has given its nod to set up Terai Elephant Reserve (TER) under Project Elephant in the Lakhimpur Kheri district of Uttar Pradesh (UP).
- The TER is situated on the Nepal India Border.
- The TER would be the 33rd elephant reserve overall in India and the 2nd ER in Uttar Pradesh
- The proposal for it was drafted by Dudhwa Tiger Reserve (DTR) authorities in April 2022.
- The first elephant reserve in Uttar Pradesh was notified in Shivalik in Saharanpur and Bijnor districts in 2009.

About TER :

- The TER would be set up in an area of 3,049.39 square kilometres comprising forest areas of Pilibhit Tiger Reserve (PTR), Dudhwa National Park (DNP), Kishanpur Wildlife Sanctuary (KWS), Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary (KGWS), Dudhwa buffer zone and parts of south Kheri forest division.
- With the TER coming into existence, Dudhwa Tiger Reserve (DTR) will earn the credit of protecting and conserving four iconic wild species- tigers, one-horned rhinos, Asian elephants, and swamp deer.
- The DTR has attracted wild elephants for decades through various domestic and trans-border corridors, including Basanta-Dudhwa, Laljhadi (Nepal)-Sathiyana, and the Shuklafanta (Nepal)-Dhaka-Pilibhit-Dudhwa buffer zone corridor.
- While tiger conservation is based on the concept of the protected area, elephants' conservation envisages landscape-related ecology.

About MoEFCC :

- Cabinet Minister: Bhupender Yadav
- Minister of State: Ashwini Kumar Choubey

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – November 2022

Meghalaya signs MoU with Credit Guarantee Fund Trust to facilitate the flow of credit to MSME borrowers

- The Meghalaya government signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGFTMSE) to help facilitate the flow of credit to Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) borrowers.
- The MoU between the state Finance department and the CGTMSE under the Ministry of MSME was signed to implement the 'Meghalaya Credit Guarantee Scheme'.

Objective :

- To encourage and promote entrepreneurship in Meghalaya.
- The MoU will strengthen the credit delivery system and facilitate the flow of credit to the MSE sector.

Key Highlights :

- To overcome this major challenge, the launching of the MCGS increases the coverage guarantee to a maximum of 95% and will minimize the risk and encourage collateral-free lending by the member lending institutions.
- Through this mechanism, the state government is leveraging the existing CGTMSE scheme of the Government of India.
- With a contribution of Rs 5 crore, a portfolio of Rs 250 crore would be created
- Considering the average loan size of Rs 1 lakh, more than 25,000 units would be supported through this state government intervention
- The MCGS will commence tentatively from November 1, 2022, & will continue till the portfolio reaches a level commensurate with the contribution of the state government
- The total corpus commitment towards the proposed MCGS will be increased taking into account the initial performance of the scheme with a corpus of Rs 5 crore.

About Meghalaya :

- Governor: Satya Pal Malik
- Chief Minister: Conrad Sangma
- Capital: Shillong

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – November 2022

J&K: LG Shri Manoj Sinha inaugurates 3-week long cultural festival Jashn-e-Kashmir

- Jammu and Kashmir, Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha inaugurated a **three-week-long cultural festival “Jashn-e-Kashmir”**- New Kashmir New Hope, celebrating tradition, culture, and heritage at Srinagar.
- The **Cultural Festival** is being organized by the **All J&K Folk Artists Association, Shah Qalander Folk Theatre**, in collaboration with the **J&K Academy of Art, Culture & Languages** and the **Office of Divisional Commissioner Kashmir**.
- Schemes like **‘Guru Shishya Parampara’** to pass on the valued traditions of Jammu Kashmir to the coming generations; preservation of folklore, UT writers camp, national theatre festivals, inter-state cultural exchange programs, international visits and cultural events in far-flung areas will strengthen our traditional cultural richness,

About J&K :

- Lieutenant Governor: Manoj Sinha
- Capital: Srinagar, Jammu
- National Park: Kishtwar High Altitude National Park, Kazinag National Park, Dachigam National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Ramnagar Wildlife Sanctuary, Gulmarg Wildlife Sanctuary

Kerala tourism department launches ‘women-friendly tourism’ project

- The Kerala govt has launched a **‘women-friendly tourism’ project**, an initiative of the **State Responsible Tourism Mission (RT Mission)**.

Aim:

- To establish women-friendly tourism centres and empower women
- The project will be implemented to **encourage the participation of women** in all tourism activities and attract more women tourists to Kerala
- **Tourism Minister Shri Mohamed Riyas** also inaugurated a **one-day workshop** organized as part of the project.

Key Highlights :

- Under the project, it will create a network of women’s units and tourism centres **manned by women**.

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- The project will also ensure that tourism destinations in the State are fulfilling the needs of women tourists.
- Training will be provided to selected women to work as tour coordinators, storytellers, etc.

MoU between UN Women India and Kerala RT Mission :

- UN Women will sign a memorandum of understanding with the RT Mission for gender-inclusive tourism.
- As part of the initiative, the Mission will provide training to women at different levels to work as community tour leaders, storytellers, homestay operators, taxi operators, etc.

About Kerala :

- Governor: Arif Mohammad Khan
- Chief minister: Pinarayi Vijayan
- Capital: Thiruvananthapuram
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary, Kumarakom Bird Sanctuary, Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary, Parambikulam Wildlife Sanctuary
- National Park: Eravikulam National Park, Silent Valley National Park
- Dance: Kathakali, Mohiniattam, Chakyar Koothu

Gujarat achieves 100% household tap connections under Jal Jeevan Mission

- The Gujarat government has achieved 100% tap water connections in rural areas under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM).
- In Gujarat, a total of 91.73 lakh households in rural areas are provided water through tap connections under the mission.
- Apart from Gujarat, Haryana, Goa, Telangana, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu, Puducherry, Andaman, and Nicobar Island have achieved 100% tap water in households as part of Centre's Jal Jeevan Scheme.
- Uttar Pradesh ranks at the bottom among states with only 19.41% tap water connections.

About JJM :

- JJM was Launched by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in 2019.
- It comes under Jal Shakti Ministry.

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- To make available **55 litres of water per person every day** to each rural household through household tap connections by **2024**.
- The motto of the Jal Jeevan Mission is '**no one is left out**'.
- JJM focuses on water service delivery and not just building water supply infrastructure.

About Ministry of Jal Shakti :

- Cabinet Minister : Gajendra Singh Shekhawat
- Minister of state : Prahlad Singh Patel, Bishweswar Tudu

Arunachal Pradesh to get India's first Aqua Park & Northeast's first fish museum at Tarin

- Fisheries Minister Tage Taki announced that a fish museum, the first of its kind in the Northeast region (NER), would soon be built in Arunachal Pradesh.
- Several Rs 43.59 crore has been sanctioned for the project in the current financial year (FY23) as the first installment
- The fish museum will be part of India's first-ever 'Integrated Aqua Park' (IAP), sanctioned by the Union Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying (MoFAHD)
- The park will be set up at Tarin (Ziro) in the Lower Subansiri district.
- The existing Tarin Fish Farm (TFF), located at high-altitude Bulla village in the Lower Subansiri district, would be upgraded as the IAP, where the museum would be built.
- Earlier, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi had announced one IAP for each state and union territory under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampad Yojana (PMMSY) for bringing blue revolution.

About Arunachal Pradesh :

- Governor: B. D. Mishra
- Chief Minister : Pema Khandu
- Capital: Itanagar

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – November 2022

Centre approves Maharashtra's first Electronics Manufacturing Cluster at Ranjangaon, Pune

- The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has approved the Greenfield Electronics Manufacturing Cluster (EMC) with a project cost of Rs 492.85 crores to be set up in Ranjangaon Phase III, near Pune in Maharashtra.

Objective :

- To strengthen the electronics manufacturing ecosystem in India.
- The approval for the EMC was given to Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC) and the State government's State Industrial Agency.
- Other EMCs in India are present in Noida, Tirupati, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu - wherein both multi-national companies and Indian startups have set up their units.
- The EMC at Ranjangaon, Pune will catalyze investments to the tune of over Rs. 2000 crore shortly & generate employment for over 5,000 people
- The Ministry of Electronics and IT plans to give a boost to the 1000 Crore Semicon India Future Design program to support Semiconductor Design Startups in Maharashtra.
- The C-DAC, Pune shall be the nodal office for this purpose.

About Ministry of Electronics & IT :

- Cabinet Minister: Ashwini Vaishnaw
- Minister of State : Rajeev Chandrasekhar

About Maharashtra :

- Governor: Bhagat Singh Koshyari
- Chief minister: Eknath Shinde
- Capital: Mumbai

Orbital Rail Corridor Project launched in Haryana

- Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah laid the foundation stone of the Orbital Rail Corridor Project in Faridabad, Haryana.
- Haryana Orbital Rail Corridor (HORC) project is part of the Transport Infrastructure Corridor in Haryana in the approved Master Plan for the National Capital Region.
- The project received in-principle approval from the Haryana Government back in 2018 and the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs gave its approval for the project in September 2022.

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About Haryana Orbital Rail Corridor:

- Haryana Orbital Rail Corridor is a **new electrified Double Broad-gauge (BG) rail line** of around **126 km** from **Palwal to Sonipat, via Sohna, Manesar, and Kharkhaouda** in Haryana, bypassing **Delhi**.
- The Broad Gauge line will have a design speed of **160 kmph**.
- It will also have the capacity to **carry 60 million tonnes of freight and 40 million passengers** each way annually.
- The project, land acquisition for the **Rs. 5,671 crores** project is complete, and work on the ground will begin in the next few weeks.
- Haryana Orbital Rail Corridor Project is expected to be **completed by FY 2025-26**.

UP CM Shri Yogi Adityanath inaugurates north India's first data centre at Greater Noida

- **Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Shri Yogi Adityanath** inaugurated **North India's first hyper-scale data centre Yotta D1**, built at the cost of **Rs 5,000 crore** and spread over an area of **3,00,000 square feet** at the upcoming **Data Centre Park in Greater Noida**.
- Yotta D1, in Greater Noida developed by **Yotta Infrastructure Solutions**, an arm of the **Hiranandani Group**.
- Yotta D1 has been set up with an investment of around **Rs 1,500 crore** and has been built and made operational in a record time of **20 months**.

About Yotta D1 :

- Yotta D-1 will be the **first pillar of North India's 5G revolution**.
- Spread over **20 acres** by **Hiranandani Group**, this data centre park will have a **total of 06 data centres**.
- The **seven-story Yotta D-1** is the first part of this episode.
- It is designed as per **international quality standards**, this exclusive data centre offers **direct fibre connectivity** to all major telecom operators from 4 different routes.
- The data centre will increase the data storage capacity of the country, which until now stood at two percent only even though **1.5 billion mobile phones** and **650 million internet users** in the world are from India using **20% of data**.

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- The data centre park is expected to **increase GSDP** significantly while creating new avenues for investment given the proposed **Uttar Pradesh Global Investors Summit 2023** and creating huge employment opportunities
- Also, **Memorandums of Understanding worth Rs 39,000 crore** were signed between the **UP Govt and Hiranandani Group** to be spent on projects in the **next 5 years**

About Yotta Infrastructure Solutions :

- Founded: 2019
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- CEO: Sunil Gupta

About UP :

- Governor: Anandiben Patel
- Chief minister: Yogi Adityanath
- Capital: Lucknow
- National Park: Dudhwa National Park,
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar Bird wildlife Sanctuary, Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary, Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary

Haryana CM launches 'CM dashboard' for live monitoring of departments and 'CM Uphaar' portal

- Haryana Chief Minister Shri Manohar Lal Khattar launched the “**CM dashboard**”, a unique IT platform having real-time data of all the departments.
- “**Live monitoring of every department at the block, district, and panchayat levels will be done,**”
- Shri Khattar also launched a dedicated **e-Upphar portal** to auction gifts received by him.
- The base bid amount would be **fixed** and **payment** would be **directly transferred** to the **Chief Minister Relief Fund**.

About CM dashboard :

- The dashboard has been developed **in-house** with **state-of-the-art Business Intelligence software**.
- This will **enable tracking of methodology and analysis of reports**, further helping in the comparison of old and new data.

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- The portal will also have information about decisions taken by the administrative wing on major schemes.

About Haryana :

- Governor: Bandaru Dattatreya
- Chief minister: Manohar Lal Khattar
- Capital: Chandigarh
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Chhilchhila Wildlife Sanctuary, Bir Shikargah Wildlife Sanctuary, Kalesar Wildlife Sanctuary

Goa CM Pramod Sawant launches the Purple Fest logo

- Goa Chief Minister Shri Pramod Sawant launched the logo of Purple Fest at a function held in Manohar Parrikar Memorial Hall of Sanjay Centre for Education, Porvorim, Goa.
- Goa would be the first state in India to host India's first-of-its-kind inclusive festival and assured all kinds of support on his part to make this festival a grand success and as popular as the International Film Festival of India.
- The three-day event is to kick start in January 2023.
- The event was organized by the Office of State Commission for Persons with Disabilities Goa in collaboration with the Directorate of Social Welfare and Entertainment Society of Goa.

About Goa :

- Governor: P. S. Sreedharan Pillai
- Chief Minister : Pramod Sawant
- Capital : Panaji (Panjim)
- Airport: Dabolim Airport

Madhya Pradesh Government Launches Ladli Laxmi 2.0 Financial Assistance Scheme For Girls

- Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan launched the state government's flagship 'Ladli Laxmi 2.0' financial assistance scheme to encourage girls to pursue higher education and make them independent.

About 'Ladli Laxmi 2.0' :

- CM Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan launched the 'Ladli Laxmi' scheme in 2007 after he became the Chief Minister for the first time in 2005.

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- The scheme provides **monetary benefits** to **eligible girl children** to ensure they get a **good education** and change the perspective of society towards the birth of the girl's child.
- Under the scheme, from the day of the birth, money will be deposited into her name that would **total Rs 1.43 lakh** when she turns **21** with the condition that her parents not marry her off before she turns 18 years old.
- On the occasion, Mr. Chouhan also transferred a total of **Rs 1.85 crore** into the bank accounts of **1,477 Ladli Laxmi scheme beneficiary girls** to enable them to **pursue higher education**.

About Madhya Pradesh :

- Governor: Mangubhai C. Patel
- Chief Minister: Shivraj Singh Chouhan
- Capital: Bhopal
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Bagdara Wildlife Sanctuary, Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary, Ken Gharial Wildlife Sanctuary

Meghalaya CM launches “Citizen Engagement and Communication Programme”

- **Meghalaya Chief Minister (CM) Shri Conrad Sangma** has launched the **Citizen Engagement and Communication Programme** at Tura, West Garo Hills district of Meghalaya.

Aim:

- To **increase the penetration** of all schemes so that governance is improved in all aspects.
- The program will also aim to **create much-needed awareness** amongst the masses so that people will have the **right information** to avail benefits of the schemes being launched by the Government.

About Meghalaya :

- Governor: Satya Pal Malik
- Chief Minister: Conrad Sangma
- Capital: Shillong

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Himachal Assembly polls: 106-year-old Shyam Saran Negi, first voter of Independent India, casts his postal ballot

- 106-year-old Shyam Saran Negi, the first voter of Independent India, exercised his right to franchise for the 34th time for the Himachal Pradesh Assembly elections through a postal ballot at his residence in the Kinnaur district.
- He cast his vote through a postal ballot for the first time.

About Shyam Saran Negi :

- Negi voted for the first time in 1951 in the general elections of India and has voted 16 times in Lok Sabha Elections.
- He was popularly known as Master Shyam Saran, has voted in every election since 1951, and has never missed an opportunity to vote.
- He has also been made a state election icon in 2014.

Vadodara becomes the second city to issue municipal bonds issuance

- Vadodara, Gujarat became the second Indian city to issue a municipal bond with assistance from the United States Treasury Department's Office of Technical Assistance.
- This is Vadodara's first municipal bond that will provide funds for infrastructure in Vadodara.
- Pune was the first city to issue such a bond in 2017.

Key Highlights :

- The successful issuance of the bond was celebrated by the US Embassy and the US Treasury officials, the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, Vadodara city, and the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).
- The bond was oversubscribed by 10 times (₹1007 crore in bids received from 33 bidders) and was priced at a low yield of just 7.15%.
- A written case study will also be published sharing lessons learned from Vadodara's bond issuance that will benefit other Indian cities issuing their municipal bonds in the future.

About Municipal Bonds :

- Municipal Bonds are also known as Muni bonds.
- It is a debt instrument which is issued by Urban Local Bodies in India.
- The fund is used to develop Infrastructure developments in municipal areas.

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- The first Municipal bonds were issued in 1997 by the Bangalore Municipal Corporation.

Aibawk cluster in the Aizawl, Mizoram becomes the first cluster to be completed under the Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission

- Aibawk cluster in the Aizawl district of Mizoram has become the first cluster to be completed under the Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission (SPMRM).

Key Highlights :

- Under the leadership of the Minister of Rural Development, Shri Giriraj Singh, the Aibawk Rurban cluster completed all the 48 projects planned under SPMRM.
- Spread over an area of 522 sq. km across 11 villages and covering a population of 10,963, the Aibawk cluster has the locational advantage due to its proximity to Aizawl City.
- Agri-link roads, pedestrian footpaths, and inter-village road connectivity projects undertaken to improve market access
- Infrastructure created includes roads, footpaths, drains, water supply, and car parking, and social infrastructures like a conference centre, and sports infrastructure.

About SPMRM :

- SPMRM was launched by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in February 2016.

Aim :

- To provide amenities to rural areas which are perceived to be urban and have the potential to stimulate local economic development.
- The mission is of five years duration.

What is a Rurban Cluster?

- A 'Rurban cluster' is a cluster of geographically contiguous villages with a population of about 25000 to 50000 in plain and coastal areas and with a population of 5000 to 15000 in desert, hilly or tribal areas.
- Under the Mission, presently, out of 300 selected clusters spread across the country, 109 are tribal clusters and 191 non-tribal clusters.

Kerala becomes the first state to introduce uniform gold prices based on bank rate

- Kerala becomes the first state in India to launch a uniform gold price based on the bank rate.

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- The decision to introduce a uniform price on 916 purity 22-carat gold was taken at a meeting between officials of **Malabar Gold and Diamonds**, one of the largest gold and diamond retail chains in the country, and key members of **All Kerala Gold and Silver Merchants Association**.

Key Highlights :

- The launch of **standardized gold rates** across the state to **safeguard** the interest of the consumers and bring **price transparency to the trade**.
- The gold rate should be uniform across the country based on the bank rates.
- However, in most states, gold is priced at **Rs 150-300 per gram** extra over the bank rate.
- In Kerala, gold used to be sold at different prices on a **particular day**.
- Uniform gold price based on bank rate offers an opportunity for consumers to purchase gold at a **reasonable and transparent price**.

About Kerala :

- Governor: Arif Mohammad Khan
- Chief minister: Pinarayi Vijayan
- Capital: Thiruvananthapuram
- Airport: Trivandrum International Airport, Cochin International Airport, Calicut International Airport, Kannur International Airport
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary, Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary, Aralam Wildlife Sanctuary
- National Park: Eravikulam National Park, Silent Valley National Park

AdaniConneX unveils flagship data centre campus in Chennai, India

- **AdaniConneX**, a joint venture between **Adani Enterprises** and **EdgeConneX**, has announced the opening of the '**Chennai 1**' hyperscale data centre campus located at **Sipcot IT Park** in **Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India**.
- The '**Chennai 1**' campus hosts **Tamil Nadu's first pre-certified IGBC Platinum Rated data centre**.

Key Highlights :

- In Phase-1, the campus offers **17 megawatts (IT Load)** that will scale up to **33 Mw** at full capacity.

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- The facility will also be powered with up to **100% renewable energy**, offering enterprises and hyperscale customers sustainable energy choices.
- 'Chennai 1' is designed to offer robust physical protection to IT Infrastructure with **seven layers** of the security system and commitment to providing **99.999% availability**.
- **India's current data centre capacity** is around **600 MW** and is expected to grow to around **1300 MW by 2024**.
- AdaniConneX is investing capital into the joint venture over the next decade with a mission to build over **1 GW green data centre platform**.
- AdaniConneX is also building hyper-scale campuses in all the big cities of India, including **Mumbai, Navi Mumbai, Noida, Pune, Kolkata, Bhubaneswar, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Vishakapatnam**.

About AdaniConneX :

- Headquarters: Ahmedabad, Gujarat
- CEO : Jeyakumar Janakaraj

Hyderabad growing green space city hosts India's largest miyawaki forest

- Hyderabad's growing green space city hosts India's largest Miyawaki forest

Key Highlights :

- This is the **country's largest Miyawaki forest**, followed by one in **Gujarat**, spread over **14 acres**.
- The Miyawaki Method pioneered by **Japanese botanist Akira Miyawaki** helps build dense, **fast-growing forests with native plants**.
- **Spread over 18 acres** in Kavaguda near the airport, the forest has **126 species** of native fruit and flowering trees and is a birds' paradise.
- It is developed by the **Stone Craft Group** led by **Keerthy Chilukuri** and **Anusha Podduturi**, the **18-acre Miyawaki forest** in Kawaguda is part of their **62-acre real estate venture** called **The Woods**.
- With the help of **TRST01 Consultancy**, the Stone Craft team has **Geographical Indication GI-tagged** every tree in the forest

A two-day dance drama titled Yugpurush Raja Rammohun Roy concludes

- A **two-day** enthralling and opulent dance drama Titled '**Yugpurush Raja Rammohun Roy**', based on the **life of Raja Rammohun Roy**, who is called the **father of modern Indian society**, concluded.

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- The dance drama was organized at Kartavya Path and India Gate (Central Vista), New Delhi, Delhi.
- The program was based on the theme 'Nari Samman', and was organized by the Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation of the Ministry of Culture.
- A one-year-long celebration was launched by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India on May 22, 2022, on the occasion of the 250th birth anniversary of Raja Rammohun Roy, as part of the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.

About Raja Rammohun Roy :

- Ram Mohan Roy was an Indian reformer who was one of the founders of the Brahma Sabha in 1828, the precursor of the Brahma Samaj, a social-religious reform movement in the Indian subcontinent.

Kerala govt launches scheme to reimburse tech license cost to startups

- The Government of Kerala has launched a Technology Transfer Scheme to reimburse the expense incurred by the new startup ventures to procure technology licenses from government research institutions in India to commercialize and scale up their products.

About Technology Transfer Scheme :

- In the Scheme implemented through Kerala Startup Mission (KSUM) & the government will reimburse up to Rs 10 lakh to startups.
- The scheme will help startups in Kerala to gain greater access to the know-how required for turning their ideas into marketable products.
- As part of the financial support scheme, 90% of the technology fee paid by startups to the research institutions from where technology licenses are purchased or sourced will be reimbursed.
- The eligible startups with an active registration with KSUM can submit online applications via the KSUM portal - <https://startupmission.kerala.gov.in/schemes/technology-commercialisation>

About KSUM :

- KSUM is the nodal agency of the Kerala government for entrepreneurship development and incubation activities in the state.
- KSUM CEO : Anoop Ambika

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About Kerala :

- Governor: Arif Mohammad Khan
- Chief minister: Pinarayi Vijayan
- Capital: Thiruvananthapuram
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary, Kumarakom Bird Sanctuary, Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary, Parambikulam Wildlife Sanctuary
- National Park: Eravikulam National Park, Silent Valley National Park
- Dance: Kathakali, Mohiniattam, Chakyar Koothu

The world's first Vedic Clock will be installed in Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh

- The world's first Vedic Clock will be installed in Ujjain the city of Lord Malakal, Madhya Pradesh.
- Madhya Pradesh education minister **Shri Mohan Yadav** laid the foundation stone of the world's first Vedic Clock at the 300-year-old Jiwaji Observatory in Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh.
- The Jiwaji observatory was constructed by **Maharaja Sawai Raja Jaisingh** of Jaipur in 1719.
- The clock to be built at an estimated cost of **Rs 1.62 crore** aims to make people familiar with the Vedic time calculation.

About the Vedic clock :

- The Vedic clock will be based on the Vedic calculation of the time, in which the **24 hours** of the day are divided into **Muhurats**.
- The clock will be **synced** with the **position of the Sun** and also with the **sunrise and sunset timings at different places** across the world.
- There will be a **dedicated mobile application** for the readings of the Vedic Clock, and citizens will be able to use it on their smartphones, computers, televisions, and other devices.

About MP :

- Governor: Mangubhai C. Patel
- Chief Minister: Shivraj Singh Chouhan
- Capital: Bhopal
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Pachmarhi Wildlife Sanctuary, Panpatha Wildlife Sanctuary, Ralamandal Wildlife Sanctuary

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Goa CM unveils free pilgrimage scheme Mukhyamantri Devdarshan Yatra Yojana

- The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government in Goa formally launched a state-sponsored pilgrimage scheme for people announced before the Assembly polls held in February 2022.
- Goa Chief Minister Shri Pramod Sawant flagged off a bus carrying passengers to the famous Tirupati shrine in Andhra Pradesh under the "Mukhyamantri Devdarshan Yatra Yojana", which he had announced before the Assembly polls.

About Mukhyamantri Devdarshan Yatra Yojana :

- The two other destinations promised under the scheme are Velankanni in Tamil Nadu- a popular pilgrim centre, especially renowned for the Church of Mother Mary- and Shirdi, the famous shrine of Sai Baba located in neighbouring Maharashtra
- Under the scheme, people over the age of 50 years are eligible to apply.
- The pilgrimages under the scheme are free of cost.
- The Goa government takes care of meals and boarding of pilgrims during the tours,"

About Goa :

- Governor: P. S. Sreedharan Pillai
- Chief Minister : Pramod Sawant
- Capital : Panaji (Panjim)
- Airport: Dabolim Airport

Nagaland to host Tokhü Emong Bird Count

- Nagaland hosted the first edition of the Tokhü Emong Bird Count (TEBC) from November 4 to 7, 2022, a four-day documentation event to list birds in Nagaland.
- It is the first avian documentation exercise taken by Nagaland to go beyond the Amur falcons
- This event is being organized in collaboration with the Wokha Forest Division and the Divisional Management Unit, Nagaland Forest Management Project (NFMP), Wokha, and Bird Count India.
- The event is being held during the Tokhü Emong post-harvest festival of the Lotha Nagas to spread awareness about Nagaland's bird diversity.
- The dates of the Tokhü Emong bird count also coincide with the BNHS Salim Ali Bird Count – a nationwide event.

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The objective of the TEBC :

- To highlight the diversity of bird species in Nagaland and bring to attention the threatened habitats in the state

What is Tokhü Emong?

- Tokhü Emong is a harvest festival celebrated by Lotha Nagas, a major Naga ethnic group native to Wokha District in Nagaland.
- The term “Tokhü” means feast (eating food or drinking) and the term “Emong” means the Halt at the appointed time.
- The 9-day fall festival celebrates the end of the harvest season.
- It is celebrated during the first week of November each year.

About Nagaland :

- Governor : Jagdish Mukhi
- Chief Minister : Neiphiu Rio
- Capital : Kohima

Rajasthan govt launches Handicraft Policy-2022 to revive traditional arts

- The Rajasthan government has launched its first Handicraft Policy 2022 to boost investment in the cultural heritage of Rajasthan.

Objective :

- To provide better marketing arrangements for the upliftment of handicrafts, to revive traditional and extinct arts as well as to create new employment opportunities.

About Handicraft Policy 2022 :

- The prime objective of the Rajasthan Handicrafts Policy-2022 is to set up the essential infrastructure in the state for the sector.
- The policy focuses on empowering handicrafts for the growth of the state by ensuring participation and generating new employment opportunities.
- It is expected to generate more than 50,000 new jobs in the next 5 years.
- In the year 2020-21, Handicrafts worth Rs 6205.32 crore were exported from Rajasthan.

Additional Info :

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- In 2016, World Crafts Council (WCC) declared Jaipur as the 'World Craft City' on account of its Havelis, jharokhas, gates ornamented with handwork, paintings, wall paintings, and the various types of handicrafts flourishing in the city

About Rajasthan :

- Governor: Kalraj Mishra
- Chief Minister: Ashok Gehlot
- Capital: Jaipur
- National Park: Ranthambore National Park, Keoladeo National Park, Mukundara National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Bandh Baratha WL Sanctuary, National Chambal WL Sanctuary, Jaisamand WL Sanctuary

HRIDC inks pact with REMCL to develop renewable energy in Haryana

- Haryana Rail Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd (HRIDC), a joint venture of the Haryana government (51%) and the Ministry of Railway (MOR) (49%) signed an agreement with the Railway Energy Management Company Limited (REMCL) for the development of renewable energy projects in Haryana.
- The agreement was signed at the HRIDC office at Sector 44 Gurugram, Haryana.
- REMCL is a joint venture between the rail ministry and RITES Ltd.

About the agreement :

- Under the agreement, the two companies will collaborate to explore areas of renewable energy projects (wind, solar and hybrid) related to net-zero carbon emission targets of the Indian Railways.
- HRIDC would identify green energy projects in Haryana to obtain technical expertise in consultancy, execution, and implementation through developers by REMC in their territories.

Note :

- HRIDC managing director: Rajesh Agarwal
- Chief executive officer of REMCL: A K Singhal

About MoR :

- Cabinet Minister: Ashwini Vaishnaw
- Minister of State: Raosaheb Danve, Darshana Jardosh

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- Chairman & CEO, Railway Board: Vinay Kumar Tripathi

About Haryana :

- Governor: Bandaru Dattatreya
- Chief minister: Manohar Lal Khattar
- Capital: Chandigarh

Jaipur set to host 11th edition of India StoneMart international exhibition

- The 11th edition of India Stonemart 2022 will be held from November 10 to 13 at the Jaipur Exhibition and Convention Center (JECC) in Sitapura Industrial Area, Jaipur, Rajasthan.
- India Stonemart will be the **biggest international exhibition** of the stone industry, in which the world of natural stones, ancillary products, and services will be showcased.
- The exhibition is being organized by the **Center for Development of Stones (CDOS)**, with the **Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI)** as co-organizer.
- **Rajasthan State Industrial Development and Investment Corporation Limited (RIICO)** is its major sponsor.
- **More than 350 exhibitors from India** and abroad are expected to participate in the exhibition.

Jharkhand Cabinet approves four ambitious schemes for students & youths

- The Jharkhand Cabinet has approved four ambitious schemes to promote education and skill development of students and youths.
- The cabinet meeting chaired by **Chief Minister Shri Hemant Soren** approved the 4 schemes and 34 other agendas.
- **President Droupadi Murmu** will officially launch these schemes on Jharkhand's Foundation day on November 15, 2022.

List of 4 Schemes :

1. Higher and Technical Education department's Mukhya Mantri Shiksha Prothsahan Yojana (MMSPY)
2. Eklavya Prasikshan Yojana (EPY)
3. Guruji Student Credit Card Yojana (GSCCY)
4. Labour department's Mukhya Mantri Sarathi Yojana (MMSY).

About MMSPY :

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- Under the MMSPY, class 10 pass students will be provided free coaching at Jharkhand-based institutions of national repute for entrance examinations of engineering, medicine, common law admission test, mass communication, fashion designing, hotel management, and chartered accounting.
- Along with free coaching, a provision of Rs 2,500 scholarship per month has also been decided for lodging and other expenses of students.
- The only eligibility condition to qualify for the scheme is that the student's parents should not come under the income tax criteria.
- The department targets to provide the benefit of the scheme to 8,000 students in a year.

About EPY :

- Under EPY, job-oriented free coaching will be provided for various competitive examinations such as the union public service commission, Jharkhand public service commission, bank PO, bank clerk, railways, and staff selection commission.
- The department has set a target to provide coaching to 2,700 students in a year.

About GSCCY :

Aim :

- To provide financial help to students, who would be selected for higher education, engineering, medical, and others.
- Students will be given a credit card, which has a maximum limit of Rs 15 lakh.
- Students can spend 30% of Rs 15 lakh for non-institutional expenses such as lodging, food, books, laptops, etc.
- This 30% component will go to the student, while the rest of the amount will go to the institution as fees.
- Students will get this credit at an interest rate of 4% and they will get 15 years to repay the loan.
- The EMI will start one year after completion of the course.
- The cabinet also approved Rs 461 crore for the construction of a 3.5-km high-level bridge over the Swarnrekha river from Sakchi to Mango and Azad Basti.
- Besides, the cabinet sanctioned Rs 4.40 crore for the construction of Palash Mart at Kanke Road in Ranchi.

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About Jharkhand :

- Governor: Ramesh Bais
- Chief Minister : Hemant Soren
- Capital: Ranchi

Tamil Nadu notifies Cauvery South Wildlife Sanctuary as its 17th wildlife sanctuary

- The Government of Tamil Nadu (TN) has declared an area of 686.406 sq.km in the reserve forests of Krishnagiri and Dharmapuri as the Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary.
- The newly notified sanctuary is the 17th Wildlife Sanctuary in TN.

Key Details about Cauvery South Wildlife Sanctuary :

- Cauvery South Wildlife Sanctuary was notified under Section 26-A of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.
- The forest area of 478 sq km in the Anchetty, Urigam and Jawalagiri ranges of Hosur division, which are contiguous with the Cauvery South will be declared as a wildlife sanctuary.
- It is home to 35 species of mammals, 238 species of birds, Leith's soft-shell turtles, smooth-coated otters, marsh crocodiles, and four-horned antelopes.
- The sanctuary will be part of a protected landscape contiguous with the forests that currently constitute the Cauvery North Wildlife Sanctuary which is shared between Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.
- The sanctuary is also a large, contiguous network of protected areas, enabling uniform legal status and protection along both the banks of the river Cauvery for a 50 km stretch.
- The landscape maintains further continuity to the Nilgiri biosphere reserve through Malai Mahadeshwara Wildlife Sanctuary, Biligiri Rangaswamy Temple Tiger Reserve in Karnataka, and Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve along with Erode forest division of Tamil Nadu.
- Two important and large elephant corridors namely, the Nandimangalam-Ulibanda Corridor and the Kovaipallam-Anebidahalla Corridor fall in this area.

About Tamil Nadu :

- Governor: R. N. Ravi
- Chief Minister: M. K. Stalin

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- Capital: Chennai
- Dance : Bharatnatyam, Karakattam
- National Park: Mudumalai National Park, Mukurthi National Park, Guindy National Park, Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Kalakad Wildlife sanctuary, Karikili Bird Sanctuary, Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary
- Tiger Reserve: Anamalai Tiger Reserve
- Biosphere Reserve: Agasthyamalai Biosphere Reserve

Assam CM Launches Mission Basundhara 2.0

- Assam Chief Minister (CM) Shri Himanta Biswa Sarma launched the **second phase** of Mission Basundhara 2.0 at an event held at the **Srimanta Shankardev Kalakshetra** in **Guwahati, Assam**.
- The Assam government is working towards providing **land rights** to **indigenous people** based on **self-certification**.
- A self-certification has to state that the claimant has been residing on the land for the **last three generations**.
- **No hasty decision** will be taken in '**doubtful cases**' about claims made over any land through the self-certification process.
- Data from the **National Register of Citizens (NRC)**, which is yet to be notified, and other such sources will be considered for taking any decision in such cases.

About Mission Basundhara 1.0 :

- The **first phase** of Mission Basundhara was launched in **2021** to provide a **time-bound solution** to several services under the **revenue department**.
- It wound up in **May 2022**, with **six lakh people** benefiting from it.
- It is a **transitional mission** and the government was looking for **sustainable reforms**, particularly by cutting away the role of middlemen and digitalisation of all land-related services.

About Assam :

- Governor : Jagdish Mukh
- Chief Minister : Himanta Biswa Sarma
- Capital: Dispur

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- Dam : Karbi Langpi Dam, Umrong Dam
- Forts : Badarpur Fort, Cachari Fort

Arunachal Pradesh signs MoU with NHLML for infrastructure development

- The Arunachal Pradesh government has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with National Highway Logistics Management Limited (NHLML), an SPV (Special Purpose Vehicle) of the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI), for infrastructure development in the state.

Signatories :

- The MoU was signed by state Transport department special secretary Parul Gaur Mittal and NHLML CEO Prakash Gaur in the presence of Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari and Chief Minister Pema Khandu in Guwahati, Assam.

About MoU :

- Announced in the Union Budget (2022-23) for the construction of ropeways in hilly terrains across the country for connecting inaccessible areas, decongesting urban areas and improve tourism in states, the national ropeway programme, the 'Parvatmala' project, is being undertaken by the NHLML as the executing agency.
- The MoU is expected to bring effective implementation, development, construction, operation and maintenance of the identified projects.

About Arunachal Pradesh :

- Governor: B. D. Mishra
- Chief Minister :Pema Khandu
- Capital: Itanagar
- Airport: Along Airport, Daporijo Airport, Itanagar Airport, Tezu Airport

Jammu and Kashmir Admin introduces scheme to promote sheep farming - ISDS

- The Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) administration has introduced an integrated sheep development scheme (ISDS) for promoting the sheep farming sector.
- Various reforms & initiatives like ISDS were introduced for modernisation and promotion of the sheep farming sector and strengthening of commercial activities and output of the sector which provides the means of livelihood to about 12 lakh families in the UT.

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- To promote the establishment of sheep and goat units in the union territory.

About ISDS :

- ISDS is one of the schemes of Sheep Husbandry Department.
- Under this scheme, financial assistance from the banks has been made available along with other incentives and subsidies.

Who are eligible to apply for the scheme ?

- Any individual /group of individuals/self-help group/cooperative society/farmers producer organization.
- The scheme also has the provision of Procurement of Shearing units (Comprising of one shearing machine, one Genset and shearing accessories/spares), 50% of the unit cost as total eligible subsidy with a ceiling of Rs 75,000/unit whichever is less.
- High genetic potential breeds of sheep, exotic breeds for crossbreeding, marketing facilities and preventive mechanism of endemic disease problems is bringing overall improvement in sheep rearing sector and improving socio-economic status of a vast majority of livestock producers.

About J&K :

- Lieutenant Governor : Manoj Sinha
- Capital : Srinagar, Jammu
- National Park : Kishtwar High Altitude National Park, Kazinag National Park, Dachigam National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuaries : Ramnagar Wildlife Sanctuary, Gulmarg Wildlife Sanctuary
- Dance forms : Hafiza Dance, Bacha Nagma

Assam ties up with IIM Bangalore to train pvt professionals to work in districts

- The Assam government inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore, Karnataka to train working professionals in Assam.
- The agreement was signed by Chief Minister Sarma; Rishikesha T Krishnan, director of IIM-Bangalore and the state's pricipalsectary Samir Sinha at the state capital Guwahati Assam.
- The training programme aims to prepare professionals with a postgraduate degree to work at the district level.

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Key Highlights :

- The government joined hands with the **premier B-school** with an aim to **bring transformative changes** in **health, education, women, and child development** in **Assam**.
- The programme will be a mix of academic and district work and will also feature an **off-campus training programme**, to be conducted over **40 days**, in Guwahati.
- The training programme will **span 2 years** and on completion of the course, the candidates will receive certificates in public policy and management from IIM, Bangalore.

About Assam :

- Governor : Jagdish Mukh
- Chief Minister : Himanta Biswa Sarma
- Capital : Dispur
- Dam : Karbi Langpi Dam, Umrong Dam
- Forts : Badarpur Fort, Cachari Fort
- National Parks : Kaziranga National Park, Manas National Park, Nameri National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuaries : Nameri National Park, Garampani Wildlife Sanctuary, Amsang Wildlife Sanctuary

Rajasthan govt approves Rs 2.60 crore for camel conservation scheme

- The **Rajasthan government** has approved an **outlay of Rs 2.60 crore** for the **Camel Conservation Scheme** which is aimed at **protecting camels**.
- The chief minister has decided to implement the **camel conservation and development policy** in the **budget for the year 2022-23**.
- For this provision, **Rs 10 crore** was allocated.

About Camel Conservation Scheme :

- Under the scheme, each female camel and calf will be tagged by the veterinary doctor and an **identity card** will be issued.
- The camel rearer will be given **Rs 5,000** while the **veterinarian** will receive **Rs 50** honorarium for **each identity card**.
- On completion of **one year** of the camel calf, the rearer will get **another instalment of Rs 5,000**.
- The amount of both instalments will be deposited in the **bank account** of the **camel rearer**.

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About Rajasthan :

- Governor: Kalraj Mishra
- Chief Minister : Ashok Gehlot
- Capital: Jaipur
- National Park: Keoladeo National Park, Ranthambore National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Jaisamand WL Sanctuary, Sajjangerh WL Sanctuary, Fulwari ki Nal WL Sanctuary, Keladevi WL Sanctuary

Arunachal Pradesh launched the world's first drone-mediated livestock vaccines delivery service -

TechEagle

- **TechEagle**, a leading drone delivery startup that offers world-class end-to-end drone delivery solutions, has conducted the world's first vaccine delivery for Animal Husbandry in Arunachal Pradesh.

Aim:

- To strengthen the Healthcare ecosystem of the animals by providing rapid and safe delivery of healthcare-related items, starting from Lower Dibang valley.
- The drone delivery was carried out by **TechEagle** in collaboration with the Animal Husbandry department and EY
- It has used its hybrid drone Vertiplane X3 for its maiden flight.

Key Highlights :

- The project was inaugurated by **Er. Tage Taki**, Minister of Agriculture of Arunachal Pradesh.
- The flight took off from **Roing to Paglam**, having an aerial distance of 29 km, which was covered with TechEagle's Drone in just 20 minutes.
- The road distance from Roing to Paglam is about 120 km which takes around 4 hours to cover.
- TechEagle's indigenously developed Hybrid Drone- Vertiplane X3 delivered vaccines 12 times faster than ground transportation.
- TechEagle used its made-in-India – Hybrid e-VTOL Drone, Vertiplane X3.
- It is India's fastest and longest-range hybrid e-VTOL drone that flies at a maximum speed of 120 kmph for 100km on a single charge.
- In 2018, TechEagle initiated the world's first tea delivery by drone in Lucknow, UP.

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About TechEagle :

- Founder & CEO: Vikram Singh

About Arunachal Pradesh :

- Governor: B. D. Mishra
- Chief Minister : Pema Khandu
- Capital: Itanagar
- Airport: Along Airport, Daporijo Airport, Itanagar Airport, Tezu Airport

J&K L-G Manoj Sinha launches spatial data infra initiative JK RIS 7 g-SAM mobile app

- Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha has launched the Jammu and Kashmir Remote Sensing Information System (JKRIS), a spatial data infrastructure initiative, and g-SAM (Gram Panchayat Spatial Assets Mapper) mobile app.
- It was launched at the convention of geographic information system (GIS) government officials, professionals, and entrepreneurs organised to mark World GIS Day.

Note :

- The World GIS Day was celebrated on 16 Nov 2022.

Key Highlights :

- The Geographic Information System technology ecosystem is offering new communication tools to different sectors and making a greater impact in areas like weather forecast, urban and transport planning, security and biodiversity protection.
- He also released reports on the assessment of the inherent vulnerability of climate change and internal monitoring of Wular Lake and its catchment area.
- About 1,000 GIS applications are being used every day by professionals, researchers, and common citizens in more than 50 sectors to address various challenges and opportunities.

About J&K :

- Lieutenant Governor: Manoj Sinha
- Capital: Srinagar, Jammu
- National Park: Kishtwar High Altitude National Park, Kazinag National Park, Dachigam National Park, City forest (Samil Ali) National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Ramnagar Wildlife Sanctuary, Gulmarg Wildlife Sanctuary, Limber Wildlife

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Sanctuary

Tamil Nadu introduces India's first elephant death audit framework

- The Forest Department of Tamil Nadu (TN) has introduced, first of its kind initiative in India, Tamil Nadu Elephant Death Audit Framework (EDAF).

Aim :

- To document reasons for elephant deaths for better accountability.

Key Highlights :

- It prescribes a “systematic standard protocol for conducting post mortem to determine the reason(s) for the death of an elephant, to study and understand the circumstances in cases of preventable and unnatural death of elephants, and to formulate remedial measures for prevention of unnatural and preventive deaths by conducting periodical death audits and monitoring those over time.
- The document also helps to study the conditions of avoidable and unnatural deaths, while preparing and developing preventative strategies.
- It also specifies a methodical standard process for carrying out an autopsy to ascertain the causes of an elephant's demise.
- The protocol would be applicable for the reported deaths of elephants in the wild and would be uniformly followed in all wildlife areas and territorial divisions across TN.

About Tamil Nadu :

- Governor: R. N. Ravi
- Chief Minister: M. K. Stalin
- Capital: Chennai
- Dance : Bharatnatyam, Karakattam
- National Park: Mudumalai National Park, Mukurthi National Park, Guindy National Park, Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Kalakad Wildlife sanctuary, Karikili Bird Sanctuary, Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary
- Tiger Reserve: Anamalai Tiger Reserve
- Biosphere Reserve: Agasthyamalai Biosphere Reserve

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Karnataka to get India's first semiconductor fab facility

- The International Semiconductor Consortium's (ISMC's) proposed a \$3 billion chip fab in Mysuru, Karnataka.
- The construction of the fab will reportedly begin by February 2023.

Key Highlights :

- The ISMC will make 40-65 nanometre analogue chips that will cater to "defence and auto sectors".
- The Centre had announced subsidies of up to 50% of the project costs for semiconductor manufacturers under its Rs 76,000 crore Production-linked Incentive (PLI) scheme in 2021.
- Earlier in 2022, Foxconn and Vedanta announced setting up a semiconductor facility in Ahmedabad.
- Singapore's IGSS Ventures will also set up a \$3.2 billion semiconductor park in Tamil Nadu.
- All of the projects will be provided with government incentives.
- It would take about 4-5 years, once the construction starts, for the ISMC's plant to become operational.

About ISMC :

- ISMC is a joint venture between UAE's Next Orbit Ventures and Israel's Tower Semiconductor.

About Karnataka :

- Governor: Thawarchand Gehlot
- Chief Minister : Basavaraj Bommai
- Capital: Bengaluru
- National Park: Bannerghatta National Park, Anshi National Park, Bandipur National park, Kudremukh National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Arabithittu Wildlife Sanctuary, Bhadra Wildlife Sanctuary, Bhimgad Wildlife Sanctuary

Karnataka signs MoU with Centre for Effective Governance of Indian States

- The Karnataka government entered into a five-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Centre for Effective Governance of Indian States (CEGIS).

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- The MoU was signed in the presence of **Chief Minister and Finance Minister Shri Basavraj Bommai**.

About the MoU :

- Under the GoK-MoU, CEGIS has proposed to **provide technical, analytical, and programmatic support** in areas such as enhancement of state revenue including competency mapping and training of frontline tax officials, designing a strategy for improving **Administrative Data Quality and data use for Education, Health, and Women and Child Development Departments**.
- CEGIS shall work closely with departments such as **Finance, Education, Social Welfare**, and others to identify mutually aligned areas to provide **technical and analytical support**.

About CEGIS :

- **Founded: 2019**

Aim :

- To enable a **transformative improvement** in the functioning of Indian state governments.
- It works with Indian states in preparing an **analytical roadmap for governance and expenditure reforms** and provides strategic implementation support to deliver on this vision.
- At present, CEGIS is engaged with the **Governments of Telangana, NCT of Delhi, Bodoland Territorial Region, Assam, and Tamil Nadu**.

Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik Launches Mukhyamantri Siksha Puraskar Yojana Award and Scholarship Scheme

- **Odisha Chief Minister (CM) Shri Naveen Patnaik** announced the **Mukhyamantri Siksha Puraskar Yojana Award and Scholarship Scheme**.
- The scheme has been introduced to **encourage healthy competition** between the **state schools** and also **recognize excellence in education**.

About Mukhyamantri Siksha Puraskar Yojana :

- Under the programme, **annual awards worth Rs. 100 Crore per year** will be given to **school students, educational institutions and principals, teachers, and school management committees** for achieving excellence in Education and Alumni for their contribution.

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About Award Scheme :

- The award will be given to **50,000 students, 1,500 principals**, School Management Committee, Alumni, Gram Panchayat, and District Administrators.
- The chief minister also launched a **digital locker app** for the **Council of Higher Secondary Education and the Board of Secondary Education** for safekeeping of **certificates, mark sheets**, and other documents.

About Odisha :

- Governor: Ganeshi Lal
- Chief minister: Naveen Patnaik
- Capital: Bhubaneswar
- National Park: Simlipal National Park, Bhitarkanika National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Tikarpada Wildlife Sanctuary, Chilika Wildlife Sanctuary, Sunabeda Wildlife Sanctuary, Kotagarh Wildlife Sanctuary
- Dance : Ghumura Dance, Ranapa Dance
- Tribes : Bagata, Banjara, Munda

Tripura CM Launches 'Amar Sarkar' Web Portal To Deliver Benefits Among Citizens

- Tripura Chief Minister Dr. Manik Saha launched a new portal, 'Amar Sarkar', to act as a bridge between the people and the government at the Muktadhara Auditorium in Agartala, Tripura.

About Amar Sarkar :

- The portal will help people to register their problems and complaints through village committee officials.
- It is worth mentioning here that various problems and complaints of the people will be registered through the village and village committee level workers in this URL
<https://amarsarkar.tripura.gov.in/>
- The web portal will help to bridge the gap between the public representatives at all levels and the common people of the state.
- A total of **78 departments**, including the **panchayat department**, have been included in the web portal.

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- Earlier in **September 2022**, the state government launched the 'Har Ghar Sushasan' initiative to mark the **birthday of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi**.

About Tripura :

- Governor : Satyadeo Narain Arya
- Chief Minister: Manik Sarkar
- Capital : Agartala
- Tribes : Riang, Jamatia
- Festival : Neermahal Water festival, Poush Sankranti fair

Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik approves "PRARAMBH" - Odisha State Policy for Children 2022

- The **Chief Minister of Odisha Shri Naveen Patnaik-led State Cabinet** approved the 'Prarambh - The Odisha State Policy for Children 2022 & Odisha State Port Policy -2022 two major policies related to port development and children's welfare besides 15 other proposals.

About 'Prarambh - The Odisha State Policy for Children 2022 :

- The **Department of Women and Child Development**, in collaboration with other **State departments** and organizations, has brought about a policy document for children in the State called PRARAMBH- the Odisha State Policy for Children, 2022.

The policy has 7 focus areas:

1. Survival- which includes health, nutrition, water, sanitation, and hygiene.
 2. Education and holistic development.
 3. Child Protection
 4. Identity, Family/Alternative Care, Birth Registration, and Quality of Life.
 5. Special Measures for Vulnerable children,
 6. Dispensation of Justice and Legal Provisions for Children.
 7. Children's Participation.
- For this policy, and in line with the **UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)**, childhood includes the period from **conception to 18 years of age**.

About Odisha State Port Policy -2022 :

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- The Odisha State Port Policy -2022 envisages **holistic development** of the **maritime ecosystem** in the state, promotion of private sector development in the maritime sector, and creation of employment opportunities for youths.
- The state currently has **14 notified non-major ports**
- The Cabinet also approved the **implementation** of a **master plan** for the **transformation** of Odisha **University of Technology and Research** with an outlay of Rs 1,500 crore.

About Odisha :

- Governor: Ganeshi Lal
- Chief minister: Naveen Patnaik
- Capital: Bhubaneswar
- National Park: Simlipal National Park, Bhitarkanika National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Tikarpada Wildlife Sanctuary, Chilika Wildlife Sanctuary, Sunabeda Wildlife Sanctuary, Kotagarh Wildlife Sanctuary
- Dance : Ghumura Dance, Ranapa Dance
- Tribes : Bagata, Banjara, Munda

Tripura launches integrated curriculum Mission Mukul for 3-8 age group children

- The Tripura government formally launched **Mission Mukul**, in a bid to introduce an integrated curriculum for children aged between 3 and 8 years, as part of the **National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy (NIPUN)**.

Key Highlights :

- **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020** has accorded the **highest priority** to **Early Childhood Care & Education (ECCE)** to achieve **universal acquisition** of **Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN)** based on which NIPUN has been launched centrally.
- In Mission Mukul, **at least three Anganwadi centres** taking **topography, communication,** and other allied factors into consideration would be attached to a **government school within a 1.5 km radius**.
- NIPUN Tripura will focus on providing access to and retaining children in the foundational years of schooling, **capacity building of teachers,** development of **high-quality and diversified student**

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and teacher resources/learning materials, and tracking the progress of each child in achieving learning outcomes

About Tripura :

- Governor : Satyadeo Narain Arya
- Chief Minister: Manik Sarkar
- Capital: Agartala
- Tribes: Riang, Jamatia
- Festival : Neermahal Water festival, Poush Sankranti fair

Manipur Sangai festival 2022 begins

- Union Tourism Minister Shri G Kishan Reddy inaugurated the 'Manipur Sangai Festival 2022' (Festival of Oneness) at the Sangai Ethnic Park, Moirang Khunou in Bishnupur district, Manipur.
- The theme of the Manipur Sangai Festival 2022 is the 'festival of oneness'.
- The 10-day-long festival will be held in 13 venues across six districts in the northeastern state till November 30, 2022.
- 'Manipur Sangai Festival 2022' marks the 11th edition of the celebration.

Aim :

- To encourage a sense of belongingness, and pride in ownership of the land among the people.

About Manipur Sangai Festival :

- The 'Festival' is named after the State animal, Sangai, the brow-antlered deer found only in Manipur.
- It started in the year 2010 and has grown over the years into a big platform for Manipur to showcase its rich tradition and culture to the world.
- Shri Biren Singh also inaugurated the Sangai Ethnic Park wherein replicas of traditional houses of 34 different tribes of Manipur are being displayed.
- As part of the inaugural function, the Manipur Sangai Festival 2022 Theme Song by Mangka Laihui was also rendered, and cultural troupes were also performed.
- On the occasion, The dignitaries also released two coffee table books – Manipur Sangai Festival 2022 and Manipur Today Special Edition on Sangai Festival.
- Also, CM Shri N Biren Singh inaugurated the Sangai Ethnic Park.

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About Manipur :

- Governor: La. Ganesan
- Chief minister: N. Biren Singh
- Capital: Imphal
- National Park : Keibul-Lamjao National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Yangoupokpi-Lokchao Wildlife Sanctuary, Bunning Wildlife Sanctuary, Jiri-Makru Wildlife Sanctuary, Kailam Wildlife Sanctuary

JKRLM signs MoU with Meesho for the empowerment of 1800 SHGs members

- The Jammu & Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission (Umeed) and India's fastest-growing internet commerce company, Meesho, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to support the growth of 1,800 Self-Help Groups (SHGs) by providing them with an online platform to launch and grow their business and empower the rural women entrepreneurs.
- The MoU was signed and exchanged in the presence of Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha, here at Raj Bhavan, Jammu & Kashmir (J&K).

About the Partnership :

- The partnership will help in building lives and livelihoods for rural communities and provide greater access to economic activities, and financial independence to rural women entrepreneurs.
- It is a significant step in making niche products of Jammu and Kashmir available to the wider customer base, providing SHGs global market to grow their business, and making them Atma-Nirbhar

About Meesho :

- Founded: 2015
- Headquarters: Bangalore, Karnataka, India
- Founders: Sanjeev Barnwal, and Vidit Aatrey

Assam Government Launches New Tourism Policy - Assam Tourism Policy 2022

- The Assam Government has decided to launch a new Tourism Policy - Assam Tourism Policy 2022, in a bid to further the growth of the tourism sector in Assam.
- The new tourism policy was unveiled on the sidelines of 'Assam Tourism Road Show 2022',

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hosted by the Department of Tourism, Government of Assam.

Goal :

- To promote sustainability by limiting the negative effects of tourism on social, environmental, and economic sectors while ensuring the positive effects.

About Assam Tourism Policy 2022 :

Mission of the policy :

- To create a framework and strategic roadmap in collaboration with central ministries, various state government departments, local communities and tourism stakeholders to improve the tourism sector in Assam
- It aims to guarantee and safeguard the effective standardization of processes and practices to foster uniformity, which can result in sustainability and an overall improvement in the quality of tourism products.

About Assam Tourism Development Corporation :

- Founded : 9 June 1988
- Headquarters : Guwahati, India
- Chairman : Rituparna Baruah
- MD : Kumar Padmapani Bora
- Slogan : "Awesome Assam.

About Assam :

- Governor : Jagdish Mukhi
- Chief Minister : Himanta Biswa Sarma
- Capital : Dispur
- National Park : Kaziranga National Park, Raimona National Park, Manas National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuaries : Chakrashila Wildlife Sanctuary, Nambor Wildlife Sanctuary, Sonai Rupai Wildlife Sanctuary

Madurai's Arittapatti village notified as Tamil Nadu's 'First Biodiversity Heritage Site'

- The Tamil Nadu government issued a notification declaring the Arittapatti village near Melur in Madurai district, Tamil Nadu (TN) as a biodiversity heritage site under Section 37 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002.

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- It is Tamil Nadu's first & India's 35th Biodiversity Heritage Site (BHS).

Key Highlights :

- The Site spreads in an area of 193.215 hectares in Arittapatti and Meenakshipuram villages in the Madurai district.
- The notification comes under the Section 37 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, and will strengthen biodiversity conservation and protect from rapid loss of biodiversity.
- Arittapatti village is known to have a rich biological and historical significance with the presence of around 250 bird species including 3 flagship Raptor species – Laggar Falcon, Shaheen Falcon, Bonelli's Eagle, and wildlife like Pangolin, Python, and Slender Loris.
- Arittapatti consists of a chain of 7 barren granite hillocks.
- It supports 72 lakes, 200 natural spring pools, and 3 check dams.
- The region also has historical importance – Tamil Brahmi inscriptions, Jain Beds, and Rock-cut temples which are 2,200 years old.
- Further, the Government of Tamil Nadu considers that the 7 inselbergs of Arittapatti will be of adequate biodiversity importance.
- There are 4 Biodiversity Hotspots in India – Himalaya, Indo-Burma, Sunderland, and the Western Ghats.

What is a Biodiversity Heritage Site?

- Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS) are areas that are unique, ecologically fragile ecosystems having rich biodiversity consisting of any one or more endemic species, keystone species, or fossil beds or components having cultural or esthetic values.

About Tamil Nadu :

- Governor: R. N. Ravi
- Chief minister: M. K. Stalin
- Capital: Chennai
- Dance : Bharatnatyam, Karakattam
- National Park : Mudumalai National Park, Mukurthi National Park, Guindy National Park, Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuaries : Kalakad Wildlife sanctuary, Karikili Bird Sanctuary, Vedanthangal Bird

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Sanctuary

- Tiger Reserve : Anamalai Tiger Reserve
- Biosphere Reserve : Agasthyamalai Biosphere Reserve

Odisha CM launches AMLAN, mission to eradicate anaemia

- Odisha Chief Minister Shri Naveen Patnaik launched AMLAN (Anaemia Mukta Lakhya Abhiyan) a multi-pronged approach in a bid to ensure the complete eradication of the anaemia problem among women and children in Odisha.
- Several departments including Health and Family Welfare, School and Mass Education, Women and Child Development, Mission Shakti and Scheduled Tribes (ST), and Scheduled Castes (SC) Development Department will carry out the program.

About AMLAN :

- The program will benefit about 1.37 Crore people, which includes pregnant women, lactating mothers, women of reproductive age group, adolescents, and children.
- The major interventions of the Programme are
- To strengthen iron and folic acid supplementation
- To test for haemoglobin,
- To the treatment of anaemic cases
- To the capacity building of service providers and social behaviour change communication
- It will be rolled out in 55,000 government and government-aided schools and 74,000 Anganwadi Centres across Odisha.

About Odisha :

- Governor: Ganeshi Lal
- Chief minister: Naveen Patnaik
- Capital: Bhubaneswar
- National Park: Simlipal National Park, Bhitarkanika National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Tikarpada Wildlife Sanctuary, Chilika Wildlife Sanctuary, Sunabeda Wildlife Sanctuary
- Dance : Ghumura Dance, Ranapa Dance
- Tribes : Bagata, Banjara, Munda

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India's first private Agri mandi set to come up in Nashik

- The Sahyadri Farmer Producer Company (FPC) becomes the first company in India to bag the license for setting up a private agricultural mandi at Dindori, in Nashik district, Maharashtra.
- The market will come up over the next three months at Rs 25 crore.

About the Agri Mandi :

- The private agri-mandi will have a 100-acre dedicated market space integrated with world-class infrastructure, services from banking to storage, processing, and packaging under one roof, options for offline and online trading, legalization of field trade, and ownership of farmers
- Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) is a statutory market committee constituted by a State Government in respect of trade in certain notified agricultural or horticultural or livestock products, under the Agricultural Produce Market Committee Act issued by that state government.

Note :

- India established its first regulated market, Karanja in 1886.

Odisha CM announces special package for Kendu leaf pluckers

- The Odisha chief minister Shri Naveen Patnaik announced a special package for the welfare of 8 lakh Kendu leaf pluckers and other persons engaged in the trade.
- The central government has imposed 18% Goods & Services Tax (GST) on the kendu leaf business.
- Odisha is the third largest producer of Kendu leaf next to Madhya Pradesh (MP) & Chhattisgarh and produces about 20% of the country's annual production.

About the special package :

- In the first phase, Rs 10,000 will be given to each plucker and Rs 15,000 to each seasonal staff and binder.
- All Kendu leaf pluckers and employees will be issued identity cards and included in Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana.
- The gratuity payment for circle checkers and binding checkers will be increased from 7 days to 15 days and all the kendu leaf pluckers will be provided with the Identity Card.

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Women's World Banking signs MoU with Maharashtra to strengthen BC Sakhi program

- Government of Maharashtra has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with United States(US)-based Women's World Banking, with funding support from MetLife Foundation, to operationalise and strengthen 5,000 women of self-help (SHGs) to become business correspondents or BC Sakhis.
- BC Sakhis will provide banking services at the last mile in rural areas of Maharashtra.
- This effort is to achieve the vision of 'One Gram Panchayat (GP) One BC Sakhi' under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM).

Key Highlights :

- Under the arrangement, Women's World Banking will provide technical and policy advisory support to UMED to operationalise the BC sakhis in Maharashtra.
- UMED will be able to scale this program to 15,000 BC Sakhis in the first phase and then to a total of 25,000 for the entire state by 2025-2026.

Note :

- CEO of Maharashtra State Rural Livelihoods Mission : Hemant Vasekar

About Women's World Banking :

- Headquarters : New York, United States
- President & CEO : Mary Ellen Iskenderian
- It works for inclusive finance for low-income women across the world.

About Maharashtra :

- Governor: Bhagat Singh Koshyari
- Chief Minister: Eknath Shinde
- Capital: Mumbai
- National Park : Tadoba National Park, Navegaon National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuaries : Bhimashankar Wildlife Sanctuary, Karnala Bird Sanctuary, Nagzira Wildlife Sanctuary
- UNESCO Heritage Sites : Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus, The Victorian and Art Deco Ensemble of Mumbai, Ajanta Caves, Elephanta Caves, Ellora Caves

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Delhi University launches Financial Support Scheme for economically weak students in UG, PG courses

- The **Delhi University** has launched a **Financial Support Scheme (FSS)** for those **students** who come from an **economically weaker background** and have enrolled in **full-time undergraduate and postgraduate courses** at the university.
- This scheme is in line with the spirit of the government's '**Sabka Sath Sabka Vikas**' motto.
- Interested and eligible candidates can apply for the scheme at the official website <https://shortest.link/dufss>.

Eligibility criteria:

- **Category 1:** Students whose **family annual income** is **less than Rs 4 lakh** will get up to **100% of fee relaxation**.
- **Category 2:** Candidates whose family income is between **Rs 4 and 8 lakh** will get a **fee waiver of 50%**
- The students with **ER/Arrears** of previous exams are eligible for this scheme.

About Delhi :

- Lt. Governor : Vinai Kumar Saxena
- Chief Minister : Arvind Kejriwal
- Capital : New Delhi
- Wildlife Sanctuaries : Asola Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary, National Chambal Sanctuary

Uttarakhand CM launches Integrated development scheme for border villages

- **Uttarakhand Chief Minister Shri Pushkar Singh Dhami** is set to launch a **new scheme** named '**Mukhya Mantri Pratham Gram Samekit Vikas Yojana**' ((CM first village integrated development scheme)" to **accelerate economic activities** in Uttarakhand.
- He made the announcement about starting the integrated scheme for the planned development of border villages at a **review meeting** of the **Panchayati raj department**.

Key Highlights :

- For the cleanliness of villages, a '**Mukhya Mantri Paryavaran Mitra Yojana**' will be started.
- A **paryavaran Mitra** will be posted in every village under the scheme.
- Besides, '**Mukhya Mantri Chaupal**' will also be started for the planned development of village

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panchayats.

- Uttarakhand has an international border of 625 km - 350 km with China and 275 km with Nepal.

About Uttarakhand :

- Governor: Gurmit Singh
- Chief Minister: Pushkar Singh Dhami
- Capitals: Dehradun (Winter), Gairsain (Summer)
- Mountains: Nanda Devi, Kamet, Sunanda Devi
- Dance : Barada Nati, Ramola
- Festival : Kangdali Festival, Magh Mela

Rajasthan govt launches new scheme gives a boost to businesses of Dalits

- The Rajasthan government's Department of Industry and Commerce has launched the Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar Rajasthan Dalit, Adivasi Udyam Protsahan Yojana – 2022.

Aim :

- To ensure effective participation of Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) in the development of non-agricultural sectors (manufacturing, service and trade) of Rajasthan.

About the scheme :

- A resident of Rajasthan origin who belongs to the Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe category and is above 18 years of age at the time of application.
- This scheme provides entrepreneurs with a 9% interest subsidy on loans up to Rs 25 lakh and a 7% interest subsidy on loans up to Rs 5 crore, as well as a provision for margin money of up to 25% of the project cost up to Rs 25 lakh.
- Under the Scheme, there were provisions for subsidies and other facilities for eligible people including first-generation entrepreneurs.

Key Highlights :

- Rajasthan is 7th in regard to India's GDP & its GDP has increased to around Rs 12 trillion.
- In the last three years, the state GDP increased by 3 lakh crore, indicating the state's development.

About Rajasthan :

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- Governor: Kalraj Mishra
- Chief minister: Ashok Gehlot
- Capital: Jaipur
- National Park : Keoladeo National Park, Ranthambore National Park, Mukundara National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuaries : Bandh Baratha WL Sanctuary, Ramgarh Vishdhari WL Sanctuary, Jaisamand WL Sanctuary

KSEB develops a common app for e-vehicle charging stations

- The Kerala State Electricity Board (KSEB) has developed a mobile app named KeMapp - 'Kerala E-Mobility App' which will serve as a common platform for accessing the services of e-vehicle charging stations.
- Minister for Electricity K. Krishnankutty formally launched the app at 'ewaTTs '22,' an e-mobility conclave organized by the KSEB.
- The app is now in test mode, and will soon be available for download on PlayStore.
- KeMapp replaces 4 software solutions for charging-station operations provided by different vendors who had established the stations for KSEB.
- Motorists can use the app to get the locations of charging stations, book lots and make the payment after charging.

About KSEB :

- Founded: 7 March 1957
- Headquarters: Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India
- Chairman & MD: Dr. Rajan N. Khobragade

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar launches the Har Ghar Gangajal project in Rajgir

- Bihar Chief Minister Shri Nitish Kumar launched the Har Ghar Gangajal project in Rajgir.
- This is the first time in India that floodwater harvesting has been done for drinking water.
- Hyderabad-based Megha Engineering & Infrastructures Limited (MEIL) has been working on the project since 2019

About Har Ghar Gangajal project :

- Har Ghar Gangajal project is a unique and ambitious initiative to provide Ganga water on tap in the parched areas of Bihar.

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- The scheme will help to harvest the excess water of the Ganga during the monsoon season.
- It is part of the Bihar government's Jal, Jeevan, Hariyali scheme.
- Under the scheme about 7.5-lakh households of Rajgir (Nalanda), Gaya and Bodhgaya will start getting piped Ganga water.
- A Rs 4,000-crore scheme has harnessed flood water from the Ganges to take it to reservoirs in Gaya and Rajgir.
- The second phase will start in 2023 and will cover the Nawada district as well.
- According to estimates made by the government, the scheme will provide every individual beneficiary with 135 litres about two large buckets of Ganga water every day for drinking and domestic use.
- The water will first be stored in reservoirs in Rajgir and Gaya.
- It will then be channelled to three treatment-and purification plants.
- The project has been described as a "lift-store-tame-treat-supply" system.
- The 151-km pipeline network will use a railway overbridge and four bridges.

About Bihar :

- Governor : Phagu Chauhan
- Chief Minister: Nitish Kumar
- Capital: Patna

Odisha to launch e-detection portal to identify vehicles plying without documents, issue challans

- The Odisha government has developed a new portal named 'e-detection portal' to detect vehicles plying on National Highways (NHs) & State Highways on the road without valid documents.
- The portal is set to launch by 1 January 2023.

Objective :

- To collect the data from various toll gates on the national highways.

Key Highlights :

- In the first phase, toll gates on NHs have been integrated with the portal.
- Later, data will be collected from mining and industrial areas as well.

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- The data will be collected and analyzed with details in the **Vahan portal** and **automatically challan** will be generated for the vehicles plying without valid documents
- The transport department will collect the data with the **help of FASTag** and **images** captured when the vehicle passes through the toll gate.
- The portal will also issue e-challans to the violators of the traffic rules.

Additional Info :

- According to **National Crime Records Bureau data**, over 1.55 lakh lives were lost in road crashes **across India** in 2021, an **average of 426 daily** or 18 every single hour which is the **highest death figures** recorded in any calendar year so far.

About Odisha :

- Governor: Ganeshi Lal
- Chief minister: Naveen Patnaik
- Capital: Bhubaneswar
- National Park: Simlipal National Park, Bhitarkanika National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Tikarpada Wildlife Sanctuary, Chilika Wildlife Sanctuary, Sunabeda Wildlife Sanctuary, Kotagarh Wildlife Sanctuary
- Dance : Ghumura Dance, Ranapa Dance
- Tribes : Bagata, Banjara, Munda

IMPORTANT NATIONAL NEWS

India will provide a \$500,000 donation to the UN Trust Fund for Counterterrorism:

- The **foreign minister** announced that **India will contribute half a million dollars** to the UN's efforts **to combat international terrorism** when new and developing technologies used by terrorist organizations are posing fresh threats to governments worldwide.
- The declaration was made at the **UN Security Council Special Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) meeting** in New Delhi's plenary session.
- To support the Office of Counterterrorism's efforts to support member states in preventing and combating the threat of terrorism, **India will make a voluntary contribution of half a million dollars** to the **UN Trust Fund for Counter Terrorism** this year.

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- Jaishankar stressed the need for the international community to take action to address the threats posed by the misuse of new and emerging technologies for terrorist activities.
- Internet and social media platforms have developed into effective tools in the arsenal of terrorist and militant groups for disseminating propaganda, radicalizing, and spreading conspiracies aimed at destabilizing societies.

India's Second National Model Vedic School is opened in Puri by the Union Education Minister:

- The second Rashtriya Adarsh Veda Vidyalaya (RAVV) in India was opened by the Union Minister of Education Dharmendra Pradhan in Puri.
- The Rashtriya Adarsh Veda Vidyalaya was established to educate people about the Vedas.
- The National Model Vedic School is also known as Rashtriya Adarsh Veda Vidyalaya.
- The first institution of its kind is located in Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh: Maharishi Sandipani Rashtriya Ved Vidya Pratisthan.
- The Rigveda, Samaveda, Yajurveda, and Atharva are all part of the Rashtriya Adarsh Veda Vidyalaya's curriculum.
- Students will also have the option to choose from courses in agriculture, English, math, social science, and computer science at the Rashtriya Adarsh Veda Vidyalaya.
- Veda Bhushan fourth (class 9), Veda Bhushan fifth (class 10), Veda Vibhushan first (class 11), and Veda Vibhushan second (class 12) admissions will be based on merit (class 12).
- The classes will start during the academic year 2022–2023.
- At Badrinath in Uttarakhand, Sringeri in Karnataka, Dwarka in Gujarat, and Guwahati in Assam, four additional such schools will open.

Union government plans to launch the second phase of a dedicated program to develop solar parks:

- The Union government plans to launch the second phase of a dedicated program to develop solar parks across the country that will aim to plug loopholes and overcome slow progress.
- The scheme, 'Development of Solar Parks and Ultra Mega Solar Power Projects', was launched in December 2014 to help solar project developers set up projects in a plug-and-play model.
- The scheme is valid till the end of this fiscal.
- The government now plans to launch the second phase of this scheme with a focus on floating solar projects.

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- Under the current scheme, the MNRE provides central financial assistance (CFA) of up to ₹20 lakh per MW or 30% of the project cost, including grid-connectivity cost.
- The solar parks are developed in partnerships with state governments and their agencies, CPSUs, and private entrepreneurs.
- The implementing agency is termed a solar power park developer (SPPD).

PM laid the foundation stone of the C-295 transport aircraft manufacturing plant in Gujarat:

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of the C-295 transport aircraft manufacturing plant, in Vadodara, Gujarat.
- The C-295 transport aircraft for the Indian Air Force will be manufactured by Tata-Airbus.
- Apart from making 40 aircraft, this facility at Vadodara would be manufacturing additional aircraft for Air Force requirements and exports.
- By 2025 India aims defence manufacturing scale to cross \$25 billion.
- Defense corridors being established in Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu would power this scale.
- Apart from making 40 aircraft, this facility at Vadodara would be manufacturing additional aircraft for Air Force requirements and exports.
- The first Indian Air Force squadron of C-295 transport aircraft would also be based in Vadodara.
- The aircraft built in India would be supplied from 2026 to 2031 and the first 16 fly-away aircraft are scheduled to be delivered to the IAF between September 2023 and August 2025.
- In September last year, India sealed a ₹21,935 crore deal with Airbus Defence and Space to procure 56 C-295 aircraft to replace the IAF's ageing Avro-748 planes that entered service in the early 1960s.
- Under the deal, Airbus will deliver the first 16 aircraft in 'fly-away' condition from its final assembly line in Seville, Spain within four years and the subsequent 40 aircraft will be manufactured and assembled by Tata Advanced Systems (TASL) in India as part of an industrial partnership between the two companies.
- The C-295MW is a transport aircraft of 5-10 tonne capacity with contemporary technology.
- The aircraft has a maximum speed of 480 kmph.
- It can also operate on short unprepared airstrips as it is capable of Short Take-off and Landing (STOL).

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Health Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya to inaugurate India Chem 2022

- Health Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya will inaugurate India Chem 2022 at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi.
- The theme of the event is “Vision 2030: Chemicals and Petrochemicals Build India”.
- India Chem 2022 will showcase the Government’s policy for sustainable growth in the sector and provide a platform for national and international players to interact, exchange knowledge and forge alliances.
- The event will also highlight the investment opportunities, especially in Petroleum, Chemical, and Petrochemical Investment Regions, and focus on the “Make in India” initiative for making the country Atmanirbhar in the sector.

The Supreme Court has prohibited the use of the two-finger test:

- The Supreme Court reiterated its ban on the "two-finger test" in rape cases, warning that those who use such tests will be found guilty of misconduct.
- Observing that the test was based on a patriarchal mindset that assumed sexually active women could not be raped, the bench of Justices DY Chandrachud and Hima Kohli expressed regret that such an examination method was still being used today.
- This court has repeatedly condemned the use of the two-finger test in rape and sexual assault cases.
- The ostensible test has no scientific foundation.
- It, on the other hand, re-victimizes and re-traumatizes women.
- The two-finger test should not be performed.
- The test is flawed because it assumes that a sexually active woman cannot be raped.
- This could not be further from the truth.

Ranjangaon Electronics Manufacturing Cluster has been approved by the government:

- Rajeev Chandrasekhar, Union Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology, announced the establishment of an Electronics Manufacturing Cluster in the Maharashtra town of Ranjangaon.
- The Electronics Manufacturing Clusters will cost 500 crores to build.

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- Electronics Manufacturing Clusters are expected to create thousands of jobs and attract over 2,000 crores in investment in the coming years.
- Union Minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar announced the approval of Electronics Manufacturing Clusters to transform Maharashtra into an electronics hub.
- This project will receive up to 500 crores in government funding.
- The Electronics Manufacturing Clusters project has joined Tamil Nadu, Noida, and Karnataka in vying to become a powerful electronic hub.
- The government will invest 207.98 crores in the development of Ranjangaon's Electronics Manufacturing Clusters.
- The total cost of developing the EMC is expected to be \$492.85.
- The Central Government will contribute 207.98 crores, with the rest coming from the Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC), the Maharashtra Government's State Industrial Agency.

Income Tax Department's HARIT Aaykar Initiative to Promote Greenery and Establish Micro forests:

- The Income Tax Department took part in the Special Campaign for Swachhata, a month-long initiative of the Indian government that runs until October 31st, 2022.
- Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel was born on this day (October 31), which is also known as National Unity Day.
- To increase the amount of vegetation and establish micro forests, it was introduced on National Unity Day.
- The Income Tax Department commits to increasing the amount of greenery around its offices and other public locations by planting trees and establishing micro-forests as part of this effort.
- The tree density and biodiversity are maximized in a micro-forest, which is a small, planted forest.
- Akira Miyawaki, a Japanese botanist, developed the Miyawaki method in the 1980s as a way to grow a micro forest on little pieces of land.

UGC suggested celebrating "Bharatiya Bhasha Diwas" on December 11:

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- On the occasion of the poet Subramania Bharati's birth anniversary, the committee has suggested that December 11 be observed as "Bharatiya Bhasha Diwas" or "Bharatiya Bhasha Utsav."
- After a committee set up by the education ministry last year to promote Indian languages made suggestions, the University Grants Commission wrote to vice-chancellors and principals of all universities and colleges in this respect.
- To promote "linguistic harmony" and foster an environment that is favorable to learning Indian languages, all higher education institutions in India must observe a "Bharatiya Bhasha Divas" on December 11 every year.
- Bharati pioneered modern Tamil poetry and wrote songs to inspire patriotism during the Independence movement.
- The commission also provided universities and colleges with a concept note of the proposal, outlining how they will commemorate the day by holding contests, games, exhibitions, and other events.
- Indian languages have been promoted by the national government.
- It will soon open 22 bhasha kendras (language centers) to promote Indian languages, which are protected by the Constitution's eighth schedule.

About University Grants Commission:

- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Chairperson: D. P. Singh
- Founded: 1956

The Collins Dictionary's Word of the Year is "permacrisis":

- The Collins Dictionary has selected the word "permacrisis" as its word of the year.
- The phrase refers to a protracted time of unpredictability and uncertainty.
- According to Collins Learning CEO Alex Beecroft, "Permacrisis encapsulates precisely how bad 2022 has been for so many individuals."
- The word "permacrisis," which Collins defines as "an extended era of instability and insecurity," refers to a time when turmoil is constant.

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- Collins decided on permacrisis as the word of the year because it "sums up rather simply how dreadful 2022 has been for so many people
- It comes in first place in Collins' yearly list of the top 10 new or noteworthy words, which is compiled from its 18 billion word database as well as other sources like social media.
- One of the six new terms on the list that CollinsDictionary.com has introduced is "permacrisis."
- Specifically, permacrisis was The term "permacrisis" was chosen as Britain's word of the year in acknowledgment of a terrible 2022, topping competition from the likes of "Kyiv," "sports washing," and "partygate."

The first company in India to receive ResponsibleSteel certification is Tata Steel Jamshedpur:

- Three of Tata Steel's production sites in Jamshedpur, Jharkhand, have achieved ResponsibleSteel accreditation.
- The steelworks, tubes division, and cold rolling mill (Bara) have now obtained accreditation, joining a select club of other steel-producing facilities worldwide.
- This marks a turning point in Tata Steel's history and advances our sustainability efforts.
- Globally, the steel industry is at a turning point, and we must address the wider effects of how we make and use steel.
- The other sustainability objectives in the standard, such as **effective water management, establishing a safe and healthy workplace, protecting labor rights, and interacting with local communities and other stakeholders**, must also be fully upheld by certified sites.
- This is a significant accomplishment for Tata Steel and all those involved.

About Tata Steel

- CEO: T. V. Narendran;
- Founded: 25 August 1907, Jamshedpur.

The largest ever coal mine auction of 141 mines is launched by the finance minister:

- The **largest-ever coal mine auction, consisting of 141 mines**, was started by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.
- It is anticipated to **directly benefit twelve states**.
- A fast-growing economy like India needs more investment in coal production and gasification projects.

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- The mines up for auction are located in the states of Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, and Bihar, all of which are producers of coal and lignite.
- India is the second-largest importer of dry fuel despite being the fourth-largest producer in the world.
- Therefore, several reforms have been made to encourage commercial coal mining in India to create an "Atma Nirbhar Bharat".
- Commercial coal mining is permitted, with 50 blocks being made available to the private sector.
- Entry requirements will be relaxed as a result of the elimination of the rule requiring "washed" coal for power plants.
- Instead of being a fixed cost, coal blocks would be made available to private businesses on a revenue-sharing basis.
- The income share will be reduced as an incentive for coal gasification or liquefaction.
- Rights to extract coal bed methane (CBM) from coal mines owned by Coal India will be put up for auction.

PM has launched the "Invest Karnataka 2022" Global Investors Meeting:

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi delivered a video address at the Global Investors Meet, Invest Karnataka's inaugural event.
- The meeting's objectives are to draw potential investors and outline the development agenda for the following ten years.
- More than 80 speaker sessions will take place throughout the three days of the conference, which will be hosted in Bengaluru.
- The speakers include well-known business figures including Vikram Kirloskar, Sajjan Jindal, and Kumar Mangalam Birla.
- Additionally, several business shows with over 300 exhibitors as well as national sessions would take place concurrently.
- The phrase "Invest Karnataka" is likely to get everyone's attention.
- Due to Karnataka's rich environment, international investment is flocking here.
- This will lay a solid basis for Karnataka's growth during the following five years.

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- The partner nations of France, Germany, the Netherlands, South Korea, Japan, and Australia would each host a country session, inviting high-level ministerial and business delegations from their respective nations.

Mangarh Dham was designated a national monument by PM:

- **Mangarh Dham in Rajasthan's Banswara District has been designated as a National Monument by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.**
- India's past, present, and future are incomplete without the tribal community.
- **Mangarh Dham is a symbol of tribal perseverance and sacrifice, and it is the shared legacy of Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra, and Madhya Pradesh.**
- At the event, Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid respect to Bhil freedom fighter Shri Govind Guru.
- **Manghar is particularly significant to the Bhil Community and other tribes in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, and Gujarat.**
- Freedom fighters like **Shri Govind Guru** represented India's traditions and principles.
- He lost his family and his life while battling for his tribe's freedom.
- The slaughter in Mangarh occurred on November 17, 1913, according to the Prime Minister.

About Mangarh

- During the liberation movement, the Bhil people and other tribes were also engaged in a long-standing standoff with British authority.
- On November 17, 1913, 1.5 lakh Bhil participated in a rally against the British, during which Britishers opened fire on the crowd.
- The massacre resulted in the deaths of 1500 tribe members.

The National Natural Farming Mission Meeting is presided over by the Union Minister of Agriculture:

- **The first meeting of the National Natural Farming Mission committee was presided over by Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar at Krishi Bhawan.**
- **The NMNF portal was introduced by Shri Narendra Singh Tomar.**
- **The advancement of natural farming in India would be made possible with everyone's collaboration.**

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- The officers were instructed by the Union Agriculture Minister to work with the State administration and central agencies to promote market linkage so that farmers could readily sell their goods.
- **Surya Pratap Shahi**, the minister of agriculture for the state of Uttar Pradesh, **Shri Giriraj Singh**, the secretary of agriculture for the union, **Shri Manoj Ahuja**, and senior officers from other ministries all attended the meeting.
- The **Union Agriculture Minister has introduced the National Natural Farming Mission**.
- The **portal has all the necessary details** about the mission, the implementation plan, the resources, the progress of the implementation, the farmer registration, the blog, etc.
- The gateway would be for the farmers' welfare and advantage.
- In the initial phase, the ministry of **Jal Shakti identified 75 Sahakar Ganga Villages by signing an MOU with Sahakar Bharti**, and training was provided to the farmers.

The River Festival, Ganga Utsav 2022, will be held on November 4th:

- The **Ministry of Jal Shakti will hold two different sessions of Ganga Utsav- The River Festivals 2022** on November 4th, 2022 at the **Major Dhyan Chand Stadium in New Delhi**.
- The **National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)**, the Department of Water Resources, River Development, and Ganga Rejuvenation, and the Ministry of Jal Shakti are **working together to arrange the Ganga Utsav- The River Festivals 2022**.
- With the active and inspired engagement of numerous stakeholders, **NMGC will make Ganga Utsav- The River Festivals 2022 more vibrant**.
- One of the main goals of Ganga Utsav 2022 is to **celebrate rivers and raise awareness about the importance of river rejuvenation** throughout India's river basins.
- The River Festivals 2022, Ganga Utsav, will feature a mix of art, culture, music, knowledge, poetry, dialogue, and storytelling.
- **Dr. G. Padmaja, Padma Shri, Sh. Banerjee, Ms. Megha Nair, and Sh. Bimal Jain** will be honored during the ceremony, which will be placed in New Delhi.

CMIE: The unemployment rate increased from 6.43% in September to 7.77% in October

- According to the **CMIE figures**, the unemployment rate increased to **7.77%** in October from a four-year low of **6.43%** in September.

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- According to the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE), India's unemployment rate increased in October as a result of a substantial rise in rural unemployment during the Kharif harvest season.
- The rate of unemployment increased significantly last month as a result of the sharp rise in rural unemployment, reversing the reduction seen in September.
- The unemployment rate in rural areas increased to 8.04% from 5.84% in September, while the rate in urban areas decreased to 7.21% from 7.7% in September.
- Harvest time for Kharif crops, which are planted at the start of the monsoon season, is between September and the first half of October.

Panchayati Raj's Rural Development Agenda Booklet was unveiled by Giriraj Singh:

- Mr. Giriraj Singh, Union Minister for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj launched the booklet 'Agenda for Members of Panchayati Raj Institutions for Rural Development.'
- The pamphlet "Agenda for Members of Panchayati Raj Institutions for Rural Development" will include information on all schemes like as MGNREGA, Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojna- National Rural Livelihood Mission, PM Awas Yojna- Grameen, PM Gram Sadak Yojna, and others.
- The book 'Agenda for Members of Panchayati Raj Institutions for Rural Development will soon be available in regional languages.
- The pamphlet, according to the Minister, will be available at each Gram Panchayat in the country.
- The book can serve as the foundation for an informed conversation among Gram Panchayat members about the various programs of the Ministry of Rural Development.
- This book will assist everyone, especially Gram Panchayat members, in understanding the programs and their eligibility, thereby increasing transparency and public engagement.

Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas will be observed by the Ministry of Education:

- The Ministry of Education declared that this year, India will commemorate 'Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas' in schools and higher education institutes on November 15, 2022.
- The Janjatiya Gaurav Divas was a name granted by the Union Cabinet of the Government of India on 15 November 2021 to recognize the role of tribal freedom fighters as part of the year-long celebration of India's 75th anniversary of independence.

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- The government designated November 15 as 'Janjatiya Gaurav Divas,' honouring the memories of valiant tribal independence fighters.
- The project was launched by Union Education, Skill Development, and Entrepreneurship Minister **Shri Dharmendra Pradhan**.
- **Birsa Munda, who is regarded as Bhagwan by tribal groups across the country, was born on November 15th.**
- Birsa Munda was a historic freedom warrior, social reformer, and beloved tribal leader of the country who fought heroically against the British colonial government's exploitative system.

UIDAI has launched a new chatbot named 'Aadhaar Mitra.'

- The **Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)** introduced the **brand-new AI/ML chatbot Aadhaar Mitra to help citizens use the services.**
- The chatbot supports **both Hindi and English.**
- It also provides the option of seeing related videos on various themes to help viewers learn. Aadhaar Mitra's features include the ability to **monitor the status of Aadhaar PVC cards and confirm Aadhaar enrollment/update status.**
- Locals can utilize the bot to file complaints and follow up on them.
- The organization is dedicated to improving its grievance redressal procedure while also giving convenience.
- UIDAI is gradually implementing a cutting-edge and futuristic open-source CRM solution.
- A new **Customer Relationship Management (CRM)** system with cutting-edge features has been developed to increase residents' access to UIDAI services.

About UIDAI Chatbot:

- The UIDAI Chatbot is a chat platform that provides quick, automated answers about Aadhaar and associated features.
- It is accessible through the front page of the UIDAI website as well as the resident portal.
- By clicking on the **blue "Ask Aadhaar" icon**, users can initiate a conversation with the chatbot.

The 15th Urban Mobility India Conference is now taking place in Kochi:

- The 15th edition of Kerala's Urban Mobility India (UMI) Conference, held in Kochi, has come to an end.

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- **Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan**, State Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs **Kaushal Kishore**, and State Transport Minister Antony Raju are among those attending the farewell celebration.
- During the ceremony, Governor Arif Mohammed Khan and Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs **Kaushal Kishore** will give the **Awards for Excellence in Urban Transport**.
- Senior officials from the federal and state governments, decision-makers, managing directors of metro rail companies, chief executives of transportation corporations, and overseas experts will attend the conference.
- The meeting's major focus will be "**Azadi @ 75 - Sustainable Aatmanirbhar Urban Mobility**."

The Supreme Court upholds the constitutionality of the EWS quota in a 3:2 decision:

- The **Supreme Court (SC)** affirmed the **10% reservation** for economically disadvantaged people (**EWS**) among advanced castes in government employment and colleges across India.
- The decision was delivered by a Bench that included **Chief Justice of India (CJI) U U Lalit** and **Justices Dinesh Maheshwari, S Ravindra Bhat, Bela M Trivedi, and J B Pardiwala**.
- **Dissenting judgments were issued by Justice Ravindra Bhat and Chief Justice of India Lalit**.
- Justice Maheshwari read out the verdict, saying that the 103rd constitutional amendment for the EWS quota was legitimate and did not contradict the core structure of the Constitution.
- Reservation, he explained, is an affirmative action tool used to assure an all-inclusive march toward the aims of an equal society.

India's G20 presidency website, logo, and theme are unveiled by Prime Minister Narendra Modi:

- **India's logo, theme, and website for the G20 presidency** have been presented by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, and they represent the nation's message and overriding priorities to the rest of the globe.
- The planet is perched atop a lotus in the **G20 logo**, which was designed using **India's national flag's four colours**.
- The logo's **seven petals** represent the **seven seas and the confluence of the seven continents** during the **G20 India 2023 summit**.
- The theme of the G20 India 2023 is "**Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam: One Earth, One Family, One Future**," which is derived from how the earth symbolizes India's pro-planet philosophy of life.

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- Next month, India will assume the presidency of the G20, marking a "major stride" in the development of the nation's foreign policy and the prime minister's goal of "undertaking leadership roles in the world arena."
- India has a special chance to contribute to the global agenda on urgent issues of international significance during the G20 leadership.

Kerala will host the 18th International Telemedicine Conference (TELEMEDICON 2022):

- The **18th International Telemedicine Conference** is being hosted by the Kerala Chapter of the **Telemedicine Society of India (TSI)** and Amrita Hospital in Kochi.
- Mr. S. Somnath, chairman of ISRO, Mr. Mohanan Kunnummal, vice chancellor of the Kerala University of Health Science, and Dr. Rethan Kelkar, secretary of information technology for Kerala, presented awards during the inaugural ceremony.
- The event's **chief guest was Mr. S. Somnath, the ISRO Chairman.**
- The primary focus of Telemedicon 2022 is **"Strengthening Health Systems Through Sustainable Telemedicine and Digital Health."**
- It seeks to provide platforms for service providers, foreign specialists, financing agencies for healthcare, and healthcare regulators.
- The scientific seminars on subjects including **Telehealth tourism, AI-based Telehealth systems, and Space Telemedicine Programs** are among the event's highlights.
- The occasion will also feature seminars on the legal aspects of telemedicine, moderated by Justice Devan Ramachandran.

Dehradun hosts the commencement of the 42nd International Congress of the INCA:

- The **42nd International Congress of the Indian National Cartographic Association (INCA)** was opened in Dehradun by Lieutenant General Gurmit Singh (Retd.), the governor of Uttarakhand.
- The **National Hydrographic Office** is hosting the 42nd International Congress in Dehradun, Uttarakhand, on November 9–11, 2022.
- **Digital Cartography to Harness Blue Economy** is the theme of the 42nd International Congress of the Indian National Cartographic Association.
- The cause of cartography as a visual form of communication is one that INCA is committed to.

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- It includes numerous illustrious academics, professionals, and businesspeople among its Honorary Fellows, Life Fellows, Members, Associate Members, and Student Members.
- Practicing cartographers from various organizations and universities make up the majority of its members.

The First National Life Science Data Repository in India is Unveiled by the Center:

- The Minister of Science and Technology, **Shri Jitendra Singh**, presented **India's first National Repository for Life Science Data**.
- India's publically financed research produced the data for the National Repository for Life Sciences. It was unveiled in **Faridabad, Haryana**.
- An "**Indian Biological Data Centre**" (IBDC) was created at the Regional Biotechnology Center.
- The "**Brahm**" **High-Performance Computing facility** is located there, and it has a storage capacity of four petabytes.
- **Science data was formerly held in data repositories in Europe and the US until the National Repository for Life Science Data was announced.**
- Researchers interested in doing computationally intensive analysis can now access the IBDC's computing infrastructure.
- Moreover, IBDC has begun offering nucleotide data submission services through two data portals, including
- The Center also provided an online "**Dashboard**" for the **INSACOG labs' genomic monitoring data**.
- These **INSACOG laboratories** offer specialized data submission, access, data analysis services, and nationwide real-time SARS-CoV-2 variant monitoring.

The Atal New India Challenge program was started by Atal Innovation Mission:

- Under **phase II of the second edition** of the Atal New India Challenge, the **Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)**, NITI Aayog, has issued challenges focused on women (ANIC).
- Through a **grant-based mechanism of up to INR 1 crore**, ANIC is an initiative of AIM, NITI Aayog that seeks out, selects, supports, and nurtures technology-based innovations that address sectoral challenges of national importance and societal relevance.

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- The major concerns that women from all walks of life encounter are addressed by ANIC's **Woman-Centric Challenges**.
- These include advancing women's hygiene through innovation, enhancing women's safety through innovation, providing professional networking opportunities for women, improving the lives of working mothers through innovation, and improving the quality of life for rural women.
- ANIC created these challenges to address the major problems experienced by women from all walks of life.

South India's first "Vande Bharat" train was launched by PM Modi:

- At Bengaluru's Krantiveera Sangolli Railway station, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi signalled the departure of the first Vande Bharat Express Train on the Mysuru-Chennai route.
- The "Bharat Gaurav Kashi Darshan" train, which is run by the Muzrai Department of Karnataka by the Railways' "Bharat Gaurav" rail policy, was also flagged off by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.
- The first semi-high-speed train in India is the fifth Vande Bharat Express Train.
- The Vande Bharat Express Train is exceptional in terms of speed and other cutting-edge amenities, which will assist shorten travel times and provide passengers with a novel experience.
- The Vande Bharat Express Train is marketed as an improved version of the trains that the Indian Railways independently created.
- The 108-foot-tall bronze statue of the city's founder, Nadaprabhu Kempegowda, known as the "Statue of Prosperity," will also be unveiled by PM Modi.

The UMEED Program is Changing the Future of Rural Women in J&K:

- The Jammu and Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission's (JKRLM) UMEED Scheme supports rural women's aspirations in the Union Territory to achieve economic independence.
- The Jammu and Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission seeks to end poverty in Jammu and Kashmir by creating effective grass-roots institutions for the underprivileged, involving them in interventions that promote gainful livelihoods and assuring a discernible increase in their income.
- In Jammu and Kashmir, UMEED supports hundreds of women in their efforts to escape poverty and succeed as business owners.

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- UMEED has been a huge aid to female entrepreneurs as they exhibit and advertise their goods.
- The Jammu Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKRLM) is accelerating J&K women's transformation into progressive, independent businesswomen.
- A centrally funded initiative to promote women's independence and self-sufficiency is the UMEED program under the JKRLM.
- Additionally, it encourages women to start small savings plans to eventually make their self-help groups (SHGs) bankable at lower interest rates.

Launch of a nationwide campaign for the Digital Life Certificate:

- A nationwide campaign has been launched by the Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pension, Government of India, to promote digital life certificates for Central Government Pensioners.
- Dr. Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State, introduced the Face Authentication Technique for submitting a Life Certificate through any Android Mobile Phone in 2021.
- The department is launching a unique, national advertising campaign to promote the life certificate in digital format this year.
- The promotion of the Digital Life Certificate has been ordered by all of the registered Pensioners Associations, Pension Disbursing Banks, Ministries of the Indian government, and CGHS Wellness Centers.
- A central government team will visit the campaign.
- Section officers Deborah Umesh, Andrew Zomawai Karthak, and Tanya Rajput will serve as the team's leaders.
- All pensioners are welcome to come to the center to submit their life certificates electronically.

Cochin Shipyard to build India's first hydrogen fuel cell catamaran vessel in Varanasi

- A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was inked between the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) and Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) to build India's first hydrogen fuel cell catamaran vessel for operation in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh and electric hybrid vessels for UP and Assam.

Key Highlights :

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- The air-conditioned hydrogen fuel cell catamaran vessel will have a **seating capacity** for 100 **passengers**.
- The vessel will be deployed at Varanasi after test and trial runs in Kochi.
- It will reduce carbon dioxide emissions by **250 MT annually**.
- The design and development of the vessel will be undertaken by **CSL** in **collaboration with M/s KPIT, Pune**.
- The technology can be adopted for **greening of cargo vessels** and **small country crafts**, enabling significant **reduction** in **pollution levels** in the national waterways.
- The introduction of zero-emission hydrogen fuel cell passenger catamaran vessels in Kashi will pave the way for a **reduction** in the **usage of fossil fuels** and thereby **reduce emissions** in our national waterways.
- CSL has also signed an MoU for the construction of **6 electric catamaran vessels** for **Uttar Pradesh** and another **2** for **Guwahati in Assam**.

About CSL :

- Founded : 29 April 1972
- Headquarters : Kochi, Kerala, India
- Chairman & MD : Madhu S. Nair

About IWAI :

- Established : 27 October 1986
- Headquarters : Noida, Uttar Pradesh
- Chairman : Sanjay Bandopadhyay

Govt to launch world's longest river cruise of 4,000 km from Varanasi

- The **Union government** and the **Uttar Pradesh state government** is set to launch the world's longest luxury river cruise between **Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh** and **Assam's Dibrugarh** in **Jan 2023** in a bid to provide **impetus** to **inland waterways development** in India.

Key Highlights :

- The Varanasi-Dibrugarh cruise is expected to be run on a **public-private partnership (PPP)** model.

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- The **50-day cruise** will set sail from **Varanasi** on **10 January** and cover **4,000 km**, passing through **Kolkata** and **Dhaka** before reaching **Bogibeel** in **Dibrugarh** district of **Assam** on **1 March**.
- **Ganga Vilas** cruise will sail from **Varanasi** to **Dibrugarh** in a longest river journey of **50 days** covering **27 river systems** and visit over **50 tourist sites** including **World Heritage Sites**.
- This will be the **single largest river journey** by a **single river ship** in the **world** and would put both **India** and **Bangladesh** on the river cruise map of the world
- The cruise is the first set of cruise liners that will run on a **PPP** model with the memorandum of understanding signed between the **Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI)** and **Antara Luxury River Cruises** and **JM Baxi River Cruises**.

Aquaconnect becomes first Indian fisheries start-up gets ISO 27001 certification

- **Aquaconnect**, a **technology-driven full-stack aquaculture inputs and outputs platform** with embedded **fintech**, supported by a **physical & digital (phygital) distribution network**, has received the **ISO 27001 certification** for **information security management (ISM)**.
- The certification comes on the back of an **ISMS (Information Security Management System) implementation** which makes **Aquaconnect** the **first Indian fisheries startup** to earn this recognition.

Key Highlights :

- **Aquaconnect** has implemented an **Information Security Management System (ISMS)** and achieved conformity with the requirements for the **platform development, operations, security, and delivery** of various services to **aquaculture stakeholders** across the globe.
- **ISO/IEC 27001** is the **leading international standard** focused on **information security**
- **ISO 27001** certification is a significant step towards **reassuring farmers, aqua partners, buyers, and financial institution partners** that **Aquaconnect** takes **information security management** seriously.

About Aquaconnect :

- **Founded** : 2017
- **Headquarters** : **Chennai, Tamil Nadu**
- **Aquaconnect** has also been recognized as the '**Best Agri Startup in Application of Digital Technologies 2021**' & the '**Most Innovative AgTech Start-up (Mature Stage) 2022**' by **FICCI**.

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- It uses satellite remote sensing and artificial intelligence to enable aquaculture farmers, retailers, and seafood buyers to increase access to formal credit, farm inputs and post-harvest markets.

Jaipur International Airport receives an Aerodrome license from DGCA

- Jaipur International Airport Limited has received the Aerodrome license from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) following which the airport has embarked on an expansion drive.
- Earlier, the Airport Authority of India (AAI) was the license holder.
- Now the private player, which is operating the Jaipur airport since October 2021, has become the new license holder.
- The license is given to an airport operator for ensuring complete management of the airport by the concession agreement.

Key Highlights :

- The airport management has conducted an extensive survey at Jaipur airport which revealed that present passenger traffic of 50 lakh per annum will reach 1 crore by 2025.
- The management is now planning to reopen the Terminal- 1 which has been non-operational for the last 10 years.
- Terminal- 1 will be developed on the lines of the presently operational Terminal-2.
- Massive IT-related infrastructure, food and beverage services, and retail outlets, measures for zero carbon emission and environment sustainability, and security arrangements will be in place on the lines of T-2
- As per the environment guidelines, the Jaipur airport is developing a mini-forest near Dudu town where 4,400 trees will be planted and maintained for 5 years.
- At Terminal-2, the airport management has installed new e- boarding gates, an electronic helpdesk, 50 retail and branded outlets for customers, automated parking and transport mechanisms where private cab operators like WTI, Ola and Uber have been given a place to operate.

About DGCA :

- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India
- Director General: Arun Kumar

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- The DGCA is a **statutory body** of the Government of India to regulate civil aviation in India.
- It became a statutory body under the **Aircraft (Amendment) Act, of 2020**.

India Hydrogen Alliance & Kerala govt to build Kochi Green Hydrogen Hub in Kochi

- The India Hydrogen Alliance (IH2A) and the Government of Kerala have jointly evaluated a proposal for building the Kochi Green Hydrogen (KGH2) Hub, a large-scale green hydrogen hub with multiple use cases, to the Government of Kerala.
- The proposal envisages a **potential capital expenditure of USD 575 mn** to build a **60-tonnes per day (TPD) green hydrogen plant** with a **150 MW Electrolyser, Storage and Infrastructure**, which could achieve **giga-watt scale** and build the hydrogen economy in Kerala.

About Kochi Green Hydrogen (KGH2) Hub :

- IH2A's KGH2 Hub plan is modelled after the **Hydrogen Valley projects** in the EU, to create production, storage, transmission and end-use infrastructure for green hydrogen (in compressed gas and liquid form) within a **50-km radius cluster** in Kochi.
- The plan focuses on the **transport use case** in the **first phase**, aligning with the state government's plans for **zero-emission transport**, to power Hydrogen-ICE retrofitted bus fleets of **60 buses** and build the required infrastructure.
- In the **second phase**, **industrial demand for green hydrogen from refineries, fertilizer and chemical plants** is expected to drive capacity expansion and scale up the KGH2 hub
- IH2A has also proposed a **two-tier KGH2 governance structure**, with a public-private advisory group working with project consortia structures or **special purpose vehicles (SPVs)**, to implement the proposed plan.
- IH2A will continue to advise the Government of Kerala on **hydrogen commercialization** and project development in the state.
- In **July 2022** IH2A proposed a **roadmap for the creation of 25 national green hydrogen projects and five hydrogen hubs** in the states of Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh by 2025.

About Kerala :

- Governor: Arif Mohammad Khan

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- Chief minister: Pinarayi Vijayan
- Capital: Thiruvananthapuram
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary, Kumarakom Bird Sanctuary, Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary, Parambikulam Wildlife Sanctuary
- National Park: Eravikulam National Park, Silent Valley National Park
- Dance: Kathakali, Mohiniattam, ChakyarKoothu

National Commission for Women (NCW) launches the fourth phase of the Digital Shakti Campaign

- The fourth phase of the National Commission for Women's (NCW) Digital Shakti Campaign to empower and educate girls and women online has begun.
- The goal of Digital Shakti 4.0 is to empower women with the digital skills and knowledge they need to confront any inappropriate or illegal online behaviour.
- Together with Meta and the CyberPeace Foundation, NCW started the campaign.
- This new stage will prove to be significant in establishing safe online environments for women.
- By teaching them how to utilise technology effectively and to stay safe online, Digital Shakti has increased the engagement of women and girls online.
- In order to help women across the country increase their level of understanding about the digital world, develop resilience, and combat cybercrime in the most efficient methods, Digital Shakti was started in June 2018.
- Through this project, nearly 3 Lakh women in India have learned how to stay safe online, how to report and address issues, how to protect their personal information, and how to use technology to their advantage.

About National Commission for Women:

- The National Commission for Women (NCW) is the statutory body of the Government of India, generally concerned with advising the government on all policy matters affecting women.
- Headquarters: New Delhi

4th Edition of Indian Chemicals Council Sustainability Conclave inaugurated in New Delhi

- Arun Baroka, the secretary for chemicals and petrochemicals, officially inaugurated the fourth edition of the Indian Chemicals Council Sustainability Conclave in New Delhi.

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- "Boardrooms to Community-ESG, Carbon Neutrality, Operational Safety, Greener Solutions" is the theme of the two-day conference.
- The Conclave seeks to advance sustainability in the management of chemicals throughout their full life cycle.
- With the assistance of the Ministries of Chemicals and Fertilizers and Environment, Forestry, and Climate Change, it is being organised in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Program and the International Council of Chemical Associations.

India Becomes the World's Second Largest Producer of Steel:

- India has replaced Japan to become the world's second-largest producer of crude steel.
- China now produces the most steel, making up 57% of global production.
- The Government of India has announced the National Steel Policy 2017, the Policy for Giving Preference to **Domestically Manufactured Iron and Steel (DMI & SP) in the Case of State Procurement to support the Domestic Steel Industry.**
- These regulations have contributed to the improvement of domestic steel production and consumption.
- Additionally, the government has issued quality control orders that forbid the production and importation of steel that is too cheap or of poor quality.
- India has also liberalized the coal mining industry, which will be extremely advantageous to the steel industry.

Rank 2018	Country	Qty (mt)	Rank 2019	Country	Qty (mt)
1	China	920	1	China	996.3
2	India	109.3	2	India	111.2
3	Japan	104.3	3	Japan	99.3
4	USA	86.6	4	USA	87.9
5	South	72.5	5	Russia	71.6

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	Korea				
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National Anti-Profitteering Authority will be abolished by the Indian government:

- The National Anti-Profitteering Authority (NAA) is poised to merge with the Competition Commission of India (CCI) as the GST's anti-profitteering watchdog.
- Under CCI, the NAA's investigation division will continue to operate in some capacity.
- The official claimed that because CCI can handle issues on its own, the change will result in fewer regulators.
- After NAA's term is up, it is intended to transfer cases to CCI.
- The NAA's responsibility is to ensure that the customer receives the benefit of the tax rate reduction right away.
- Because the GST council has been changing the rates over the past five years, NAA has played this duty primarily.
- When rates rise, NAA doesn't do much.
- Under section 171 of the Central Goods and Services Tax Act of 2017, the National Anti-Profitteering Authority (NAA) was created.
- The NAA was established to keep track of and supervise whether the receiver is receiving the benefit or decrease in input tax credit through a proper decrease in pricing.

The first Greenfield Airport Donyi Polo Airport in Arunachal Pradesh will be opened by PM:

- Donyi Polo Airport in Itanagar, the first greenfield airport in Arunachal Pradesh, was opened by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- He also dedicated the 600 MW Kameng Hydro Power Station to the country and 16 airports will now serve Northeast India.
- The airport's name honours the state's ancient indigenous veneration for the Sun (known as "Donyi") and the Moon (known as "Polo") as well as the traditions and rich cultural legacy of Arunachal Pradesh.
- The airport's 2300 m runway is ideally suited for daytime operations in all conditions.

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- The Donyi Polo airport would bring the overall number of airports in the Northeast to 16 after becoming Arunachal Pradesh's third operational airport and the first in the state's capital city Itanagar.
- Currently, Arunachal Pradesh has two airports—one in Pasighat and one in Tezu.
- In the meantime, PM Modi will dedicate the 600 MW Kameng Hydro Power Station to the country at the launch event.
- The project, which involved developing the power station at a cost of more than Rs 8,450 crore, intends to make Arunachal Pradesh a state with a surplus of electricity.

"Homer" was named the 2022 Word of the Year by Cambridge Dictionary:

- "Homer" has been named the Cambridge Dictionary's word of the year for 2022, and it was said to be influenced by the Wordle, a Wordle-like word game that has become immensely popular worldwide.
- When "homer" was a possible response in the word game Wordle, it was searched almost 75,000 times during the first week of May 2022.
- "Homer" is a colloquial American English term for a baseball "home run" in the context of the game.
- It does not refer to the Greek poet and novelist or a Simpsons character.
- The "Wordle effect" also caused additional five-letter terms to rise in search volume in 2022, according to Cambridge Dictionary.
- The second-highest jump in 2022 was produced by the American spelling of "funny," which was followed by the third-, fourth-, and fifth-placed spellings of "caulk," "tacit," and "bayou."
- According to Cambridge, the well-known game "Wordle" had an impact on the choice of this word.

India Unveils Official Website with SCO 2023 Theme:

- India has inaugurated the official website of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) since it will hold the organization's next summit in 2023 as chairman.
- The website emphasizes the events that will take place during India's presidency next year.
- The event's theme is "For a SECURE SCO."

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- **SECURE** was proposed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the 2018 Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit in China.
- The Prime Minister defined the SECURE idea as 'S' for citizen security, 'E' for economic development, 'C' for regional connectivity, 'U' for unity, 'R' for respect of sovereignty and integrity, and 'E' for environmental protection.
- In **Samarkand, Uzbekistan, India assumed the rotating chair of the SCO.**
- India will preside over the grouping for a year, **till September 2023.**
- Russian President Vladimir Putin congratulated India on hosting the next year's 23rd edition of **the summit.**
- In addition to **Putin, Chinese President Xi Jinping** congratulated India on inheriting the chairmanship of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in 2023.
- "We will support India's presidency next year," Jinping declared at the SCO Summit in Uzbekistan.
- Notably, India will take over the SCO's rotating annual chairmanship, which is currently held by Uzbekistan.

Government to Establish 100 Academies to Encourage Archery Among Tribal Children:

- According to **Union Minister for Tribal Affairs Arjun Munda**, the government has established **100 archery academies across the nation to foster talent in tribal youth by developing their archery abilities.**
- According to Mr. Munda, his Ministry is always working to **improve healthcare and educational services** while concentrating on **creating jobs in tribal communities.**
- He disclosed that the government is establishing the **Eklavya Model Residential School and carrying out the Pradhan Mantri Adi Adarsh Gram Yojna**, which aims to close gaps and provide essential infrastructure in villages with sizable tribal populations.
- The story of the world-class archer from **Ram Chatti**, a village close to **Ranchi in Jharkhand**, is truly amazing.
- He has made three Olympic appearances and has won a string of **medals at World Cups, Asian Championships, the Commonwealth Games, the World Championships, and the Asian Games.**

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First Northeast Regional Center for Unani Medicine Opens in Assam:

- In the Assamese town of Silchar, the first Unani medical institute in Northeast India opened its doors.
- Sarbananda Sonowal, the union minister for Ayush, officially opened the Unani medical institute in Silchar, Assam.
- The new structure, which took 48 crore rupees to construct, covers 3.5 acres.
- The complex was created by the National Projects Construction Corporation (NPCC), a business owned by the Indian government.
- It was given to the Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine (CCRUM), a separate entity within the Indian government's Ministry of Ayush.
- According to Sarbananda Sonowal, Union Minister for Ports, Shipping, and Waterways and Ayush, "Ayush system of medicine has reinvigorated its acceptability among people once again after the proven results have benefited lakhs of people during the pandemic."
- Unani medicine, also known as Unani Tibb, Arabian medicine, or Islamic medicine, is a conventional medical system practised in South Asia.
- All disorders affecting the body's systems and organs are treated by the Unani system of medicine.

MoS for Education Subhash Sarkar awards the National Swachh Vidyalaya Puraskar for 2021–2022:

- The Swachh Vidyalaya Puraskar has been given to 39 schools from all around the nation for the academic year 2021–2022.
- The National Swachh Vidyalaya Puraskar 2021–22 was awarded in New Delhi by the Minister of State for Education Dr. Subhash Sarkar.
- Out of the 8.23 lakh entries, 28 government and aided institutions and 11 private schools were chosen.
- The national selection committee chose 39 schools in total, including 34 in the main category and 5 in the subcategories, for the national prize.
- Each school will receive an incentive of Rs 60,000.

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- Additionally, each school will get a certificate of participation with category-specific scores and the school's overall rating.
- The Swachh Vidyalaya Puraskar was created by the Ministry of Education to honour, encourage, and celebrate outstanding sanitation and hygiene practices in educational institutions.
- The SVP is intended to recognize educational institutions that have made noteworthy contributions to achieving the goals of the Swachh Vidyalaya Campaign.

Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar attends the FIFA world cup inauguration in Qatar:

- Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar attended the inauguration of the FIFA World Cup in Qatar alongside the Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, and other dignitaries.
- Dhankhar is in Doha for two days to represent India at the opening of FIFA's flagship event.
- During his visit, the Vice President will meet with members of the Indian community as well as attend the Football World Cup's opening ceremony.
- The opening ceremony will take place on November 20, 2022, at the 60,000-capacity Al Bayt Stadium in Al Khor, right before the first match between host Qatar and Ecuador.
- The Vice President's visit would be an occasion for him to join a close and friendly country, Qatar, while it stages a major athletic tournament, as well as to recognize the role and support offered by Indians in this World Cup.

About Qatar

- Capital: Doha
- Currency: Riyal

Shri Anurag Singh Thakur inaugurated the "53-Hour Challenge":

- Shri Anurag Singh Thakur, Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting and Youth Affairs and Sports, launched the '53 Hours Challenge' for '75 Creative Minds Tomorrow.'
- This is the second edition of 75 Creative Minds of Tomorrow, and we have already created a community of 150 strong individuals united by their mutual passion for cinema, creativity, and culture.
- The winners of the '75 Creative Minds for Tomorrow' competition will be challenged to create a short film on their notion of India@100 in 53 hours.

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- This is accomplished by the **National Film Development Corporation (NFDC)**.

Key Highlights:

- The '53-Hour Challenge,' which was launched today by Union Minister Anurag Thakur, is being held in conjunction with the **53rd International Film Festival of India (IFFI)**.
- The 75 'Creative Minds' will be challenged to create a short film on their notion of India@100 in 53 hours.
- This IFFI 53 part is sponsored by the **National Film Development Corporation (NFDC)** in collaboration with **Shorts TV**.
- **Dr. L. Murugan**, Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting, and **Apurva Chandra**, Secretary, Ministry of I & B, were among the dignitaries in attendance.

About NFDC:

- Founded: 1975, Mumbai
- Headquarters: Mumbai
- Owner: Ministry of Information and Broadcasting; Government of India

SARAS AAJEEVIKA MELA 2022 was inaugurated by Giriraj Singh in New Delhi:

- **Shri Giriraj**, Union Minister for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj launched the "**SARAS AAJEEVIKA MELA, 2022**" at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi.
- Shri Singh revealed that the Ministry of Rural Development has received over 60,000 applications from three states for start-up initiatives in speciality products and crafts.

Key Highlights:

- According to **Shri Singh**, **StartUp India** was established by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in **2015** from the Red Fort's ramparts, and as of now, there are more than 80,000 start-ups, up from around 400 in 2014.
- In terms of the startup ecosystem, **India is ranked third in the world, and there are currently more than 100 unicorns operating there.**
- As the ministry is actively considering the ideas, women who are SHG members will launch their businesses.

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- According to the rural development minister, NRLM has been making many attempts to help rural SHG women-run companies that are involved in making food goods, handicrafts, handlooms, etc.
- Additionally, States/UTs have made attempts to register SHGs products on e-commerce sites like Flipkart, Amazon, Meesho, etc...

Sarbananda Sonowal establishes India's first Green Port and Shipping Center of Excellence:

- **Sarbananda Sonowal**, Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, announced **India's first National Centre of Excellence for Green Port and Shipping (NCoEGPS)**, a major endeavour by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping to provide greener solutions.
- The **Deendayal Port Authority Kandla, Paradip Port Authority, Thoothukudi, and Cochin Shipyard Limited, Kochi** have all shown their support for the establishment of this centre.
- The **Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)** is the project's knowledge and implementation partner.
- India wants to expand renewable energy's contribution to total power consumption at each of its main ports to **60% from less than 10% currently**.
- This will be accomplished through the use of solar and wind energy.
- By 2030, the ports hope to **reduce carbon emissions per ton of cargo handled by 30%**.
- PM Modi's Maritime Ambition Document 2030 is a 10-year framework for India's vision of a sustainable maritime sector and booming blue economy.
- India has been chosen as the **first country under the IMO Green Voyage 2050 project** to perform a Green Shipping pilot project.

Government Announces Framework To Stop Fake Reviews On Ecommerce Platforms:

- The Union government recently unveiled a thorough set of regulations that would be voluntary and take effect on November 25 to protect consumers from fraudulent internet product reviews.
- The BIS [Bureau of Indian Standards] developed the IS 19000:2022 standard for us after consulting with us and the business community. Public hearings have already been held.
- On November 25th, this will be in effect.

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- Every online platform that publishes customer reviews will be subject to the rules outlined in Indian Standard (IS) 19000:2022 Online Consumer Reviews - Principles and Requirements for their Collection, Moderation, and Publication.
- On June 10, 2022, the Department of Consumer Affairs established a committee to design a framework for checking fake and deceptive reviews in e-commerce, taking into account the impact of false and misleading reviews and protecting the interests of consumers in online shopping.
- The committee was composed of several interested parties, including law chairs, industry associations, and e-commerce enterprises.

Startup Applications for Registration on the MAARG Portal Have Been Introduced by DPIIT:

- Startup applications for registration on the MAARG site, the National Mentorship Platform by Startup India, were made available by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).
- The application's goal is to catalyze the startup culture and create a robust, inclusive ecosystem for innovation and entrepreneurship in India, thereby enhancing the startup ecosystem.
- A one-stop platform, the MAARG portal (Mentorship, Advisory, Assistance, Resilience, and Growth) enables mentorship for entrepreneurs across various industries, roles, stages, locations, and backgrounds.
- Three steps, including mentor onboarding, startup onboarding, the launch of the MAARG portal, and mentor matching, make up the operationalization of the MAARG.
- The onboarding process for businesses in Phase II has started, according to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, with the final launch where the mentors will be matched to the startups.

In July–September 2022, India's unemployment rate declines to 7.2%:

- According to the National Statistical Office (NSO), the unemployment rate for people aged 15 and over in urban areas decreased from 9.8% in July to September of last year to 7.2% in July–September of this year.

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- According to the National Statistical Office's most recent **Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)**, India's urban unemployment rate decreased to 7.2% for the fifth consecutive quarter in the July to September 2022-23 (FY23) period.
- Since the NSO began conducting India's first computer-based poll in April 2017, the unemployment rate in current weekly status terms for all ages in the **September quarter (second quarter or Q2) of FY23 has been at its lowest level.**

About Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS):

- In April 2017, NSO released PLFS.
- A quarterly bulletin is published based on the PLFS and provides estimates for the following labour force indicators: the unemployment rate, the worker population ratio (WPR), the **labour force participation rate (LFPR)**, the distribution of workers by broad status in employment, and the industry of work in the CWS.

India's government releases its first suicide prevention strategy:

- The **National Suicide Prevention Strategy**, the first-of-its-kind government initiative to make suicide prevention a top priority for public health, was unveiled by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- The government claims that the strategy will lay the groundwork for promoting mental health and preventing suicides in the ensuing ten years.
- **By 2023**, the policy hopes to reduce suicide mortality in the nation by 10%.
- The strategy offers a framework for numerous stakeholders to carry out initiatives for the nation's suicide prevention.
- In the **first three years**, it aims to create reliable suicide surveillance systems.
- In addition, it aims to create psychiatric outpatient units that will offer suicide prevention services through the District Mental Health Programme in all districts over the course of the following five years.
- Thirdly, within the **next eight years**, it wants to implement a mental health curriculum in every educational setting.
- The National Suicide Prevention Strategy's fourth goal is to increase program quality by enhancing suicide surveillance and further evidence creation through evaluation.

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Prasar Bharati commemorates its Silver Jubilee, or 25 years:

- **Prasar Bharati celebrated its silver jubilee, or 25 years** since it was founded.
- It was established as a legally independent body by a Parliamentary Act on this day in 1997.
- It includes **All India Radio and Doordarshan**. According to Prasar Bharati CEO Gaurav Dwivedi, during the challenges that the nation and the world have faced, Prasar Bharati has steadfastly stood with the people.
- It was founded in 1997 and is currently India's largest statutory autonomous public broadcasting organization.
- It was created by a Parliamentary Act and comprises the All India Radio and Doordarshan Television Network.
- The Prasar Bharati Act, which established the Indian Broadcasting Corporation, was approved by Parliament in **September 1990**.
- This act included provisions for the creation of Prasar Bharati, the Broadcasting Corporation of India.

About Prasar Bharati

- Headquarters: New Delhi
- CEO: Gaurav Dwivedi

Railways intend to export Vande Bharat trains by 2025–2026:

- According to a senior official, **by 2025 or 2026, the railways hope to become a significant exporter of Vande Bharat trains** to markets in Europe, South America, and East Asia.
- The **latest iteration of the domestic trains** with sleeper coaches will also be running by the **first quarter of 2024**.
- To make **75 Vande Bharat trains export-ready**, he added that the railways planned to run 10–12 lakh kilometres on them over the following several years.
- Over the next two to three years, the environment for exporting trains needs to be developed.
- They want to produce **475 Vande Bharat trains over the next three years**, and if they are operationally successful, our product will enjoy confidence in the international markets.
- To give the locally produced semi-high speed trains even more of a boost, the **Union Budget for 2023–24 is likely to announce the addition of 300 more Vande Bharat trains**.

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- In the next five years, the nation will construct 800 trainsets if fiscal support materializes.
- As part of the national government's preparations to commemorate 75 years of independence, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has requested that the Railways create at least 75 Vande Bharat trains by August 2023 to commence the services connecting 75 important towns.

India Creates Panel to Redesign the Government Job Guarantee Program:

- The **Union Rural Development Ministry of India** has established a **panel to restructure its sole job guarantee program** in the hopes of distributing more work to the nation's poorer regions.
- As India's rural communities recovered from the epidemic amid skyrocketing prices and few non-farm job possibilities, the **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, or MNREGA, was in high demand.**
- However, residents of relatively wealthy states would have done better in finding employment under the important anti-poverty job program, prompting calls for modifications to the program.
- The panel would offer institutional mechanisms, such as governance and administrative structures, for more efficient use of finances, particularly to alleviate poverty.
- The panel will study spending patterns across several states and pinpoint the causes of variances in its report, which is anticipated to be submitted by January.
- According to official data, states with lower per-capita incomes—such as Bihar and Odisha—spend less under the employment program than states with higher per-capita incomes, like Tamil Nadu and Rajasthan.

Shri Dharmendra Pradhan Has Released 'India: The Mother of Democracy'

- In New Delhi, Union Education & Skill Development Minister Shri Dharmendra Pradhan launched the book 'India: The Mother of Democracy,' which was prepared and published by the Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR).
- The book is an attempt to highlight the democratic attitude that **has been instilled in India since the birth of civilization.**
- This book demonstrates that India has been permeated with democratic ethos since the dawn of civilization.
- According to the Minister, **the foundations of democracy may be traced back to the fourth century in India.**

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- Thanjavur's stone inscriptions are a living testament to this.
- **Evidence of societal systems in place during the Kalinga and Lichchhavi periods also speaks volumes about India's democratic DNA.**
- In his address to the 76th United Nations General Assembly, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi stated that India is not only the oldest democracy but also the mother of democracy.

Egypt's President has been invited to be the chief guest for Republic Day 2023:

- **Egypt's President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi has been invited to be the primary guest for India's Republic Day in 2023, indicating New Delhi's continued focus on the Arab world as it prepares for a year of high-profile diplomatic engagements.**
- According to the sources, the formal invitation was handed over when **External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar met Sisi in Cairo on October 16 on an official visit to Egypt.**
- **Egypt is one of nine guest countries invited to the G20 Summit in 2023, which India will preside over.**
- An invitation to be the top guest at the Republic Day celebrations on January 26 is a significant honour reserved for the country's closest allies and partners.
- There were no chief guests at the celebrations in 2021 and 2022, because of disruptions caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.
- **Former Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro was the final chief guest to attend the 2020 celebrations.**

Key Highlights:

- The 68-year-old general-turned-politician will be the first Egyptian leader to be invited by India for Republic Day celebrations, although the two nations have had strong ties for decades, particularly as founding members of the Non-Aligned Movement in 1961.
- Egypt was dealing with substantial domestic political challenges such as the Arab Spring protests and a severe economic crisis at a time when India's attention was shifting to the Gulf countries due to interests such as oil, trade, investments, and the presence of millions of expatriates.

The 14th edition of Aero India 2023 will be held in Bengaluru from February 13-17, 2023:

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- The 14th Aero India will be hosted at the Air Force Station in Yelahanka from February 13-17, 2023, according to the Ministry of Defence (MoD).
- Due to Covid, the previous edition of the biennial event was organized in a hybrid model in 2021.
- Asia's premier air show, which was previously conducted over five days, was reduced to three days.
- The 14th iteration will last five days and will be open to the general public.
- The event will be organized by Bengaluru-based defence PSU Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), with exhibitors from all around the world slated to attend.
- Over 500 companies from more than 35 countries participated in the previous edition.
- The Aero India show is a prominent worldwide trade fair that allows the international weapons industry to showcase their goods, technology, and solutions to Indian military and decision-makers and engage with India's burgeoning Aerospace and Defense industry.

The Ministry of Rural Development has launched the 'Nai Chetna' Gender Campaign:

- 'Nai Chetna' is a month-long campaign intended to be a 'Jan Andolan,' or people's movement.
- The Ministry of Rural Development initiated the 'Nai Chetna' program, which emphasizes sensitizing women, particularly in rural regions.
- It aims to help women recognize, prepare for, and accept help in situations of vulnerability.
- According to the Union Minister, the 'Nai Chetna' campaign focuses on women.
- Women in rural communities are sometimes ignorant of the different channels via which they might voice their concerns.
- The campaign's goal is to raise awareness about gender-based violence and to educate women about their rights and the mechanisms available to help them resolve their complaints.
- The 'Nai Chetna' campaign was launched on November 25, 2022, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women.
- The campaign's goal is to create awareness about the institutional resources available to women to combat gender-based violence.

KVIC Chairman Manoj Kumar officially launched the RE-HAB project:

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- Shri Manoj Kumar, Chairman of KVIC, launched the ambitious Reducing Human Attacks Using Honey Bees (Re-Hab) Project.
- The Khadi and Village Industries Commission launched the Re-Hab Project (Ministry of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises, Government of India).
- In addition to the honey extractor, Shri Manoj Kumar distributed 330 bee boxes, bee colonies, and toolkits to rural beneficiaries in Chausla village.
- The Chairman of KVIC stated that the Re-Hab Project is being managed by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission, which is led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- The Re-Hab Project is currently active in seven states: Karnataka, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Assam, and Odisha.
- Bee box fencing around elephant movement routes obstructs the travel of wild elephants.
- Elephants can be kept from assaulting humans and destroying farmers' crops by using bees.
- The KVIC will manage the Re-Hab Project for a year in a specific area.

IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL NEWS

1st ASEAN-India Start-up Festival 2022 held in Indonesia

- The 1st ASEAN-India Start-up Festival (AISF) was inaugurated by Dr. Srivari Chandrashekhar, Secretary of, the Department of Science and Technology in Bogor, Indonesia.
- The four-day event was organized with the Indonesia Research and Innovation Expo (INA-RIE) from October 27 to 30, 2022 at the Innovation Convention Centre, Sibinong Bogor, Indonesia.
- The inaugural event was felicitated by Mr. Satvinder Singh, Deputy Secretary General for ASEAN Economic Community, and Ambassador, Mr. Jayant Khobragde, Indian Mission to ASEAN (IMA).

About ASEAN-India Start-up Festival :

- The ASEAN-India Startup Festival is a flagship initiative that aims to improve cooperation and collaboration in science, technology, and innovation between ASEAN Member States and India.
- The first-ever ASEAN-India Start-Up Festival was launched to commemorate the 30th anniversary of ASEAN and India's partnership.

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- The festival was part of the overall ASEAN-India Science, Technology, and Innovation Cooperation program between the ASEAN Committee on Science, Technology, and Innovation (COSTI) and the Department of Science and Technology (Govt of India). •

About ASEAN :

- ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) is a regional organization that was set up in 1967.
- Headquarters of ASEAN: Jakarta, Indonesia.
- Chairmanship of ASEAN: Cambodia
- Secretary-General: Lim Jock Hoi
- It is an association of 10 countries in Southeast Asia namely; Indonesia, Philippines, Brunei, Thailand, Vietnam, Malaysia, Singapore, Laos, Cambodia, and Myanmar.

India and California agree to collaborate on zero-emission vehicles

- India has entered into a collaboration with the US state of California for research and innovation in the field of zero-emission vehicles to boost the development of its nascent Electrical Vehicle (EV) industry and address climate risks through the California-India ZEV Policy program.
- The Programme will showcase best practices in EV adoption from India on international platforms and unlock strategic dialogues on international climate finance for a ZEV transition.

Key Highlights :

- California has the world's most advanced zero-emission vehicle (ZEV) policies.
- It has an ambitious 100% ZEV mandate by 2035.
- As part of the collaboration, the University of California, research institute Davis Institute of Transportation Studies, established a new India ZEV Research Centre.
- While ZEV policies have been implemented in various parts of the world, the State of California is probably the only regional government to have the most comprehensive and oldest ZEV policy ecosystem.
- The California-India ZEV Partnership provides a unique opportunity for sub-national policy design as a lever for vehicle electrification.

Note :

- India prepares to host both the Clean Energy Ministerial and the G20 next year in 2023.

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About California :

- Capital: Sacramento

Adaptation efforts not consistent with climate risks: UNEP

- The United Nations Environment Programme's (UNEP) Adaptation Gap Report 2022 titled "Too Little, Too Slow: Climate adaptation failure puts the world at risk", the report has pointed out that global efforts in adaptation planning, financing, and implementation are not keeping pace with the growing risks.

Key Highlights :

- The flow of international adaptation finance to developing countries grew 4% from 2019 to reach \$29 billion in 2020, 34% of overall climate finance.
- The estimated annual adaptation needs are \$160-\$340 billion needed by 2030 & USD 315-565 billion by 2050.
- According to the UNEP's Emissions Gap Report, Nationally Determined Contributions under the Paris Agreement point toward global warming of 2.4-2.6°C by the end of the century.
- Research from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change says that climate risks will intensify with each tenth of a degree.
- Combined adaptation and mitigation finance flows in 2020 fell at least \$17 billion short of the \$100 billion pledged to develop countries
- A third of the 197 countries that are party to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) have incorporated quantified and time-bound targets on adaptation.

About UNEP :

- Established: 5 June 1972
- Headquarters: Nairobi, Kenya
- Executive Director: Inger Andersen

FAO's annual flagship publications - State of Food and Agriculture 2022

- The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has released the 2022 edition of the State of Food and Agriculture, (SOFA) which oversees in agrifood system to contribute to reaching Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

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- The **State of Food and Agriculture**, one of FAO's major annual flagship publications, aims at bringing to a **wider audience balanced science-based assessments** of important issues in the field of food and agriculture.

About State of Food and Agriculture 2022 :

- The State of Food and Agriculture 2022 looks into the **drivers of agricultural automation**, including the more recent digital technologies.
- Based on **27 case studies**, the report analyzes the business case for the **adoption of digital automation technologies** in different agricultural production systems across the world.

About FAO :

- Established: 16 October 1945
- Headquarters: Rome, Lazio, Italy
- Director General : Qu Dongyu
- Membership: 195 members (including 194 countries and the European Union)
- Parent Organization: United Nations Economic and Social Council
- The FAO is an **international organization** that leads international efforts to **defeat hunger** and **improve nutrition and food security**.

WTO to deepen presence at COP 27

- The **World Trade Organization (WTO)** is set to **deepen its presence** at the **UN Climate Change COP 27** in **Egypt** with **Director General Ngozi Okonjo Iweala** participating, including the launch of **WTO's 2022 World Trade Report on 'Climate Change and International Trade.'**

Key Highlights :

- At COP 27, the WTO DG will speak at the **'roundtable on food security co-convened by Egypt and the World Economic Forum on November 7, 2022**
- Iweala will address a session on **'accelerating adaptation in Africa'**, co-organized by the **African Union and Global Center for Adaptation**.
- On **November 9, 2022**, Iweala will speak on **'Implementing trade-related contributions to the global response to climate change and launch of World Trade Report on Climate Change'**.

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- According to **Article 3.5** of the **UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)**, “Measures taken to combat climate change, including unilateral ones, should not constitute a means of arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination or a disguised restriction on international trade”.

About WTO :

- Established: 1 January 1995
- Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland
- Director-General: Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala
- Membership: 164 members (160 UN member states, the European Union, Hong Kong, Macao, and Taiwan)
- The WTO is an **intergovernmental organization** that **regulates** and **facilitates international trade**.

Europe approves the world's first one-dose drug to protect babies against RSV

- The **European Commission** has **authorized** the **world's first one-dose drug** against a **respiratory virus** that **sickens millions of babies and children globally every year**.
- **Drugmakers Sanofi** and **AstraZeneca** announced that the European Commission had given the **green light** to **nirsevimab**, a **laboratory-developed antibody** designed to protect infants during their first exposure to **RSV**, or **respiratory syncytial virus**, a **highly contagious common infection** that infects nearly all **babies** by **age 2**.
- At the moment, babies at **high risk** of the disease can be given **monthly** shots to protect them during RSV season.
- Nirsevimab was developed to **give newborns** and **infants** immediate protection against RSV through an antibody to prevent infections in their respiratory systems
- RSV kills about **100,000 babies annually**, mostly in developing countries.

About European Commission :

- President of the European Council: Charles Michel
- President of the Commission: Ursula von der Leyen
- Currency: Euro
- Membership: 27 members

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Netherlands turns top buyer of Indian petro-products amid Ukraine war

- The Netherlands has emerged as the top destination for India's petroleum product exports such as petrol and diesel in the first half of the current fiscal year (FY22).

Key Highlights :

- India is a key Asian refining hub, with an installed capacity of nearly 250 million tonnes per annum across 23 refineries
- This bump in exports has also resulted in the Netherlands becoming the third biggest market for India's overall exports, thereby replacing China.
- South Africa and Brazil also ramped up refined petroleum product purchases including those of ATF from India in H1, making it to the top 10 petroleum product export markets for Indian refiners
- The Netherlands accounted for nearly 9% of India's total petroleum product exports in the April to September period at ₹4.5 trillion, a growth of 180% over the corresponding period of 2021.

About the Netherlands :

- Prime Minister: Mark Rutte
- Capital: Amsterdam
- Currency: Euro

Russia Becomes India's Top Oil Supplier in October 2022

- According to data from energy cargo tracker Vortexa, Russia has become India's top oil supplier in October 2022, surpassing traditional sellers Saudi Arabia and Iraq.
- Russia now makes up for 22% of India's total crude imports, ahead of Iraq's 20.5% and Saudi Arabia's 16%.
- Russia supplied 935,556 barrels per day (bpd) of crude oil to India in October 2022 even as it made up for just 0.2% of all oil imported by India in the year until March 31, 2022.
- Iraq slipped to the No.2 slot with 888,079 bpd of supplies in October 2022 followed by Saudi Arabia at 746,947 bpd.

Key Highlights :

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- India imported 68,600 bpd of Russian oil in March, and the import increased to 266,617 bpd in the following month and peaked at 942,694 bpd in June.
- In June 2022 Iraq was India's top supplier with 1.04 million bpd of oil & in that month Russia became India's second biggest supplier.
- For the April-Sept period of this fiscal year (FY23), Russia became the biggest exporter of pig iron to India.
- During this period, nearly 31,700 tonnes of pig iron was imported to India, of which nearly 84% was from Russia.

About Pig Iron :

- Pig iron is crude iron and is the direct product of the blast furnace.
- It is refined to produce steel, wrought iron, or ingot iron.
- Pig Iron is the main steel-making raw material.
- In 2020, the top exporters of Pig Iron were Russia, Brazil, and Ukraine while the top importers of Pig Iron were China, the United States, and Turkey.

About Russia :

- President: Vladimir Putin
- Prime Minister: Mikhail Mishustin
- Capital: Moscow
- Currency: Russian ruble

Novartis has signed the world's first-ever agreement for the cancer drug Nilotinib.

- A Swiss-American multinational Pharmaceutical giant Novartis has signed a licensing agreement increasing access to vital leukaemia treatment, marking the first-ever such agreement for a cancer drug.
- It is the first time a voluntary license has been granted for a patented cancer drug as part of a public health initiative.

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- The announcement by **Medicines Patent Pool (MPP)** and **Novartis** were made on the final day of the **Union for International Cancer Control (UICC)**'s flagship event, the **World Cancer Congress** held this week in **Geneva, Switzerland**.
- This is the **first license** that **MPP** has signed for **cancer treatment**, and the **first time** a company is licensing a patented cancer medicine through a **public health-oriented voluntary licensing mechanism**.
- The drug is listed on the **World Health Organization's List of Essential Medicines** for the treatment of adults and children over the age of one suffering from **CML**.
- The oral drug, **nilotinib**, is used to treat **chronic myeloid leukaemia (CML)**.
- The license includes **seven middle-income countries**, namely **Egypt, Guatemala, Indonesia, Morocco, Pakistan, the Philippines, and Tunisia**, where patents on the product are pending or in force.

Lewis Hamilton becomes an honorary Brazilian Citizen & named eight-time F1 world champion

- **Seven-time World Champion Lewis Hamilton** was officially declared an **honorary citizen of Brazil** in a ceremony at the **Chamber of Deputies** in **Brasilia** ahead of the **Brazilian Grand Prix**.
- **Congressman Andre Figueiredo** first suggested this in **November 2021** after Hamilton won the **Brazilian GP** for a third time at **Interlagos**.
- The British driver carried a **green and yellow Brazilian flag** on his victory lap and at the podium to celebrate with local fans.

About Lewis Hamilton :

- Hamilton was born on **7 January 1985** in **Stevenage, Hertfordshire, England**.
- He is a **British racing driver** currently competing in **Formula One** for **Mercedes**.
- In **Formula 1**, he has won a joint-record **seven World Drivers' Championship titles** (**2008, 2014, 2015, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020**) (tied with **Michael Schumacher**).
- He holds the records for the **most wins (103), pole positions (103), and podium finishes (190)**.

US Treasury removes India from its Currency Monitoring List

- The **United States Department of Treasury** removed **India** along with **Italy, Mexico, Thailand and Vietnam** from its **Currency Monitoring List** of major trading partners that merit close attention to their **currency practices** and **macroeconomic policies**.

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- Along with **India, Italy, Mexico, Thailand and Vietnam** have also been removed from the list.
- **India** had been on the list for the **last two years**.
- The move came on a day when **Secretary of the Treasury Janet Yellen** visited **New Delhi** and held talks with **Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman**.

Key Highlights :

- In its **biannual report** to the **US Congress**, the country's **Department of Treasury** stated that **China, Japan, Korea, Germany, Malaysia, Singapore and Taiwan** are the **seven economies** that are part of the current monitoring list.
- In this report, Treasury reviewed and assessed the policies of major US trading partners, comprising roughly **80% of US foreign trade** in goods and services, during the **four quarters** through **June 2022**.

Currency Monitoring List: Three Criteria

1. A "significant" bilateral trade surplus with the US - **at least \$20 billion in 12 months**.
 2. A material current account surplus equivalent to **at least 2% of gross domestic product (GDP)** over a **12-month period**.
 3. "Persistent", one-sided intervention - when net purchases of foreign currency totalling **at least 2% of the country's GDP** over a **12-month period** are conducted repeatedly, in at least 6 out of 12 months.
- Once a country meets **all three criteria**, it is labelled as a '**currency manipulator**' by the **US Department of Treasury**.
 - Notably, **Switzerland** once again exceeded the thresholds for **all three criteria**, which is a parameter for being labelled as a "**Currency Manipulator**".
 - A country that meets two of the three criteria in the **US' Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015** is put under the Currency Monitoring List.

North Korea Fires "Unidentified Ballistic Missile" into the Sea of Japan

- A short-range **ballistic missile** was fired by **North Korea** towards the **Sea of Japan** just hours after it promised "**fiercer**" **military retaliation** against the United States for stepping up its security cooperation with allies South Korea and Japan.

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- It was the most recent in North Korea's string of tests in recent months and its first ballistic missile launch in eight days.
- The North Korean missile launched flew about 240 kilometers (150 miles) at a maximum altitude of 47 kilometers (29 miles)

DGCA grants aerodrome license to Jaipur International Airport

- Jaipur International Airport Limited has received the Aerodrome license from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) following which the airport has embarked on an expansion drive.
- The license was previously held by the Airport Authority of India (AAI), the government body which was earlier operating the airport.
- Furthermore, the license has been granted to the airport operator to provide full access to the management and control operations of the airport by the concession agreement.

Key Highlights :

- The airport management has conducted an extensive survey at Jaipur airport which revealed that present passenger traffic of 50 lakh per annum will reach 1 crore by 2025.
- Considering future requirements, the management is now planning to reopen Terminal- 1 which has been non-operational for the last 10 years.

About Terminal- 1 :

- Terminal- 1 will be developed on the lines of the presently operational Terminal 2.
- Massive IT-related infrastructure, food and beverage services, and retail outlets, measures for zero carbon emission and environment sustainability, and security arrangements will be in place on the lines of T-2
- The Jaipur airport, as per the environmental guidelines, is developing a mini-forest near Dudu town where 4,400 trees will be planted and maintained for 5 years
- A requirement of about 240 CISF security personnel has also been raised by the airport administration for making T-1 operational.

About Terminal-2 :

- At Terminal-2, the airport management has installed new e- boarding gates, an electronic helpdesk, 50 retail and branded outlets for customers, automated parking, and transport

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mechanisms where private cab operators like WTI, Ola, and Uber have been given a place to operate.

About DCGA :

- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India
- Director General: Arun Kumar
- Minister of Civil Aviation: Jyotiraditya Scindia
- The DCGA is a **statutory body** of the Government of India to **regulate civil aviation** in India.
- It became a statutory body under the **Aircraft (Amendment) Act, of 2020**.

Qatar signs world's 'longest' gas supply deal with China

- **QatarEnergy** announced a **27-year natural gas supply deal** with **China** calling it the “longest” ever seen as it strengthened ties with **Asia** while **Europe** scrambles for **alternative sources**.
- The state energy company will send **4 million tonnes of liquefied natural gas annually** from its new **North Field East project** to **China Petroleum and Chemical Corporation (Sinopec)**.
- The deal “marks the **longest gas supply agreement** in the history of the **LNG industry**”.
- Asian countries led by **China, Japan and South Korea** are the main market for **Qatar’s gas**, which is increasingly being sought by European countries since **Russia’s invasion of Ukraine**.

Note :

- Qatar's energy minister and QatarEnergy's chief executive : **Saad Sherida al-Kaabi**

Egypt President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi To Be Chief Guest on Republic Day 2023

- **President of Egypt Abdel Fattah El-Sisi** will be the **chief guest** at **India's Republic Day celebrations** on **26 January 2023**.
- This is the **first time** that the **President of the Arab Republic of Egypt** will be the **Chief Guest** on our **Republic Day**.
- Also, this is the **first time India** has invited a **foreign dignitary** to the event after the gap of the last two years due to the **coronavirus pandemic**.
- **Former Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro**, who won the last elections to **Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva** in **October**, was the **chief guest** in **2020**.

Key Highlights :

- The year **2022** marks the **75th anniversary** of **diplomatic relations** between **India and Egypt**.

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- Egypt has been invited as a 'Guest Country' during India's Presidency of G20 in 2022-23.
- In April 2022, Egypt announced the inclusion of India in the list of accredited countries which can supply wheat to Egypt, thus ending a long pending Non-Tariff Barrier.
- The first ever IAF-EAF Joint Tactical Air Exercise, Desert Warrior, was held in October 2021.
- The first-ever Special Forces exercise "Cyclone 1" between India and Egypt planned in Jodhpur in January 2022 stands postponed.
- Egypt has shown interest in acquiring arms produced by India, including the Akash missile systems capable of intercepting hostile aircraft, helicopters, drones, and subsonic cruise missiles at a range of 25 km.

About Egypt :

- President : Abdel Fattah El-Sisi
- Prime Minister: Moustafa Madbouly
- Capital: Cairo
- Currency: Egyptian pound

Mahatma Gandhi's bust to be inaugurated at UNHQ during India's Presidency of Security Council

- A bust of Mahatma Gandhi will be inaugurated as a gift from India to the United Nations during India's presidency of the Security Council in Dec 2022, the first sculpture of the Mahatma to be installed at the world body's headquarters.
- The bust was made by renowned Indian sculptor Padma Shree awardee Ram Sutar, who has also designed the 'Statue of Unity in Gujarat.
- It will be inaugurated on December 14, 2022, during External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar's visit to the UN for India's Presidency of the Council for Dec 2022.
- The only other gift from India on display at the UN Headquarters is an 11th-century black-stone statue of 'Surya', the Sun God, donated on July 26, 1982.
- The statue, dating from the late Pala period and which is currently displayed in the Conference Building, was presented as a gift by then Prime Minister late Indira Gandhi to the UN.

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- **Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar** accepted the sculpture on behalf of the United Nations.

Note :

- India's Permanent Representative to the UN: Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj
- President of the 77th session of the UN General Assembly Csaba Kőrösi.

About United Nations :

- Headquarters: New York City
- Secretary General : António Guterres

IMPORTANT MOUs & AGREEMENTS

Malabar, a major retailer of jewelry, is the first jeweler in India to import 25 kg of gold from the UAE:

- **Malabar Gold and Diamonds**, a major retailer of jewelry in India, is the first jeweler to import 25 kg of gold as part of the **Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)** between India and the UAE.
- According to the agreement, the gold was imported through ICICI Bank with a 1% duty rebate.
- For the first time in India, the group has successfully utilized the duty benefits of the agreement for both import and export.
- The Company was also one of the **first few jewelers to be approved by this agreement in May 2022 to export jewelry to the UAE** with tax benefits.
- Malabar Gold and Diamonds received permission to export jewelry from India to the UAE with tax breaks in May 2022, making it one of the first companies to benefit from the India-UAE CEPA.
- The **five percent import duty into the UAE** has been waived as per the agreement.
- After being signed in Delhi in February 2022 by **UAE Minister of Economy Abdulla bin Touq Al Marri** and Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal, the **CEPA between India and the UAE** went into effect on May 1, 2022.

Dharmendra Pradhan signs an agreement for Football4Schools with FIFA and AIFF:

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- A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between **FIFA and the All India Football Federation for the "Football4Schools" initiative** in India by Union Minister of Education, Skill Development, and Entrepreneurship **Shri Dharmendra Pradhan**.
- **Mr. Gianni Infantino, President of FIFA, and Shri Kalyan Chaubey, President of the All India Football Federation**, signed the Memorandum of Understanding on behalf of their respective organizations.
- **Nitish Pramanik**, Minister of State for Home Affairs, Youth Affairs, and Sports; **Deepak Kesarkar**, Minister of School Education and Marathi Language-Maharashtra; **Vinayak Garg**, Commissioner of the Nayodaya Vidyalaya Samiti; and representatives of the All India Football Federation presented awards at the event.
- According to **Shri Dharmendra Pradhan**, the **Football4Schools program** upholds the **NEP 2020 spirit** and sports have been given a prominent place in it.
- In NEP 2020, sports are given pride of place.
- The Football4Schools program uses football, a hugely popular sport in India, as a motivating tool to encourage kids and ensure their overall development.

About AIFF:

- Founded: 23 June 1937
- Headquarters: New Delhi
- President: Kalyan Chaubey
- Vice-President: N. A. Haris

About FIFA:

- Headquarters: Zürich, Switzerland
- President: Gianni Infantino
- Founded: 21 May 1904, Rue Saint-Honoré, Paris, France

TATA Power and the Indian Army work together to deploy EV charging stations:

- The Indian Army joined with Tata Powers to build 16 EV charging stations as part of its "Go Green Initiative."
- Charging stations have been built in several areas throughout Delhi Cantonment.

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- Lt Gen Dhiraj Seth, General Officer Commanding Delhi Area, officially opened the installation of charging stations in collaboration with the nation's largest integrated utility in the presence of army officials and senior TATA Power and TATA Motors executives.
- The GOC also urged everyone to support this environmentally friendly order to maintain the environment for future generations.
- TATA Power's head of business development, Virendra Goyal, spoke about the company's partnership with the Indian Army at the event.
- In October of this year, the Indian Army revealed its plan to introduce electric vehicles in Ladakh.
- According to Army officials, a percentage of selected units' light vehicles (approximately 25%), buses (38%), and motorbikes (48%) would be replaced with EVs with appropriate charging infrastructure.
- Depending on the necessity for the viability of the vehicles, the Army may also provide EVs to select peacekeeping troops.

BEE and SIDBI will collaborate to promote financing for energy efficiency for MSMEs:

- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for MSMEs has been struck between the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) and the government agency for energy efficiency, the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), under the Ministry of Power.
- The MoU will examine internet of things (IoT)-based solutions, greening MSMEs, capacity building of various stakeholders, etc., and encourage energy efficiency finance for MSMEs, according to BEE.
- To persuade MSME businesses to make energy-saving improvements to their facilities and equipment to cut down on their energy use, increase their energy efficiency, lower their carbon dioxide emissions, and boost their long-term profitability.
- To achieve India's Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 2030 targets, SIDBI established partnerships with numerous stakeholders to assist MSMEs in becoming more energy efficient in their operations.
- SIDBI and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH have signed memorandums of understanding (MoUs) to operate a risk-sharing facility (RSF) that provides

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credit guarantees to loans from commercial banks or non-banking financial businesses (NBFCs).

Under DAY-NRLM, MoRD signs an agreement with the Veddiss Foundation:

- To aid in the development of efficient governance frameworks for the DAY-NRLM, the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) and Veddiss Foundation have signed a Memorandum of Understanding. Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihood Mission is referred to as DAY-NRLM.
- The three-year collaboration with MoRD and Veddiss Foundation is non-financial.
- The MoU was signed by the Veddiss Foundation in Gurugram and the MoRD.
- Joint Secretary for Rural Livelihoods, Ms. Nita Kejrewal from the MoRD, and Mr. Murugan Vasudevan, CEO of the Veddiss Foundation, all signed the MoU.
- Shri Nagendra Sinha, Secretary for Rural Development, presided over the meeting.
- According to Ms. Nita Kejrewal, Joint Secretary for Rural Livelihoods, engaging with different stakeholders toward a common goal will allow MoRD to advance.
- According to the MoU, the Veddiss Foundation will set up a PMU in the Ministry of Rural Development's Rural Livelihood (RL) Division over the subsequent five years.
- PMUs have been implemented by the Veddiss Foundation in the State Rural Livelihoods Mission (SRLM) programs of Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, and Manipur.

JBIC and NIIFL signed a contract to increase Japanese investment in India:

- A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIFL) and the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) has been signed to advance and strengthen Japanese investment in India.
- The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) sets a framework for collaboration between NIIFL and JBIC, which is proposing the creation of a bilateral India-Japan Fund (IJF).
- The India-Japan Fund, which will make equity investments in environmental protection and low-carbon emission solutions, will receive funding from JBIC and the Government of India.
- By supporting business collaboration across a variety of sectors in India and investing in strategic alliances between Japanese and Indian companies, the fund will also improve ties between the two nations.

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- Through its investments in Ayana Renewable Power, IntelliSmart Infrastructure, Ather Energy, and the Green Growth Equity Fund, NIIFL actively supports green technologies and solutions.
- In addition, the India-Japan Fund will help NIIFL have a bigger effect in this area.

An MOU has been signed between the National Museum and the Kolding Museum:

- The joint exhibition "Silver Treasures from Denmark and India" will debut in early March 2023 at the Museum Kolding and the National Museum in New Delhi.
- The National Museum in New Delhi, India, and the Museum Kolding in New Delhi signed and exchanged an MoU for the show.
- In March 2023, the exhibition will feature the finest silver pieces from the Museum Kolding and the National Museum in New Delhi.
- The collaboration and exhibition are part of a newly agreed-upon cultural exchange initiative between India and Denmark from 2022 to 2026.
- The exhibition "Silver Treasures from Denmark and India" focuses on Danish and Indian silver artifacts, with both institutions displaying their best silver artefacts.
- The exhibition will feature the best selection of 200 artifacts in total, elucidating the beauty and splendor of silver craftsmanship in both countries.
- Visitors to the National Museum will be able to see the parallel traditions of Indian and Danish silver objects for the first time.

India and the EU have signed an agreement to collaborate on high-performance computing:

- The Indian Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and the European Commission's Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology (DG CONNECT) signed an "Intent of Cooperation on High-Performance Computing (HPC), Weather Extremes & Climate Modeling, and Quantum Technologies."
- The agreement builds on both sides' agreements to strengthen technology cooperation on quantum and high-performance computing during the May 8 India-EU leaders meeting.
- Moreover, the signing of the agreement is significant in light of the April 25 decision to establish the EU-India Trade and Technology Council (TTC).
- The agreed partnership aims to facilitate collaboration on high-performance computing applications using Indian and European supercomputers in fields such as bio-molecular

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pharmaceuticals, Covid-19 therapies, mitigating climate change, predicting natural disasters, and quantum computing.

- According to **MeitY secretary Alkesh Kumar Sharma**, high-performance computing is addressing some of the world's most pressing concerns, and demand for such systems is growing rapidly across multiple disciplines.
- Under this collaboration, **India and the EU will pool their experience to optimize high-performance computing** to produce breakthrough technology solutions in a variety of industries.

IMPORTANT MERGERS & ACQUISITIONS

Zee-Sony merger: Groups agree to sell 3 Hindi channels to address anti-competition concerns

- Media groups **Sony and Zee** have voluntarily agreed to sell three Hindi channels **Big Magic, Zee Action, and Zee Classic** to address possible anti-competition concerns arising out of their proposed mega-merger deal.
- The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)**, cleared the deal, subject to certain modifications on October 4, 2022.
- CCI has approved the “amalgamation of **Zee Entertainment Enterprises Limited (ZEEL)** and **Bangla Entertainment Private Limited (BEPL)** with **Culver Max Entertainment Private Limited (CME)**, with certain modifications”.
- CME was earlier known as **Sony Pictures Networks India Pvt Ltd (SPNI)**.
- The Zee-Sony combine will become **India's second-largest entertainment network by revenue** with over **75 television (TV) channels**, along with two video streaming services **ZEE5** and **SonyLIV**.

LIC picks up over 2% additional stake in Capri Global for ₹257 cr

- The **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)** has raised its stake in **Capri Global Capital Limited (CGCL)**, a nonbanking financial company (NBFC) by 2% over the last few months at an investment of **₹257.37 crores**.
- Its shareholding in Capri Global has increased from **1,24,00,000** to **1,59,51,171 equity shares**.
- This results in the **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)** increasing its stake from **7.052%** to **9.072%** of the paid-up capital of the company.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – November 2022

- Capri Global caters to different segments like MSME, construction, finance, affordable housing, and indirect retail lending segments.
- Capri Global's market capitalization stands at ₹13,014 crores.

About LIC :

- Founded: 1 September 1956
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Chairperson : M R Kumar

Google buys artificial intelligence avatar startup 'Alter' for \$100 mn

- Tech giant Google has acquired Alter, an artificial intelligence (AI) avatar startup that was working on using AI to generate avatars for social media users and brands to express their virtual identity
- According to TechCrunch, Google buys the startup for about \$100 million to improve its content game and compete with TikTok.
- Alter started as Facemoji, a platform that offered plug-and-play technology for helping game and App developers add avatar systems to their Apps.
- Among its investors are Play Ventures, Roosh Ventures, and Twitter, which invested \$3 million in the startup.
- Later Facemoji rebranded as Alter.

About Google :

- Founded: September 4, 1998
- Headquarters: Mountain View, California, U.
- CEO: Sundar Pichai

LIC buys additional stake, in Voltas for Rs 635 crore

- Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has increased its shareholding in Voltas by buying an additional 2% stake.
- LIC has acquired Voltas' shares worth Rs 634.50 crore through open market transactions during the period from August 10 to November 4, 2022.
- The LIC increased its shareholding from 2,27,04,306 shares (equivalent to 6.862%) to 2,93,95,224 (8.884%) in Voltas.

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- Voltas is engaged in the business of air conditioning, refrigeration, and electro-mechanical projects as an EPC (engineering, procurement, and construction) contractor both in the domestic and international markets.
- The stock of LIC closed at Rs 633.30 apiece on BSE, up by 0.84%, while Voltas scrip ended 1.24% lower at Rs 834.40 apiece.

About LIC :

- Founded: 1 September 1956
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Chairperson : M R Kumar
- The LIC is an Indian central public sector undertaking under the ownership of the Ministry of Finance, Gol.

Adani Power inks pact to sell 100% stake in SPPL to ACX for Rs 1,556 cr

- Adani Power Ltd has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to sell its 100 percent equity stake in its wholly-owned subsidiary Support Properties Private Ltd (SPPL) to AdaniConnex Private Ltd (ACX)," at an enterprise value of Rs 1,556.5 crore.
- ACX is a 50:50 joint venture between Adani Enterprises Limited, which is a promoter group company, and EdgeConneX.
- It is engaged in the business of developing world-class data centers and providing co-location hosting and ancillary services.
- The proposed transaction falls within the ambit of related party transactions.
- The proposed transaction is done on an arm's length basis.
- The expected timeline for completion of the sale/disposal is the end of January 2023.

About Adani Power Ltd :

- Founded: August 22, 1996
- Headquarters: Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India
- Chairman: Gautam Adani
- MD & CEO : Anil Sardana

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Government To Sell Its Entire 1.55% Stake In Axis Bank for Rs 4,000 cr

- The Specified Undertaking of the Unit Trust of India (SUUTI), under the Central Government, will sell up to 1.55% stake or 4.65 crore shares in Axis Bank via an offer for sale (OFS).
- Around 4.65 crore shares of Axis Bank will go on the block on 10 and 11 November, at a floor price of ₹830.63 per share.

Key Highlights :

- As of September 2022, SUUTI held 4,65,34,903 shares representing a 1.55% stake in the bank.
- Shares held in dematerialized form in one or more demat accounts with the relevant depository participant will be offered for sale on November 10, 2022, ('T day') for non-retail investors only and on November 11 (T+1 day) for retail and non-retail investors.
- Only mutual funds that are registered with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and insurance companies under the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) shall be allocated more than 25% of the OFS.
- ICICI Securities, Citigroup Global Markets India, and Morgan Stanley India will be acting as brokers on behalf of the seller.
- In May 2021, the government sold a 1.95% stake in Axis Bank held through SUUTI for a consideration of about Rs 4,000 crore.

About Axis Bank :

- Founded : 3 December 1993
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO: Amitabh Chaudhry

RBI approves DSP Mutual Fund's 10% stake buy in Equitas SFB

- DSP Investment Managers Private Ltd (DSPIM) has acquired a 9.99% stake in Equitas Small Finance Bank for an undisclosed amount following approval from the Reserve Bank of India.
- DSP Investment Managers will acquire up to 9.99% of the paid-up equity capital of the bank through the schemes of DSP Mutual Fund, following the amalgamation of parent company Equitas Holdings Limited with the bank.

Key Highlights:

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- The proposed acquisition of shares by DSPIM would be consequent to the **Scheme of Amalgamation of Equitas Holdings Limited** with the Bank taking effect.
- In **May 2022** Equitas Holdings and Equitas Small Finance Bank (SFB) were approved by their **respective boards** for their merger.
- The merger is **aimed** at meeting the RBI's licensing conditions to bring down the shareholding of the holding company to **40%** within **five years** from the date of commencement of business of the bank, which was completed by **September 4, 2021**.
- The promoter holds a **74.50% stake** in the bank.

About Equitas SFB :

- Founded: 2007
- Headquarters: Chennai, Tamil Nadu
- MD & CEO : Vasudevan P N

Softbank to sell 4.5% stake in Paytm for \$ 200 million

- **SoftBank Group Corp** sold a **4.5% stake** in Indian digital payments giant **Paytm's One97 Communications** for about **USD 200 million (around ₹1,627 crores)** in a block deal.

Key Highlights :

- Softbank is the **second largest shareholder** with a **17.5% stake** in Paytm.
- Softbank has offered to sell shares in the **price band of Rs 555 to Rs 601.55 apiece** that are held through its subsidiary **SVF India Holdings**.
- Softbank expects to raise around **USD 200 million** at the lower end of the price band, **Rs 555**.
- Paytm shares closed at **Rs 601.45** at BSE.
- The **current holding of Softbank at closing price** is valued at around **USD 835 million**.
- **Bank of America** is the sole book runner for the deal.

About SoftBank Group Corp :

- Founded : 3 September 1981
- Headquarters: Tokyo, Japan
- Chairman & CEO : Masayoshi Son

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – November 2022

LIC increases stake in Tech Mahindra to 6.874%

- Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has announced an increase in stake in Tech Mahindra Limited from 4.863% to 6.874%.

Key Highlights :

- LIC's shareholding in Tech Mahindra has increased from 4,73,44,343 to 6,69,25,392 equity shares in Tech Mahindra taking its shareholding from 4.863% to 6.874% in percentage terms.
- The average cost of the transaction was ₹1,042.24 apiece.
- LIC bought 1,95,81,049 shares, or 2.011% equity, at an average cost of Rs 1,042.24 via open market purchase during the period from 30 Nov 2021 to 21 November 2022.

About LIC :

- Founded: 1 September 1956
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Chairperson : M R Kumar

About Tech Mahindra :

- Founded: 24 October 1986
- Headquarters: Pune, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO : C.P. Gurnani

Punjab National Bank gets govt approval to dilute stake in UTI Mutual Fund

- State-owned Punjab National Bank (PNB) has received government approval from the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM), Ministry of Finance, to divest its entire stake in UTI Asset Management Company Limited.
- The bank, which holds 15.22% stake in UTI AMC, will divest its entire stake in the mutual fund company in single or multiple tranches for realization of gain on investment.
- Its current valuation stands at ₹1,329 crore.
- Meanwhile, the private lenders had reported a 62.8% dip in net profit to ₹411.3 crore for the July to September quarter, against a net profit of ₹1,105.2 crore in the year-ago period.
- The bank's net interest income (NII) grew by 30.2% to ₹8,271 crore in the quarter under review from ₹6,352.8 crore a year ago.

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About PNB :

- Founded : 19 May 1894
- Headquarters : New Delhi, Delhi
- MD & CEO : Atul Kumar Goel

About UTI Asset Management Company Limited :

- Founded : 2002
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Director : Narasimhan Seshadri

PhonePe to acquire ZestMoney for USD 200-300 million

- Walmart-backed digital payments company PhonePe is set to acquire buy now, pay later (BNPL) company ZestMoney in a deal pegged at \$200 million- \$300 million.
- After the acquisition, ZestMoney will continue to operate as a separate entity.
- With this acquisition, PhonePe will **strengthen its lending services**.
- ZestMoney disburses around **Rs 400 crore** a month in lending.

About PhonePe:

- Founded : 2015
- Headquarters : Bengaluru, Karnataka, India
- CEO : Sameer Nigam

About ZestMoney:

- Founded : 2015
- Founders : Lizzie Chapman, Priya Sharma and Ashish Anantharaman,
- It is the **fastest growing consumer lending fintech company**.

Tata consumer products to acquire bisleri for Rs 7000 crore

- Tata Consumer Products Limited (TCPL) is set to acquire India's largest packaged drinking water company, Bisleri, for an estimated Rs 6,000-7,000 crore.
- The current management will continue for **two years** as part of the deal.
- The management team is led by a professional team headed by CEO Angelo George
- Originally an Italian brand, Bisleri was acquired by the Chauhans in 1969.

About TCPL :

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- Headquarters: Kolkata, India
- Chairman : Natarajan Chandrasekaran
- CEO & MD: Sunil D'Souza
- Tata Consumer Products is an **Indian fast-moving consumer goods company**.
- It is the **world's second-largest manufacturer and distributor of tea** and a major producer of coffee.

About bisleri :

- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Chairman: Ramesh J Chauhan
- CEO: Angelo George

IMPORTANT APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS NEWS

Govt appoints spiritual leader Mata Amritanandamayi Devi as C20 chairperson

- **Spiritual leader Mata Amritanandamayi Devi (Amma)** has been appointed the **Chair of the country's Civil 20 (C20)**, an official engagement group of the **Group of 20 (G20)**, by the union government.
- The G20 is the **premier inter-governmental forum for the world's developed and emerging economies to address financial stability on a global basis**.
- The C20 is its platform for **civil society organizations (CSOs) to bring forth non-government and non-business voices** to the G20 leaders
- India will assume the Presidency of the G20 for **1 year from December 1, 2022, to November 30, 2023**.

About G20 :

- The G20 consists of **19 countries** plus the European Union, and India has been a member since its inception in **1999**.
- Overall, the G20 accounts for about **80% of gross world product (GWP)**, **59-77% of international trade**, **two-thirds of the world's population**, and roughly half of its land area.

About Mātā Amritānandamayī Devī :

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- Mātā Amritānandamayī Devī is an Indian Hindu spiritual leader, guru, and humanitarian, who is revered as 'the hugging saint' by her followers.
- In 2018, she was felicitated by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the largest contribution to the Government of India's Clean India Campaign Swachh Bharat Mission.

Award & Honors :

- She was the first recipient of Vishwaratna Puraskar (Gem of the World Award) by the Hindu Parliament.

Dr. Rajesh Ranjan was appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire

- Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer, Dr. Rajesh Ranjan has been appointed as the next Indian Ambassador to the West African nation of Cote d'Ivoire or Ivory Coast.

About Dr Rajesh Ranjan :

- Dr. Rajesh Ranjan joined the Indian Foreign Service in December 2001.
- He has served in the Indian Embassy in Moscow as Second/Third Secretary dealing with Political and Commercial issues (August 2003-July 2004).
- From August 2004 to July 2007, he was posted at the Consulate General of India in St. Petersburg as Consul dealing with Commercial and Consular issues.
- He was the Director of the Americas Division at the Ministry of External Affairs.
- He was further posted to Indian Embassy in Addis Ababa (August 2007-July 2010) where he served as First Secretary dealing with India-Africa Political and Commercial issues including the first India-Africa Forum Summit and bilateral relationship with Ethiopia and Djibouti.
- He assumed the charge as High Commissioner Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of India to Botswana on March 24, 2018.
- Presently, he is serving as the High Commissioner of India to the Republic of Botswana.

About Ivory Coast :

- President : Alassane Ouattara
- Prime Minister: Patrick Achi
- Capital : Yamoussoukro
- Currency: West African CFA franc

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Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva elected as the new president of Brazil

- **Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva** has been elected as the **new president of Brazil**.
- He defeated incumbent president **Jair Bolsonaro**.
- Lula da Silva secured **50.83% of the votes**, whereas his opponent Bolsonaro managed to get **49.17% votes**.
- He will be sworn in on **1 January 2023** as the **39th president of Brazil**

About Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva :

- Luiz Inácio da Silva was born on **27 October 1945** in **Caetés, Pernambuco, Brazil**.
- He known mononymously as **Lula**, is a **Brazilian left-wing politician, trade unionist, and former metalworker**.
- This will be his **third term**, after previously governing Brazil for two consecutive terms between **2003 and 2010**.
- Lula was arrested in **April 2018** and spent **580 days** in jail for corruption & money laundering.

About Brazil :

- **Presidente: Jair Bolsonaro**
- **Capital: Brasília**
- **Currency: Brazilian real**

Jay Y. Lee Appointed as Samsung Electronics Executive Chairman

- The **Board of Directors of Samsung Electronics** approved the **appointment of Jay Y. Lee as Executive Chairman** of the company.
- The Board approved the appointment, which was recommended by **Independent Director and Board Chairman Han-Jo Kim**
- He takes over a position previously held by his father, **Lee Kun-hee**, who died 2 years ago after being incapacitated by a **2014 heart attack**.
- The **54-year-old Lee** has been **vice chairman** of Samsung Electronics, the **crown jewel of South Korea's biggest business conglomerate, since 2012**.

About Samsung Electronics :

- **Founded: 13 January 1969**
- **Headquarters: Yeongtong-gu, Suwon, South Korea**

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – November 2022

- President & CEO : Kim Hyun-Suk

Dr. G Hemaprabha Takes Charge as the First Woman Director of ICAR-Sugarcane Breeding Institute

- The Indian Council of Agricultural Research -Sugarcane Breeding Institute (ICAR - SBI) in Coimbatore has appointed Dr. G. Hemaprabha as the first-ever woman director in its 111-year existence.
- Dr. G Hemaprabha was appointed Director of the institute up to 2024 on the recommendations of the Agricultural Scientists Recruitment Board, New Delhi, under the Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare.

About Dr. G Hemaprabha :

- She has more than **34 years** of research experience in sugarcane genetic improvement.
- She has so far developed **27 sugarcane varieties** and registered **15 sugarcane genetic stocks**.
- She has made substantial contributions to the expansion of the **genetic base**, "**Co**" varieties, and molecular markers, including DNA fingerprinting of **superior sugarcane clones** and **true seed development**.
- She served as the **Director (Acting)** of ICAR- Sugarcane Breeding Institute

Awards & Honors :

- She has won numerous awards and recognitions, including the Sir T.S. Venkatraman Award, The Society for Sugarcane Research and Promotion's Lifetime Achievement Award (National Academy of Agricultural Sciences) &, etc.

Mr. Vetsa Rama Krishna Gupta takes over the additional charge of Chairman and Managing Director of BPCL

- Mr. Vetsa Rama Krishna Gupta has taken over the **additional charge of Chairman and Managing Director (CMD)** of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL).
- He succeeds **Mr. Arun Kumar Singh**, who superannuated on October 31, 2022.
- He will superannuate in **June 2031**.
- Mr. Gupta also holds the **additional charge of Director (HR)**.

Note :

- Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) becomes the **second 'Maharatna'** oil Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) to get an interim head in the absence of a regular appointment.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – November 2022

About Mr. Vetsa Rama Krishna Gupta :

- Mr. Gupta has an illustrious career spanning over **24 years** at the company, in various Finance roles.
- He was also a **Board member** in the recently amalgamated companies **BORL (Bharat Oman Refineries Limited) & BGRL (Bharat Gas Resources Limited)**, as well as, **MAFFL (Mumbai Aviation Fuel Farm Facility Private Limited)**.
- He is a **member** of the **Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (1998 batch)** and a **Bachelor of Commerce**.
- He is also a **member** of the **Institute of Cost Accountants of India**.
- Currently, he is a **Board member** of **BPRL (Bharat Petro Resources Limited)** and **Fino Paytech Limited**.

About BPCL :

- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- BPCL is an **Indian central public sector undertaking** under the ownership of the **Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Government of India**.
- BPCL is **India's second-largest government-owned downstream oil producer**

Energy Efficiency Services Limited appoints Mr. Vishal Kapoor as CEO

- **Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL)** has appointed **Mr. Vishal Kapoor** as its **chief executive officer (CEO)**.
- He **Succeeds Mr. Arun Kumar Mishra**.
- He takes charge as **CEO of EESL** after having completed his tenure as **Joint Secretary** at the **Ministry of Power, Government of India**.

About Mr. Vishal Kapoor :

- Mr. Kapoor played an instrumental role in formulating the **Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme** for Operational and Financial turnaround of distribution utilities
- He worked with the **Indian Railways** in various capacities in the design, operations, and maintenance of the Rolling Stock Indian Railways.

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- He introduced the **high-capacity car carrying freight cars** in India and the export of more than a dozen locomotives to Tanzania and Myanmar.
- He also spearheaded the **cyber security** and **IT initiatives** in the **power sector**

About EESL :

- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India
- Chairman: K Sreekant
- EESL is a joint venture of **Public Sector Undertakings** under the **Ministry of Power, Government of India**.

CRPF appoints 2 women cadre officers as IG of RAF, Bihar sector

- The **Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)** has appointed **two women officers** from its cadre as **Inspectors General (IG)** of its **specialized anti-riots unit RAF** and the **Bihar Sector**.
- **Annie Abraham** has been appointed as the **IG** of the **blue duangree donning Rapid Action Force (RAF)** while **Seema Dhundia** has been posted as the **IG** of the **Bihar Sector**.
- This is the **first time** that the **RAF** will be **headed by a woman's IG**.
- Both officers joined the **paramilitary force** in **1987** as the first batch of women officers.
- They have also commanded an **all-women Indian police contingent** at the **United Nations**.
- They have been decorated with the **President's Police Medal for Distinguished Service**, **Police Medal for Meritorious Service**, and the **'Ati Utkrisht Sewa Padak'** during their service.

About CRPF :

- The **CRPF** is a **federal police organization** in India under the authority of the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** of the **Gol**.
- It was the **first Central Armed Police Force (CAPF)** to induct women in combat in **1986**.
- It has **six such battalions** at present with women constables filling more than **6,000 posts** in these.

FICCI announces Mr. Subhrakant Panda as its president-elect

- Industry body **Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI)** announced **Mr. Subhrakant Panda** as its **president-elect (2022-23)**, who is currently serving as **FICCI's Senior Vice President**.
- He is the **first industrialist from Odisha** to take up a leadership role in **FICCI**.

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- He will succeed **Mr. Sanjiv Mehta** as president of the FICCI after the **95th Annual General Meeting (AGM)** to be held on **December 16th-17th, 2022**.

About Mr. Subhrakant Panda :

- Mr. Panda is the **managing director of Indian Metals & Ferro Alloys Ltd (IMFA)**, the country's leading, fully integrated producer of ferroalloys with captive mining and power generation.
- Currently, he leads the **FICCI National Manufacturing Committee** and has been associated with FICCI for two decades.
- He also served as the organization's **first chairman** of the **Odisha State Council**
- He was also **President** of both the **International Chromium Development Association in Paris (ICDA)** and the **International Chamber of Commerce (India Chapter)**.

About FICCI :

- Founded: 1927
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India
- President: Sanjiv Mehta
- Director-General: Arun Chawla
- The FICCI is a **non-governmental trade association and advocacy group** based in India.

Israeli PM Yair Lapid Concedes Defeat; Benjamin Netanyahu Set To Become Next Prime Minister

- **Former Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu** has won the **25th elections of the Israeli Parliament** defeating the **interim PM Yair Lapid** of **Yesh Atid**, a center-left political party.
- Benjamin Netanyahu won the election by capturing **64 seats** in Israel's **120-member Knesset**.

About Benjamin Netanyahu :

- Netanyahu was born in 1949 in **Tel Aviv, Israel**.
- Between 1984 and 1988, Netanyahu served as the **Israeli ambassador to the United Nations**.
- He served as the **ninth prime minister of Israel** from 1996 to 1999 and again from 2009 to 2021.
- He is the **longest-serving prime minister** in the country's history, having served for **15 years**.
- He was also the **first prime minister** to be born in Israel after its **Declaration of Independence**.

About Israel :

- President : Isaac Herzog
- Capital: Jerusalem

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- Currency : New shekel

Ajit Mohan quits as head of Meta India; Manish Chopra interim chief

- Meta Platforms Inc's (formerly Facebook) vice-president and managing director (MD) of the India unit, Ajit Mohan, has quit the company after a 4-year stint.
- Mohan will join Snap Inc's president of the Asia-Pacific Region (APAC).
- Manish Chopra, Director, and Head of Partnerships for Facebook India (Meta) will lead the company on an interim basis.

About Ajit Mohan :

- Mohan was the founding chief executive officer of Star India's streaming media platform Hotstar.
- He was a consultant for the firms Arthur D. Little and McKinsey & Company.
- He is a member of the Internet and Mobile Association of India and the Museum of Art & Photography, among other organizations.
- Ajit Mohan was appointed managing director of Meta India (formerly Facebook) in January 2019.
- Apart from this, Mohan is currently serving as the vice chairman of the Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI), an industry body that represents the top domestic and multinational internet companies and tech platforms.
- He is also on the advisory board of the advocacy group US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF).

Centre appoints non-executive Chairman in four Public Sector Banks

- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC), has been appointed Non-Executive Chairman on the Boards of four Public Sector Banks Canara Bank, Punjab National Bank (PNB), Union Bank of India, and Punjab & Sind Bank (PSB) respectively.

Appointments :

- Mr. Vijay Srirangam has been appointed as a part-time Non-Official Director as well as Non-Executive Chairman of Canara Bank for three years.
- Mr. K G Ananthkrishnan has been appointed as part-time Non-Official Director as well as Non-Executive Chairman of PNB for a term of three years.

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- Mr. Srinivasan Varadarajan has been appointed as part-time Non-Official Director as well as Non-Executive Chairman of Union Bank of India for a term of three years
- The Centre has also appointed Mr. Charan Singh as a part-time Non-Official Director as well as Non-Executive Chairman of Punjab & Sind Bank for a term of two years.

RIL appoints veteran banker Mr. KV Kamath as an independent director for 5 years

- Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) had appointed Mr. KV Kamath, a veteran banker as an independent director on its board for five years.
- Mr. KV Kamath has also been appointed as an Independent Director and non-executive Chairman for Reliance Strategic Investment Limited (RSIL)

About Mr. KV Kamath :

- In 2015, he was appointed as the first president of the New Development Bank set up by BRICS countries & he retired from that position in 2020.
- He served as the MD and CEO of ICICI Bank following the company's merger with that institution.
- Kamath had served as chairman of Infosys.
- KV Kamath is currently the Chairman of the National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID).

About RIL :

- Founded: 8 May 1973
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Chairman & MD : Mukesh Ambani

Mr. Vivek Joshi Takes Charge As Financial Services Secretary

- Senior bureaucrat Mr. Vivek Joshi took charge as the Secretary of the Department of Financial Services (DFS) under the Ministry of Finance.
- Mr. Joshi replaced Mr. Sanjay Malhotra who is slated to take over as Revenue Secretary.

About Mr. Vivek Joshi :

- Mr. Joshi is a 1989 batch IAS officer of the Haryana cadre.
- He was the Registrar General and Census Commissioner under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

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- DFS keeps a tab on the functioning of banks, financial institutions, insurance companies, and the National Pension System.

BYJU'S appoints Lionel Messi as global brand ambassador to promote education for all

- BYJU'S, the world's leading education technology company, has appointed football star and global sports icon Lionel Messi as the first global brand ambassador of its social impact arm, Education For All.

About 'Education For All :

- Byju's 'Education For All' is its attempt to make education equitable, accessible, and free for millions of underserved kids in India.
- By 2025, the initiative aims to impact 10 million children.
- In 2022, BYJU'S became the official sponsor of the FIFA World Cup 2022 in Qatar.

About Lionel Messi :

- Lionel Andrés Messi is an Argentine professional footballer who plays as a forward for Ligue 1 club Paris Saint-Germain and captains the Argentina national team.
- He also holds the record for most international goals by a South American male (90).

Awards & Honors :

- Messi has won a record seven Ballon d'Or awards, a record six European Golden Shoes

About Byju's :

- Founded: 2011
- Headquarters: Bengaluru, Karnataka, India
- CEO : Byju Raveendran
- Director: Divya Gokulnath

Asian Hockey Federation CEO Mr. Tayyab Ikram elected as the new FIH president

- Asian Hockey Federation (AHF) Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Mr. Mohammad Tayyab Ikram of Pakistan was elected as the new president of the International Hockey Federation (FIH), for two years
- He has succeeded Mr. Narinder Batra (India) as its full-time chief.
- Mr. Ikram defeated Marc Coudron of Belgium 79-47 in the 48th FIH Congress held.

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- **Mr. Seif Ahmed** was the acting president of the FIH following Batra's resignation from the top post after the Delhi High Court asked him to stop functioning as the **Indian Olympic Association (IOA) chief**.
- The FIH Executive Board consists of a president, **8 ordinary members**: 4 female and 4 male – one half being renewed every 2 years; an athletes' representative; Presidents of the Continental Federations; CEO; any (non-voting) member co-opted onto the Executive Board according to Article 7.1 (c) of the FIH Statutes.

About FIH :

- Founded: 7 January 1924
- Headquarters: Lausanne, Switzerland
- CEO: Thierry Weil

Skechers India appoints Kriti Sanon as brand ambassador

- **Skechers South Asia Pvt. Ltd**, a subsidiary of Skechers United States of America (USA), has appointed **Bollywood actress Kriti Sanon** as the **new brand ambassador** for Skechers India.
- Sanon will be the face of the fashion and lifestyle categories for the brand and appear in its upcoming campaign for a line of streetwear sneakers.
- Rating agency ICRA has announced that **India** is the **second largest producer of footwear globally**, accounting for **9%** of the global annual production of **22 billion pairs**.

About Kriti Sanon :

- Kriti Sanon is an **Indian actress** who appears predominantly in Hindi films.
- She made her acting debut with the **Telugu psychological thriller 1: Nenokkadine** in 2014.
- She won the **Filmfare Award for Best Female Debut** for her performance in the action film **Heropanti (2014)**, which marked her first project in Hindi cinema.

About Skechers South Asia :

- Launched: 2012
- CEO: Rahul Vira

Prof. Kishor Basa was appointed as Chairman of the National Monuments Authority (NMA)

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- The **Ministry of Culture India** has appointed **Prof. Kishor Basa** as the **chairman of the National Monuments Authority (NMA)** for three years.

About Prof. Kishor Basa :

- Basa is a **Tagore National fellow** by the **Ministry of Culture** of Govt. of India
- He is also a **member of the Indian National Confederation and Academy of Anthropologists (INCAA)**, which is the **largest anthropological association in India**.
- He has also served as **Vice Chancellor of Fakir Mohan University in Balasore**.
- He was the **former director of Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya in Bhopal**, (Ministry of Culture, GOI (2004–2008), the **Director of Indian Museum, Kolkata (2008–2010)**, and the **Director of Anthropological Survey of India (Additional Charge) (2009-2010)**.
- Presently, he is serving as **Vice Chancellor of Maharaja Sriram Chandra Bhanja Deo University in Baripada**.

Anant Goenka appointed as interim MD of Zensar Tech

- **Technology services company Zensar Technologies Ltd** has appointed **Anant Goenka**, son of **RPG Group chairman Harsh Goenka**, as **interim managing director (MD) of the software & services company**.
- He was appointed because **chief executive officer Ajay Bhutoria** is undergoing treatment for an undisclosed health condition.
- He has been appointed for a term up to the **next annual general meeting of the company or 31 July 2023** whichever is earlier subject to requisite approvals.
- There will be **no remuneration payable** to Goenka in his capacity as interim MD.

About Anant Goenka :

- Goenka is also the **Managing Director of Ceat** and a member of the management board at **RPG Enterprises**.
- **Zensar and tyre company Ceat** are both parts of the **RPG Group**.
- Currently, Goenka is a **non-executive, non-independent director on the board of Zensar**.

About Zensar Technologies Ltd :

- **Founded: 1991**
- **Headquarters: Pune, Maharashtra**

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Mr. Ramesh Kejriwal elected as the new president of the All India Rubber Industries Association

- All India Rubber Industries Association (AIRIA) has elected Mr. Ramesh Kejriwal of India Oil Seals and Synthetic Products, Kolkata, as its new president for the year 2022-23.
- Mr. Kejriwal will be succeeding Mr. Sawar Dhanania.
- Mr. Kejriwal will play a key role in leading forward the road map of the apex body for rubber industries in the country.
- Mr. Shashi Kumar Singh of Osaka Rubber Pvt Ltd., Mumbai, will be the senior vice-president for the second term & Mr. Sanjeev Sikka of Majestic Rubber Industries, Ghaziabad will be the vice-president
- The AIRIA has unanimously elected the office bearers for the year 2022-23 in Annual General Meeting held on 27th September 2022 in Kolkata, West Bengal.

About Mr. Ramesh Kejriwal :

- Mr. Kejriwal was the Managing Committee Member of AIRIA.
- He has served as the Eastern Region Chairman and on various committees of AIRIA.
- He is a Partner of India Oil Seals and Synthetic Products as well as the President of, the Polymer Division at Hobb International Private Limited, Kolkata.
- Under his leadership, India Oil Seals and Synthetic Products has emerged as one of the most significant manufacturers of rubber-lined pipe fittings, tanks, and hoses.
- He has a long history in the rubber business and is well-versed in modernization, equipment selection, and project implementation.

About AIRIA:

- Founded: 1945
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- The AIRIA is the largest not-for-profit non-government body serving the rubber industry and trade.

Justice Shri DY Chandrachud Takes Oath As The 50th Chief Justice Of India

- Justice Shri Dhananjaya Yashwant Chandrachud took oath as the 50th Chief Justice of India (CJI) after over 6 years as a judge of the Supreme Court.

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- He will have a term of over **two years** till **November 10, 2024** - making it one of the longest terms for a CJI in the recent past.
- **President Droupadi Murmu administered** the oath at a brief ceremony held at the **Rashtrapati Bhavan**.
- Justice Shri Chandrachud succeeds **Justice Shri UU Lalit** who retired on November 8 after a 74-day stint.

About Justice Shri DY Chandrachud :

- He was elevated as a **judge of the Supreme Court** on **May 13, 2016**.
- He is the **son of the longest-serving CJI YV Chandrachud (16th Chief Justice of India)**, who headed the Judiciary from February 22, 1978, to July 11, 1985.
- Justice Chandrachud and his father are the **only father-son duo** to have reached the position of the CJI in the **country's judicial history**.
- He was the **Additional Solicitor General of India** from 1998 to 2000
- He has also served as the **judge of the Bombay High Court** from 29 March 2000.

About Chief Justice of India :

- The CJI is the **Chief Judge of the Supreme Court of India** as well as the **highest-ranking officer of the Indian Judiciary**.
- The CJI and the Judges of the Supreme Court (SC) are appointed by the President under **clause (2) of Article 124 of the Constitution**

Qualifications:

- The CJI should be a **citizen of India**.
- A person has been for **at least five years** a **Judge of a High Court** or two or more such Courts in succession or
- Have been for **at least ten years** an **advocate** of a **High Court** or two or more such Courts in succession, or
- Be, in the **opinion of the President**, a distinguished jurist.
- The retirement age of Supreme Court judges is **65 years**.

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GSMA elects Bharti Airtel Group CEO Mr. Gopal Vittal as Deputy Chair

- GSMA (Global System for Mobile Association), a global organization covering mobile ecosystems across countries, has elected Mr. Gopal Vittal, chief executive of Bharti Airtel Group, as deputy chair of the association's board of directors for a two-year term, beginning 1 January 2023 through 31 December 2024.
- Mr. Mathew Oomen, president of Reliance Jio too has been elected as a board member.
- Mr. Vittal is the **second Indian** to hold a senior position in the global grouping of mobile operators.
- Mr. Jose Maria Alvarez-Pallete Lopez, CEO of Telefonica Group, will continue to be the Chair at the GSMA.
- There are **26 members** of the GSMA Board. including senior representatives from global mobile operators as well as smaller independent operators.

About GSMA :

- Established: 1995
- Headquarters: London, England, United Kingdom
- Director General: Mats Granryd

Adidas Appoints Ex-Puma Chief Mr. Bjorn Gulden as New CEO From January 2023

- Adidas AG appointed former Puma Societas Europaea chief executive officer (CEO) Mr. Bjorn Gulden as its next CEO effective Jan.1, 2023.
- Mr. Gulden will replace Mr. Kasper Rorsted, Adidas' CEO since 2016.
- Adidas chief financial officer Harm Ohlmeyer will serve as interim CEO until the end of the year, Dec 31, 2022.
- Puma, a German multinational corporation, appointed Arne Freundt after its CEO Bjorn Gulden resigned from the post to head Adidas.

About Mr Bjorn Gulden :

- Mr. Gulden, a 57-year-old Norwegian who was once a professional soccer and handball player.
- He has been Puma's CEO since 2013.
- He worked at Adidas as its senior vice president of apparel and accessories from 1992 to 1999.

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- He also has served as CEO of Danish jewellery brand Pandora, managing director of footwear retailer Deichmann and president of Rack Room Shoes and is board chairman at Danish food retailer Selling Group.

About Adidas :

- Founded: 18 August 1949
- Headquarters: Herzogenaurach, Bavaria, Germany
- It is the **largest sportswear manufacturer in Europe**, and the **second largest in the world**, after Nike

Olympic Gold Medalist Neeraj Chopra Is The New Friendship Ambassador Of Switzerland

- Switzerland Tourism has appointed Olympic gold medalist Neeraj Chopra as its 'Friendship Ambassador' to showcase and promote locations in the country to Indian travellers.
- Chopra will share his experiences in the country to showcase it as the ideal destination for outdoors and the best destination for hiking, biking, soft and extreme adventure, and of course snow sports.
- Tourism in Switzerland occupies rank no. 4 in terms of export revenues following the chemical and metal industries and luxury watch-making industry.

About Neeraj Chopra :

- Neeraj Chopra was born in Khandra Panipat, Haryana.
- He is the **first Asian athlete** to win an Olympic gold medal in Men's Javelin throw.
- He is the **first track and field athlete from India** to win at the IAAF World U20 Championships, where in 2016 he achieved a world under-20 record throw of 86.48 m, becoming the **first Indian athlete** to set a world record.
- In July 2022, Chopra won a Silver medal in the 2022 World Athletics Championships with a throw of 88.13m, making him the second Indian to win a medal at World Athletics Championships after Anju Bobby George.
- In September 2022 he donated his gold-winning javelin to the museum in Lausanne, Switzerland.
- The museum was established in 1993 by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and it already consists of Mary Kom's gloves and Dhyan Chand's hockey

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Aruna Miller becomes the first Indian American to be Maryland Lieutenant Governor

- Indian American Aruna Miller become the first immigrant to hold the office of Lieutenant Governor In Maryland after winning the United States midterm elections.
- Miller, 58, a former delegate to the Maryland House, was on the Lieutenant Governor ticket along with Wes Moore the Democratic Governor-elect.
- Miller will be the first South Asian woman elected lieutenant governor in the United States, & the first Asian American lieutenant governor and first immigrant to hold statewide office in Maryland, and the second female lieutenant governor after Kathleen Kennedy Townsend.
- The Lieutenant Governor is the state's highest official following the Governor and assumes the role when the Governor is out of state or incapacitated.

About Aruna Miller :

- Aruna Miller was born in Hyderabad on November 6 in 1964 & she migrated to the United States from India when she was 7.
- She became a US citizen in 2000.
- She spent 25 years working at the local Department of Transportation in Montgomery County.
- She represented District 15 in the Maryland House of Delegates from 2010 to 2018.
- She ran for Congress in 2018 in Maryland's 6th Congressional District and secured the second spot among eight candidates.

C Anandharamakrishnan takes over as Director of CSIR-NIIST

- Chemical engineering and food processing technology expert and leading scientist C Anandharamakrishnan has taken over as Director of the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR)-National Institute for Interdisciplinary Science and Technology (NIIST) based in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.

About C Anandharamakrishnan :

- Anandharamakrishnan served as the Director of the National Institute of Food Technology, Entrepreneurship and Management (NIFTEM-T), formerly known as the Indian Institute of Food Processing Technology, Thanjavur, since April 2016.
- He served as Senior Principal Scientist at the CSIR-Central Food Technological Research Institute (CFTRI), Mysuru, Karnataka.

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- His research areas include the design of engineered nano and micro-scale delivery systems for controlled and targeted release of food bioactive compounds, 3D food printing, engineered human dynamic gastrointestinal system and glycemic index studies, spray drying and spray-freeze-drying of food products and computational modeling of food processing operations.

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

- The ICC board has unanimously re-elected Greg Barclay as the Independent Chair of the International Cricket Council (ICC) for a second two-year term.
- Barclay was unopposed following the withdrawal of Tavengwa Mukuhlani from the process, and the Board reaffirmed its full support of him to continue as Chair for a further two years.

About Greg Barclay :

- Barclay, an Auckland-based commercial lawyer.
- He was originally appointed as the ICC Chair in November 2020.
- He has been the Chair of New Zealand Cricket (NZC) since 2016.
- He was a director of the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2015.

About ICC :

- Founded : 15 June 1909
- Headquarters : Dubai, United Arab Emirates
- CEO : Geoff Allardice
- Membership : 108 member

Religare Enterprises appoints Yogeshwar Dutt as brand ambassador

- Financial services company Religare Enterprises Limited (REL) has signed Padma Shri awardee and Indian freestyle wrestler Yogeshwar Dutt, as its brand ambassador.
- He will be the face of the company's integrated brand marketing campaigns across mediums.

About Yogeshwar Dutt :

- Dutt was born in the Sonapat district of Haryana.
- He is an Indian freestyle wrestler.
- At the 2012 Summer Olympics, he won the bronze medal in the 60 kg category.
- He won gold medals at the 2010 and the 2014 Commonwealth Games.
- He is one of only 5 male wrestlers in India to win an Olympic medal.

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Awards & Honors :

- He was awarded the **Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award** in 2012 given by the Government of India (Gol) & the **Padma Shri** by the Gol in 2013.

About REL :

- Headquarters: New Delhi, India
- Chairperson: Rashmi Saluja

Senior IAS officer Gaurav Dwivedi appointed as Prasar Bharati CEO

- A 1995-batch officer of Chhattisgarh cadre, Senior IAS officer Gaurav Dwivedi has been appointed the **Chief Executive Officer** of public broadcaster Prasar Bharati for five years.
- He succeeds **Mayank Agrawal**, the Director General of Doordarshan who holds additional charge as Prasar Bharati CEO.

About Gaurav Dwivedi :

- Mr Dwivedi Hailing from **Uttar Pradesh**, India.
- He was the **CEO** of **MyGovIndia**, the citizen engagement platform of the government, launched by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** in 2014.
- He was also a **faculty member** at the **Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration, Mussoorie** and is a recipient of the **Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Administration**.
- Currently, he is posted as **Principal Secretary, Commercial Tax**, in the Chhattisgarh government.

About Prasar Bharati :

- Founded: 23 November 1997
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi
- Prasar Bharati is India's state-owned public broadcaster.

Natasa Pirc Musar Elected Slovenia's First Female President

- Lawyer **Natasa Pirc Musar** won the second round of Slovenia's presidential election and will become the country's first female President of Slovenia.
- Pirc Musar won **54% of the votes**, while her rival, right-wing politician and former Foreign Minister **Anze Logar**, won 46%.
- While both candidates had run as independents, they were backed by the **centre-left and rightwing political blocs**.

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- She will succeed **President Borut Pahor**, a centrist politician who had already served two terms in office.

About Natasa Pirc Musar :

- Natasa Pirc Musar is a **Slovenian Attorney** and book author, former Information commissioner, journalist, and the former President of Slovenia's Red Cross.
- Musar is best known for her rulings and the books on freedom of information, and high-profile legal cases, in which she represented Slovenia-born Melania Trump, the Social Democrats Political Party of Slovenia.
- On **June 23, 2022**, Natasa Pirc Musar announced her candidacy for the **President of Slovenia** in the **2022 Presidential Elections**.
- She was also the **first** to announce her **candidacy** for **President** and she has also endorsed the former Presidents of Slovenia.

About Slovenia :

- Capital : Ljubljana
- Currency: Euro

Jhanvi Kapoor became the brand ambassador of Nykaa Fashion

- Online beauty and fashion retailer Nykaa Fashion has named **Bollywood actress Janhvi Kapoor** as its **brand ambassador** for its **two apps Nykaa Beauty** and **Nykaa Fashion** meticulously cater to the needs of a discerning customer.

About Nykaa Fashion :

- **Founded: April 2012**
- **Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India**
- **CEO : Falguni Nayar**
- Nykaa is an Indian e-commerce company.
- Nykaa Fashion is a multi-brand e-commerce fashion offering from Nykaa and houses 1600+ brands and 5.1 million SKUs across Women, Men, Kids, Luxe, and Home categories.
- It is one of the fastest-growing fashion platforms in India as of 2022.
- The website and app are focused on being 'discovery-led' and 'high on style' giving a chance to browse through the latest trends and collections, along with engaging content.

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Misuzulu Zulu crowned as South Africa's new Zulu king

- King Misuzulu Sinqobileka Zwelithini was formally enthroned as the head of South Africa's most influential traditional monarchy at a colourful ceremony at the Moses Mabhida Stadium in Durban, South Africa.
- Misuzulu Zulu ascended the throne once held by his late father, Goodwill Zwelithini, who died in March 2021 after a diabetes-related illness.
- King Misuzulu ka Zwelithini was formally acknowledged as monarch by President Cyril Ramaphosa, who gave him a certificate of recognition.
- The ceremony was the first Zulu coronation since South Africa became a democracy in 1994.

About Misuzulu Zulu :

- Misuzulu Zulu born on 23 September 1974 in KwaZulu (present-day Kwazulu-Natal), South Africa.
- Misuzulu is the reigning King of the Zulu nation.

About South Africa:

- President: Cyril Ramaphosa
- Capital: Pretoria (executive), Cape Town (legislative), Bloemfontein (judicial)
- Currency: South African rand

Govt nominates Vivek Joshi as Director in RBI's central board

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced that the government has nominated Vivek Joshi to its central board.
- The RBI's affairs are governed by the central board of directors.
- The board is appointed by the government.
- There are 5 official directors, the RBI governor, and not more than 4 deputy governors.
- Besides, the government nominates 16 non-official directors to the board.
- 10 are nominated from different fields, 2 are government officials, and one director each from the 4 local boards.
- These non-official directors are appointed for a period of four years and are eligible for re-appointment.

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About Vivek Joshi :

- Joshi, a 1989 batch IAS officer of the Haryana cadre.
- He took charge as the **Secretary of the Department of Financial Services (DFS)** under the **Ministry of Finance** on November 1, 2022.
- Between 2014-2017, he served as **joint Secretary, of the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, Government of India**, where his responsibilities included formulation of public procurement policies for the Central Government and appraisal of publicly funded projects/schemes.
- He is also currently posted as **Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India** under the **Ministry of Home Affairs** in January 2019.

About RBI :

- Established: 1 April 1935
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Governor :Shaktikanta Das
- Deputy governors: Mahesh Kumar Jain, M. Rajeshwar Rao, Michael Patra and T. Rabi Shankar

Mary Kom, PV Sindhu, Mirabai Chanu and Gagan Narang were elected as the members of IOA

Athletes Commission

- Olympic medallists **MC Mary Kom, PV Sindhu, Mirabai Chanu and Gagan Narang** were among 10 eminent sports persons elected as members of the **Indian Olympic Association (IOA) Athletes Commission** at **Nehru Stadium, New Delhi**.
- All the 10 elected members of the apex body, five men and as many women won unopposed in the polls.
- The other six members of the elected panel are **Winter Olympian Shiva Keshavan, table tennis player Sharath Kamal, women's hockey captain Rani Rampal, fencer Bhavani Devi, rower Bajrang Lal and former shot putter Om Prakash Singh Karhana**
- These 10 athletes will choose a Chairperson and Vice-chairperson from among themselves.
- Former World and Olympic champion **Abhinav Bindra** and former hockey captain **Sardara**

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Singh will also be part of the athlete's commission as ex-officio members, for being members of the athlete's commission of the **International Olympic Committee (IOC)** and the **Olympic Council of Asia (OCA)** respectively.

- The next main task of the athlete's commission will be to choose **eight sportspersons of outstanding merit (SOM)** for which the applications will close on November 15.

About IOA :

- Founded: 1927
- Headquarters: New Delhi, India
- President :AdilleSumariwalla
- Secretary General: Rajeev Mehta

Ghana Assumes UN Security Council Presidency in November

- Ghana assumed the Presidency of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), which is a historic moment in the country's two-year tenure at the Security Council from Nov 2022.
- Ghana has rolled out plans to address violent extremism and terrorism in Africa after assuming the Presidency of the United Nations Security Council.
- Council's events in November will build on the "clear African focus" towards addressing threats against peace and security.
- The first of the two signature events for the month will be an open debate taking place on November 3, addressing the theme of "Integrating effective resilience-building in peace operations for sustainable peace", and will be chaired by Shirley AyorkorBotchwey, Ghana's Minister for Foreign Affairs.
- The second signature event on counter-terrorism in Africa will be held on November 10 and will be chaired by the President of Ghana, Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo.

Key Highlights :

- Ghana rejoined the UN Security Council on January 1, 2022.
- It is the **third time** Ghana is holding a **non-permanent seat** on the Council.
- Ghana was **first allowed** to serve on the council from **1962 to 1963**, & he was back from January 2006 to December 2007.

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Note :

- Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Ghana to the United Nations in New York: Mr Harold Agyeman

About UNSC :

- Founded: 24 October 1945
- Membership: 15 countries
- The UNSC is one of the **six principal organs of the United Nations (UN)** and is charged with ensuring international peace and security.
- The UNSC is the **only UN body** with the authority to issue binding resolutions on member states.

About Ghana :

- President: Nana Akufo-Addo
- Capital: Accra
- Currency: Ghanaian Cedi

Fossil India signs Anushka Sharma as brand ambassador for Michael Kors watches

- Fossil India Private Ltd.-owned Michael Kors watches has signed on actor Anushka Sharma as its brand ambassador for its timepieces in India.
- The collaboration will extend to promoting the watch vertical for women, with the actor slated to appear in its upcoming campaigns launching later Nov 2022.
- Michael Kors currently produces a range of products under the Michael Kors Collection, and Michael Kors Mens, including accessories, ready-to-wear, footwear, wearable technology, watches, and a full line of fragrance products.

About Fossil India Private Ltd :

- Managing Director: Johnson Verghese

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

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the appointment of Shri Arvind Virmani, Founder, Chairman of, the Foundation for Economic Growth & Welfare as a Full-Time Member, National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog with immediate effect and until further orders.

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About Mr. Arvind Virmani :

- Mr. Arvind Virmani served as the **Chief Economic Advisor** in the **Ministry of Finance** during the **Manmohan Singh-led UPA government** from 2007-09.
- In 2009, he was appointed the **Executive Director of, the International Monetary Fund (IMF)**, and he served there till 2012.
- During his tenure at IMF in **Washington DC**, he represented **India (as its Ambassador to IMF)**, **Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and Bhutan**
- He served as a **member of the Technical Advisory Committee of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Monetary Policy** from February 2013 to August 2016.
- He is the **founder-chairman of the non-profit public policy organization Foundation for Economic Growth and Welfare.**

About NITI Aayog :

- **Founded: 1 January 2015**
- **Headquarters: New Delhi**
- **Chairperson: Narendra Modi (Prime Minister of India)**
- **Vice chairperson : Suman Bery**
- **CEO: Parameswaran Iyer**
- **The NITI Aayog, the government's premier think tank headed by the Prime Minister, at present has three members Dr. V K Saraswat, Professor Ramesh Chand, and Dr. V K Paul.**

PFRDA appoints Mr. Suraj Bhan as chairman of NPS Trust

- **Pension Fund Regulatory & Development Authority** has appointed **Mr. Suraj Bhan** as the **chairman of the National Pension System Trust (NPS Trust)**, responsible for managing funds under the **National Pension System (NPS).**

About Suraj Bhan :

- **Suraj Bhan** joined the **Indian Economic Service** in 1983 and **retired as Director General of the Labour Bureau, Chandigarh, in January 2018.**
- He has been a **Trustee on the Board of NPS Trust** since 2018.
- He has varied experience across several sectors with government and public sector undertakings in the areas of **economic policy, business, industry, and finance.**

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About PFRDA :

- Founded: 23 August 2003
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India
- Chairman: Supratim Bandyopadhyay
- PFRDA is the **regulatory body** under the jurisdiction of the **Ministry of Finance**, Government of India for **overall supervision and regulation of pensions in India**.

About NPS Trust :

- Founded: 2009
- Headquarters: New Delhi, India
- CEO: Munish Malik
- NPS Trust is a **specialized division of the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority** which is under the jurisdiction of the **Ministry of Finance** of the Government of India.
- The NPS is a **voluntary defined contribution pension system in India**.

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

- **Achanta Sharath Kamal**, a prominent Indian paddler, is the **first Indian** to be chosen to the International Table Tennis Federation's Athletes' Commission (ITTF).
- **Eight athletes - 4 male and 4 female** - were elected from **Asia, Africa, Europe, South America, North America, and Oceania** along with the two highest-voted para-athletes.
- The elected players will serve in the ITTF Athletes' Commission for a **four-year term from 2022 to 2026**.

ITTF Athletes' Commission: Full list

- **Male:** Sharath Kamal (India), Omar Assar (Egypt), Stefan Fegerl (Austria), Jon Persson (Sweden)
- **Female:** Elizabeta Samara (Romania), Daniely Rios (Puerto Rico), Melissa Tapper (Australia), Liu Shiwen (China).
- **Para-Athletes:** Ingela Lundback (Sweden) and Kelly van Zon (Netherlands).
- The Sharath received **187 votes**, trailing Romania's **Elizabeta Samara**, who received **212 votes**.
- It was a difference of only **8.83% of votes cast** from their respective continents, Asia and

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Europe.

- Sharath has already been selected for **Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award**, the country's highest sports recognition in 2022.

About Achanta Sharath Kamal :

- He is the **first table tennis player from India** to win the **Senior National Championship** ten times.
- He is also the **vice-chairman of the Indian Olympic Association's athletes' commission (IOA)**.
- He is one of the 10 accomplished athletes who were recently chosen to the **National Olympic body**, which will hold elections in Dec 2022.

About ITTF :

- Founded : 1926
- Headquarters : Lausanne, Switzerland
- CEO : Stephen Dainton
- The ITTF is the **governing body for all national table tennis associations**.

Health Ministry extends term of Dr V G Somani as the DCGI for 3 more months

- The **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** has issued an order further **extending the term of Dr. Venugopal Girdharilal Somani as the Drug Controller General [India] (DCGI)** under FR 49(v) for a period of **three months w.e.f.16.8.2022** or until further order, whichever is earlier,
- His term was set to end on **14 August 2022**.
- Based on the previous orders, this is the **third time** the tenure of Somani is getting extended as the DCGI
- Dr Somani was appointed the **DCGI for a term of three years on August 14, 2019**.

About DCGI :

- DCGI is the **head of the department of the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization** of the Government of India responsible for the approval of licences for specified categories of drugs

About the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare :

- Minister of State : Mansukh L. Mandaviya Bharati Pawar
- Health Secretary : Rajesh Bhushan

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Former IAS Dr. CV Ananda Bose appointed as new West Bengal Governor

- The President of India Ms. Droupadi Murmu appointed a former Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer from Kerala Dr. CV Ananda Bose as the new Governor of West Bengal.
- He will Succeed Shri La Ganesan who was holding the additional charge of West Bengal since July 2022 after incumbent Jagdeep Dhankhar was nominated as the Vice President Candidate by the National Democratic Alliance (NDA).

About Dr. CV Ananda Bose :

- C V Ananda Bose is a 1977 (retired) Indian Administrative Service (IAS) Officer of the Kerala cadre.
- He held the rank of secretary to the government of India, chief secretary, and university vice-chancellor.
- He is chairman of the Habitat Alliance, in consultative status with the UN, and was a member of the UN-Habitat Governing Council.
- He has also represented India at various international forums and the United Nations has selected his initiatives as 'Global Best Practice' four times.
- He last served as an administrator in the National Museum before superannuating in 2011.
- He is also the first-ever fellow of the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration in Mussoorie.

About WB :

- Chief minister: Mamata Banerjee
- Capital: Kolkata
- National Park: Sundarban National Park, Jaldapara National Park, Gorumara National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Lothian Island Wildlife Sanctuary, Sajnekhali Wildlife Sanctuary.

CEC Mr. Rajiv Kumar invited as an international observer for the Nepal elections

- Chief Election Commissioner of India Shri Rajiv Kumar has been invited by the Election Commission of Nepal as an International Observer for the forthcoming elections to Nepal's House of Representatives and Provincial Assembly.

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- Elections are scheduled in Nepal on 20th November 2022 for the **Federal and Provincial elections** to elect **275 members** of the **Federal Parliament** and **550 seats** of the **seven Provincial Assemblies**.

Key Highlights :

- **CI's India International Institute of Democracy and Election Management (IIIDEM)** has by far trained more than **2200 officers from 109 countries** of whom 70 officers from Nepal have also been trained as part of capacity-building initiatives.
- A capacity-building program for **25 officials from the Election Commission of Nepal** is also scheduled to be held from **13th to 24th March 2023 at IIIDEM**.
- Representatives from the Election Commission of Nepal participated in the recently held International Conference hosted by ECI on the Conference on **'Role, Framework & Capacity of EMBs**.
- ECI had been **chairing the Association of World Election Bodies**, which is the world's largest international organization in the field of election management - from Sept 2019 to October 2022.
- **A-WEB** currently comprises **119 election management bodies (EMBs)** from 109 countries.

WhatsApp India head Abhijit Bose & Meta India public policy director Rajiv Aggarwal step down

- WhatsApp's India head Abhijit Bose and Meta India's director of public policy Rajiv Aggarwal have **resigned** from their **respective positions**.
- These developments come against the backdrop of Facebook's parent company **laying off 11,000 people worldwide**.
- **Shivnath Thukral**, who is currently the **director of public policy at WhatsApp India**, has been appointed as the **director of public policy for Meta India**, which includes Facebook, Instagram, and WhatsApp.

About Abhijit Bose :

- Bose, who **co-founded offline payments startup Ezetap (now part of Razorpay)**, joined WhatsApp as the **head of WhatsApp India** in **November 2018**.
- Under Bose's leadership, WhatsApp made significant progress in India with its **API-based business products**, even as business messaging became more strategic for Meta over the **last 12-18 months**

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- Meanwhile, Aggarwal has exited Meta over a year after leading its public policy division in the country.

Note :

- Meta Chief Executive Officer: Mark Zuckerberg

Additional Info :

- On November 3, Meta's India head Ajit Mohan also resigned from his post.

Govt extends tenure of ED Director Sanjay Kumar Mishra for one year until Nov 2023

- The Central government extended the tenure of Enforcement Directorate (ED) chief Sanjay Kumar Mishra by a year till November 18, 2023.
- This is the **third extension** given to the officer, with a total tenure as ED chief lasting 5 years.
- In 2021, the government brought an ordinance, and later Parliament passed bills to extend the tenure of the director of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and ED to a maximum of five years from two years.

About Sanjay Kumar Mishra :

- Mishra is a 1984-batch Indian Revenue Service officer.
- He was appointed the Enforcement Directorate chief on November 19, 2018, for two years.

About ED :

- Established: 1957
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi
- The ED is a central investigative agency that enforces two central laws the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) and the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA).

Retired BPCL chairman Arun Kumar Singh to be next head of ONGC

- Arun Kumar Singh, the former chairman of the oil refining and marketing company Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), is most likely to become the new chairman of ONGC, India's top oil and gas producer.
- This will be the **first time** a senior PSU board position has gone to a person over 60.
- If his selection is approved, Singh will get **three years** as head of the cash-rich PSU (Public Sector Unit).
- He was already selected to head the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB).

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Key Highlights :

- ONGC has been **without a regular chairman and managing director since April 2021** and the senior director on the board has been entrusted with the additional charge.
- **Eligibility criteria** for a board-level position at PSU provide that an internal candidate (applicant from within the PSU) **should not be more than 58 years of age** on the date of the vacancy.
- This eligibility for external candidates is the maximum age of 57 years on the date of the vacancy.
- This made Singh as well as **Mukesh Kumar Surana**, who superannuated as chairman and managing director of **Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL)** on April 30 this year, and **Subhash Kumar**, who retired as acting chairman of ONGC on December 31, 2021, eligible.

About BPCL :

- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- BPCL is an Indian central public sector undertaking under the ownership of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, GoI.
- BPCL is India's second-largest government-owned downstream oil producer.

Meta appoints Sandhya Devanathan as India's head

- Facebook parent Meta has appointed Sandhya Devanathan as the head of Meta India with effect from 1st Jan 2023,
- She **Succeeds Ajit Mohan** who resigned from Meta, which owns Facebook, Instagram, and Whatsapp.
- As the head of Meta in India division, Sandhya Devanathan will **report to Dan Neary**, vice-president of Meta's overall APAC business.

About Sandhya Devanathan :

- She served as the **country managing director for Singapore** and **business head for Vietnam**.
- Devanathan currently serves as **vice president of gaming for Meta's Asia-Pacific (APAC) division**.

Retired IAS officer Shri Arun Goel takes charge as election commissioner of India

- President Ms. Droupadi Murmu appointed Retired Punjab cadre Indian Administrative (IAS) officer Shri Arun Goel as the new Election Commissioner (EC) of India.

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- There was a vacancy in the EC following the retirement of **Shri Sushil Chandra** as CEC in **May 2022**.
- **Shri Arun Goel** will be in office till **December 2027**.
- He will join **Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar** and **Election Commissioner Anup Chandra Pandey** in the Election Commission.
- A person can hold the office of an EC or CEC for **six years or till the age of 65**, whichever is earlier.

About Arun Goel :

- He had served as **secretary** in the **Union Ministry of Culture**, and **vice-chairman** of the **Delhi Development Authority**.
- He had served as **secretary** in the **Union finance, urban development, and labour & employment ministries**.
- He has also **headed the Project Monitoring Group (PMG)** in the Prime Minister's Office.
- He has represented India at many multilateral and bilateral forums.
- Goel served as the **secretary** of the **Union Ministry of Heavy Industries**, & he took **voluntary retirement** on **November 18, 2022**.

Real11 appoints Kuldeep Yadav as brand ambassador

- **Real11** has announced the **appointment** of **Indian Cricketer, Kuldeep Yadav** as its **brand ambassador**.
- The association with the cricketer will help it reach a **wider audience** in the nation.
- This partnership will play a pivotal role for the brand as the game of skill industry is growing at a brisk pace and the brand strives to set a benchmark in the space in near future.
- Real11 is a **fantasy sports platform** known for its innovations and creative solutions within the skill game realm

About Kuldeep Yadav :

- Kuldeep Yadav was born in **Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh**.
- He **first came** into the spotlight during **2014 Under 19 World Cup** where he acquired the distinction of becoming the **only Indian bowler** to take a **hat trick** in the history of the tournament.

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- In 2020, in the second ODI against Australia, Yadav became the fastest spin bowler for India, in terms of innings, taking 100 wickets in ODI cricket, in his 58th innings.

Bob Iger returning to Disney as CEO for two years

- Former Walt Disney Company. Chief Executive Bob Iger is returning to the Walt Disney Co as Chief Executive Officer (CEO).
- He will replace Bob Chapek, who took over as Disney CEO in February 2020.

About Bob Iger :

- Robert Allen Iger served as the President of ABC Television between 1994 and 1995.
- Iger spent nearly his entire career at Disney and served as its CEO for 15 years from 2005 to 2020.

About The Walt Disney Company :

- Founded: October 16, 1923
- Headquarters: California, United States

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

- India assumed the Chair of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI), an international initiative to support responsible and human-centric development and use of Artificial Intelligence (AI), for 2022-23 from France.
- Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar will represent the country at the GPAI meeting in Tokyo for the symbolic takeover from France.
- This development comes on the heels of assuming the Presidency of the G20, a league of the world's largest economies in Bali, Indonesia in Dec 2022.

About AI & India :

- AI is expected to add USD \$967 Bn to the Indian economy by 2035 and USD 450–500 billion to India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by 2025, accounting for 10% of the country's USD 5 trillion GDP target.

About GPAI :

- Founded: June 15, 2020

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- **15 founding members:** Australia, Canada, France, Germany, India,^[6] Italy, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, Singapore, Slovenia, the United Kingdom, the United States, and the European Union.
- GPAI is an **international and multi-stakeholder initiative**.

Aim:

- To advance the responsible and **human-centric development and use of artificial intelligence**.
- It is a **first-of-its-type initiative** for evolving a better understanding of challenges and opportunities around AI.
- **India had 2020** joined the group as a **founding member**.
- It works in collaboration with partners and international organizations, leading experts from industry, civil society, governments, and academia to collaborate to **promote the responsible evolution** of AI and guide the responsible development and use of AI, grounded in human rights, inclusion, diversity, innovation, and economic growth

About Ministry of Electronics & IT :

- Cabinet Minister: Ashwini Vaishnaw
- Minister of State : Rajeev Chandrasekhar

Prof. Venu Gopal Achanta Elected as a Member of the International Committee for Weight and Measures (CIPM)

- **Professor Venu Gopal Achanta, Director of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research - National Physical Laboratory (CSIR-NPL), New Delhi, has been elected as a member of the prestigious International Committee for Weights and Measures (CIPM).**
- He was declared an elected Member of CIPM in the recently held **27th General Conference on Weights and Measures (CGPM) meeting** during Nov. 15-18, 2022 in Paris, France.

About CIPM :

- The CIPM is a **supreme international committee** that functions under the **authority of the General Conference on Weights and Measures (CGPM)**, the highest intergovernmental international organization created as a diplomatic treaty called the Meter Convention signed on **20th May 1875 in Paris**.

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- At present, CGPM is represented by **64 member countries** and meets **every 4th year** at the **International Bureau of Weight and Measures (BIPM)**, France.
- Achanta is among the **18 members** elected from different countries and he is the **7th Indian** to be elected to the CIPM.

Note :

- The **first Indian** to be elected as a member of CIPM was **Dr. K.S. Krishnan**, the founder, and **Director of CSIR-NPL**.
- The **last Indian** to be elected was **Prof. E. S. R. Gopal**, the then Director, and CSIR-NPL (1991-1997).

About CSIR-NPL :

- The CSIR-NPL, the **National Metrology Institute (NMI)** of India was established by the **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)**, New Delhi on **January 4, 1947**.
- The Government of India enacted the “**Standards of Weights and Measures Act**” for the **first time** in **1956** to ensure that every citizen has access to uniform standards of weights and measures that are traceable to the SI units.
- In **1957**, India became a **member** of the **CGPM**.

Centre appoints Shri Justice Rituraj Awasthi as Chairperson of the Law Commission of India

- The **Central Government** appointed **Shri Justice Rituraj Awasthi**, Retired High Court Chief Justice of Karnataka as **Chairperson** of the **22nd Law Commission of India** along with **five members** for the commission.
- Centre also appointed former Kerala High Court judge **Justice KT Sankaran**, **Prof. Anand Paliwal**, **Prof. DP Verma**, **Prof. (Dr) Raka Arya**, and **M Karunanithi** as members of the **Commission**.
- **22nd Law Commission** was formed in **February 2020**
- The term of the **21st Law Commission** ended on **August 31, 2018**, and was headed by former **SC judge Justice BS Chauhan**.

About Justice Rituraj Awasthi :

- Rituraj Awasthi graduated in law from **Lucknow University** in **1986**.

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- He practised civil, service, and educational matters at the Lucknow bench of the Allahabad High Court.
- He was a judge of the Allahabad High Court and retired in July 2022 as the Chief Justice of Karnataka High Court.
- He also worked as Asst. Solicitor General of India at Lucknow before elevation.

About the Law Commission of India :

- The Law Commission of India is an **executive body** established by an order of the Government of India.
- The commission is established for a **fixed tenure** and works as an **advisory body** to the Ministry of Law and Justice.
- The **first Law Commission of independent India** was established in 1955 for a **three-year term**.

Indian-American Punit Renjen announces retirement as Deloitte CEO

- Indian American Punit Renjen, who has served as the Global Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Deloitte Global, a leading international professional services network, is set to retire from the post on December 31, 2022.
- He would be replaced by Joe Ucuzoglu.

About Punit Renjen:

- In 2015, he became CEO of Deloitte Global, the first Asian-born person to lead one of the world's biggest professional services firms.
- He was re-elected in 2019.
- He serves on Deloitte's global board of directors.
- He served as CEO of Deloitte Consulting from 2009 to 2011.
- He served as the chairman of Deloitte LLP (Deloitte US) from 2011–2015.
- He developed and executed a global strategy that resulted in Deloitte's revenue growing from USD 35 billion to more than USD 59 billion in 7 years.
- He was named Global Indian of the Year by the Economic Times in 2022.

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IIT Guwahati Director Professor TG Sitharam appointed as the new chairman of AICTE

- IIT Guwahati Director, T G Sitharam has been appointed chairman of the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) for three years or till he attains the age of 65, whichever is earlier.
- He replaced UGC chairman Jagadesh Kumar, who was holding the interim charge of the AICTE chairman after the retirement of Anil Sahasrabuddhe on September 1, 2021.

About T G Sitharam :

- T G Sitharam was a professor in the department of civil engineering at the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore.
- He took over as the director of IIT Guwahati in July 2019.
- He is the former research council chairman of CSIR- CBRI (Central Building Research Institute, Roorkee).
- Since May 2021, he has held the position of Director (additional charge) of the Central Institute of Technology, Kokrajhar, Assam.
- He is also a member of the Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB).

Awards & Honors :

- He is the recipient of several awards
 - SP Research Award (SAARC) (1998)
 - Sir CV Raman State Award for Young Scientists, Government of Karnataka (2002)
 - Professor Gopal Ranjan Research Award (2014)
 - The Amulya and Vimala Reddy Lecture Award (2014)
 - IGS Kueckelmann Award (2015).

About AICTE :

Founded : November 1945

- Headquarters : New Delhi, Delhi
- The AICTE is a statutory body, and a national-level council for technical education, under the Department of Higher Education.

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India win the IEC vice presidency and Strategic Management Board Chair for the 2023-25 term & Mr Vimal Mahendru elected as IEC Vice President

- India won the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) Vice Presidency and Strategic Management Board (SMB) Chair for the 2023-25 term.
- Mr. Vimal Mahendru will be the IEC Vice President representing India.
- He was elected by securing over 90% of the votes cast by full members of IEC during its General Meeting held recently in San Francisco, USA.

About IEC:

- Founded : 26 June 1906
- Headquarters : Geneva, Switzerland
- President : Yinbiao Shu
- General Secretary : Philippe Metzger
- The IEC is an international standards organisation that prepares and publishes international standards for all electrical, electronic and related technologies – collectively known as "electrotechnology".
- SMB is an apex governance body of the IEC responsible for technical policy matters.

About Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution :

- Cabinet Minister : Piyush Goyal
- Minister of State : Sadhvi Niranjana Jyoti, Ashwini Kumar Choubey

Union Health Ministry appoints Dr. Deepa Malik as Nikshay Mitra ambassador

- The Union Health Ministry designated the President of the Paralympic Committee of India Dr. Deepa Malik as Nikshay Mitra ambassador in New Delhi.

Key Highlights :

- Deepa Malik expressed her commitment to the TB Mukht Bharat (TB-free India) campaign, launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in March 2018.
- She participated in TB awareness activities at the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Pavilion at the 41st India International Trade Fair at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.
- She has adopted 5 TB patients herself as a Ni-Kshay Mitra and encouraged people to enroll in this scheme.

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About Nikshay Mitra :

- It is an initiative under **Pradhan Mantri TB Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan**.
- Ni-Kshay Mitra, an initiative launched by **President Droupadi Murmu** strives to provide aid to TB-afflicted patients on three levels of **nutritional, additional diagnostic, and vocational support**
- This program was brought in the direction of Pradhan Mantri TB Mukh Bharat Abhiyan to eradicate TB by 2025.
- India has the **world's highest burden of tuberculosis (TB)**, with an **estimated 2.6 million people** suffering from the disease and nearly 4 million dying from it every year.
- **World TB Day: 24 March**

About Deepa Malik :

- She is the **first Indian woman** to win a medal in **Paralympic Games** and won a silver medal at the 2016 Summer Paralympics in the shot put.
- She is the **only Indian woman** to win medals in 3 consecutive Asian Para Games (2010, 2014, 2018)
- She is currently the **world's number one** in the F-53 category.

Awards & Honors :

- She was honoured with the **Arjuna award** in 2012, at the age of 42 years.
- She has also been conferred the prestigious **Padma Shri award** in 2017.

NDDB promotes its executive director Meenesh C Shah to managing director

- The **Board of Directors of the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB)** has promoted the **current acting chairman, Meenesh C Shah** to managing director from the executive director.
- After **Dilip Rath** was appointed Chairman of the NDDB in 2016, the position of managing director became **vacant**.
- The position of full-time Chairman of the NDDB has been vacant since **December 2020**, when Rath stepped down.
- In 2021, Shah took over the **additional charge of chairman of NDDB**, whose term ends on **November 30, 2022**.

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About NDDB :

- Founded: July 1965
- Headquarters: Anand, Gujarat
- Chairman: Meenesh C Shah
- It is under the ownership of the **Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying** of the Government of India.

IMPORTANT AWARDS & HONOURS NEWS

K Sivan is one of 67 recipients of the Karnataka Rajyotsava Awards:

- Former ISRO Chairman K Sivan, as well as actors Dattanna, Avinash, and Sihi Kahi Chandru, are among the **67 people who will receive the Rajyotsava Award** this year from the Karnataka government.
- The award, which includes a **cash prize of Rs 1 lakh, a gold medal**, and a citation, will be presented, on the day the state was formed.
- The Karnataka government has formed an expert committee for the first time to identify **achievers** from various fields for the awards.
- Previously, candidates were chosen from a pool of applicants.
- Some have complained that awards are given to those with ties to the BJP and right-wing organizations.

Overall List of Awardees:

Education-

- Koti Rangappa (Tumkur)
- MG Nagaraj - Researcher (Bangalore)

Sports

- Dattatreya Govinda Kulkarni (Dharwad)
- Raghavendra Annekar (Belagavi)

Judiciary

- Venkatachalapathy (Bangalore)
- Nanjundereddy (Bangalore)

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Literature

- Shankar Chachadi (Belagavi)
- Krishna Gowda (Mysore)
- Ashoka Babu Nilagarh (Belgavi)
- Ra Mitra (Hassan)
- Ramakrishna Marathe (Kalaburgi)

Sculpture

- Parushuram Pawar (Bagalakot),
- Hanumanthappa Balappa Hukkeri (Belagavi)

painting

- Sannarangappa Chitrakar-Kinna's Art (Koppal)
- ara Madam (Chamarajanagar)

Soldier

- Subedar BK Kumaraswamy (Bangalore)

Journalism

- H.R. Srisha (Bangalore),
- GM Shirahatti (Gadag)

Agriculture

- Ganesh Thimmaiah (Kodagu),
- Chandrasekhar Narayanpur (Chikkamagaluru)

Science and Technology

- K. Sivan (Bangalore)
- D.R.Baluragi (Raichur)

The environment

- Salumada Ninganna (Ramanagar)

Civil Service Sector

- Mallamma Flower Boat (Vijayanagar)

Administration

- L.H. Manjunath (Shivamogga),

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- Madan Gopal (Bangalore)

Abroad

- Devidas Shetty (Mumbai),
- Arvind Patil (Overseas),
- Krishnamurthy Manja (Telangana)

Abroad

- Rajkumar of Gulf Country (Gulf Nation)

Medical

- Dr. H. S. Mohan (Shivamogga)
- Dr. Basavanthappa (Davanagere)

Social service

- Ravishetti (South Kannada)
- Kariappa (Bangalore Rural)
- MS Cory Shetter (Haveri)
- D. Madegowda (Mysore)
- Balbir Singh (Bidar)

The Lakshmir Bhandar scheme in West Bengal wins the SKOCH Award:

- The Lakshmir Bhandar program of the West Bengali government won the SKOCH award for women and child development.
- The award honours both the state's government and the nearly two crore women who have been given more power through the program.
- The West Bengal government introduced the program in August 2021 to offer financial assistance to a woman who is the head of a family and is between the ages of 25 and 60.
- The program provides monthly payments of Rs 500 to women in the general caste category and about Rs 1,000 to women in the SC and ST categories.
- The state government funds the program with an annual expenditure of approximately Rs 11,000 crore.
- The SKOCH Award was established in 2003, and it is given in recognition of, among other things, excellent corporate leadership, inclusive growth, technological innovation, change

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management, corporate governance, delivery of citizen services, capacity building, and empowerment.

Edward M. Kennedy receives the 'Friends of Liberation War' award from Bangladesh PM Sheikh

Hasina:

- Former **US Senator Edward M Kennedy** was posthumously awarded the prestigious 'Friends of Liberation War' honour by Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in Dhaka for his contribution to Bangladesh's liberation.
- The award was given to his son, **Edward M Ted Kennedy Junior**.
- **Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina** expressed gratitude for Edward Kennedy Senior's significant contribution.
- Despite the **US government's role in the 1971 liberation war**, she claimed that Kennedy Senior took a courageous stand against Pakistan's genocide against innocent Bengali people.
- Prime Minister Hasina recalled Kennedy Senior's strong opposition to the US government policy of supplying arms to Pakistan, saying that Kennedy worked hard to stop US military and economic aid to Pakistan until the war ended.
- She recalled **Kennedy visiting refugee camps in West Bengal**, where a large number of people from then-East Pakistan had fled to avoid Pakistan army brutality.

The 'Union Home Minister's Special Operation Medal' has been awarded to 63 officers:

- For the year **2022**, **63 police officers** from Maharashtra, Delhi, Punjab, Telangana, Jammu, and Kashmir have been awarded the 'Union Home Minister's Special Operation Medal.'
- The award was given by the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** for four special operations they carried out in the areas of terrorism, border actions, arms control, narcotics smuggling prevention, and rescue operations.
- On the occasion of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's birth anniversary, **63 police officers** were awarded the special medal.
- The officers were from **Telangana, Punjab, Maharashtra, Delhi, and the Jammu and Kashmir Union Territories**.

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- The medals were presented at the 'Run For Unity' event to commemorate Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's birth anniversary.
- In 2018, the 'Union Home Minister's Special Operation Medal' was established.
- Throughout India, it is bestowed upon state and union territory police forces, central police organizations, central armed police forces, and security organizations.

Puneeth Rajkumar was posthumously awarded the Karnataka Ratna:

- The Karnataka government presented the late actor with the Karnataka Ratna award.
- **Gandhada Gudi**, the final film starring the late Kannada Power Star Puneeth Rajkumar, was released on October 28, 2022.
- Puneeth Rajkumar's wife, Ashwini, accepted the state's top civilian honor on her husband's behalf.
- Shiva Rajkumar, Appu's older brother, was also present.
- With his posthumous distinction, Puneeth Rajkumar became the ninth recipient of the coveted award.
- **Renowned actors Junior NTR and Rajnikanth presented the honor, along with Sudha Murthy, chair of the Infosys Foundation.**

About Puneeth Rajkumar:

- Puneeth Rajkumar experienced a heart arrest on October 29, 2021, and died at the age of 46. His unexpected death shocked the nation, according to the news.
- The Sandalwood actor made his film debut as a child in Premada Kanike in 1976.
- He was only six months old when he was chosen for this V. Somashekar-directed thriller.
- He began his career as a child artist, and in 1985, his performance in the movie Bettada Hoovu earned him a national honor.

The French government awarded Aruna Sairam the Chevalier Award:

- **Aruna Sairam, a Carnatic vocalist, composer, collaborator, humanitarian, and speaker, has received the French government's highest honour, Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres.**
- Aruna Sairam was chosen for this honour not only for her singing abilities but **also for her contributions to the growth of the Indo-French friendship.**
- Aruna Sairam began her classical training with Rajalakshmi Sethuraman, her mother.

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- She later became a protégé of great vocalist Sangita Kalanidhi T. Brinda, carrying on a historic line of Tanjore women vocalists that dates back more than eight generations.
- She was afterwards tutored by various renowned maestros from our country.
- When she was the first to mix Abhang, a Western Indian musical genre, into a traditional South Indian concert, her music transcended geographical boundaries.
- Aruna connects beyond regional constraints by collaborating with national and international musicians, who use melody as a language of human expression.

Ezhuthachan Award 2022 was given to renowned Malayalam author Sethu:

- **Sethu (A. Sethumadhavan), a well-known Malayalam fiction author, has been chosen for the Kerala government's coveted "Ezhuthachan Puraskaram" this year in honour of his overall contribution to the Malayalam language and literature.**
- By going beyond the concepts of movements and trends, he concentrated on modernizing literature.
- His well-known works include **Pandavapuram, Kaimudrakal, Adayalangal, Kiratam, Araamathe Penkutty, and Kilimozhikalkkappuram.**
- In addition to these, he was the recipient of numerous honours, including those from the Kendra Sahitya Akademi and the Kerala Sahitya Akademi.
- Numerous of his works have been adapted into films and have been translated into both Indian and international languages.

Sethu's career:

- The **80-year-old, who works as a banker**, is known for his novels "Pandavapuram" and "Atayalangal," as well as his short stories "Petiswapnangal" and "Sethuvinte Kathakal" (short story).
- For both novels and short tales, Sethu has won the Kerala Sahitya Akademi Award and the Kendra Sahitya Akademi Award.
- The top literary award of the state government is named after the 16th-century devotional poet Thunchaththu Ramanujan Ezhuthachan, who is regarded as the originator of the Malayalam language.
- The award comes with a citation and a cash prize of Rs. 5,00,000.

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Amit Dasgupta received an award from the Order of Australia:

- In recognition of his contributions to the **bilateral connection between Australia and India**, Amit Dasgupta was named an **Honorary Member of the General Division of the Order of Australia (AM)**.
- Dasgupta works tirelessly to advance ties between Australia and India, pressuring both countries' leaders and citizens to see the benefits of a more solidified bilateral connection.
- **Dasgupta's significant and ongoing contributions** to the bilateral relationship between Australia and India are admirable and deserving of formal national recognition through his appointment as an **Honorary Member in the General Division of the Order of Australia (AM)**.

About Australia

- Capital: Canberra
- Currency: Australian dollar
- Prime minister: Anthony Albanese.

KSRTC employee Grama Vandi is recognized on a national level:

- **Grama Vandi wins honours at the federal level:** The Award of Excellence in Urban Transport was also won by the KSRTC's "Grama Vandi," which was launched in cooperation with **State-level local self-government organizations**.
- The city circle service provided by the Kerala Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) won the national "**Commentation Award in Urban Transport**" for "**City with the Best Public Transport System.**"
- Projects aimed at enhancing public transportation in all Indian cities were taken into consideration for the prizes created by the Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry.
- At the **Urban Mobility India (UMI)** conference on November 6 in Kochi, Governor **Arif Mohammad Khan** and Union Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs **Kaushal Kishore** will present the awards.

M. T. Vasudevan Nair received a Kerala Jyothi award:

- The **first Kerala Jyothi award**, which was established by the state government in the spirit of the **Padma awards** to honour persons who have made priceless contributions to society, has been given to renowned Malayalam author and Jnanpith laureate **M T Vasudevan Nair**.

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- **Delhi-based The first "Kerala Prabha" awards**, announced by the government, will be given to Malayalam megastar Mammooty Omcheri N. N. Pillai, a dramatist, and T. Madhava Menon, a former civil officer, and social worker.
- According to a statement made on the eve of Kerala Piravi, the first "Kerry Sree" awards have been given to the amphibian biologist Sathyabhama Das Biju (Dr. S D Biju), magician Gopinath Muthukad, sculptor Kanayi Kunhiraman, businessman Kochouseph Chittilappilly, scientist M P Parameswaran, and singer Vijayalakshmi.

The National Florence Nightingale Awards 2021 are presented by President Droupadi Murmu:

- Smt Droupadi Murmu, President of India, gave the National Florence Nightingale Awards (NFNA) for the year 2021 to nursing workers at Rashtrapati Bhavan.
- The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India established the National Florence Nightingale Awards in 1973 as a symbol of distinction for the meritorious services done by nurses and nursing professionals to society.

LIST OF WINNERS

S. No	Category	State	Name
1	Auxiliary Nurse and Midwife	Andaman & Nicobar	Ms. Chandra Mallik
2	Auxiliary Nurse and Midwife	Bihar	Ms. Shabrun Khatun
3	Auxiliary Nurse and Midwife	Delhi	Ms. Geeta Rani
4	Auxiliary Nurse and Midwife	Karnataka	Ms. Laxmi Metre
5	Auxiliary Nurse and Midwife	Karnataka	Ms. Sajeeda Banu
6	Auxiliary Nurse	Kerala	Ms. Sheelarani VS

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	and Midwife		
7	Auxiliary Nurse and Midwife	Maharashtra	Ms. Manisha Bhauso Jadhav
8	Auxiliary Nurse and Midwife	Manipur	Ms. Thaimei Sanahanbi
9	Auxiliary Nurse and Midwife	Odisha	Ms. Damayanti Rout
10	Auxiliary Nurse and Midwife	Puducherry	Ms. V. Angalaisvary
11	Auxiliary Nurse and Midwife	Rajasthan	Ms. Indu Laxmi Sankhla
12	Auxiliary Nurse and Midwife	Sikkim	Ms. Tika Devi Pandey
13	Auxiliary Nurse and Midwife	Tamil Nadu	Ms. E. Mangammal
14	Auxiliary Nurse and Midwife	Tamil Nadu	Ms. S. Selvi
15	Auxiliary Nurse and Midwife	Uttarakhand	Ms. Ganga Joshi
16	Auxiliary Nurse and Midwife	West Bengal	Ms. Dona Das Ghosh
17	Auxiliary Nurse and Midwife	West Bengal	Ms. Smita Kar

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18	Lady health visitors	Arunachal Pradesh	Ms. Longku Yakh
19	Lady health visitors	Karnataka	Ms. P.S. Kaver
20	Lady health visitors	Maharashtra	Ms. Rajeshree Tulshiram Patil
21	Lady health visitors	Manipur	Ms. Wairokpam Hemabati Devi
22	Nurse	Andaman & Nicobar	Ms. S. Vijaya Saigal
23	Nurse	Andhra Pradesh	Ms. Miriyala Jhansi Rani
24	Nurse	Bihar	Ms. Naziya Parveen
25	Nurse	Chandigarh	Ms. Harinder Kaur
26	Nurse	Gujarat	Mr. Dafda Chaturbhai Khimabhai
27	Nurse	Gujarat	Ms. Varshaben D. Rajput
28	Nurse	Haryana	Ms. Savita Rani
29	Nurse	Himachal Pradesh	Ms. Promila Devi
30	Nurse	Jammu & Kashmir	Mr. Ahmedullah Wani
31	Nurse	Karnataka	Dr. Elsa Sanatombi Devi
32	Nurse	Kerala	Ms. Susan Chacko
33	Nurse	Lakshadweep	Mohammed Kasim AB

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34	Nurse	Maharashtra	Ms. Alaka Vilas Korekar
35	Nurse	Maharashtra	Ms. Anjali Anant Patwardhan
36	Nurse	Manipur	Ms. Takhellambam Helena Devi
37	Nurse	Meghalaya	Ms. Victorealness Syiemlieh
38	Nurse	Mizoram	Ms. Vanlalrovi
39	Nurse	Odisha	Ms. Khulana Barik
40	Nurse	Odisha	Ms. Sibani Das
41	Nurse	Puducherry	Ms. Sarasvady V.
42	Nurse	Punjab	Ms. Surinder Kaur
43	Nurse	Rajasthan	Mr. Ram Prasad Meena
44	Nurse	Sikkim	Ms. Tashi Lamu Sherpa
45	Nurse	Tripura	Ms. Atashi Majumder
46	Nurse	Uttar Pradesh	Ms. Suman Dubey
47	Nurse	Uttarakhand	Ms. Shashi Kala Pandey
48	Nurse	Gujarat	Mr. Jonils Alvin Macwan
49	Nurse	Uttar Pradesh	Asstt. Comdt. Lissy Achankunju
50	Nurse	Delhi	Ms. Meera Mukund Dhote

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51	Nurse	Rajasthan	Brig. Punita A. Sharma
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Dr. Subhash Babu, a prominent Indian physician, will receive the Bailey K. Ashford Medal:

- Dr. Subhash Babu, a well-known Indian doctor, and scientist has been honored with the **Bailey K. Ashford Medal** and the **Fellow of the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (FASTMH)** awards for 2022.
- He receives this honor in recognition of his remarkable work in tropical medicine and research.
- The **American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (ASTMH)**, the largest scientific organization in tropical medicine in the world, awards the medal every year to one or more mid-career researchers for outstanding contributions to tropical medicine.
- The prize has never been granted to an Indian scientist or an Indian institution for work throughout its **82-year history**. **Dr. Subash Babu is the first Indian to win both the FASTMH award and the Bailey K. Ashford medal.**
- He serves as the **International Centre for Excellence in Research's (ICER) Scientific Director** for the India Program.
- He is a pioneer in the study of tuberculosis and helminth infections.

The Kuldip Nayar Patrakarita Samman Award will be given to Arfa Khanum Sherwani in 2022:

- **Arfa Khanum Sherwani**, the senior editor of **The Wire**, has been given the renowned **Kuldip Nayar Patrakarita Samman** for 2022, according to the **Gandhi Peace Foundation**.
- The well-known academic and novelist, **Ashis Nandy**, made the statement at a press conference held at **New Delhi's Press Club of India**.
- The award for 2021 went to independent journalist and YouTuber **Ajit Anjum**, according to **Nandy's announcement**.
- The honor is given to journalists who work in **Indian languages and contribute to democratic values and independent media**.
- It honors the legacy of journalist, author, and human rights campaigner **Kuldip Nayar**.
- Later in the year, there will be a formal ceremony where the prizes will be presented.
- One lakh rupees in cash are awarded to the chosen journalists as part of this **Gandhi Peace Foundation award**.

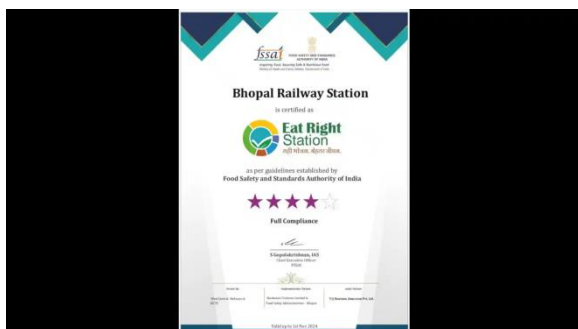
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- In addition to this, he receives a citation in recognition.

Bihari Puraskar to renowned authors Dr. Madhav Hada and Madhu Kankaria:

- The 31st and 32nd Bihari Puraskars were given to renowned authors Madhu Kankariya and Dr. Madhav Hada, respectively.
- Hada received the Puraskar for his 2015 book of literary critique, "Pachrang Chola Pahar Sakhi Ri," while Kankariya received it for her 2018 book, "Hum Yahan The." Indravardhan Trivedi, the vice-chancellor of Mohan Lal Sukhadia University in Udaipur, presented the awards to the writers during a program on the campus.
- Hada received the Bihari Puraskar 2022 for his extensive work in literature, media, culture, and history.
- He is a literary critic and academic.
- He has also served on the Hindi Advisory Board and the Sahitya Akademi's general council.

Bhopal Railway Station awarded 'Eat Right Station' certification with a 4-star rating by FSSAI



- The Food Safety and Standard Association of India (FSSAI) awarded Bhopal Railway Station a 4-star 'Eat Right Station' certification for providing "high-quality, nutritious food to passengers".
- The other railway stations with this certification include
- Anand Vihar Terminal Railway Station; (Delhi)
- Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus; (Mumbai)
- Mumbai Central Railway Station; (Mumbai)
- Vadodara Railway Station (Gujarat)
- Chandigarh Railway Station (September 2021)

About Eat Right Station :

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- The 'Eat Right Station' certification is awarded by **FSSAI** to railway stations that set benchmarks in providing **safe and wholesome food to passengers**.
- Its tagline is '**Sahi Bhojan, Behtar Jeevan**'.
- The station is awarded a certificate upon a conclusion of an **FSSAI-empowered third-party audit agency with ratings from 1 to 5**.
- The 4-star rating indicates **full compliance** by the station to **ensure safe and hygienic food** is available to passengers.
- The certification is part of the 'Eat Right India' movement- a large-scale effort by **FSSAI to transform the country's food system to ensure safe, healthy and sustainable food for all Indians**.
- Eat Right India adopts a **judicious mix of regulatory, capacity building, collaborative, and empowerment approaches** to ensure that our food is suitable both for the people and the planet

About FSSAI :

- **Founded** : 5 September 2008
- **Headquarters** : New Delhi, Delhi, India
- **Chairperson** : Rajesh Bhusan
- **CEO** : S Gopalakrishnan
- The **FSSAI is a statutory body** established under the **Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India**.

Indian-origin Nobel Laureate Venki Ramakrishnan was awarded UK's royal Order of Merit

- **Indian-origin Nobel laureate Professor Venki Ramakrishnan** has been **awarded the Order of Merit** an exclusive mark of honour conferred by the **British sovereign** in recognition of his distinguished service to science.
- The 70-year-old UK-based **molecular biologist** is among **6 appointments** made to the historic order by the **late Queen Elizabeth II** before her death in September 2022 and the first to be appointed by **King Charles**.
- Apart from Venki Ramakrishnan, the new appointments are
 - **David Adjaye**, a Ghanaian-British architect
 - **Elizabeth Anionwu**, the UK's first sickle-cell nursing specialist
 - **Floella Benjamin**, the broadcaster who chairs the Windrush Commemoration Committee

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- **Margaret MacMillan**, a Canadian who is an Oxford University history professor
- **Paul Nurse**, the director of the Francis Crick Institute who is also a Nobel laureate and Venki's immediate predecessor as Royal Society president.

About Venkatraman Ramakrishnan :

- Ramakrishnan was born in Chidambaram, Cuddalore district of **Tamil Nadu**, India.
- In 1999, Ramakrishnan's laboratory published a **5.5-angstrom resolution** structure of the **30S subunit**.
- He served as **President** of the **Royal Society** from 2015 to 2020.
- He is also the author of the popular book, **Gene Machine**, which captures his first-hand account of the discovery.

Awards & Honors :

- In 2007, Ramakrishnan was awarded the **Louis-Jeantet Prize for Medicine** and the **Datta Lectureship and Medal of the Federation of European Biochemical Societies (FEBS)**.
- In 2008, he won the **Heatley Medal** of the **British Biochemical Society**.
- In 2009, Ramakrishnan was awarded the **Nobel Prize in Chemistry** along with **Thomas A. Steitz** and **Ada Yonath**.
- He received **India's second-highest civilian honour, the Padma Vibhushan**, in 2010.
- Venki received the **Nobel Prize in Chemistry** for his work on ribosomal structure and was knighted in 2012.
- In 2017, he received the **Golden Plate Award** from the **American Academy of Achievement**.

About Order of Merit :

- Established: 26 June 1902
- The Order of Merit is an order of merit for the Commonwealth realms, recognising distinguished service in the **armed forces, science, art, literature**, or for the **promotion of culture**.

The Print & Saurabh Shukla wins the International Press Institute India award

- The **Print**, a news portal, and **Saurabh Shukla** of the **NDTV** has been selected for the **International Press Institute (IPI) India Award for Excellence in Journalism, 2022**.
- IPI-India instituted the **annual award** in 2003 to recognise and honour the best work done by an Indian media organization or journalist working in **print, radio, television and internet mediums**.

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Key Highlights :

- The Print has been recognised for a series of stories that **exposed how hospitals, local bodies and governments** in various States mismanaged the support system for the fight against COVID.
- Saurabh Shukla of NDTV has been awarded an entry on the exposure of hate speech made by **religious men in Haridwar**.
- The award comprises a **cash prize of ₹1 lakh**, a trophy and a citation, to each team.
- The selection was made by a distinguished jury of editors headed by **Justice Madan B. Lokur, former judge of the Supreme Court of India**.
- The award has been given to **17 media organizations** and journalists in the print and electronic media so far.

About IPI :

- Founded: October 1950
- Headquarters: Vienna, Austria
- Chair : Khadija Patel
- IPI is a global organization dedicated to the **promotion and protection of press freedom** and the **improvement of journalism practices**.

President of IFCCI Sumeet Anand Conferred with the Legion d'Honneur award

- In Mumbai, **Mr. Sumeet Anand**, the founder of IndSight Growth Partners and the president of the Indo-French Chamber of Commerce & Industry, received the **Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur (Knight of the Legion of Honour)** from Mr. Emmanuel Lenain, the French Ambassador to India.
- The highest civilian award given by **France** is in honour of Mr. Sumeet Anand's excellent achievements in business and industry as well as in fostering links between France and India in the domains of education and business.
- One of India's top corporate strategy advisors, Sumeet Anand, has been instrumental in the growth of commerce and investment between India and France, particularly with regard to Indo-French cross-investments.

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- He plays a significant role in establishing links between French and Indian businesses as well as industry leaders.

NTPC team won the Gold prize at the 47th ICQCC-2022:

- The 47th International Convention on Quality Control Circle (ICQCC-2022) has given the **"GOLD" award** to the NTPC's QC Team from Unchahar ABHYUDAYA
- From **November 15 to 18**, the convention will be held in **Jakarta**.
- ICQCC-2022's theme was **"Built Back Better via Quality Efforts."**
- On **"Frequent Choking of Collecting Tanks of AHP-IV,"** the NTPC QC Team presented.
- **Shri Mahesh Chandra, Shri Virendra Kumar Yadav, Shri Laxmi Kant, and Shri Reyaz Ahamad (Facilitator)** worked tirelessly to develop original, sensible, and superior solutions to the issue at hand.
- The 30th Session of the **World HRD Congress** named NTPC the **"Dream Employer of the Year"** in **March 2022**.
- The **Association for Talent Development (ATD), USA** chose NTPC as a **2022 ATD BEST award winner** in recognition of the company's initiative to develop a workforce that is prepared for the future.
- The accolades and acknowledgements are proof that NTPC's human resources policies are on par with those of the world's top corporations.

India was the recipient of the Excellence in Family Planning Leadership (EXCELL) Award:

- At the **International Conference on Family Planning** held in **Thailand**, India became the only nation to earn the **Leadership in Family Planning (EXCELL) Awards 2022** in the **"country category."**
- India's initiatives to advance family planning show the country's success in reaching the **SDG goals for women's and maternal health**.
- The prize honors India's accomplishments in ensuring greater access.
- The use of contemporary contraceptive techniques and a dramatic decline in unmet family planning requirements.

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- India has improved access to and adoption of contemporary contraceptive techniques, allowing couples to make well-informed family planning decisions.
- From 54 to 67 percent, the nation's overall contraceptive prevalence rate has increased significantly.
- From 66 percent in 2015–16 to 76 percent in 2019–21, India's currently married women aged 15–49 had their complete demand for family planning satisfied.

Gandhi Mandela Award is given to Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama:

- Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar, the governor of Himachal Pradesh, presented the Gandhi Mandela Award 2022 to the 14th Dalai Lama at Thekchen Choeling at McleodGanj, Dharamshala.
- The Tibetan spiritual leader accepted the Gandhi Mandela Foundation's peace award in New Delhi.
- Justice KG Balakrishnan, a former chief justice of India, and Justice Gyan Sudha Misra, a former justice of the Supreme Court, both attended the ceremony.
- The Dalai Lama was chosen as the recipient of the prize this time by a jury that also included former Chief Justices of India KG Balakrishnan and Justice Dipak Misra, former Supreme Court Judge Gyan Sudha Misra, former Chief Justices of Nepal and Bangladesh, Kedarnath Upadhyay and MD Tafazzul Islam.
- The Gandhi Mandela Foundation is a nonprofit organization with a government of India registered trust that was established to promote the nonviolent principles of Mahatma Gandhi and former South African President Nelson Mandela.

Khalid Jawed is awarded the JCB Prize for Literature in 2022:

- The fifth JCB Prize for Literature went to author Khalid Jawed for his work "The Paradise of Food," which Baran Farooqi translated from Urdu.
- The novel, which was first released in 2014 under the name "Ne'mat Khana," is the first Urdu-language work to get the honour and the fourth translation overall.
- With the conflict between his household and the outside world, the narrator of "The Paradise of Food" strives to find his place in a middle-class Muslim family over the course of fifty years.

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- Along with a trophy and the prize money of Rs. 25 lakh, Jawed also received the sculpture "Mirror Melting" by Delhi artists Thukral and Tagra.
- In addition, **Baran Farooqi received Rs 10 lakh for the honour.**
- The award was chosen by a team of five judges, which included writer Janice Pariat, translator-historian J Devika, author Amitabha Bagchi, author-academician Rakhee Balaram, and journalist and editor AS Panneerselvan.
- The **International Booker-winning book "Tomb of Sand" by Geetanjali Shree**, which Daisy Rockwell translated from Hindi, and "Imaan" by Manoranjan Byapari were both included on a shortlist unlike any other in the history of the award that exclusively contained translation (translated from Bengali by Arunava Sinha).
- Additionally, **Hindi and Nepali books were included in the shortlist of the literary award for the first time.**
- The debut novels "Valli" by Sheela Tomy and "Song of the Soil" by Chuden Kabimo, both translated from Nepali by Ajit Baral, were also on the shortlist.

Chiranjeevi is named Indian Film Personality of the Year 2022 at the 53rd IFFI:

- **Telugu superstar Chiranjeevi** was honoured with the **Indian Film Personality of the Year 2022 award** at the opening ceremony of the **53rd International Film Festival of India (IFFI)**.
- **Anurag Thakur**, Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting, **revealed that megastar Chiranjeevi** will get the **Indian Film Personality of the Year award**.
- Chiranjeevi has appeared in over 150 films, mostly in Telugu, for his nearly four-decade career.

About Chiranjeevi:

- Chiranjeevi is a well-known Indian actor, film producer, philanthropist, and politician best known for his work in Telugu cinema.
- Chiranjeevi has appeared in over 150 films during his career.
- He has appeared in films in Telugu, Tamil, and Hindi. In 1978, he made his screen debut with Punadhirallu.
- From 2012 to 2014, he was the Minister of Tourism for the Government of India.
- In 1982, he captivated the audience with his performance in Initlo Ramayya Veedilo Krishnayya.
- He's recognized for his vivacious dancing routines and powerful fight sequences.

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- Through his organization, The Chiranjeevi Charitable Foundation, which he formed in 1998, he actively participates in philanthropy.

Uma Sharma, a Kathak performer, earned the Sumitra Charat Ram Award:

- Dr. Uma Sharma, a Kathak exponent, has earned the coveted 'Sumitra Charat Ram Award for Lifetime Achievement' in appreciation of her contribution to Indian classical music and dance.
- She is a renowned classical dancer who has received the **Padma Shri (1973)** and the **Padma Bhushan (2001)** for her distinctive contribution to India's cultural history.
- She received the award from former **Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Karan Singh** and **Sarod player Ustad Amjad Ali Khan** at a ceremony hosted by **Shriram Bharatiya Kala Kendra** at **Kamani Auditorium**.

About Sumitra Charat Ram Award:

- The Sumitra Charat Ram Award for Lifetime Achievement has been granted for the past 11 years to honour outstanding Artists who have made a lasting contribution to the world of Indian Classical Music & Dance.
- Pt. Birju Maharaj, the doyen of the kathak dance, received the first award, which was followed by Smt. Kishori Amonkar (Hindustani Vocal Music), Shri Mayadhar Raut (Odissi Dance), Smt. Kumudini Lakhia (Kathak Dance), Pt. Jasraj (Hindustani Vocal Music), Pt. Hariprasad Chaurasia (Hindustani Instrumental Music (Indian Classical Dance Guru, Motivational Speaker).

Franca Ma-ih Sulem Yong has been awarded the UNESCO Madanjeet Singh Prize for 2022:

- Franca Ma-ih Sulem Yong of Cameroon, President of the NGOs **#Afrogiveness and Positive Youths Africa**, has been awarded the **UNESCO-Madanjeet Singh Prize for the Promotion of Tolerance and Non-Violence** for the 2022 Edition.
- The prize is named after its sponsor, **Madanjeet Singh (1924-2013)**, a prominent Indian artist, writer, and diplomat who was also a **UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador**.

About Franca Ma-ih Sulem Yong:

- Franca Ma-ih Sulem Yong, a journalist with seven years of experience, worked to shift public understanding of mental illness.

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- She started two non-governmental organizations (NGOs) - Afrogiveness Movement and Positive Youths Africa - after receiving training in art therapy and psychology (PYA).
- These two non-governmental organizations (NGOs) work to help wounded survivors of religious and intercultural disputes in African countries heal through the universal language of the arts.
- They have operations in Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Sudan, and Togo.

Concerning the UNESCO-Madanjeet Singh Prize:

- UNESCO awards the UNESCO-Madanjeet Singh Prize for the Promotion of Tolerance and Nonviolence every two years.
- The prize was inspired by UNESCO's Constitution, which declares that "peace if it is not to fail, must be established on the intellectual and moral unity of mankind."
- It was unveiled in 1996, following the **United Nations Year of Tolerance in 1995, and in conjunction with Mahatma Gandhi's 125th birthday.**
- Madanjeet Singh, a former Indian artist, writer, and diplomat who served as a UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador, donated to fund the award.

Google creates an interactive doodle in honour of American geologist Marie Tharp:

- **Google honours Marie Tharp, an American geologist and oceanographic cartographer who contributed to the validation of continental drift theories.**
- She contributed to the **first ocean bottom map of the world.**
- The Library of Congress recognized **Ms. Tharp as one of the best cartographers of the 20th century on November 21, 1998.**
- An interactive biography of Ms. Tharp is featured on Google Doodle.
- Her tale is narrated by three well-known women, Caitlyn Larsen, Rebecca Nesel, and Dr. Tiara Moore, who are actively continuing Marie Tharp's legacy by making strides in the traditionally male-dominated fields of ocean research and geology.
- Tharp was exposed to map-making by her father, who worked for the United States Department of Agriculture.
- She earned a master's degree in petroleum geology from the University of Michigan, which was noteworthy given the lack of women in science jobs at the time.

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- She moved to New York City in 1948 and worked as the first female employee at the Lamont Geological Observatory.

About Google:

- CEO: Sundar Pichai
- Founded: 4 September 1998
- Headquarters: California, United States
- Founders: Larry Page, Sergey Brin
- Parent organization: Alphabet Inc.

Danish Manzoor Bhat received the first JaipurFoot USA Global Humanitarian Award:

- **Danish Manzoor Bhat**, originating from Kashmir Valley, was honoured this week at the **Consulate General of India in New York with Jaipur Foot USA's first Global Humanitarian Award.**
- Consul General **Randhir Jaiswal, IAS**, and **Prem Bhandari, Chairman, JaipurFoot USA** accepted the award at the Indian High Commission in New York.
- **Varun Jeph, Deputy Consul General**, was also present for the private event.
- The award was created to honour and recognize the selfless work of Indians who, without regard for their own lives, serve others in need and are always a phone call away when it comes to humanitarian operations that cross boundaries.
- He was recognized for his dedication and efforts in assisting hundreds of people affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, notably during the lethal second wave in India.

The renowned Dr. Kalam Seva Puraskar was given to Ravi Kumar Sagar:

- The most prestigious **Dr. Abdul Kalam Seva Puraskar** was awarded to **Ravi Kumar Sagar**, one of the youngest founders and CEO of **RK'S INNO** group.
- He is one of the youngest entrepreneurs in India, and he was honoured for his steadfast contribution to society.
- **Ravi Kumar Sagar**, better known as **RK'S**, is a young businessman from the twin Telugu states who made it big as a burgeoning entrepreneur in 2020 amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

Ravi Kumar's formative years:

- On April 14, 2000, in Gudur, Kurnool District, Andhra Pradesh, Ravi Kumar was born into a middle-class family.

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- When he was 12 years old, his mother passed away from cancer. Because he had to spend a substantial amount of money on his mother's care, his father was in serious financial problems.
- But to restore stability, he and his sister were transferred from a private to a public school, and their father took on numerous jobs.
- He persuaded his father to enrol in the "Diploma in Agriculture" in 2016 after finishing the tenth grade since he was eager to start.

The Government of India announced the 2021 Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Awards:

- The National Adventure Award known as the "Tenzing Norgay Adventure Award" (TNAA) for the year 2021 was announced by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India.
- Four categories—Land Adventure, Water Adventure, Air Adventure, and Lifetime Achievement—are available for the award.

Key Highlights:

- The Secretary (Youth Affairs) was appointed as the chairman of the National Selection Committee
- The recipients will collect their honours at the Rashtrapati Bhawan on November 30, 2022, from the President of India and other recipients of sports awards.
- The Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Awards are presented each year to recognize individuals who have excelled in the adventure industry.
- The honour promotes the growth of tenacity, boldness, collaborative effort, and quick reflexes.

Award Winners:

S. No.	Name	Category
1.	Ms. Naina Dhakad	Land Adventure
2.	Shri Shubham Dhananjay Vanmali	Water Adventure
3.	Group Captain Kunwar Bhawani Singh Samyal	Lifetime Achievement

Economic Times Inspiring Leaders Award 2022 given to museum creator AP Shreethar:

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- The Economic Times Inspiring Leaders Award 2022 was given to museum creator AP. Shreethar in Delhi.
- Actress Mrunal Thakur delivered the prize in Delhi, the nation's capital. AP Self-taught artist and museum creator Shreethar.
- Over 72 exhibitions and shows are reported to have been produced by him around the world.
- In addition, Shreethar is credited with founding the first Live Art Museum in history.
- Celebrities like actor Amitabh Bachchan, Padmashree Dr. Kamal Hassan, Sachin Tendulkar, A.R. Rahman, Padmashree Dr. Bala Murali Krishna, Singaporean Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, former French President Mr. Francois Hollande, and former Malaysian Prime Minister Dato' Sri Mohd Najib bin Tun Abdu have praised AP. Shreethar, a recipient of the prestigious Le Former French President Francois Hollande is known to have personally written a letter of praise in honour of Shreethar's talent.

Procter & Gamble has named Matrix Partner of the Year for 2022:

- Procter & Gamble (P&G), one of the most valuable corporations in the world, recently recognized and honoured Chennai-based Matrix Business Services India Pvt. Ltd. as "Partner of the Year 2022" at an event held in Cincinnati, USA, for their commitment to the transformation of their business operations.
- From a global network of more than 50,000 EBPs, Matrix was selected as one of the 11 for the years 2021–2022.
- This is a tremendous recognition of Matrix's abilities to manage an end-to-end business process in such a difficult and specialized field as Trade Fund Management, let alone across multiple nations.
- The effort and commitment of team Matrix set the path for this accomplishment, which is the highest honour a P&G partner can get.

Purnima Devi Barman of India is a 2022 "Champions of the Earth" nominee by UNEP:

- The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) named Indian wildlife biologist Purnima Devi Barman as one of the five "Champions of the Earth" for this year.

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- The UNEP bestows the annual awards, which are considered the greatest environmental honour, on people and organizations whose deeds have a **"transformative influence" on the environment**.
- She was recognized for her entrepreneurial vision.
- The other honorees are **Sir Partha Dasgupta of the United Kingdom, Arcenciel (Lebanon), Constantino (Tino) Auccha Chutas (Peru), and Cecile Bibiane Ndjebet (Cameroon)**.
- For more than a decade, Barman has collaborated with local populations in Assam, particularly women, to protect the greater adjutant stork, an endangered wetland bird whose numbers have been falling as a result of habitat loss and the removal of nesting trees.
- The prize is "very humbling" for the entire crew.

Prodapt was the winner of the prestigious 2022 Salesforce Partner Innovation Award:

- **Prodapt** has been recognized as a winner of the **Salesforce Partner Innovation Award** in the **"Communications" category**.
- **Prodapt** is a top worldwide consultancy, technology, and managed services provider with a sole focus on the Connectedness market.
- **Prodapt's** contributions to Salesforce-driven digital transformation initiatives and the creation of particular solution accelerators for the communications sector are honoured with the coveted prize.
- Each year, the **Salesforce Partner Innovation Awards** honour the important contributions that **Salesforce partners**—including consulting companies, digital agencies, resellers, and ISV partners—have made across clouds, industries, and the larger partner program.
- The nominations were organized and reviewed by IDC, a global provider of industry research and consultancy services for the IT, telecoms, and consumer technology markets.
- For the **CRM transformation of Fiber Network Delivery** to support numerous new operating models, **Prodapt** submitted its candidacy.
- The recognition recognizes **Prodapt's** ongoing efforts to provide value to its international clientele by quickening its transformation initiatives.

Rajendra Pawar receives the FICCI Lifetime Achievement Award in 2022:

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- At the 8th FICCI Higher Education Excellence Awards ceremony, the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) presented Rajendra Singh Pawar, Chairman & Founder, of NIIT, with the "Lifetime Achievement Award 2022."
- The award honours Pawar for his outstanding work and significant contributions to education as well as for founding the IT Training sector.
- A high-level jury panel, chaired by Dr R. A. Mashelkar, former director general of CSIR and professor at the Institute of Chemical Technology in Mumbai, made the selection of the award.
- The development of trained labor to fuel the Indian IT industry's expansion has been a major contribution made by NIIT.
- Through the not-for-profit NIIT University, he is currently working to build an innovative model in Higher Education in addition to reinventing the IT Training sector.

About FICCI:

- President: Sanjiv Mehta
- Founded: 1927
- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Founder: Ghanshyam Das Birla

Govt appoints 10 Executive Directors for public sector banks

- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of 10 Executive Directors in various Public Sector Banks (PSBs) for a three-year period.

List of 10 Executive Directors :

1. Lalit Tyagi - Executive Director of Bank of Baroda (BoB)
2. Binod Kumar - ED of the Punjab National Bank (PNB)
3. Sanjay Vinayak Mudaliyar - Executive Director in Indian Overseas Bank.
4. Rajendra Kumar Saboo - Executive Director in UCO Bank
5. Malladi Venkat Murali Krishna - Executive Director in Central Bank of India
6. Subrat Kumar - Executive Director of Bank of India.
7. M. Paramasivam - Executive Director in Punjab National Bank
8. Mahesh Kumar Bajaj - Executive Director in Indian Bank.
9. S Ramasubramanian - Executive Director in Union Bank of India

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10. Ashok Chandra - Executive Director at Canara Bank

- The union government decided to **increase the term of wholetime directors in public sector banks, including MD & CEOs, to 10 years, from 5 years**, a move aimed to bring in younger talent in the top position.

IRSEE Vinit Kumar appointed as CEO of KVIC

- **Shri Vinit Kumar** has taken charge as the chief executive officer of Khadi & Village Industries Commission (KVIC), Mumbai, Maharashtra.

About Vinit Kumar :

- Shri Vinit Kumar, an IRSEE officer of 1993 batch.
- He has served as the **Chairman of Syama Prasad Mukherjee Port, Kolkata (erstwhile Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Port, Kolkata from 2018-2020)**.
- He has served as **Chief Electrical Engineer in Mumbai Railway Vikas Corporation Ltd.** and looked after World Bank funded MUTP projects.
- He had served as **Secretary, Central Railway** and gained experience in general administration.
- He also worked in **Pune and Nagpur** in independent charge of **traction assets and locomotive workshop**.
- He has been instrumental in the growth of **regional connectivity** comprising neighboring countries and the **North - East region**.
- He has focused on excelling in business relations with **Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar and Thailand** through various strategic initiatives.

About KVIC :

- **Founded : 1957**
- **Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India**
- **Chairman : Manoj Kumar**
- KVIC is a statutory body under the Act of Parliament, 'Khadi and Village Industries Commission Act of 1956'.
- It is an apex organization under the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises

Swachh Vidyalaya Puraskar awarded 39 schools for 2021-22

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- The Ministry of Education awarded the Swachh Vidyalaya Puraskar to 39 schools across the country for the 2021-2022 academic session.
- The schools were chosen from among 8.23 lakh submissions.
- There were 28 government and aided schools and 11 private schools.
- Two Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas, one Navodaya Vidyalaya, and three Kendriya Vidyalayas have been recognized.
- The Swachh Vidyalaya Puraskar recognizes schools that have done outstanding work in the areas of water, sanitation, and hygiene.
- It also serves as a standard and a road map for schools to progress further.
- Water, toilets, soap-free handwashing, operation and maintenance, behavioural change, and capacity building are the six basic factors used to grade the schools.
- There are 17 elementary schools and 22 secondary/higher secondary schools among the 39 schools.

'Dear Diary,' a film, has won the 53-Hour Challenge for 75 creative minds:

- Team Purple was chosen as the winner of the 75 Creative Minds of Tomorrow talent campus, which is part of the International Film Festival of India.
- The winning film, "Dear Diary," portrayed the narrative of a lady forced to confront her past pain as she meets with her sister, who wishes to visit the same location where her abuse occurred earlier.
- A three-member panel chaired by famous filmmaker Mani Ratnam, CEO and Shorts TV founder Carter Pilcher, and Armstrong Pame, deputy secretary (Shorts-I) at the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, judged the films.

About 75 Creative Minds of Tomorrow:

- The "53-Hour Challenge" award ceremony closed the second edition of the "75 Creative Minds of Tomorrow" at the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) in Goa.
- The competition challenged the 75 Creative Minds chosen from around the country to create a short film on their notion of India@100 in 53 hours.
- The program drew participants aged 18-35 years old from various disciplines of filmmaking and from around India.

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- One of their goals was to work in five teams to create a short film in 53 hours on a budget of no more than \$1,000.

E-GramSwaraj and the Ministry of Panchayati Raj have won a gold award in the National Awards for e-Governance:

- The Ministry of Panchayati Raj's e-Panchayat Mission Mode Project (eGramSwaraj and AuditOnline) has won the **GOLD AWARD** in the category "Excellence in Government Process Re-engineering for Digital Transformation" of the National Awards for e-Governance.
- The award recognizes Team e-Governance's excellent and exemplary effort, which was supported by Team NIC-MoPR.
- Various stakeholders, particularly Panchayati Raj Institutions that quickly embraced e-Panchayat applications, contributed to the success of the **e-Panchayat Mission Mode Project by strengthening the Panchayati Raj System** and making it functional, transparent, and efficient.

About e-GramSwaraj:

- The Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) has established e-GramSwaraj, a user-friendly web-based site, to strengthen e-Governance in Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) across the country.
- The goal of e-GramSwaraj is to improve openness in decentralized planning, progress reporting, and work-based accounting.

Imayam, a Tamil author, was chosen for the Kuvempu national award:

- Rashtraku Kuvempu Prathishtana Kuppali has chosen Tamil poet V Annamalai aka Imayam for the Kuvempu National Prize for the year 2022, which will be presented at Kuppali's 118th birth anniversary celebration on December 29 in Thirthahalli taluk.
- The 'Kannada National Poet Kwembu Rashtriya Puraskar Award,' named after the late poet Kwembu, has been announced by the Writer Institute for the Tamil language.
- The award includes a Rs 5 lakh cash reward, a silver medal, and a citation.
- Annamalai has written seven novels, six short story collections, and a novella under the pen name Imayam.
- 'Koveru Kazhudaigal,' his debut novel, has been translated into English, French, and many other Indian languages.

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- Through his writings, Iyamam has introduced new sensitivities to Tamil literature. Koveru Kazhudaigal and Pethavan, two of his books, have been translated into English and several other languages.
- Iyamam was unanimously chosen for the award by a committee led by BL Shankar, interim president of the Rashtrakavi Kuvempu Trust.
- Dr. Krishnaswamy, a retired Tamil professor at Christ University, and Agrahara Krishnamurthy, former secretary of the Central Sahitya Academy, among others, served on the committee.

Shilp Guru and National Awards were conferred to Master Craftsperson by Vice President:

- Vice President Jagdeep Dhankar and Union Textile Minister Piyush Goyal presented gold medals to Mohammad Yusuf Khatri and Tamra Patra at Vigyan Bhawan.
- Mohammad Yusuf Khatri of Madhya Pradesh's Dhar district has received the **Shilp Guru Award for 3017** for his efforts in preserving the history of Bagh Print handicrafts.
- In New Delhi, Vice President Jagdeep Dhankar presented Shilp Guru and National Awards to master craftspeople for 2017, 2018, and 2019.
- Every year, these prizes were given to legendary master craftspeople whose work contributed to the preservation of India's rich and diverse craft tradition.
- The award's main goal is to recognize exceptional craftspeople in the handicrafts sector.
- The honorees represent nearly all of the country's states and union territories, as well as various artisan styles from various regions.
- Union Textile Minister Piyush Goyal stated that India is one of the world's leading handicraft hubs, with handicraft exports expanding steadily.

The Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya has received a UNESCO Award:

- The United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation-2022 were given to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya (CSMVS).
- In late 2019, the museum began phasing thorough repairs, restoration, and refurbishing of the main and extension building, exterior and interiors, and major dome in preparation for its centennial anniversary on January 10, 2022.

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- The Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya was founded in 1922 as the Prince of Wales Museum of Western India.
- The jury this year recognized thirteen projects from six nations for awards: Afghanistan, China, India, Iran, Nepal, and Thailand.
- Reviewing 50 submissions from 11 countries in the Asia-Pacific region, the jury deliberated in November.
- The Domakonda Fort in Telangana and Byculla Station in Mumbai are among the recipients of the "Award of Merit," while the Golconda step wells in Hyderabad have received an "Award of Distinction."
- Other recipients of the "Award of Merit" include the Topdara Stupa in Charikar, Afghanistan, and the Nantian Buddhist Temple in Fujian, China.

IMPORTANT DEFENCE NEWS

12th edition of DefExpo to be held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat

- The 12th edition of the prestigious Biennial Defence Exhibition - DefExpo 2022 - India's flagship exhibition on Land, Naval, and Homeland Security systems held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, to give impetus to the defence sector.
- The event has been organized on the theme 'Path to Pride'.

Key Highlights :

- The DefExpo 2022 will also mark the celebration of 1 year of the formation of the **7 new defence companies**, carved out of the erstwhile Ordnance Factory Board.
- All these companies will be participating for the **first time** at DefExpo.
- DefExpo 2022 is in line with the vision of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to achieve **self-reliance in defence** and achieve export of **\$5 billion** by 2025.
- The event has been organized in **3 venue formats**:
 1. **Helipad Exhibition Centre** - Venue for the exhibition
 2. **Mahatma Mandir Convention and Exhibition Centre** - Venue for the inaugural event and seminars
 3. **Sabarmati Riverfront** - Live demo

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- For the **first time**, **states/Union Territories** have been invited to set up **pavilions** at the event.
- The **first-ever 'Invest for Defence'**, from the **Ministry of Defence**, targeted to **promote investment** in the defence sector in India will also be held at the expo.
- The exhibition will host the **second edition** of the **India-Africa Defence Dialogue**, in which several defence ministers from African countries are expected to participate.
- A separate **Indian Ocean Region plus conclave** has also been planned.

About MoD :

- Union Minister: **Rajnath Singh**
- Minister of State: **Ajay Bhatt**
- Defence Secretary: **Dr. Ajay Kumar**

IAF, French air force participate in bilateral exercise - Garuda VII in Rajasthan

- **Indian Air Force (IAF)** and **French Air and Space Force (FASF)** are participating in a **bilateral exercise**, named '**Garuda VII**', from **26 October to 12 November 2022** at **Air Force Station Jodhpur, Rajasthan**.
- It is the **seventh edition** of the bilateral exercise, being hosted by **India** for the **fourth time** so far.
- This joint exercise will provide a platform for both countries to **enhance operational capability** and **interoperability**, while also **sharing best practices**

Participants of the exercise :

- FASF will participate with **4 Rafale fighter aircraft**, **one A-330 Multi Role Tanker Transport (MRTT) aircraft**, and a contingent of **220 personnel**.
- The IAF is participating with **Su-30 Modernized Commercial Indian (MKI) Jets**, **Rafale**, **Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas**, and **Jaguar fighter aircraft**, as well as the **Light Combat Helicopter (LCH)** and **Mi-17 helicopters**.
- The IAF contingent will also include **Combat Enabling Assets** like **Flight Refuelling Aircraft**, **Airborne Warning & Control Systems (AWACS)**, and **Airborne Early Warning & Control (AEW&C)**.

Key Highlights :

- The **1st, 3rd, and 5th editions** were conducted in India in **2003, 2006, and 2014** at Air Force Stations **Gwalior, Kalaikunda, and Jodhpur, respectively**.

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- The 2nd, 4th and 6th editions were conducted in France in 2005, 2010, and 2019.
- In August 2022 FASF contingent, including three Rafale jets, made a strategically crucial stopover at the IAF's Sulur base in Tamil Nadu as part of a mega military operation it carried out in the Pacific Ocean.

DefExpo 2022 witnessed 451 MoUs, ToT agreements & product launches

- 451 Memoranda of Understanding, Transfer of Technology agreements, and product launches took place during the Bandhan ceremony of the 12th DefExpo in Gandhinagar, Gujarat
- Of the 451, there were 345 MoUs, 42 Major Announcements, 46 Product Launches, and 18 ToTs
- It envisages investment worth Rs 1.5 lakh crore.
- Indian Air Force and Hindustan Aeronautics Limited concluded a contract for 70 HTT-40 indigenous trainer aircraft worth Rs 6,800 crore

Indian Navy Participates In Maiden Trilateral Military Exercise With Mozambique And Tanzania

- The first edition of the India-Mozambique-Tanzania Trilateral Exercise (IMT TRILAT), a joint maritime exercise between Indian, Mozambique, and Tanzania navies commenced at Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania from 27th Oct 2022 to 29th Oct 2022.
- The Indian Navy is represented by the guided missile frigate, Indian Naval Ship (INS) Tarkash, a Chetak helicopter, and Maritime Commandos (MARCOS) (Special Forces).
- The exercise has three broad objectives:
 1. Capability development to address common threats through training and sharing of best practices
 2. Enhancing interoperability
 3. Strengthening maritime cooperation.
- These exercises reflect India's and the Indian Navy's commitment to enhancing maritime security and cooperation with maritime neighbors in the Indian Ocean Region and promoting SAGAR, Safety, and Growth for All in the Region

About IMT TRILAT :

- The exercise includes harbor and sea phases.

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- As part of the harbor phase, capability-building activities such as Visit, Board, Search, and Seizure; small arms training; joint diving operations; damage control and fire fighting exercises; and cross-deck visits are scheduled.
- The sea phase includes boat operations, fleet manoeuvres, Visit, Board, Search and Seizure operations, helicopter operations, small arms firing, formation anchoring, and **Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) patrols**.

About Mozambique :

- President : Filipe Nyusi
- PM : Adriano Maleiane
- Capital : Maputo
- Currency : Metical

About Tanzania :

- President : Samia Suluhu Hassan
- Prime Minister : Kassim Majaliwa
- Capital: Dodoma
- Currency: Tanzanian shilling

About MoD :

- Union Minister: Rajnath Singh
- Minister of State: Ajay Bhatt
- Defence Secretary: Dr. Ajay Kumar

Australian Navy ships arrive in Visakhapatnam for ex-Indo-Pacific Endeavour with Indian Navy

- Royal Australian Navy ships HMAS Adelaide and HMAS Anzac arrived in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh (AP) for Exercise 'Indo-Pacific Endeavour' (IPE) 2022 with the Indian Navy.

About IPE :

- Indo-Pacific Endeavour (IPE), one of Australia's key regional engagement activities, returns to Southeast Asia and the Northeast Indian Ocean from September 2022 to November 2022, visiting a record **14 countries** in this iteration.

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- IPE 2022 will see engagements with the **Maldives, Timor-Leste, Vietnam, the Philippines, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Laos, Cambodia, India, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei, and Indonesia**
- These engagements are supported by an **Australian Defence Force Maritime Task Unit of Royal Australian Navy ships** and embarked Army members as well as **Royal Australian Air Force air mobility aircraft** for fly-in-fly-out engagements, marking a total composition of **1800 personnel, 5 ships, and 11 helicopter**
- IPE began in **2017** as an annual activity coordinated by the **Australian Defence Force** to deliver on the promise of the **2016 Defence White Paper** to strengthen Australia's engagement and partnerships with regional security forces.

Aim :

- To promote security and stability in Australia's near region through bilateral and multilateral engagement, training, and capacity building.

About Australia :

- President: Anthony Albanese
- Capital: Canberra
- Currency: Australian dollar

DRDO successfully conducts maiden flight test of Phase-II Ballistic Missile Defence interceptor off Odisha coast

- Defense Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) conducted a successful maiden flight test of Phase-II Ballistic Missile Defence (BMD) interceptor AD-1 missile with a large kill altitude bracket from APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha.
- The flight test was carried out with the participation of all BMD weapon system elements located at different geographical locations.

About AD-1 missile :

- The AD-1 is a long-range interceptor missile designed for both low exo-atmospheric and endo-atmospheric interception of long-range ballistic missiles as well as aircraft.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – November 2022

- It is propelled by a **two-stage solid motor** and equipped with an **indigenously-developed advanced control system**, navigation, and guidance algorithm to precisely guide the vehicle to the target.
- During the flight test, all the sub-systems performed as per expectations and were validated by the data captured by several range sensors including **Radar, Telemetry, and Electro-Optical Tracking stations** deployed to capture the flight data.

About DRDO :

- Established: 1958
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India
- Chairman : Dr Samir V Kamat
- The DRDO is the premier agency under the Department of Defence Research and Development in the **Ministry of Defence** of the Gol.

About MoD :

- Union Minister: Rajnath Singh
- Minister of State: Ajay Bhatt
- Defence Secretary: Dr. Ajay Kumar

Indian Army registers IPR of new design and camouflage pattern uniform

- The Indian Army has registered the **Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)** of its **new design and camouflage pattern uniform**.
- The new digital pattern combat uniform for Army soldiers was unveiled on **Army Day** on **January 15, 2022**.
- The process for registration of the new Camouflage Pattern and Design of Improved Combat Uniform to establish ownership of the Indian Army has been completed by the **Controller General of Patents, Designs, and Trademark, Kolkata, West Bengal**.

Key Highlights :

- The Indian army holds **exclusive intellectual property rights (IPR)** of the design and camouflage pattern

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- **Remedies against infringements** include interim and permanent injunctions as well as damages.
- The improved uniform has a contemporary look and functional design.
- The **fabric** has been made **lighter, stronger, breathable, quick-drying, and easier to maintain.**
- The uniform's uniqueness is evident with the inclusion of **gender-specific modifications** for **women's combat uniform**
- "Bulk procurement of 11.70 lakh sets to cater for the issue to **Junior Commissioned Officers (JCOs) and Other Ranks (OR)** as part of the individual kit is in progress and is likely to commence from **August 2023.**

About the Indian Army :

- Chief of Defence Staff: General Anil Chauhan
- Chief of the Army Staff: General Manoj Pande

About MoD :

- Union Minister: Rajnath Singh
- Minister of State: Ajay Bhatt
- Defence Secretary: Dr. Ajay Kumar

Indian Army Approves Five make II Projects Providing Impetus to "Atma Nirbhaarta"

- Indian Army has approved project sanction orders for **five Make -2 projects** providing **Impetus to Atma Nirbhaarta.**
- Indian Army is spearheading actions to provide impetus to "**Make Projects**" as the prime drivers of infusion of niche technologies through **indigenous development**

About Make II projects :

- Make II projects are **essentially Industry funded projects** involving **design, development, and innovative solutions** by Indian vendors for the development of prototypes.
- An assurance of order is given after successful **prototype development.**

List of 5 Make -2 projects whose PSOs have been approved:-

- **High-Frequency Man Packed Software Defined Radio (HFSDR)**
- A **project Sanction Order (PSO)** for the development of a prototype of Frequency Man Packed Software Defined Radio (HFSDR) under the Make II scheme has been issued to **14 Developing Agencies (DAs).**

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- **300 HFSDRs** are planned to be procured by the Indian Army, on the successful development of the prototype.
- The lightweight HFSDR will provide **long-distance radio communication** through enhanced data capability and bandwidth coupled with enhanced security.
- **Drone Kill System.**
- As part of efforts to further encourage the indigenous anti-drone ecosystem, the Indian Army has approved Project Sanction Order (PSO) to **18 Developing Agencies (DAs)** for procurement of **35 sets of Drone Kill Systems** under the Make II scheme, post successful development of Prototype.
- The project is reserved for **MSMEs/Startups.**
- A drone Kill System is a hard kill **anti-drone system** against **low Radio Cross Section (RCS) Drone/ unmanned Aerial System (UAS)**, being developed to function in all types of terrains, both during day and night.
- **Infantry Training Weapon Simulator (IWTS).**
- A project Sanction Order (PSO) has been issued to **four Developing Agencies (DAs)** to develop the prototype for subsequent procurement of **125 sets** of IWTS under the Make II procedure.
- The IWTS is the **first tri-service Make II project** with the Indian Army as the lead service.
- The project is reserved for MSMEs/ Startups.
- IWTS will be utilized to augment the marksmanship skills of young soldiers on a variety of weapons used by the, providing user-friendly graphics to simulate battle scenarios.
- **155mm Terminally Guided Munitions (TGM).**
- A project Sanction Order has been issued to **six Developing Agencies (DAs)** for the development of **155 mm Terminally Guided Munition (TGM)** under the Make II scheme.
- **Medium Range Precision Kill System (MRPKS).**
- A project Sanction Order has been issued to **15 Developing Agencies (DAs)** for developing a prototype of MRPKS under the **Make-II category of DAP 2020.**
- Post successful development of this prototype, the IA will procure **10 Sets of MRPKS.**
- **The Medium Range Precision Kill System (MRPKS)**, once launched can 'Loiter' in the air for up to two hours and can acquire, designate and engage real-time high-value targets up to **40 km.**

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – November 2022

- The Indian Army is already progressing with **43 ongoing projects** under the Make II procedure of Capital Acquisition.
- **22 out of 43 Make II projects** are now in the prototype development stage, which is **66 %** of projects by cost (Rs 18,000 Crores out of 27,000 Crores).

11th Joint Military Training-2022 Commenced between IAF & Republic of Singapore Air Force (RSAF) at Air Force Station Kalaikunda, West Bengal

- The 11th edition of the annual Joint Military Training (JMT) between the Indian Air Force (IAF) and the Republic of Singapore Air Force (RSAF) commenced at Air Force Station, Kalaikunda, West Bengal (WB).
- The two Air Forces have resumed this training after a **gap of two years**.
- The 2022 edition of JMT would be conducted over **six weeks**.

Participants :

- RSAF - F-16 aircraft
- IAF - Su-30 MKI, Jaguar, MiG-29 LCA Tejas aircraft

About JMT 2022 :

- The bilateral phase of the exercise will be conducted from **09 to 18 November 2022** and will see the two Air Forces engage in advanced air combat simulations.
- The exercise underscores the strong and **long-standing relationship** between India and **Singapore** in the domain of defence cooperation.
- It seeks to provide the participating contingents with an opportunity to **share valuable operational knowledge, experiences, and best practices** while **strengthening the professional bonds** between the **two Air Forces**.

About MoD :

- Union Minister: Rajnath Singh
- Minister of State: Ajay Bhatt
- Defence Secretary: Dr. Ajay Kumar

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – November 2022

DRDO launches testing & evaluation facility for sonar systems of Indian Navy

- The Defence Research & Development Organization (DRDO) has launched the Hull Module of the Submersible Platform for Acoustic Characterization & Evaluation (SPACE) facility at Naval Physical & Oceanographic Laboratory (NPOL) Kochi, Kerala.
- It is a state-of-the-art testing and evaluation facility for sonar systems developed for use by the Indian navy onboard various platforms, including ships, submarines, and helicopters.
- This new facility has boosted the Government of India's 'AatmaNirbhar Bharat' and 'Make in India' initiatives.

About SPACE :

- SPACE is a one-of-a-kind facility in the world.
- The SPACE facility is based on the concept, design, and requirements projected by NPOL and has been constructed by Larsen & Turbo (L&T) Shipbuilding, Chennai.
- This will be mainly utilized for evaluating sonar systems, allowing for quick deployment and easy recovery of scientific packages such as sensors and transducers.
- The uniqueness of this facility lies in the specially designed submersible platform, which can be lowered up to depths of 100 meters.
- The design and construction of the platform meet all the statutory needs of the Indian Register of Shipping and the vessel classifying authority and strictly adhere to the inspection and registration criteria as per Kerala Inland Vessel Rules.

About DRDO :

- Established: 1958
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India
- Chairman: Dr. Sameer V Kamath
- The DRDO is the premier agency under the Department of Defence Research and Development in the Ministry of Defence of the Government of India.

Indian Navy participates Malabar Naval Exercise in Japan

- India is participating in 26th International Malabar Naval Exercise in Yokosuka of Japan.
- The exercise is scheduled to be held from November 8 to 18, 2022.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – November 2022

- **Australia, Japan, and the United States of America (USA)** are also participating in the Malabar Naval Exercise.
- 2022 marks the **30th anniversary year of Exercise MALABAR.**

Key Highlights :

- The participating Indian Naval Ships Shivalik and INS Kamorta are indigenously designed and form part of the Indian Navy's Eastern Fleet based at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh (AP).
- The Eastern Fleet commander, Rear Admiral Sanjay Bhalla will have operational discussions with the commander of the US Seventh Fleet and Commander Escort Force 3 (JMSDF) as part of Malabar-22.
- The Indian Navy will also participate in the International Fleet Review (IFR) being hosted in the first week of November to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Japanese Maritime Self-Defence Force (JMSDF).

About Malabar Exercise :

- The MALABAR exercise was initiated in 1992 between the navies of India and the United States.
- Australia was included as a regular member of Ex Malabar in 2020

Indian Army launches single window facility 'Veerangana Sewa Kendra' for welfare and grievances redressal of Veer Naris

- Indian Army has launched a single window facility - Veerangana Sewa Kendra (VSK) for the welfare and grievances redressal of Veer Naris.
- The project was inaugurated by President Army Wives Welfare Association (AWWA) on 10 November 2022 at the premises of the Directorate of Indian Army Veterans (DIAV) premises located at Delhi Cantt.
- The project has been driven by DIAV, AG's Branch and the technology solution has been developed by Bhaskaracharya Institute for Space Applications and Geoinformatics (BISAG-N), Gandhinagar, Gujarat while Hero MotoCorp has supported the project through their Corporate & Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative.
- Veer naris is employed as VSK staff to maintain inherent connection and empathy with the beneficiaries.

About VSK :

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- Veerangana Sewa Kendra (VSK) will be available as a service to the Indian Army Veterans Portal at www.indianarmyveterans.gov.in.
- The system caters to registering grievances with tracking, monitoring, and regular feedback to the applicant.
- Veernaris / Next of Kin will have multiple means for approaching the VSK through telephone, SMS, WhatsApp, Post, e-mail, and walk-ins to seek assistance.
- Stakeholders can monitor the status of grievances through Customer Relationship Management (CRM) software and the applicant will receive regular status updates through SMS and email
- The project leverages digital technology in the seamless coupling of various stakeholders i.e. Record Offices, Officers Record Office, ECHS, AWWA, Canteen Services Directorate, Colonels Veteran, Liaison Officers at PCDA (O), and PCDA (P) on a common digital platform.
- Non-military stakeholders like Rashtriya Sainik Board (RSB), Kendriya Sainik Board (KSB) & Zilla Sainik Board (ZSB) are being linked through email.
- The postal address of the facility is DIAV, 104 Cavalry Road, Maude Lines Delhi Cantt 110010.
- Registration of welfare-related grievances can be done on the portal by veer naris through the respective Record Offices, Col Veterans, and DIAV.

About MoD :

- Union Minister: Rajnath Singh
- Minister of State: Ajay Bhatt
- Defence Secretary: Dr. Ajay Kumar

About the Indian Army :

- Chief of Defence Staff (CDS): General Anil Chauhan
- Chief of the Army Staff (COAS): General Manoj Pande

India's Ministry of Defence is the world's biggest employer with a 29.2 lakh workforce

- The report titled The World's Biggest Employers' (2022 or latest available) conducted by Statista has revealed that the Indian Ministry of Defence is the world's largest employer, with a total of 2.92 million members who work under it.
- The research has found that under its aegis are active-duty personnel, reservists, and civilian staff.

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- The Indian Ministry of Defence is followed by the **US Department of Defence**, which comes a close **second** with **2.91 million** members.
- The **Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA)**, which does not include civilian positions, employs around **2.5 million** people.

Key Highlights :

- Globally, the firm with the largest number of employees is **Walmart**, with **2.3 million** people.
- **Amazon** comes **second** with **1.6 million** employees.
- Findings on military expenditure by the **Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)** announced that the **five largest spenders** in 2021 were the **United States**, **China**, **India**, the **United Kingdom**, and **Russia** accounting for **62%** of expenditure in 2021.
- US navy spending amounted to **USD 801 billion** in 2021 whereas **China**, the world's **second-largest spender**, allotted an estimated **USD 293 billion** to its navy.
- Meanwhile, the SIPRI report says India's navy spending of **USD 76.6 billion** ranked **third highest on the earth**.

About Statista :

- Founded: 2007
- Headquarters: Hamburg, Germany
- CEO : Friedrich Schwandt
- Statista is a German company **specializing in market and consumer data**.

India Conducts Third Edition of Largest Nationwide Coastal Defence Exercise 'Sea Vigil-22'

- The **third edition** of the 'Pan-India' Coastal Defence Exercise 'Sea Vigil-22' will be conducted on **15-16 Nov 22**.
- The exercise will be undertaken along the entire **7516 km** coastline and **Exclusive Economic Zone of India** and will involve all the Coastal States and Union territories along with other maritime stakeholders, including the fishing and coastal communities.
- The exercise is being conducted by the **Indian Navy** in coordination with the **Coast Guard** and other ministries entrusted with the task of maritime activities.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – November 2022

- The exercise is a build-up towards the major **Theatre Level Readiness Operational Exercise (TROPEX)**, which the Indian Navy conducts every two years.

Key Highlights :

- Assets of the **Indian Navy, Coast Guard, Customs** and other maritime agencies will participate in Ex Sea Vigil.
- In addition to the Ministry of Defence, the conduct of this exercise is also being facilitated by the **Ministries of Home Affairs, Ports Shipping and Waterways, Petroleum and Natural Gas, Fisheries Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Customs**, and other agencies of Centre/ State.
- The **National Level Coastal Defence Exercise** was conceptualised in 2018 to validate various measures that have been instituted towards enhancing maritime security since '26/11'.

About MoD :

- Union Minister: Rajnath Singh
- Minister of State: Ajay Bhatt
- Defence Secretary: Dr.Ajay Kumar

BEL Signs 5 MoUs for Defence establishments and Export markets

- Navratna Defence PSU Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL), signed a memorandum of understanding (MoUs) with **five companies** involved in the **defence industry**, for cooperation in the development and **marketing of drones** and soft kill aerial anti-drone.

List of 5 Companies :

1. Hindustan Shipyard Limited
2. Yantra India Limited
3. Profense LLC, US
4. SVC Tech ventures LLP
5. Spacefaring Technologies Private Limited

Aim :

- To leveraging the **complementary strengths** and **capabilities** of **BEL** and **Aerosense Technologies Pvt Ltd**

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- **Mr Manoj Kumar**, Executive Director, BEL, and **Mr Raj Nair**, Director, India & APAC, Profense LLC, exchanged the MoU signed between **BEL and Profense LLC at Defexpo 2022**, in the presence of Mr Manoj Jain, Director (R&D), Mr Rudhiramoorthy A, GM (BEL-Navi Mumbai).

Key Highlights :

- The MoU with Spacefaring Technologies Pvt Ltd signed for co-operation in technology development in the field of **fabric-based Radome, Shelters, deployable space habitats, aerostat**, etc, for Defence and non-Defence applications.
- The MoU with Defence PSU Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL) signed to carry out **joint development, manufacturing and product upgrades of identified products / systems** and to capitalise on the emerging opportunities in the domestic Defence, non-Defence and Export markets.
- The MoU with Yantra India Limited (YIL), a Defence PSU signed for co-operation in the areas of **Ammunition Hardware and Military Grade Components** to jointly address the requirements of Indian Defence and Export markets.
- The MoU with SVC TECH VENTURES LLP signed for co-operation in the manufacturing and marketing of **Heavy Duty Blast Doors**.
- The MoU with Profense LLC, US, signed for cooperation in the **manufacturing and marketing of light weapons**.

About BEL :

- Founded : 1954
- Headquarters : Bangalore, Karnataka, India
- Chairman & MD : Dinesh Kumar Batra
- BEL is an **Indian Government-owned aerospace and defence electronics company**.
- BEL is one of nine PSUs under the Ministry of Defence of India.

The 18th edition of India-us joint military exercise YUDH ABHYAS 22 begins in Uttarakhand

- The 18th edition of the Indo – United States (US) joint training exercise “YUDH ABHYAS 22” is scheduled to be conducted in **Uttarakhand**.
- The **15-day exercise** happened **between 16th Nov to 2nd Dec 2022**.

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- The previous edition of the exercise was conducted at Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson, Alaska (USA) in October 2021.

About YUDH ABHYAS 22 :

- Exercise Yudh Abhyas is conducted **annually** between India and USA.

Aim :

- To exchange **best practices, Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures** between the Armies of the two nations.
- US Army soldiers from the **2nd Brigade** of the **11th Airborne Division** and Indian Army soldiers from the **ASSAM Regiment** will be participating in the exercise.
- The troops from both nations will work together to achieve common objectives.
- The joint exercise will also focus on **Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations**.
- Troops from both nations will practice **launching swift & coordinated relief efforts** in the wake of any natural calamity.
- To derive full benefit from the professional skills & experiences of both armies, a **Command Post Exercise** and **Expert Academic Discussions (EAD)** on carefully selected topics will be carried out.

Significance :

- The scope of the Field Training Exercise includes the **validation of integrated battle groups, force multipliers, establishment and functioning of surveillance grids, validation of operational logistics, mountain warfare skills, casualty evacuation, and combat medical aid** in adverse terrain and climatic conditions.
- The exercise will involve exchanges and practices on a **wide spectrum of combat skills** including combat engineering, employment of UAS/Counter UAS techniques, and information operations

HAL delivers 16th ALH Mk-III helicopters to the Indian Coast Guard & receives a letter of intent for 9 more

- Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) handed over the last of the **16 Advanced Light helicopters Mark-III (ALH Mk-III)** helicopters to the Indian Coast Guard at a program in Bengaluru, Karnataka.

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- HAL also received a **Letter of Intent (LoI)** from the maritime organization for 9 more ALH Mk-III helicopters.
- The Indian Coast Guard signed a contract with HAL for the supply of 16 ALH Mk III in March 2017.
- The ICG has inducted **15 choppers** so far.

Key Highlights :

- An ALH Mk-III chopper comes equipped with **surveillance radar, an electro-optic pod, medical intensive care unit, a high-intensity searchlight, an infrared suppressor, a heavy machine gun, glass cockpit** and is powered by **two shakti helicopter engines**.
- The helicopter is indigenously designed, developed, and produced by HAL.
- The HAL has so far produced more than **330 ALHs**, a **versatile helicopter** that has logged more than **3.74 lakhs** of flying hours.
- The Indian Coast Guard has acquired ALH Mk-III helicopters for diversified roles, which include **maritime surveillance, search and rescue, medical evacuation, logistics support to ships, and interdiction**.
- These choppers have been deployed at **Porbandar (Gujarat), Bhubaneswar (Odisha), Kochi (Kerala), and Chennai (Tamil Nadu)**.
- A unique feature of the contract has been the **Performance Based Logistics (PBL)** – the one-stop solution for the maintenance of these helicopters by HAL.

About the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting :

- Cabinet Minister : Anurag Thakur
- Minister of State : L. Murugan

About HAL :

- Established: 23 December 1940
- Headquarters: Bangalore, Karnataka, India
- Chairperson & MD: C B Ananthkrishnan
- HAL is an **Indian state-owned aerospace and defence company**

INS Trikand participates in combined maritime forces focused on operation Sea Sword 2

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – November 2022

- Indian Naval Ship (INS) Trikand participated in the Combined Maritime Forces (CMF) led Focused Operation “Sea Sword 2” in the Northwest Arabian Sea.

Key Highlights :

- The ship participated with other multinational forces and regional partner navies to **counter terrorism, prevent narcotics trade and stop smuggling entities** from using the seas for their nefarious activities.
- The Indian Navy’s long-range maritime patrol aircraft also participated in the operation and provided air support.
- This effort is part of the Indian Navy’s commitment to ensuring the safety of the seas and collective security in the region as espoused by the **SAGAR vision** of the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India.

About INS Trikand :

- INS Trikand (F51) is a **Talwar-class frigate** of the Indian Navy.
- She is the **third and final ship** of the **second batch of Talwar-class frigates** ordered by the Indian Navy.
- She was built by the **Yantar shipyard in Kaliningrad, Russia**.
- She was commissioned to the Indian Navy service on **29 June 2013**.

Recent News :

- Earlier, the **26th edition** of the **multinational maritime exercise “MALABAR 22”** culminated in the **seas off Japan** on November 15, 2022.
- This edition also marked the **30th anniversary** of the exercise and was hosted by the **Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF)**.

About the Indian Navy :

- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Chief of the Naval Staff: Admiral R. Hari Kumar

South Western Command conducts Integrated Fire Power Exercise SHATRUNASH in the Thar desert of Rajasthan

- South Western Command of the Indian Army conducted Integrated Fire Power Exercise, “SHATRUNASH” at MFFR in the Thar desert of Rajasthan.

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About SHATRUNASH :

- The exercise witnessed the use of **multifarious firing platforms** in an integrated manner involving **both ground & aerial maneuvers**.
- During the exercise, Various actions including the ion of troops, and offensive ground actions involving **comprehensive coordination incorporating contemporary technologies** in a multi-domain environment were conducted.
- This was affected by exploiting versatile & indigenously manufactured long-range aerial & ground vectors such as **Advanced Light Helicopter (Weapon System Integrated), K9 - Vajra, Sharang Arty Guns, Bhishma (T-90 tanks) & Ajeya (T-72 tanks)** to operate in a **synergized manner based on the intelligence picture** provided by well-established **Intelligence, Surveillance & Recce (ISR) Architecture**.

Note :

- General Officer Commanding In Chief of the South Western Command: Lieutenant General A S Bhinder

About the Indian Army :

- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi
- Chief of Defence Staff: General Anil Chauhan
- Chief of the Army Staff: General Manoj Pande

7th 250 Men Ferry Craft, "Manjula" (Yard 786) launched at Kolkata, West Bengal

- Indian Administrative Officer (IAS), Principal Secretary Transport Shri Binod Kumar, launched the 7th 250 Men Ferry Craft, "Manjula" (Yard 786) at M/s Shalimar Works Ltd, Kolkata, West Bengal.
- Cmde Indrajit Dasgupta, Warship Production Superintendent (Kolkata) was also present.

Key Highlights :

- With all major and auxiliary equipment/ systems sourced from indigenous manufacturers, this Ferry Craft is the proud flag bearer of the **"Make in India"** initiative of the Ministry of Defence.
- Contract for construction and delivery of seven 250 Men Ferry Craft was concluded with M/s Shalimar Works Ltd, Kolkata in consonance with **"AatmaNirbhar Bharat"** initiatives of the government of India.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – November 2022

- 6 out of 7 Ferry Crafts have already been delivered at Port Blair, Visakhapatnam, and Mumbai.
- These Ferry crafts are being built with a **service life of 25 years**.
- The Ferry Craft will provide impetus to the **operational and logistics requirements** of the Indian Navy.

Indian Navy & Oman Navy participates in the 13th edition of the bilateral exercise 'Naseem Al Bahr'

- Indian Navy (IN) and Royal Navy of Oman (RNO) participated in the 13th Edition of the bilateral exercise 'Naseem Al Bahr' or Sea Breeze, which took place off the coast of Oman.
- The highlight of the exercise was the participation of India's **guided missile stealth frigate, INS Trikand, offshore patrol vessel, INS Sumitra, and Maritime Patrol Aircraft Dornier**.

Aim :

- To **strengthen the ancient maritime and cultural linkages** between India and Oman
- The **first naval exercise** between the two countries was conducted in 1993.
- The **last edition** of the exercise was conducted in **Goa in 2019**.
- The year **2022** marks the **30 th anniversary** of Indian and Omanese bilateral naval exercises.

Key Highlights :

- **INS Trikand, a frontline frigate**, is equipped with a versatile range of weapons and sensors.
- The ship is a part of the Indian Navy's **Western Fleet, based in Mumbai, Maharashtra**.
- **INS Sumitra, a multirole offshore patrol vessel** is part of the **Eastern Fleet** of the Indian Navy, based at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh (AP).

About 'Naseem Al Bahr' or Sea Breeze :

- The exercise had **three phases: harbour phase, sea phase, and debrief**.
- Activities undertaken during the harbour phase included professional interactions between IN and RNO operations teams and friendly sports fixtures between the two navies.
- **IN Ships Trikand and Sumitra, along with RNO Ships Al Shinas and Al Seeb, sailed for the sea phase**.
- **IN - MPA Dornier, RNO MPA, and shore-based Royal Air Force of Oman (RAFO) fighter aircraft Hawks** joined the exercise at sea.
- The last phase of the exercise, debrief, was conducted at the **RNO Naval Base at Duqm**

About Ministry of defence:

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Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – November 2022

- Cabinet Minister: Rajnath Singh
- Minister of State: Ajay Bhatt
- Defence Secretary: Giridhar Aramane

DRDO's Compendium on Low-Intensity Conflict Products Released

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation's (DRDO) Compendium on Low-Intensity Conflict (LIC) Products was released jointly by the Union Home Secretary Shri Ajay Kumar Bhalla and Secretary DDR&D & Chairman DRDO Dr. Samir V Kamat.
- In line with the "Atma Nirbhar Bharat" campaign of the Government of India.
- The compendium consists of more than 100 technologies, systems, and products developed by DRDO for LIC operations.
- It is a valuable repository of information for the central security forces.
- Union Home Secretary and Secretary DDR&D & Chairman DRDO jointly reviewed the ongoing collaboration between the DRDO and the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).
- Low-intensity conflicts (LIC) are territorially limited politico-military conflicts aimed at achieving political, social, economic, or psychological goals.

About DRDO :

- Founded: 1958
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi
- Chairman: Dr. Sameer V Kamath

Garuda Shakti 2022: India & Indonesian troops engage in joint training exercises in Karawang, Indonesia

- Indian Army Special Forces and Indonesian Special Forces are participating in the eighth edition of the bilateral joint training military exercise 'Garuda Shakti' at Sangga Buana Training Area, Karawang, Indonesia.

Aim :

- To enhance understanding, cooperation, and interoperability between the Special Forces of both armies.
- The first edition of the exercise 'Garuda Shakti' was conducted in 2012 in India.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – November 2022

About exercise 'Garuda Shakti' :

- The joint exercise will facilitate both armies to know each other better and share their wide experiences and combat experience on countering terrorist operations, Regional Security Operations & Peace Keeping Operations in an international environment.
- The joint training would also focus on a **high degree of physical fitness, tactical drills, techniques, and procedures** for which a comprehensive **13-day training program** has been worked out.
- The exercise will culminate in a **48-hour long validation exercise**

Other Bilateral Military Exercises :

- MAITREE (India and Thailand)
- Hand-in-Hand (India and China)
- Mitra Shakti (India and Sri Lanka)
- Harimau Shakti (India and Malaysia)
- Ekuverin (India and Maldives)
- Kurukshetra (India and Singapore)
- Nomadic Elephant (India and Mongolia)
- Shakti (India and France)
- Yudh Abhyas (India and US)

Second Project 15B Destroyer Delivered to the Indian Navy - Y 12705 (MORMUGAO)

- Y 12705 (Mormugao), the **second ship of Project 15B stealth guided missile destroyers** being built at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL), was delivered to the Indian Navy.

About Y 12705 (Mormugao) :

- It was designed by the Warship Design Bureau, the Indian Navy's in-house organisation; and built by M/s Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd, Mumbai.
- The keel of Mormugao was laid in **June 2015** and the ship was **launched on 17 Sep 2016**.
- The **four ships** of the Project are christened after major cities from all four corners of the country, viz. **Visakhapatnam, Mormugao, Imphal and Surat**.

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- The ship is 163 metres long and 17 metres wide, displaces 7400 tonnes when fully loaded and has a maximum speed of 30 knots.
- The overall indigenous content of the project is approx. 75%.
 - Medium Range Surface-to-Air Missiles (BEL, Bangalore)
 - BrahMos Surface-to-Surface Missiles (BrahMos Aerospace, New Delhi)
 - Indigenous Torpedo Tube Launchers (Larsen & Toubro, Mumbai)
 - Anti-Submarine Indigenous Rocket Launchers (Larsen & Toubro, Mumbai)
 - 76mm Super Rapid Gun Mount (BHEL, Haridwar)

About MoD :

- Union Minister : Rajnath Singh
- Minister of State : Ajay Bhatt

About Indian Navy :

- Founded : 26 January 1950
- Headquarters : New Delhi, Delhi
- Chief of Defence Staff : General Anil Chauhan
- Chief of the Naval Staff : Admiral R. Hari Kumar

IMPORTANT SUMMITS & CONFERENCES

HDFC Capital selects 10 startups for funding & support during the 2nd H@ART summit

- HDFC Capital, a subsidiary of Housing Development Finance Corporation Ltd, has shortlisted 10 startups for funding and support during the 2nd housing and Affordable Real Estate and Technology (H@ART) Summit Concluded in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- HDFC Capital has shortlisted 10 startups for funding and support during the 2nd H@ART Summit
- Out of the 10 finalist start-ups, four were focused on construction tech and three each on sustainability tech and sales & fintech.

Key Highlights :

- Recently, the H@ART Platform raised over Rs 500 crore through global investors as the first close of its property technology fund.

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- H@ART Platform launched **HDFC Real Estate Tech Innovators 2022 challenge** in partnership with Startup India, receiving an overwhelming response with over **537 startups** categorized under **Project Management & Construction Tech, Sales and FinTech, and Sustainability Tech.**
- HDFC Capital is the investment manager to **HDFC Capital Affordable Real Estate Fund 1 (H-CARE 1), HDFC Capital Affordable Real Estate Fund 2 (H-CARE 2), and HDFC Capital Affordable Real Estate Fund 3 (H-CARE 3),** which are registered with SEBI as a **category II alternative investment funds.**
- These funds combine to create a **\$ 3 billion platform** targeting the development of **affordable and mid-income housing** in India.

Note :

- The Real Estate industry is the **second largest employer in India** and is expected to contribute **13% of GDP in 2030**

About HDFC Capital :

- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- MD & CEO : Vipul Roongta

Axis Bank launches 7th edition of knowledge summit 'Evolve' for MSMEs

- **Axis Bank** has launched the 7th edition of 'Evolve' for Micro Small Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) with the theme of 'Indian SMEs: Shifting Gears for Next Level Growth'. 'Digitalisation to Building Indian SMEs' and 'Export Opportunities for SMEs in the New World Order.
- The seminar was addressed by **Sangram Singh, President of Commercial Banking Coverage Group (CBG), Axis Bank,** and **Krishan Gupta, MD, Organic Wellness Product Pvt Ltd.**
- Axis Bank along with its knowledge-sharing partner **Dun & Bradstreet** will host Evolve across **20 cities** such as Mumbai, Chennai, Indore, Bhubaneswar, Lucknow, Kolkata, Ahmedabad, etc.
- The 7th edition of Evolve will delve into **how technology and digitalization can help achieve exponential growth from exports.**

Varanasi will host the PM Gati Shakti Multimodal Waterways Summit:

- **Prime Minister Gati Shakti Multimodal Waterways Summit** will be launched by **Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal** in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, at the **Deendayal Hastkala Sankul (Trade Centre and Museum),** the **PM Gati Shakti Multimodal Waterways Summit** will take place.

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- The summit's main goal is to raise awareness of the PM Gati Shakti National Masterplan with a focus on the construction of canal infrastructure.
- To assure first and last-mile connectivity, the PM Gati Shakti Multimodal Waterways Summit is a game-changing strategy for enhancing logistics effectiveness and lowering logistics costs.
- Under Gati Shakti, the Ministry has identified 101 projects with a total estimated cost of around 62 thousand crore rupees, with a target completion date of 2024.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi introduced PM Gati Shakti, which aims to improve logistical effectiveness by providing multimodal connecting infrastructure to several special economic zones.

First Virtual Global Skill Summit Co-Chaired by Dharmendra Pradhan and Piyush Goyal to Promote Overseas Mobility

- The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI), Ministry of Education (MoE), and Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) organised the inaugural **Virtual Global Skill Summit** to promote the movement of skilled workers abroad.
- The conference was co-chaired by **Dharmendra Pradhan**, Union Minister of Education, and **Piyush Goyal**, Union Minister of Commerce and Industry.
- The Virtual Global Skill Summit (VGSS) focused on qualification benchmarking, capacity building, information exchange, and skill harmonisation in order to enhance global mobility, employment and readiness for the youth to join the global workforce.
- The primary aim of the summit was to institutionalise a mechanism for the exchange of information on the skill requirements of countries and the skill availability in India.
- This becomes a good opportunity to provide overseas employment opportunities to the Indian youth in countries facing a shortage of workforce

PM Modi will inaugurate the Bengaluru Tech Summit in 2022:

- The **Bengaluru Tech Summit's 22nd anniversary** will be virtually inaugurated by Prime Minister **Shri Narendra Modi**.
- Several world leaders, including the **president of France, Emmanuel Macron**, the minister of state for artificial intelligence and the digital economy of the **United Arab Emirates, Omar Bin Sultan Al Olama**, the assistant minister for foreign affairs of **Australia, Tim Watts**, the minister of

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science and culture of Finland, Petri Honkonen, and the chairman and CEO of the US company Kyndryl, Martin Schroeter, will be present at the inauguration ceremony.

- Naveen Tewari, the founder and CEO of Inmobi, India's first unicorn, will also be present at the inaugural event.
- There will be at least 9 MoUs signed and more than 20 items launched at Bengaluru Tech Summit 22, which has drawn more than 575 exhibitors.
- The Bengaluru Tech Summit 22 will see the participation of startups from 16 different states for the first time.
- At the conference with the theme "Tech4NextGen," more than 350 renowned experts from around the world will discuss current technological advancements.

The seventh edition of the Global Technology Summit will be held in New Delhi:

- The seventh edition of the Global Technology Summit will be hosted in a hybrid style in New Delhi until December 1st.
- The Global Technology Summit, co-hosted by the Ministry of External Affairs and Carnegie India, is India's yearly flagship event on geotechnology.
- The Summit's opening session would be a discussion with External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar about geo-digital and its implications.
- The External Affairs Ministry announced that the world's best minds in technology, government, security, space, startups, data, law, public health, climate change, academics, and the economy will convene and debate technology and its future over three days.
- This year's Summit theme is "Geopolitics of Technology."
- GTS 2022 will feature over 100 speakers over 50-panel discussions, keynote presentations, book releases, and other activities.
- The Summit will also feature ministers and senior government officials from the United States, Singapore, Japan, Nigeria, Brazil, Bhutan, the European Union, and other countries.
- The Summit has attracted over 5000 attendees from all across the world.

IMPORTANT SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

China launches second lab module Mengtian for its space station in Hainan province

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- China has launched the space lab module named Mengtian or "Dreaming of the Heavens", taking the construction of the country's space station Tiangong into the final stage.
- The Long March-5B Y4 carrier rocket, carrying Mengtian, blasted off from the Wenchang Spacecraft Launch Site on the coast of the southern island province of Hainan.
- This is the 25th flight mission since the country's manned space program was approved and initiated in 1992.
- 2 batches comprising 3 astronauts were flown to the space station, the main module called Tianhe on a 6 months mission to complete the construction.
- Once ready, China will be the only country to own a space station.

About the lab module Mengtian :

- Scientific equipment in the Mengtian module, the second lab component of China's under-construction space station.
- It will be used for studying microgravity and carrying out experiments in fluid physics, materials science, combustion science, and fundamental physics.
- The first lab was Wentian which was sent earlier and focused more on biological and space life sciences.
- Also, the Mengtian will carry the world's first space-based set of cold atomic clocks consisting of a hydrogen clock, a rubidium clock, and an optical clock.
- Mengtian weighs in at about 20 tons with a length of 17.9 meters (58.7 feet) and a diameter of 4.2 meters (13.8 feet).
- It will provide space for science experiments in zero gravity, an airlock for exposure to the vacuum of space, and a small robotic arm to support extravehicular payloads.

About China :

- Capital: Beijing
- Currency: Renminbi

New potentially hazardous asteroid discovered - 2022 AP7

- An international team of astronomers announced the discovery of a 1.5 kilometer- (0.9 mile) wide asteroid, named 2022 AP7 whose orbit crosses that of Earth, creating a small chance far in the future of a catastrophic collision.

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- It was discovered in an **area notoriously difficult** to spot objects due to the glare from the Sun.
- It was found along with **2 other near-Earth asteroids** using a **high-tech instrument** on the **Victor M. Blanco telescope** in Chile that was originally developed to study dark matter.
- The results were published in the **scientific journal The Astronomical Journal**.
- **Some 30,000 asteroids** of all sizes including **more than 850 larger than a kilometer wide** have been cataloged in the vicinity of the Earth, earning them the label "**Near Earth Objects**" (NEOs).
- None of them **threaten Earth** for the **next 100 years**.

ISRO successfully conducts a qualification test of the Cryogenic Engine for the Gaganyaan mission

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully conducted the qualification test of the **Cryogenic Engine** for the **Gaganyaan program** for **720 seconds** at **ISRO Propulsion Complex (IPRC)**, Mahendragiri in Tamil Nadu.

Key Highlights:

- This successful **long-duration test** is a major milestone for the **Human Space Programme Gaganyaan**.
- It **ensures the reliability and robustness** of the **cryogenic engine** for induction into the **human-rated launch vehicle** for **Gaganyaan**.
- This engine will undergo four more tests for a **cumulative duration of 1,810 seconds**.
- **India's maiden human space mission "Gaganyaan"** will be launched in **2023**,
- With this launch, **India** will become the **fourth nation** in the **world** to launch a **Human Spaceflight Mission** after **USA, Russia, and China**.

About ISRO :

- Established: 15 August 1969
- Headquarters: Bangalore, Karnataka, India
- Chairman: S Somanath
- The ISRO is the **national space agency of India**, it operates under the **Department of Space (DOS)**.

ISRO's RISAT-2 makes uncontrolled reentry into earth's atmosphere at the predicted impact point

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- **Radar Imaging Satellite (RISAT-2)** launched by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) in 2009, made an **uncontrolled re-entry** into the **Earth's atmosphere** at the predicted impact point in the **Indian Ocean near Jakarta, Indonesia**.

About RISAT-2 :

- RISAT-2, Weighing only about **300 kg**.
- It is a **radar imaging satellite** with multiple applications and was placed in an orbit where it was **400 km above the earth** at its closest approach and **550 km above the earth** at its farthest approach.
- RISAT-2 Satellite carried **30 Kg of fuel** for an initial designed life of four years.
- On re-entry, there was no fuel left in the satellite and hence there are **no contaminations or explosion** by fuel is expected
- RISAT-2 is a **clear example of ISRO's capability** to carry out spacecraft orbital operations efficiently and optimally.

SpaceX's Falcon Heavy rocket, the world's most powerful rocket, launches after 3-year hiatus

- **SpaceX's Falcon Heavy**, a towering, **three-pronged vehicle** that is the **most powerful operational rocket** in the world, was launched into space for the **first time since 2019**.
- The rocket launched from **NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida**, hauling satellites to space for the US military in a secretive mission **dubbed USSF-44**.
- The mission was carried out by the company owned by **billionaire Elon Musk** with the help of the **US Space Force**.
- This was the **first time** that the US Space Force used the rocket since the branch of the military was created by **former president Donald Trump** to **monitor the country's defence missions** in space.

Key Highlights :

- The Falcon Heavy was first used back in **2018** when it carried a **red sports car** made by **Tesla** to space as part of a trial run.
- It was also used to send a TV and phone service satellite to orbit for **Saudi Arabia-based Arabsat** and the final mission included the transport of experimental satellites for the **US Department of Defence**.

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- Made up of 3 Falcon 9 engine cores, with the central one upgraded, the **Falcon Heavy** is more **powerful** and **capable** of **generating five million pounds** of thrust at liftoff.
- Although Falcon Heavy can carry **heavier payloads** than **Falcon 9**, it doesn't serve as many customers.
- It has **only been used by NASA, the US military, and Arabsat**, a telecommunications corporation in **Saudi Arabia** so far.
- Space X has been working closely with the US military as the government looks to increase the number of orbiting satellites used for **surveillance purposes**.
- The other major partner for the military is **United Launch Alliance**, which is a joint operation between **Boeing** and **Lockheed Martin**.

About SpaceX :

- Founded: March 14, 2002
- Headquarters: Hawthorne, California, United States
- CEO & Chairman: Elon Musk
- Space Exploration Technologies Corp. (doing business as SpaceX) is an **American spacecraft manufacturer**, space launch provider, and satellite communications corporation.

Google Cloud partners with PMPML to help Pune commuters track buses in real time

- Google Cloud announced a **collaboration** with **Pune Mahanagar Parivahan Mahamandal Ltd (PMPML)**, the **public transport bus service provider** for the **twin cities** of **Pune & Pimpri Chinchwad** and **Pune Metropolitan Region Development Authority (PMRDA)** region, **Maharashtra**.

Aim :

- To **build an intelligent transit management system** and **feed system** to **track buses live** on **Google Maps**.

Key Highlights :

- PMPML has **hardware installed** on their buses which are **capable** of **sending real-time data**
- The collaboration with Google Cloud will help them ingest real-time data from all applicable buses from the **OBU (on-board unit) system** installed on the PMPML buses

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- Google Cloud will work through its premier partner Niveus Solutions Pvt Ltd and others for engagement in Pune.

About PMPML :

- Founded: 19 October 2007
- Headquarters: Pune, Maharashtra
- Chairman & Managing Director : Om Prakash Bakoria
- PMPML operates 371 routes around the Pune Metropolitan Region, including 117 Rainbow BRT routes that ply on the 7 bus rapid transit corridors.

Google launches FloodHub to forecast & monitor flooding incidents worldwide

- American technology giant Google has launched FloodHub, a platform that displays flood forecasts.
- Google used an Artificial Intelligence (AI) technique called transfer learning to help it work in areas with less available data.

About FloodHub :

- The platform shows areas and times when flooding is likely to occur, letting people know about natural disasters and what authorities can effectively help.
- Meanwhile, Google's flood alert notification system, like the one for earthquakes, is also expanding to 18 new countries in Africa, Latin America, and Southeast Asia.
- Those countries are Brazil, Colombia, Sri Lanka, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Guinea, Malawi, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Angola, South Sudan, Namibia, Liberia, and South Africa.
- Google launched a flood forecasting service in 2018 to protect people from disasters and natural disasters.
- Google Search and Maps, has sent 115 million flood warning notifications to 23 million people, saving countless lives.

About Google :

- Founded: September 4, 1998
- Headquarters: California, United States
- CEO: Sundar Pichai

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Iran's Revolutionary Guard launches new satellite-carrying rocket - Ghaem-100

- Iran's powerful paramilitary Revolutionary Guard launched a new satellite-carrying rocket, called a Ghaem-100 satellite carrier, seeking to demonstrate the force's space prowess even as anti-government protests rage across the country.
- The United States has repeatedly voiced concern that such launches could boost Iran's ballistic missile technology, extending to the potential delivery of nuclear warheads.

Key Highlights :

- Ghaem-100 is capable of placing satellites weighing 80 kilograms (176 pounds) in an orbit 500 kilometres (just more than 300 miles) from the surface of the Earth,"
- Iran says its satellite program, like its nuclear activities, is aimed at scientific research and other civilian applications.
- The satellite will be used for agriculture and water resources planning, and the Russian embassy in Tehran the spacecraft was devised for non-military purposes.
- Iran successfully put its first military satellite into orbit in April 2020, drawing a sharp rebuke from Washington.
- In August 2022 the Khayyam satellite, built and launched by Russia on behalf of Iran, lifted into orbit from the Russia-controlled Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan.

About Iran :

- President: Ebrahim Raisi
- Capital: Tehran
- Currency: Iranian rial

ISRO tests rocket engine developed by startup Agnikul Cosmos

- The India Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully conducted a hot test of the Agnilet - single piece, fully 3d printed, 2nd stage semi cryo rocket engine developed by Agnikul Cosmos Private Limited, an aerospace startup.
- The hot test was conducted by firing the Agnilet Engine at its Vertical Test Facility, Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching Station (TERLS), Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.
- The company has also unveiled Rocket Factory- 1, the country's first-ever rocket facility for large-scale printing of such rocket engines at the IIT Madras Research Park.

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About Agnilet :

- Agnilet Engine is a regeneratively cooled 1.4 kN semi-cryogenic engine, working at a chamber pressure of 10.8 bar(a) using Liquid oxygen and Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) as propellants.
- This engine is realized through state-of-the-art 3D printing technology and the material of construction is INCONEL-718.
- The test was carried out as part of an MOU signed between ISRO and M/s Agnikul Cosmos Pvt. Ltd. to provide the opportunity for Indian space start-ups to use facilities of ISRO through IN-SPACe (Indian National Space, Promotion and Authorisation Centre).

About Agnikul Cosmos Private Limited :

- Founded: 2017
- Headquarters: Chennai, Tamil Nadu
- CEO: Srinath Ravichandran
- AgniKul Cosmos Private Limited is an Indian aerospace manufacturer based in the National Center for Combustion R&D (NCRD) of IIT Madras, Chennai.

About ISRO :

- Founded: 15 August 1969
- Headquarters: Bangalore, Karnataka, India
- Chairman: S Somanath
- ISRO is the national space agency of India, operating under the Department of Space (DOS).

ISRO successfully conducts tests of the CE20 cryogenic engine for the LVM3 launch

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully conducted the hot test of the CE20 cryogenic engine indigenously developed for Launch Vehicle Mark 3 (LVM3) or GSLV-Mk3 at an uprated thrust level of 21.8 tonnes for the first time.
- This will enhance the LVM3 payload capability up to 450kg with additional propellant loading.

Key Highlights :

- The CE20 cryogenic engine that was tested has gone through major modifications compared to previous engines with Thrust Control Valve (TCV) for thrust control being introduced in the system.

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- In addition to this 3D printed LOX (Liquid Oxygen) and LH2 (Liquid Hydrogen) turbine exhaust casings were inducted into the engine for the first time
- ISRO has redesignated the launch vehicle as LVM-3 from GSLV Mk-III, which is **India's heaviest launch vehicle**.
- The GSLV Mk3 rocket or LVM3 is a **three-stage heavy lift launch vehicle** developed by ISRO.
- The vehicle has **two solid strap-on motors**(burns solid fuel), a core-stage liquid booster (burns a combination of liquid fuels), and a 'C25' cryogenic upper stage(burns liquid hydrogen with liquid oxygen).
- LVM3 is designed to carry a **4-ton class of satellites** into Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO) or about **8 tons to Low Earth Orbit (LEO)**, which is about **twice the capability** of its predecessor, the GSLV Mk II.

About ISRO :

- Established: 15 August 1969
- Headquarters: Bangalore, Karnataka, India
- Chairman: S Somanath
- The ISRO is the **national space agency of India and operates** under the **Department of Space (DOS)**.

NASA'S 'Psyche' Mission To Explore Metal-Rich Asteroid

- The **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)** announced the launch of its next mission Psyche on **October 10, 2023**, to reveal more about a **massive golden asteroid** between Mars and Jupiter.
- **16 Psyche** is a **226-kilometer (140 miles) wide asteroid** between Mars and Jupiter that could contain iron, nickel, and gold worth an estimated **\$10,000 quadrillion** which is more than the global economy.
- The Psyche mission is **part of NASA's Discovery Program** of low-cost robotic space missions.
- "NASA's Psyche spacecraft was set to **launch in August 2022** and **arrive at the asteroid in 2026**.

About NASA :

- Founded: July 29, 1958
- Headquarters: Washington, D.C, United States

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- Administrator: Bill Nelson

ISRO delivered Flight Termination System (FTS) packages to Agnikul

- Agnikul Cosmos, a space technology startup based in Chennai, Tamil Nadu received its first flight termination system (FTS) from the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), with the support of the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Center (IN-SPACe).
- The FTS is a system meant to **destroy a rocket** if it goes off-course and might fall into a place where people live.
- This also marks the **first time** that a system that has been used for ISRO's vehicles is being supplied for **supporting a private launch vehicle built in India**.
- The package will be used for their **fully controlled sub-orbital launcher**, scheduled to launch from **SDSC SHAR, Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh**.

About ISRO :

- Founded: 15 August 1969
- Headquarters: Bangalore, Karnataka, India
- Chairman: S Somanath
- ISRO is the **national space agency of India**, it operates under the **Department of Space (DOS)**.

China Successfully Launches Cargo Spacecraft for Its Space Station In Orbit

- China successfully launched its cargo spacecraft Tianzhou-5 to deliver supplies for its space station, the construction of which is expected to be **completed by the end of 2022**.
- The **Long March-7 Y6 rocket**, carrying Tianzhou-5 which blasted off from the **Wenchang Spacecraft Launch Site** in the southern island province of Hainan.
- The launch of the Tianzhou-5 is the **200th launch mission** for Xichang Satellite Launch Center in **2022**, as well as the last for Wenchang launch site in 2022.

About Tianzhou-5:

- The Tianzhou-5 is a **fully sealed cargo spacecraft** that carried a **total of 6.7 tonnes** of supplies, including about **5.2 tonnes** of life supplies and equipment, as well as **1.4 tonnes** of propellant.
- The cargo will serve the demand of the upcoming **Shenzhou-15 crew** for **six months** and the construction of the space station.

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- The Tianzhou-5 has expanded its storage capability with **8 storage tanks** as previous models only had 4.
- China will carry out **two more missions** after the launch of the **Tianzhou-5 cargo craft** the **Shenzhou-15** crewed spaceship and bringing the Shenzhou-14 crew back to Earth – before it fully completes the in-orbit construction of the space station by the end of 2022.
- For the **first time**, the **cargo craft carried fuel cells** for use in **space experiments** designed to discover how they will perform in a **microgravity environment**.
- On **October 31, 2022** China launched the **second lab called Mengtian module** to be part of its Tiangong space station taking its construction into the final stage.

About China :

- Capital: Beijing
- Currency : Renminbi

NASA partners with Pratt & Whitney to develop low-emission aviation engine technology

- The **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)** has selected **Pratt & Whitney** to develop advanced engine technologies to reduce fuel consumption and emissions for next-generation single-aisle aircraft.
- The agency's **Hybrid Thermally Efficient Core (HyTEC)** project aims to improve aircraft engine combustors to ensure the future of commercial flight is cleaner, more efficient, and sustainable
- Under HyTEC, NASA recently awarded a cost-share contract to Pratt & Whitney with a total value of **\$13.1 million**
- The HyTEC project is part of **NASA's Sustainable Flight National Partnership**, which will enable breakthrough innovations in support of the aviation industry's goal to significantly **reduce CO2 emissions by 2050**.

Key Highlights :

- Through HyTEC, Pratt & Whitney will demonstrate the compatibility of **sustainable aviation fuels (SAFs)** with advanced combustors for small core engines.
- The project includes developing and testing the fuel and air mixers for optimal efficiency and then measuring the emissions and noise emitted using Jet A fuel and high blends of SAF.

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- Collaboration between Pratt & Whitney and NASA has already led to several key advances in sustainable propulsion technologies in recent decades, including **low-pressure-ratio fans**, **low-emissions combustors** and **high-performance hot sections**.
- In **October 2021**, NASA awarded Pratt & Whitney two contracts under the HyTEC project to develop technologies for a **high-pressure turbine** that will include next-generation **ceramic matrix composites (CMC) materials** capable of operating at higher temperatures than current CMCs.

About NASA:

- Founded: July 29, 1958
- Headquarters: Washington, D.C, United States
- Administrator: Bill Nelson

Amazon Unveils New Design for Prime Air Delivery Drone - MK30

- E-commerce giant Amazon has unveiled the design of its new Prime Air delivery drone, MK30' drone which will handle high temperatures and light rain.
- The current hexagonal 'MK27-2' drone will be replaced by the new 'MK30', which will be lighter and smaller.
- The drone will enter into service in **2024** and is expected to be **25% quieter than the current hexagonal 'MK27-2' drone**.
- The new drone will undergo rigorous evaluation by national aerospace authorities like the **Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)** to prove its safety and reliability.
- In early 2022, Amazon announced that customers residing in **Lockeford, California**, and **College Station, Texas**, will be prioritized to receive Prime Air deliveries in later 2021.

About Amazon :

- Founded : July 5, 1994
- Headquarters : United States
- President & CEO : Andy Jassy

China to Send Monkeys Into Space To Study Reproduction In Zero-Gravity

- Astronauts from China are planning to perform a reproductive experiment in zero gravity involving monkeys in space aboard a new Chinese space station called Tiangong.

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- The experiment is expected to be conducted in the **Wentian** module of the space station that docked earlier in 2022.

Key Highlights :

- The module, which currently has **only enough room for algae, fish, or snails**, has been designed in a way to expand and configure for larger organisms.
- The **Tianhe, Wentian, and Mengtian lab modules** of the space station provide it with the **basic T-shape structure**.
- These experiments will help improve our understanding of an **organism's adaptation to microgravity and other space environments**.
- **China Manned Space Agency (CMSA)** has set a goal of more than **1,000 experiments** to be conducted in fields ranging from **technical spheres to medical science**.

About China :

- Capital: Beijing
- Currency: Renminbi

Google collaborates with Karnataka govt to support emerging local start-ups

- **Google** has signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **Government of Karnataka** to **support** its vision of **promoting innovation** and spurring the growth of startups across Karnataka.
- In collaboration with the **Karnataka Innovation and Technology Society (KITS)**, Google stated that it will work with **women-led founders and startups** across **tier 2 and tier 3 cities** to offer essential training, access to partners, etc.
- Under the MoU, Google will work together with the Karnataka government to:
 - **Empower the local startup community** with training, knowledge, and tools
 - **Extend Google Career Certificates scholarships** to youth
 - Support digital citizenship and online safety across schools through the '**Be Internet Awesome**' program
- In **June 2022**, **Google** also launched **Google for Startups Accelerator - India Women Founders**, which was designed to help women founders address challenges that are unique to their experience, including fundraising, hiring, and many others.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – November 2022

About Google :

- Founded: September 4, 1998
- Headquarters: California, United States
- CEO: Sundar Pichai

India's first-ever private rocket Vikram-S launched by ISRO - Mission Prarambh'

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) launched India's first privately developed launch vehicle, Vikram-S, as part of the Prarambh mission from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh (AP).
- Prarambh is the maiden mission of Hyderabad-based space-tech startup Skyroot Aerospace which received support from ISRO as well as the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (INSPACE).
- The launch vehicle has been named 'Vikram-S' as a tribute to the father of the Indian space program, the late Vikram Sarabhai.

Aim :

- To launch Vikram-S (VKS), a single-stage solid fuelled sub-orbital rocket into space.

About Vikram-S :

- Vikram-S is one of the world's first all-composite space launch vehicles.
- The solid thrusters have been 3D-printed to ensure spin stability.
- Vikram-S is carrying payloads manufactured by Space Kidz India, BazoomQ Armenia, and N-Space Tech India.
- Vikram-S has a mass of 545 kilograms, a length of six meters, a diameter of 0.375 meters, a peak vacuum thrust of seven tonnes, and can carry payloads weighing up to 83 kilograms to a maximum altitude of 100 kilometers.
- The 'Prarambh' mission carried three customer payloads of two Indian and one foreign customer equipped with sensors for the measurement of acceleration and pressure.
- The flight was launched to prove avionics systems in the Vikram series like telemetry, tracking, inertial measurement, GPS, an onboard camera, data acquisition, and power systems.

About ISRO :

- Established: 15 August 1969

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- Headquarters: Bangalore, Karnataka, India
- Chairman: S Somanath

About Skyroot Aerospace :

- Founded: 12 June 2018
- Headquarters: Hyderabad, India
- CEO : Pawan Kumar Chandana
- Skyroot Aerospace Private Limited is an **Indian private aerospace manufacturer and commercial launch service, provider.**
- It is the **largest private space start-up in India** with ₹526 crores raised as capital to date.

ISRO Conducts Main Parachute Test For Gaganyaan Human Spaceflight Mission

- The Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO's) Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) has conducted the **Integrated Main Parachute Airdrop Test (IMAT)** of its crew module deceleration system for the much-awaited maiden Gaganyaan human spaceflight program at the **Babina Field Fire Range (BFFR)** in Jhansi district of Uttar Pradesh.
- It marks a significant milestone toward realizing the **nation's ambitious Gaganyaan project.**
- The design and development of the **parachute-based deceleration system** is a joint venture of ISRO and the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).**

About IMAT :

- The IMAT test is the **first in a series of integrated parachute airdrop tests** planned to simulate different failure conditions of the parachute system before it is deemed qualified to be used in the **first human spaceflight mission**
- In this test, a **5-tonne dummy mass**, equivalent to the crew module mass, was taken to an **altitude of 2.5 kilometres** and dropped using the **Indian Air Force's IL-76 aircraft.**
- **2 small pyro-based mortar-deployed pilot parachutes** then pulled the main parachutes.
- The fully inflated main parachutes reduced the payload speed to a **safe landing speed** during the test, which lasted about 2 to 3 minutes.

About ISRO's Parachute Airdrop Test :

- The Parachute system for the Gaganyaan crew module consists of **10 parachutes.**
- This will **help reduce the speed** of the Gaganyaan crew module to safe levels before landing.

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- Of the 3 main parachutes, 2 are sufficient to land the astronauts on Earth.
- The third parachute is redundant.
- Complex testing methods such as rail track rocket sled (RTRS) will test the performance of the smaller parachutes, and aircraft or helicopters will evaluate the performance of the main parachutes.

About ISRO :

- Founded: 15 August 1969
- Headquarters: Bangalore, Karnataka, India
- Chairman: S Somanath
- The ISRO is the national space agency of India & it operates under the Department of Space (DOS).

ISRO conducts 200th consecutive successful launch of RH200 sounding rocket

- The versatile sounding rocket of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), Rohini RH200, registered its 200th consecutive successful launch from the Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching Station, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.
- The '200' in the name denotes the diameter of the rocket in mm.
- The event will take place in the presence of former Indian president Ram Nath Kovind, Chairman, ISRO, Dr S Somanath and Director, VSSC, Dr. S. Unnikrishnan Nair and officials from the space agency.

About Rohini RH200 :

- The RH-200 has a maximum launch altitude of 70 kilometers (43 mi).
- Sounding rockets are small, low-cost, solid-fuelled rockets meant for experimental purposes, meteorology, and atmospheric studies. .
- These rockets take far less time to assemble and launch, given that they use solid fuel, which is less sophisticated when compared to liquid fuels.
- Typically, sounding rockets are launched at sub-orbit (less than 100 kilometers) in altitude and are not spacefaring rockets.
- At present, India operates three sounding rocket variants —RH-200, RH-300-Mk-II and RH-560-Mk-III.

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- These cover a payload range of 8 to 100 kg and can fly to an altitude of 75-550 kms.
- **November 21, 1963**, is widely regarded as the beginning of the Indian Space programme, as the maiden launch of the **sounding rocket** took place from the then **Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching Station** (now a part of the larger VSSC campus).

About ISRO :

- Founded : 15 August 1969
- Headquarters : Bangalore, India
- Chairman : S Somanath

India carries out successful training launch of Intermediate Range Ballistic Missile, Agni-3 in Odisha

- India carried out a successful training launch of an Intermediate Range Ballistic Missile (IRBM), **Agni-3** from **APJ Abdul Kalam Island** in Odisha.
- The successful test was part of routine user training launches carried out under the aegis of the **Strategic Forces Command**.
- **Agni-III**, which is designed by the **Defence Research and Development Organisation** is a **two-stage ballistic missile** that is capable of nuclear weapons delivery.

About Agni-III :

- Agni-3 missile was carried out for a **predetermined range** and it validated all the operational parameters of the system.
- The **16-meter-long missile**, weighing more than **48 tonnes**, has a range of over **3000 kilometres**.
- It is capable of carrying a payload of over **1.5 tonnes**.
- Due to its high range of **circular error probability(CEP)**, the Agni-3 missile is known as the world's most accurate strategic ballistic missile of its range class.
- The missile is equipped with **sophisticated navigation, guidance, and control systems** and **advanced onboard computer systems**.

Recent News :

- In Nov 2022, the **DRDO** conducted a successful flight test of the **Phase-II ballistic missile** defense interceptor **AD-1** missile from Odisha's coast.

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China Plans to Build First Nuclear-Powered Moon Base by 2028

- China plans to build its first base on the moon by 2028, ahead of landing astronauts there in subsequent years as the country steps up its challenge to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA's) dominance in space exploration.

Key Highlights :

- The lunar base will likely be powered by nuclear energy.
- Its basic configuration will consist of a lander, hopper, orbiter, and rover, all of which would be constructed by the Chang'e 6, 7, and 8 missions.
- In 2019, China became the first country to land a rover on the far side of the moon and later brought back its first lunar samples.
- The base is intended to be the first outpost on the moon's South Pole, an area scientists think is the best place to find water.
- China aims to eventually expand the base into an international research station.

About China :

- President: Xi Jinping
- Capital: Beijing
- Currency: Renminbi

ISRO's PSLV-C54 successfully places the earth observation satellite & 8 nanosatellites into orbit

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully launched 9 satellites, including an Earth Observation Satellite (EOS-06), into multiple orbits using the space agency's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-C54) in one of its longest missions.
- This is the 56th flight of the PSLV and the 24th flight of the PSLV-XL version that took off from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC), SHAR, Sriharikota.
- The 8 nanosatellites include ISRO Nano Satellite-2 for Bhutan (INS-2B), Anand, Astrocast (four satellites), and two Thybolt satellites.

About EOS-6 :

- EOS-6 is the Oceansat series' 3rd-generation satellite envisaged to observe ocean colour data, sea surface temperature, and wind vector data to use in oceanography, climatic and meteorological applications.

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Separation of the satellites:

- The primary satellite (EOS-06) was separated in Orbit-1 and subsequently, the orbit was changed by using **two Orbit Change Thrusters (OCTs)** introduced in the **Propulsion Bay Ring of the PSLV-C54**.
- Later, all **7 commercial satellites** from **NewSpace India Limited (NSIL)** were deployed successfully.
- **Astrocast**, a 3U spacecraft from Spaceflight Inc, US, was separated.
- The **Thybolt**, a 0.5U spacecraft bus with a **communication payload to enable rapid technology demonstration and constellation development** from **Dhruva Space**, was then placed in the intended orbit.
- The **Anand three-axis stabilized nanosatellite**, a technology demonstrator from Pixxel, India was also placed in the orbit.

About The India-Bhutan Satellite :

- The **INS-2B satellite**, a joint mission between **India and Bhutan**, contains **two payloads -**
- **NanoMx**, a multispectral optical imaging payload developed by **Space Applications Centre (SAC)**,
- **APRS-Digipeater**, built collaboratively by **DITT-Bhutan and URSC**.
- The India-Bhutan satellite achieved a historic milestone in **India's bilateral cooperation with Bhutan**.

Future missions :

- ISRO is planning to have its mission to the sun with its **satellite Aditya-L1**, a **coronagraphy spacecraft to study the solar atmosphere**, with a PSLV rocket next year.
- The space agency will also **launch 4 navigation satellites** for the country's NavIC constellation, with the first one going up in **2023**.

About PSLV :

- The PSLV is an **expendable medium-lift launch vehicle** designed and operated by the **ISRO**.
- It was developed in **1993** to allow India to launch its **Indian Remote Sensing (IRS) satellites** into **sun-synchronous orbits**.

About ISRO :

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Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – November 2022

- Established: 15 August 1969
- Headquarters: Bangalore, India
- Chairman: Sreedhara Somanath

IMPORTANT APPS & SERVICES NEWS

President Droupadi Murmu launches e-KUMBH portal in Bhubaneswar

- President of India Droupadi Murmu launched e-KUMBH (Knowledge Unleashed in Multiple Bharatiya Languages) portal in which engineering courses and books would be available in 12 scheduled Indian languages from Jayadev Bhawan, Bhubaneswar, Odisha.
- Murmu also released engineering books of All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) in Odia language and glossary of 50,000 technical terms in Odia language developed by Commission for Scientific and Technical Terminology (CSTT).
- Engineering books have been translated in Hindi, Marathi, Bengali, Tamil, Telugu, Gujarati, Kannada, Punjabi, Odia and Assamese while book translation in Urdu and Malayalam languages is underway.

Union Minister for Labour and Employment Shri Bhupender Yadav Launches ESIC Online Maternity Benefit Claim Portal

- Shri Bhupender Yadav, Union Minister of Labour & Employment and Environment, Forest & Climate Change launched the Employees' State Insurance Corporation's (ESIC) online maternity benefit claim facility for insured women in New Delhi, Delhi, India.
- The portal was launched at the 102 birth anniversary of Dattopant Thengadi , a social reformer and the founder of Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh , organized by the National Labour Education and Development Board.
- **Maternity Benefit** is given to the insured women in the form of cash benefit in case of certain contingencies such as in the advanced stage of pregnancy, after delivery / in the unfortunate event of confinement or miscarriage and who meet the eligibility conditions.
- **Payment at the rate of 100% of wages** is paid for 26 weeks as maternity benefit to the insured woman by ESIC to compensate for the loss of income during her childbirth.

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- A total of 18.69 lakh women beneficiaries have been provided maternity benefits of Rs 37.37 crore during the year 2021-22.

About Ministry of Labour & Employment :

- Cabinet Minister : Bhupender Yadav
- Minister of State : Rameswar Teli
- Director General of ESIC : Dr. Rajendra Kumar

Krishify Integrates With E-NAM's Platform Of Platforms

- Krishify, a Gurugram-based agritech start-up platform, has integrated with the Platform of Platforms (PoPs) by the electronic National Agricultural Market (eNAM).
- e-NAM, a unit of the portal Ministry of Agriculture, is a pan-India electronic trading portal which networks existing agricultural produce market committees' (APMC) yards to create a unified national market for agrarian commodities for farmers, traders, and other intermediaries.
- The e-NAM platform will direct its users to Krishify, where they can get assistance from its pool of professionals for assistance
- Union Agriculture Minister, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar, launched the Platform of Platforms (PoPs) under e-NAM in July 2022
- The PoP offers transportation, warehousing, quality assaying, storage, fintech, sorting and grading and agri-advisory services to its stakeholders.
- The initiative is part of the Centre's plans to widen the scope of e-NAM in which 41 other entities, including 9 trading platforms, will offer their services.
- It is expected to boost e-trading too.

About Krishify :

- Founded : 2019
- Headquarters : Gurgaon, Haryana
- CEO : Rajesh Ranjan

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IMPORTANT RANKING & INDEX NEWS

BPCL is acknowledged as the nation's most sustainable oil and gas company:

- In the 2022 edition of the S&P Dow Jones Sustainability Indices (DJSI) Corporate Sustainability Assessment (CSA) rankings, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), 'Maharatna' and a Fortune Global 500 Company, once again achieved the No. 1 rank in the Indian oil and gas sector for its sustainability performance.
- With a score of 65 percentage points against the industry average of 31, BPCL has maintained its position atop the DJSI Indices in India for the third year in a row.
- This performance is significantly better than the score of 59 against the industry average of 39 recorded on the DJSI platform last year.

About Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited:

- Chairman: Arun Kumar Singh
- Headquarters: Mumbai
- Founded: 1952.

UNHCR report: 103 million people are displaced forcibly worldwide

- According to the UNHCR in Geneva, 103 million people were forcibly uprooted from their homes in the first half of 2022 as a result of persecution, conflict, violence, human rights abuses, and other situations that seriously disturbed public order.
- This equates to one in every 77 people on Earth.
- The report claims that between the end of 2021 and the middle of 2022, the total number of refugees and people in need of international protection increased by 24 percent, from 25.7 million to 32 million.
- More than half (56%) of all refugees as of the end of June this year were Syrian, Venezuelan, or Ukrainian.
- Turkey hosted 3.7 million refugees as of mid-2022, making it the country with the largest refugee population globally.
- Pakistan and Uganda were next with 2.5 million and 2.2 million refugees, respectively, followed by Colombia and Germany (1.5 million each).

Most Vulnerable Countries:

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- During the same time frame, significant population displacements were also reported in Myanmar, Burkina Faso, the Central African Republic, Mozambique, and Congo, as well as in the Tigray region of Ethiopia.
- The events in Afghanistan that led to the Taliban taking control of Kabul in August 2021 resulted in both internal and external migration.
- Despite more than 790,000 Afghans returning home during the year, the number of people who have been internally displaced increased for the 15th year in a row.
- Between 100,000 and 500,000 more people were internally displaced in Yemen, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Nigeria, South Sudan, and Sudan in 2021.

About UNHCR:

- Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland
- Founder: United Nations
- Founded: 14 December 1950
- Head: High Commissioner for Refugees; Filippo Grandi

Report on the Performance Grading Index (PGI) for States and UTs is released by the MoE:

- The Performance Grading Index (PGI) for 2020–21, a thorough review of the school education system in all 50 states and the Union Territories, was released by the Ministry of Education.
- PGI's main goal is to advance evidence-based policies and draw attention to course correction to guarantee that every student receives a high-quality education.
- In contrast to zero in 2017–18 and four in 2019–20, a total of seven States and UTs—Kerala, Punjab, Chandigarh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan, and Andhra Pradesh—have achieved Level II (scoring 901–950) in 2020–21.
- The newest entrants to the highest achieved level of any state thus far are Gujarat, Rajasthan, and Andhra Pradesh.
- "States/UTs' PGI grades and scores for 2020–21 are evidence of the PGI system's effectiveness.
- The PGI scores broken down by indicator identifies the areas in which a state needs to advance.
- The PGI will display the relative performance of all States and UTs on a consistent scale, encouraging them to perform better and adopt top performers' practices.

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India has the largest gender wealth gap (GWG) in APAC at 64%:

- According to a recent study, when compared to other APAC nations, **India has the largest gender wealth gap (64%) at present.**
- The greater responsibility of caregiving is largely to blame for this.
- Opportunities for women in leadership roles are similarly scarce, according to the **2022 WTW Global Gender Wealth Equity study**, with only **3% of women** in India's workforce holding senior positions.
- In terms of the gender wealth gap, **South Korea is the APAC region's top performer.**
- The wage caps built into social security payments in South Korea, according to the research, "restrict the buildup of male relative to female wealth.
- According to the research, there are **12 markets in the APAC area** where there are gender wealth gaps that **range from 64% in India to 90% in South Korea.**
- According to the survey, **six of the markets studied have a higher wealth index at retirement for women than the worldwide average**, including **China (78%), Japan (82%), the Philippines (79%), and Singapore (79 percent).**

India is at the top of the list of nations with the lowest manufacturing costs:

- A survey places **India ahead of China and Vietnam as the country with the lowest manufacturing costs.**
- India has earned the **31st spot in the overall Best Countries rating among 85 countries**, according to US News and World Report.
- India is ranked number one on a list of the top 10 nations with the lowest manufacturing costs, followed by **Thailand (fourth), the Philippines (fifth), Bangladesh (sixth), Indonesia (seventh), Cambodia (eighth), Malaysia (ninth), and Sri Lanka (tenth).**
- According to the survey, China, India's main economic opponent in the South Asian area, has an **overall 'Open for Business' score of 17.**
- When it comes to low manufacturing costs, however, it ranks second only to India.
- Vietnam, which has attracted a spate of garment and footwear manufacturers in recent years, has been ranked third in the category of countries with the lowest production costs.
- It is ranked **47th in the overall 'Open for the Business' category.**

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- **Switzerland** topped the overall Best Countries list, followed by **Germany, Canada, the United States, and Sweden.**

WMO report: The eight warmest years on record are likely to occur from 2015 to 2022

- According to a report from the **World Meteorological Organization**, the **global mean temperature in 2022 is predicted to be 1.15 degrees Celsius** higher than the pre-industrial average (1850–1900).
- This means that the eight years starting in 2015 will likely go down in history as the warmest period ever.
- The **rate of sea level rise has doubled since 1993**, and it has increased by approximately 10 mm since January 2020 to a new record high this year, according to the study titled "**WMO Provisional State of the Global Climate 2022**" which was released during the 27th Conference of Parties to the UNFCCC.
- The analysis indicated that 10% of the total increase in sea level since satellite monitoring began over 30 years ago has occurred in the last two and a half years.
- As of now in 2022, the average worldwide temperature has risen 1.15 degrees Celsius above the level of the period between 1850 and 1900.
- The research indicates that if the current anomaly persists through the end of the year, 2022 would be either the fifth or sixth warmest year on record (since 1850), and in both cases, it will be somewhat warmer than 2021.
- It's expected that the eight years, from 2015 to 2022, will rank among the eight warmest on record.

WMO Facts:

- The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) is an intergovernmental organization with 192 member countries and territories.
- India is a member of the World Meteorological Organization.
- The International Meteorological Organization (IMO) was founded following the 1873 Vienna International Meteorological Congress.
- Headquartered - in Geneva, Switzerland.

Forbes: Reliance Industries is the best employer in India and ranks in the top 20 globally

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- **Reliance Industries**, the nation's largest firm by revenues, profitability, and market value is India's top employer and the 20th best company to work for internationally, according to Forbes' World's Finest Employers rankings 2022.
- Reliance, the oil-to-telecom-to-retail behemoth, is placed 20th, the highest-ranked Indian corporation, with 2,30,000 employees.
- It is ranked higher than Mercedes-Benz of Germany, Coca-Cola of the United States, Honda and Yamaha of Japan, and Saudi Aramco of Saudi Arabia.
- **Samsung Electronics**, a major in South Korea, came out on top of the global rating, followed by **Apple**, **IBM**, **Microsoft**, and other US behemoths like **Alphabet** and **IBM**.
- US businesses are ranked 2nd through 12th, with German carmaker **BMW Group** coming in at number 13.
- The list has French juggernaut **Decathlon** at position 15 and the world's largest online retailer **Amazon** at position 14.
- In the top 100, **Reliance** is the only other Indian corporation.
- **137th place is held by HDFC Bank**.
- Other businesses on the list include **Aditya Birla Group** (240), **Hero Motocorp** (333), **Larsen & Toubro** (354), **ICICI Bank** (365), **HCL Technologies** (455), **State Bank of India** (499), **Adani Enterprises** (547), and **Infosys** (668).

Three Indian women are included in the 2022 Asia's Power Businesswomen List:

- The annual "Asia's Power Businesswomen" list, which includes 20 women from the Asia-Pacific area, has been released by **Forbes Asia**.
- Three Indian ladies are also included on the list of powerful women.
- The 20 women highlighted are new to the list and help **Forbes Asia's** network of influential women in the region grow.

2022's Top Asian Businesswomen:

- **Ghazal Alagh**, co-founder and chief innovation officer of **Honasa Consumer**, **Mamaearth's** parent company, is the first Indian woman to be mentioned on the list.
- She co-founded the Gurgaon-based business in 2016 with her CEO-husband **Varun**.
- The company owned by **Alagh** became a unicorn in January of this year.

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- Powerful Businesswomen in Asia **Soma Mondal in 2022**
- Soma Mondal, the first woman to lead the state-run steel company SAIL, is the second entrepreneur from India on the list.
- According to Forbes, SAIL's yearly income increased by 50% during the fiscal year that concluded on March 31, 2022, after Mondal was appointed chairperson in 2021.
- Among the other women on the list are **Wallaya Chirathivat**, president director, and CEO of Thailand's largest retail property developer Central Pattana, as well as Japan's twin sisters **Anna and Mizuki Nakajima**, co-founders of smartphone gaming app Coly, the youngest of the list, and **Choi Soo-Yeon**, CEO of Naver, the largest internet company by market capitalization in South Korea.

IIT Bombay is the top university in Southern Asia: QS Asia University Rankings for 2023:

- According to the **QS Asia University Rankings 2023**, the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) **Bombay** offers the greatest education in Southern Asia, with IIT Delhi coming in second.
- The number of institutions in the **15th edition of the QS World University Rankings**: Asia has increased from 687 to 757, making it the largest ranking for the area to date.
- The **QS ranking 2023** is based on academic and employer reputations, the amount of personnel with a PhD, and the ratio of international students, among other factors.
- This year's university ranking list includes **760 Asian universities**.

LIST OF INDIAN UNIVERSITIES:

- IIT Bombay (40th)
- IIT Delhi (46th)
- IISc Bangalore (52)
- IIT Madras (53)
- IIT Kharagpur (61)
- IIT Kanpur (66)
- University of Delhi (85)
- IIT Roorkee (114)
- JNU (119)
- IIT Guwahati (124)

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- VIT Vellore (173)
- University of Calcutta (181)
- Jadavpur University (182)
- Anna University (185)
- Chandigarh University (185)
- IIT Indore (185)
- BITS Pilani (188)
- Jamia Millia Islamia (188)
- Amity University Noida (200)

The top 10 Asian Universities:

1. China's Peking University
2. National University of Singapore
3. Tsinghua University, Beijing
4. The University of Hong Kong
5. Nanyang Technological University, Singapore
6. Fudan University, China
7. Zhejiang University, China
8. Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology
9. Universiti Malaya (UM), Kuala Lumpur
10. Shanghai Jiao Tong University

Report on the State of Food and Agriculture in 2022 FAO publishes:

- The **State of Food and Agriculture (SOFA)** is one of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization's **yearly flagship reports (FAO)**.
- Based on scientific evaluation, it provides thorough insights into numerous concerns relating to food and agriculture.
- The paper evaluated several agricultural automation drivers, including recently developed digital technology.
- The paper assessed the business case for deploying these **digital automation technologies across various agricultural production systems** worldwide using **27** case studies.

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- It highlighted several barriers to the widespread adoption of these technologies, particularly among small-scale producers.
- It identified two key challenges to their adoption: **inadequate digital literacy and a lack of supportive infrastructures such as the internet and the availability of electricity.**
- The paper advocated policies that will allow disadvantaged groups to access agricultural automation technologies, which will aid in developing sustainable and resilient agri-food systems.
- Since the 1960s, the agricultural industry in high-income countries in North America, Europe, and Oceania has been heavily automated.

UNESCO: World Heritage Glaciers Will Disappear by 2050

- **Glaciers** at numerous UNESCO World Heritage sites, including Yellowstone and Kilimanjaro National Park, would certainly vanish by 2050, the UN organization warned, urging countries to act quickly to safeguard the rest.
- The warning came after a survey of 18,600 glaciers at 50 World Heritage sites.
- According to UNESCO, the study "shows that these glaciers have been retreating at an **accelerated rate since 2000 due to CO2 emissions**, which are rising temperatures."
- The glaciers were losing **58 billion tonnes of ice each year, equivalent to France and Spain's combined annual water use**, and were responsible for over 5% of the documented global sea-level increase, according to the agency.
- "Regardless of efforts to curb temperature increases, **glaciers in one-third of the 50 World Heritage sites are doomed to melt by 2050.**"

About UNESCO:

- Headquarters: Paris, France
- Founded: 16 November 1945, London, United Kingdom
- Head: Audrey Azoulay

India placed eighth on the Climate Change Performance Index for 2023:

- The **Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) 2023**, issued by three environmental non-governmental organizations, **Germanwatch, NewClimate Institute, and the Climate Action Network (CAN) International**, was launched.

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- The Climate Change Performance Index 2023 (CCPI) places India eighth out of 63 countries.
- In the overall rankings, no country came in first, second, or third. Denmark finished fourth with a score of 79.61, followed by Sweden with 73.28 points.
- India finished with 67.35 points.
- India placed 9th in GHGs, 24th in Renewable Energy, 9th in Energy Use, and 9th in Climate Policy (8).
- It should be highlighted that India placed first among the top ten emitters.
- Germany and Japan are in second and third place in this grouping, respectively.
- Iran, Saudi Arabia, and Kazakhstan are the worst achievers in the overall rating.
- They are especially deficient in renewables and largely reliant on oil.
- The country received a "high" rating in the categories of Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Energy Use.
- It received a "medium" grade in the Climate Policy and Renewable Energy categories.
- The CCPI assesses 59 countries and the European Union, which together account for more than 90% of global greenhouse gas emissions.
- The CCPI examines four categories, each with 14 indicators, using defined criteria: **Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Renewable Energy, Energy Use, and Climate Policy.**
- India was ranked tenth in both 2022 and 2021.
- It was ninth on the list in 2020.
- India has updated its Nationally Determined Contribution since signing the Paris Agreement in 2015.
- The country pledged to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2070 at the COP26 Summit in Glasgow.

Jal Jeevan Mission: Uttar Pradesh district of Shahjahanpur is one of the top districts:

- Shahjahanpur has surpassed all other cities in the country in terms of the number of tap connections provided in a single month.
- Shahjahanpur has made history by giving tap connections to every rural family as part of the Jal Jeevan Mission.

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- According to the data on the Jal Jeevan Mission website, Bulandshahr, Bareilly, and Mirzapur have also been included in this survey.
- This accomplishment is seen as a significant step forward in rural drinking water provision.
- Districts are chosen around the country for this survey based on the scheme's progress.
- In October, **Shahjahanpur, Bulandshahr, and Bareilly** were named among the best-performing districts in Uttar Pradesh.
- **Shahjahanpur was ranked first** in the **best-performing district category**, receiving 689990 points.
- Bulandshahr comes in second with 657180 points, and Bareilly comes in third with 619114 points.

About the best Performer:

- **Shahjahanpur won first place** in two categories.
- It has risen to the top place in the aspiring category after providing 28419 tap connections in October alone.
- According to the website, 44557 families have received tap connections as of October 1.
- While the number of tap connections provided has reached 72976 as of October 31.
- **Bulandshahr comes in second for best performance** and third for fastest moving districts.
- In October, it offered 21260 household tap connections.
- The number of tap connections was 97129 on October 1, and it increased to 118389 on October 31.
- Bulandshahr has joined the ranks of aspirants by becoming the second state to offer a 6 per cent FHTC (where the supply begins at the tap) in a month.
- By providing tap water connections to 22,222 families in October, **Bareilly (with 619114 points) placed second in the best-performing category and third in the aspirant category.**
- **Mirzapur (600,050 points) finished second** in the fast-moving category for providing tap water connections to 20,655 families, according to officials.

India is placed 61st in the Network Readiness Index 2022:

- According to the Network Readiness Index 2022 (NRI 2022) report issued by the US-based Portulans Organisation, an independent non-profit research and educational institute, India has risen six spots to rank 61st.

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- According to a Telecom Ministry announcement, India's total score has risen to 51.19 in 2022 from 49.74 in 2021.
- The NRI 2022 report rates 131 economies, which collectively account for over 95% of world GDP.
- With an overall score of 80.3, the **United States** ranks top on the list.
- **Singapore** takes second place with a score of 79.35, and **Sweden** takes third place with a score of 78.91.
- Singapore is the leader in the Asia Pacific region, followed by South Korea and Japan.

Network Readiness Index: India

- India ranked first in 'AI talent concentration,' second in 'Mobile broadband internet traffic within the country,' third in 'Annual investment in telecommunication services,' fourth in 'ICT Services exports,' fifth in 'FTTH/Building Internet subscriptions,' and sixth in 'AI scientific publications,' according to the report.
- While India ranks 61st overall, it ranks third among lower-middle-income countries. India's score was greater than the group average in each of the four pillars of the score.
- India, on the other hand, was ranked 11th in the Asia-Pacific region.
- India has done exceptionally well in terms of AI talent concentration, international Internet bandwidth, and intra-country mobile broadband internet traffic.
- Happiness, online access to financial accounts and the gender gap in Internet use were the country's worst metrics.
- Given its income level, India has more network readiness than would be predicted.
- India comes in third place out of 36 lower-middle-income countries, trailing only Ukraine (50) and Indonesia (59).
- India outperforms the income group average across the board in all pillars and sub-pillars.

IIT Delhi is ranked in the top 50 of the Times Higher Education Employability Rankings:

- According to the Times Higher Education Global Employability University Ranking and Survey (GEURS), the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) in Delhi is placed 28th.
- IIT Delhi is the only Indian institute in the top 50.
- The varsity was ranked 27th last year.

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- IISc is ranked 58th, and IIT Bombay is ranked 72nd.
- It has been ranked in the top 250 by seven Indian institutions.
- The top three US institutes are the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the California Institute of Technology, and Harvard University, in that order.
- The University of Cambridge and Stanford University have maintained their fourth and fifth positions, respectively.
- The University of Oxford rose from eighth to sixth place this year, while the University of Tokyo in Japan fell from sixth to seventh.
- Yale University, which was placed seventh last year, has fallen to tenth place.

With a 77% approval rating, Modi tops the list of the most well-liked world leaders:

- With a 77 per cent approval rating, Prime Minister Narendra Modi continues to be the most well-liked president in the entire world.
- This information was disclosed in a Global Leader Approval Rating report published by the American consulting company Morning Consult.
- In second and third place, respectively, are Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador, each with 69% and 56% of the vote.
- Joe Biden, the US president, and Rishi Sunak, the next prime minister of the UK, are ranked lower on the list with approval ratings of 41% and 36%, respectively.
- The most recent approval ratings are based on information gathered from this month's 16th to 22nd.
- It is based on adult residents in each nation's seven-day moving average, with sample sizes differing by nation.
- Prime Minister Modi had placed first in the previous ranking as well.
- In Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Czech Republic, France, Germany, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, and the United States, the survey monitors public opinion of political figures as well as national trends.

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IMPORTANT BOOKS & AUTHORS

"Nuclearization of Asia," a new book by French author Rene Naba, is published:

- The new multilingual book **"De la Nucléarisation de l'Asie"** (Nuclearization of Asia) by French author Rene Naba is available in both French and English
- The book talks about China-connection Pakistan as a source of nuclear threat and emergency.
- At the Geneva Press Club, the book published by Golias was officially released.
- 35 persons attended in person, and 23 more participated virtually.
- The author of two books on Asia is René Naba.
- The first French-language book on Pakistan's strategic transformation was published in 2018 and was titled "Pakistan Facing the Challenge of the Post-Western World and Eurasia."
- Rene Naba is the vice president of the International Center for the Fight Against Terrorism and the former head of the Arab Muslim world in the AFP diplomatic service.

Two books about PM Modi's legacy and accomplishments are published by MoS Rajiv Chandrashekar:

Chandrashekar:

- **Rajiv Chandrashekar**, Minister of State for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, published two volumes on the accomplishments and legacy of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Dubai.
- These are **"Heartfelt: The Legacy of Faith"** and **"Modi@20: Dreams Meet Delivery"**.
- The books were presented at a ceremony put on by the **Vishwa Sadhbhavana, NID Foundation (Dubai branch)**, to strengthen the ties of friendship and solidarity between Americans, Australians, and New Zealanders.
- Rajiv Chandrasekar remarked, "The success of the government's flagship programs like Digital India, Skills India, Start-up India, etc. have reversed India's old narrative of a leaky and broken democracy."
- He asserted that India is a "living and breathing example" of a plural, secular, and diverse nation that also stands for economic advancement, innovation, progress, and wealth.

'The World: A Family History,' written by British historian Simon Sebag

- **Simon Sebag Montefiore**, a British historian, has published a new book titled **"The World: A Family History."**
- Montefiore presents the stories of many famous families in **'The World: A Family History.'**

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- The two-part book, which will be published by Hachette India, will tell the story of humanity in "a ground-breaking, single narrative that will forever shift the boundaries of what history can achieve."
- The story begins with a family 9,50,000 years ago.
- Montefiore takes readers on an epic tour through the world's most influential families, including the Caesars, Medicis, Incas, Ottomans, Mughals, Bonapartes, Habsburgs, Zulus, Rothschilds, Rockefellers, Krupps, and Churchills.
- Among Montefiore's past publications are 'Stalin: The Court of the Red Tsar,' 'Jerusalem: The Biography,' and 'Written in History: Letters That Changed the World.'

Ruskin Bond launches Gautaam Borah's new book, 'Nalanada - Until We Meet Again.':

- **Gautaam Borah**, a senior management professional and the globally regarded author of 'Monetising Innovation,' releases his latest book 'Nalanada - Until We Meet Again.' **Ruskin Bond**, a great writer, launched the book.
- Gautaam's new book is a movie-like experience that incorporates action, adventure, romance, love, grit and intuition, and mystery.
- The book will take you on a breathtaking journey across all of these.

The book's gist:

- 'Nalanda- until we meet again' is a compelling narrative of passion, retribution, and an age-old mystery.
- It's the story of Neil and Aanchal.
- Neil meets Aanchal at the famous University of Oxford and they fall in love.
- Back in India, Aanchal works for an NGO, while Neil works for a telecom business.
- When Neil becomes a victim of business politics, he is thrust into a merciless adventure.
- Aanchal's politician father steers her in a different direction, and she vanishes.
- A surprising revelation from a mysterious sage places Neil at the crossroads of a century-old mystery.
- Neil must travel to Nalanda to perform a larger mission that will bring Aanchal back into his life.

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IMPORTANT SPORTS NEWS

Akanksha Vyavahare establishes three new national records at the Khelo India weightlifting competition:

- Akanksha Vyavahare, a weightlifter from Maharashtra, set three new national records in the 40kg weight category at the Khelo India National Ranking Women's Weightlifting Tournament.
- Akanksha Vyavahare participated in the Target Olympics Podium Scheme as well, setting records in snatch, clean and jerk, and total.
- Akanksha beat her previous national snatch record by lifting 60kg.
- She lifted 71 kg in the clean jerk, giving her a total lift of 131 kg.
- Mirabai Chanu, a Tokyo Olympics silver medalist, presided over the opening ceremony of the Khelo India National Ranking Women's Weightlifting Tournament.
- Mirabai Chanu of Himachal Pradesh won the gold medal in Phase 1 of the Khelo India Weightlifting Tournament.

Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty win French Open men's doubles title:

- In Badminton, the Indian pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty bagged the biggest title of their career, claiming the French Open Super 750 crown with a straight-game decimation of Chinese Taipei's Lu Ching Yao and Yang Po Han in the men's doubles final in Paris.
- The world number 8 pair, defeated Lu and Yang, ranked 25th, 21-13, 21-19.
- They became the first Indian men's doubles pair to win the French Open title.
- In the Men's Singles, the reigning world and Olympic champion Viktor Axelsen clinched the title.
- World No.1 Viktor Axelsen defeated his compatriot Rasmus Gemke 21-14, 21-15.
- With this win, Axelsen became the most successful player on the men's world tour, overtaking Japan's Kento Momota with 16 wins in 21 finals compared to Momota's 15 from 21.

Spain won the FIFA U-17 Women's World Championship:

- Defending champions Spain defeated Colombia in the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup final.
- 82 minutes into the match, Colombian defender Ana Mara Guzmán Zapata scored an own goal to give Spain the victory.
- The host country of the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup was India.

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- The Patil Sports Stadium hosted the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup championship game between Spain and Colombia.
- During the finals, Gianni Infantino, the president of FIFA, and representatives from the All India Football Federation (AIFF) and Asian Football Federation were also present.
- This year's FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup was held in India, and despite losing three games, team India was unable to advance past the group stage.

India wins the third Sultan of Johor Cup by defeating Australia:

- The Indian junior men's hockey team defeated Australia 5-4 in a shootout at the Taman Daya Hockey Stadium in Johor Bahru, Malaysia, to win the Sultan of Johor Cup 2022.
- India has won the Sultan of Johor Cup three times.
- Sudeep Chirmako's field goal in the 14th minute gave India its first goal.
- However, Australia came back in the second quarter when Jack Holland equalized with India.
- Both teams finished the shootout with a 3-3 tie, forcing the match to sudden death.
- **Uttam Singh scored twice in the shootout**, including a game-winning goal in sudden death, and Vishnukant Singh, Ankit Pal, and Sudeep Chirmako also scored for India.
- Burns Cooper, Foster Brodee, Brooks Joshua, and Hart Liam all recorded points for Australia.
- Notably, the Indians won the age group tournament twice in 2013 and 2014 and finished second four times in the 2012, 2015, 2018, and 2019 events.
- Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the tournament was canceled in 2020 and 2021.

Max Verstappen won the 2022 Mexican Formula One Grand Prix:

- Red Bull driver Max Verstappen won the Mexican Grand Prix 2022 for a record-breaking 14th victory of the season.
- Lewis Hamilton of Mercedes and Sergio Perez of Red Bull finished second and third, respectively.
- Verstappen's 14th victory of the season moves him past Michael Schumacher and Sebastian Vettel to become the Formula One driver with the most race victories in a single season.
- Verstappen is now the most successful driver in Mexican Grand Prix history, having won four titles.

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- It was his 34th career victory and 14th of the 2022 season.
- Verstappen won his second career world championship at the **Japanese Grand Prix** earlier this month, and last week he won the **US Grand Prix in Austin, Texas**, tying him for the most season **race wins**.
- Verstappen's victory in Mexico also broke the record for most points scored in a single season, which was previously held by Lewis Hamilton in 2019.

Men's doubles champions Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag:

- **Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty of India won the French Open Super 2022 badminton tournament men's doubles title in Paris** after defeating Chinese Taipei's Lu Ching Yao and Yang Po Han in straight games 21-13, 21-19.
- Satwik and Chirag also won their first super 750 race and their second **BWF World Tour title this year**.
- This was their **fourth BWF World Tour win**, but the previous three had been in lower-level competitions.
- The Hyderabad Open 2018, their maiden tournament, was a **Super 100 event**, whereas the **Thailand Open 2019 and India Open 2022 were both Super 500 tournaments**.
- Chirag and Satwiksairaj are also the **first Indian doubles duo to win a BWF Super 750 title**.
- The pair reached the final of the 2019 French Open but were defeated by Indonesian aces Marcus Fernaldi Gideon and Kevin Sanjaya Sukamuljo.

Kerala will host the Track Asia Cup Cycling Tournament in 2022:

- **Kerala will host the Track Asia Cup Cycling Tournament in 2022**.
- **Track Asia Cup**, one of the most important cycling competitions, **will be hosted at LNCPE Outdoor Velodrome from November 25th to November 28th, 2022**.
- **Around 200 cyclists from over 25 Asian countries will compete in the Track Asia Cup 2022**.
- **For the first time, the event is being held outside of Delhi**.
- **The Asian Cycling Confederation and the Cycling Federation of India have both sanctioned the Track Asia Cup**.
- **The Kerala Cycling Association stated that due to the high heat, attempts are being made to hold the matches under floodlights**.

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- Track Asia Cup is also used to determine Asian countries for the 2024 Olympics in Paris.
- The tournament will feature cycling giants such as China, Korea, Japan, and Kazakhstan.
- The event will also include Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Indonesia, and India.
- Under the patronage of Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, an organizing committee has been created.
- Track Asia Cup 2022 will be critical in establishing cycling as a significant sports event in the state.

Virat Kohli became the first player in history to score a hat-trick: ICC T20 World Cup

- Virat Kohli has hit form and is collecting fifties in the ongoing ICC T20 World Cup.
- He compiled an undefeated 62 against the Netherlands after playing match-winning innings of 82 not out against Pakistan.
- After faltering against South Africa in Perth, the 33-year-old returned to form with an important fifty against Bangladesh at the Adelaide Oval.
- Kohli is the only player in T20 World Cup history to have three fifty-plus knocks.

About ICC:

- Founded: 15 June 1909
- Chairman: Greg Barclay
- CEO: Geoff Allardice
- Headquarters: Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Shri Dharmendra Pradhan launched the 'Baji Rout National Football Tournament':

- The "Baji Rout National Football Tournament" was launched at Dhenkanal, Odisha, by Union Minister Shri Dharmendra Pradhan.
- Sports and games have been promoted across the nation by the government, led by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, through programs like Khelo India and Fit India.
- The government wants to get the younger generation, which is engrossed with the internet and television, to join the game.
- The "Football for School" initiative has been launched by the Indian government in collaboration with FIFA and the All India Football Federation.

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- According to Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, the campaign aims to attract roughly 2.5 million school pupils interested in football.
- Through the Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, ten lakh footballs would be provided to public and private schools throughout the nation's districts.

The Indian men's squash team won the Asian Squash Team Championships with a gold medal:

- **The Indian men's team**, led by the experienced **Saurav Ghosal**, won their first-ever gold medal at the **Asian Squash Team Championships** with a 2-0 victory over **Kuwait** in the final.
- **Ramit Tandon** had given India the lead with a slick straight games win over **Ali Aramezi**, and star player Ghosal secured the victory (11-5, 11-7, 11-4).
- **Ghosal then defeated Ammar Altamimi** 11-9, 11-2, 11-3 to give the team an unassailable advantage.
- The third match between **Abhay Singh** and **Falah Mohammad** was cancelled because the tie had been settled by Tandon and Ghosal's victories.
- They topped Pool A with a 3-0 record, defeating Qatar, Pakistan, Kuwait, South Korea, and Chinese Taipei before defeating Malaysia 2-1 in the semifinals.
- In Cheongju, South Korea, they defeated Kuwait in straight sets in the final.
- It is the **biggest win for the Indian Men's Team** since they won gold at the **2014 Asian Games**.
- The Indian men's team won three silver medals and seven bronze medals in the Asian Team Squash Championships.

Nida Dar and Virat Kohli have been announced as the ICC Player of the Month winners for October 2022:

- The ICC Player of the Month award recipients for October 2022 were revealed by the International Cricket Council (ICC).
- As the ICC's male Player of the Month for October, seasoned Indian batsman **Virat Kohli** has been recognized.
- As a result of her amazing performance in the **Women's Asia Cup**, veteran all-rounder **Nida Dar of Pakistan** has been named the **ICC Women's Player of the Month**.
- Following a global poll among media representatives, ICC Hall of Famers, former international players, and fans registered at ICC-cricket.com, **both Kohli and Dar** were chosen as the winners.

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- **Virat Kohli** has been in incredible form over the past month, putting up outstanding performances throughout the current ICC T20 World Cup and helping India advance to the semifinals.
- **Nida Dar** is named the ICC Women's Player of the Month for October in recognition of her significant contributions to Pakistan's run to the Women's Asia Cup semifinals in Bangladesh.

Suryakumar Yadav is the first Indian player to reach 1,000 T20 runs as a batsman:

- **Suryakumar Yadav**, a star Indian batsman, is the first Indian player to reach 1,000 runs in a calendar year in a T20 international competition.
- The hitter achieved this achievement against Zimbabwe in his team's final Super 12 stage match at Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG), Australia.
- India's innings were successfully concluded in the game thanks to Suryakumar's flawless finishing touches.
- Suryakumar has 1,026 runs and a 44.60 batting average in 28 innings this year.
- Suryakumar Yadav is currently on the exclusive list of batters who have scored more than 1000 T20I runs in a calendar year, joining **Mohammad Rizwan** of Pakistan.
- Rizwan scored a total of 1326 runs in 29 games in 2021, adding to his 924 runs in 23 T20Is this season.
- The only other player in T20I history to score more than 1000 runs in a single year is **Surya**.
- He has now scored 1026 runs overall in 28 T20I games this year.
- **Surya** made his India T20I debut against England in March of last year, and he hasn't looked back since.
- He has participated in 39 T20I matches overall for India, scoring 1270 runs.

Shivnarine Chanderpaul, Charlotte Edwards, and Abdul Qadir were inducted into the ICC Hall of Fame:

- The International Cricket Council (ICC) has named the most recent luminaries to be inducted into the coveted ICC Hall of Fame.
- **Shivnarine Chanderpaul** of the West Indies, **Charlotte Edwards** of the England Women's team, and **Abdul Qadir** of Pakistan were elected as the 107th, 108th, and 109th members of the International Cricket Council (ICC) Hall of Fame, respectively, following a voting process that

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included current members of the organization, media representatives, senior executives from the **Federation of International Cricketers (FICA), and the ICC.**

- One of the most recognizable names in West Indies cricket history is Shivnarine Chanderpaul.
- He made his debut at the age of 19, and after developing an unconventional batting style, he soon outperformed opposition bowlers.
- Charlotte Edwards developed into one of the most important players in the annals of women's cricket during a 20-year international playing career.
- As a 16-year-old just beginning her international career, she made an immediate impression by hitting an unbeaten 173 against Ireland at the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup in Pune, setting a new record.

BWF Para-Badminton Championships: Pramod Bhagat and Manisha Ramadass won gold:

- At the BWF Para-Badminton World Championships in Tokyo, Pramod Bhagat and Manisha Ramadass won gold medals in the singles competition.
- In an all-Indian SL3 final, defending Paralympic gold medalist Bhagat defeated fellow countryman Nitesh Kumar 21-19, 21-19 in 53 minutes.
- Bhagat has now won four gold medals at the World Championships in singles competition and six medals overall.
- In the SL3-SL4 men's doubles championship, Bhagat and Manoj Sarkar lost against Indonesia's Hikmat Ramdani and Ukun Rukaendi 21-14, 18-21, and 13-21.
- In the SU5 final, Manisha Ramadass defeated Mamiko Toyoda of Japan 21-15, 21-15 in 30 minutes.
- In the six championships Bhagat has competed in, he has won a total of six gold, two silver, and three bronze medals in singles and doubles.
- With two gold, two silver, and 12 bronze medals, India finished the competition.
- In the men's doubles SL3-SL4 competition, Bhagat and Manoj Sarkar had to settle for a silver medal.

The men's singles champion at the 2022 Paris Masters was Holger Rune

- Holger Rune, a 19-year-old Danish player, overcame six-time winner Novak Djokovic to win the 2022 Masters Men's Singles title in Paris.

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- Since Boris Becker in 1986, he has won the Paris tournament as the competition's youngest winner.
- He will be the first Danish guy to enter the top 10 and the fifth first-time winner of the Masters this season.
- While Wesley Koolhof (Netherlands) and Neal Skupski won the Men's Double (United Kingdom).
- Djokovic appeared to be on track for his 91st career victory.
- The sixth-seeded Serb won the opening set with a love hold, and in the second set's first service game, he had Rune down 0-40.
- In the 12th game, which lasted nearly 20 minutes, he applied pressure on Rune using his experience as a 21-time Grand Slam singles champion, but Rune maintained his composure to win his third championship of the year and his burgeoning career.

The 2023 Women's World Boxing Championships will take place in India:

- The IBA Women's World Boxing Championship will take place in India in 2023.
- An agreement was struck between the International Boxing Association (IBA) and the Boxing Federation of India during a press conference held in New Delhi (BFI).
- IBA President Umar Kremlev and BFI President Ajay Singh were present when the MoU was signed.
- World champion Nikhat Zareen also expressed his gratitude on the occasion.
- The Women's World Boxing Championship in 2023 will mark the official debut of the groundbreaking bout review system developed by BFI and IBA.
- The entire prize money for the Women's World Boxing Championship in 2023 will be around INR 19.50 crore, and the gold medalist will receive INR 71 lakh.
- India's hosting of the Women's World Boxing Championship in 2023 will be a significant milestone for the nation since boxing in India has experienced remarkable growth.
- In the past seven years, India has hosted three major championships, displaying its capacity to develop facilities and capacities.
- It will be the second Women's World Boxing Championship that India has held in the last six years, and it will be the third overall.

India's Virat Kohli is the first player to amass 4,000 runs in T20 International matches:

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- Virat Kohli, the great cricketer for India, made history by becoming the first player to score 4,000 runs in T20 Internationals.
- Against England in Adelaide's second semifinal of the T20 World Cup 2022, Kohli achieved the milestone.
- Earlier, Kohli surpassed Mahela Jayawardene's 2014 record of 1016 runs to become the all-time greatest run-scorer in men's T20 World Cup matches against Bangladesh in Adelaide.
- Amazingly, Kohli reached the wonderful milestone quickly while batting at a 53.34 average.
- He achieved the milestone in 115 matches and is the only batter in the shortest format to average over 50.
- The only male cricketer to receive Player of the Tournament honors in both the 2014 and 2016 T20 World Cups was Kohli.
- Additionally, Kohli has scored the most runs in T20I cricket history.
- He is listed before Paul Stirling, Martin Guptill, Babar Azam, and skipper Rohit Sharma.
- At the moment, Kohli has a strike rate of about 140 and an average of over 50.
- With over 270 runs in 6 games during the T20 World Cup 2022, Kohli is also the leading scorer.

Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy: Mumbai beat Himachal Pradesh to win maiden title

- Domestic giants Mumbai produced a near perfect performance to beat Himachal Pradesh by three wickets in the final and won their maiden Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 Trophy title at Eden Gardens, Kolkata.
- Himachal posted a total of 143/8 in 20 overs with Ekant Sen (37 off 29) top-scoring for them.
- In reply, Mumbai chased down the target in 19.3 overs with 3 wickets in hand.
- Sarfaraz Khan scored 36 runs and Tanush Kotian claimed three wickets, which paved the way to win the trophy.

About Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy:

- The 15th edition of the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy, a Twenty20(T20) competition that is played in India, was held from 11th October 2022 to 5th November 2022.
- The Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy is a domestic T-20 cricket championship in India, organized by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), among the teams from the Ranji Trophy.
- The tournament is named after a former Indian test cricketer Syed Mushtaq Ali.

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West Midlands to host Kabaddi World Cup in 2025

- The **West Midlands** in England will host the **2025 Kabaddi World Cup**, announced by the **World Kabaddi Federation (WKF)**
- This will be the **first time** that the **Kabaddi World Cup** will be held **outside Asia**.
- The **UK region** will become the **first destination outside of Asia** to host the sport's most prestigious global tournament, which will feature the **world's best kabaddi players** from leading men's and women's teams, including **India, Iran and Pakistan**.
- The 2025 Kabaddi World Cup will be organized by **England Kabaddi, Scottish Kabaddi, and the British Kabaddi League**.
- The tournament will feature **at least 16 teams (men and women)**, including from **India, Iran and Pakistan** and will be held across the West Midlands during the **first quarter of 2025**.
- The **Indian men's kabaddi team** has **dominated** the sport over the years, claiming **9 out of 10 titles** at the World Cups, which have been mostly organised in Asia under the aegis of the **International Kabaddi federation (IKF)**.

About World Kabaddi Federation :

- Founded : 2003.
- It was incorporated under section 25 of the Companies Act, 1956 on September 30, 2005.
- President : Ashok Das

Switzerland win the Billie Jean King Cup championship for the first time

- **Switzerland** won their **first Billie Jean King Cup** title after **Belinda Bencic** beat **Australia's Ajla Tomljanovic** in straight sets in the **second match** of the finals to give them an **unassailable 2-0 lead**.
- The Swiss had never won the competition formerly known as the **Fed Cup**, losing the final in **1998** and again in **2021**.
- **Australia**, the **seven-time champions**, were seeking their **first title since 1974**.

About Billie Jean King Cup :

- Chairperson: Katrina Adams
- Most Titles: United States (18 titles)
- The Billie Jean King Cup is the **premier international team competition** in **women's tennis**,

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launched as the **Federation Cup** in 1963 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the **International Tennis Federation (ITF)**.

- The name was changed to the **Fed Cup** in 1995 and changed again in **September 2020** in honour of former World No. 1 **Billie Jean King**.
- It is the **world's largest annual women's international team sports competition** in terms of the number of nations that compete.

Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games mascot unveiled - The Phryges

- **President of the Paris 2024 Organising Committee for the Olympic and Paralympic Games, Tony Estanguethas** unveiled the mascots for Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games, **The Phryges** (pronounced fri-jee-uhs) in Paris, France.

About The Phryges :

- The Phryges are **small Phrygian caps** which represent a **strong symbol of liberty, inclusivity** and the ability of people to support great and meaningful causes.
- **Motto:** Alone we go faster, but together we go further
- It is a **red Phrygian cap**, a type of hat that has become an enduring symbol of freedom throughout French history.
- The mascot of Paris 2024 is a **non-gender-specific mascot**.
- Paralympic Phryge has a **prosthesis** and a **racing blade**, making it a role model for many and giving maximum visibility to people with disabilities.

About Olympic Phryge :

- Olympic Phryge is a **tactician** with a **calculating, mathematical brain**.
- Its **methodical mind and alluring charm** are sure to inspire people to get involved with sports.

About Paralympic Phryge :

- Paralympic Phryge is **spontaneous** and **full of energy** and enthusiasm.
- It spreads the **values of sport** and will be there to celebrate the athletes in all the venues of Paris 2024.

Brazilian F1 Grand Prix 2022- Mercedes's George Russell Gets 1st Career Win

- **George Russell** (United Kingdom) scored his first-ever Formula 1 victory after fending off Mercedes teammate **Lewis Hamilton** at the **Brazilian F1 Grand Prix 2022**

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- The tournament was held at São Paulo's Autódromo José Carlos Pace which is a car-racking track in Sao Paulo, Brazil.
- With this, Mercedes have also picked up a long-awaited first win this season.
- Lewis Hamilton finished 2nd to make it a Mercedes one-two finish, while Ferrari's Carlos Sainz rounded out the top 3.

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

- Achanta Sharath Kamal, a prominent Indian paddler, is the first Indian to be chosen to the International Table Tennis Federation's Athletes' Commission (ITTF).
- Eight athletes, including four men and four women, were chosen for the Athletes' Commission from Asia, Africa, the Americas, Europe, and Oceania. They will serve for four years, from 2022 to 2026.
- Sharath Kamal got 187 votes, the second-highest number, behind Elizabeta Samara of Romania, who received 212 votes.
- Elected Athletes: Elizabeta Samara (ROU), Achanta Sharath Kamal (IND), Daniely Rios (PUR), Omar Assar (EGY), Melissa Tapper (AUS), Stefan Fegerl (AUT), Jon Persson (SWE), and Liu Shiwen (CHN).
- Elected Para-Athletes: Ingela Lundback (SWE) and Kelly van Zon (NED).
- Sarath has already been selected for Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award, the country's highest sports recognition this year.

India's junior women's pistol team bags Gold medal in Asian Airgun Championship 2022

- The junior women's pistol team from India, which included Esha Singh, Shikha Narwal, and Olympian Manu Bhaker, took home the gold medal in the 15th Asian Airgun Championship in Daegu, South Korea.
- They defeated South Korean team of Yang Jiin, Kim Minseo and Kim Juhee in 10 meters Air Pistol Women's Junior Team event.
- Esha Singh and Palak each brought home a silver and a gold medal, giving the Indian shooting team a total of 34 medals—22 gold, eight silver, and four bronze—to take the lead in the championship medals table.

The Phrygian hat has been chosen as the mascot for the Paris Olympics 2024:

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- The Phrygian cap, a symbol of the French republic but wearing sneakers as a nod to the present, was unveiled as the 2024 Paris Olympics mascot.
- The Olympic Phryge is a little smaller, while the Paralympic Phryge is a little leaner and has a blade on his right leg because he is a Phryge with a disability.
- The Paralympic mascot is distinguished by the presence of a runner's blade on one of its legs.
- Phryges (pronounced Fri-jee-uhs) are small Phrygian caps that symbolize liberty, inclusivity, and people's ability to support great and meaningful causes.
- The organizers of the Paris Games defended the fact that practically all of the mascot toy reproductions are made in China.
- One of the mascot's eyes is blue, and one of the two is draped in two ribbons in the colours of the French flag, resembling a cockade, or ribbon knot, which was another symbol of republicanism during the Revolution.
- Paris 2024 president Tony Estanguet, Beijing 2008 wheelchair tennis men's doubles winner Michael Jeremiasz, and Gwladys Epangue, a bronze medalist in taekwondo from Beijing 2008, revealed the mascots at a press conference in Paris.

Carlos Alcaraz has become the world's youngest No. 1 ATP player:

- Carlos Alcaraz of Spain has become the youngest year-end ATP World Number 1, becoming the first teenager to do so.
- This year, Alcaraz has had an astonishing climb in the world of tennis.
- On September 12, he jumped from number 32 to the summit of this sport's mountain, marking the largest jump to number one in 50 editions of the year-end ATP rankings.
- The 2021 Next Gen ATP Finals champion made a big impression after becoming the series' youngest ATP 500 champion (since 2009) at the Rio Open.
- Following that, Alcaraz won his first ATP Masters 1000 championship in Miami.
- In 2022, Alcaraz leads the circuit with two master's 1000 titles and five overall titles.
- He won the Madrid Open in May, defeating heavyweights such as Rafael Nadal, Novak Djokovic, and then-world number three Alexander Zverev.

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- But the highlight of this 19-year-old's career came at the US Open, where he became the youngest men's singles winner at this major American competition since Pete Sampras at the age of 19 in 1990.

Manipur wins the most medals at the Northeast Olympic Games:

- Manipur wins the Northeast Olympic Games for the second time in a row, with 237 medals, including 85 gold, in the second edition of the regional multi-sport event.
- Manipur also took home 76 silver and 77 bronze medals, while Assam came in second with 201 medals, including 81 gold, 60 silver, and 60 bronzes, in the event held between the eight states of the country's northeast area beginning on November 10.
- Around 3000 athletes competed in 18 events across 12 sites in Shillong.
- Manipur's first edition had 12 disciplines.
- Arunachal Pradesh finished third, while Meghalaya finished fourth with 149 medals (36 gold, 35 silver, 78 bronze), a far better performance than their sixth-place finish with 39 medals in the first edition.
- Manipur had also won the most medals (80 gold, 49 silver, and 33 bronze) when it hosted the inaugural Games in October 2018.
- Manipur, which has produced Olympic medalists such as boxer MC Mary Kom and weightlifter Mirabai Chanu, surpassed Assam and consolidated its lead by collecting 17 medals, including seven gold, on the last day.
- In the finals, the U-17 Manipuri women's football team, which includes several national team players, defeated Arunachal Pradesh 3-0.

The 22nd FIFA World Cup 2022 begins at Al Khor, Qatar:

- The 22nd FIFA Men's World Cup was formally declared open at the Al Bayt Stadium in Al Khor, Qatar, in a colourful ceremony.
- The football event is being hosted by an Arab country for the first time.
- The final will be held on December 18 at the Lusail stadium, the largest of the eight stadiums used to host the World Cup, with 32 teams competing for the most coveted prize in international football.

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- On **December 18, 2022, Qatar's National Day**, the opening game between Qatar and Ecuador takes place at **Al Bayt Stadium** in **Al Khor**.
- The **22nd FIFA Men's World Cup** will be contested in Qatar from **November 20 to December 18, 2022**.
- It is the first occasion that an Arab country would host the tournament.
- It is the second World Cup to be held in Asia, following the 2002 World Cup, which was co-hosted by Japan and South Korea.
- The world cup will feature 32 teams.
- The Cup's mascot is **La'eeb**.
- It is inspired by the **keffiyeh**, a traditional headdress worn by Arab men.

FIFA Event:

- FIFA World Cup 2022: Qatar
- FIFA World Cup 2026: Canada, Mexico, USA
- FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup 2022: Costa Rica
- FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup 2022: India
- FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup 2023: Australia and New Zealand

About FIFA:

- President: Gianni Infantino
- Founded: 21 May 1904
- Headquarters: Zürich, Switzerland

Red Bull's Max Verstappen wins the Abu Dhabi F1 Grand Prix:

- **Max Verstappen** of the Red Bull Racing team won the season-ending F1 Abu Dhabi race in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.
- The struggle for **second place** remained a huge drama, with **Charles Leclerc** and **Sergio Perez** entering the race equal at 290 points, but it was Leclerc who came out on top, finishing second on the Yas Marina Circuit.
- Max Verstappen won his **15th championship** of the **2022 season**.
- He also won the world F1 championship in 2022.
- In 2021, he won his **first Formula One world championship**.

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- He also retains the record for winning the most races in a single season (15).
- He broke Michael Schumacher's (2004 season) and Sebastian Vettel's (2004 season) previous record of 13 race victories in a season (2013 season).

Sebastian Vettel has announced his retirement from Formula One racing:

- **Sebastian Vettel, a German racing driver, has announced his retirement from Formula One.**
- Vettel won **four Formula One World Championships for Red Bull** between 2010 and 2013, and he previously **spent six seasons with Ferrari.**
- Sebastian Vettel **finished 10th in the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix, his final race of the season.**
- Before the race, Vettel was given a guard of honour by his fellow rivals.

About His Career:

- Vettel began his Formula One career in 2006 as a test driver for BMW Sauber, making one race appearance in 2007.
- Vettel appeared for Toro Rosso later that year as part of the Red Bull Junior Team and was retained as a full-time driver for 2008.
- In 2009, Vettel was promoted to Red Bull. From 2010 to 2013, Vettel won four straight titles with Red Bull, the first of which crowned him the sport's youngest World Champion.
- He achieved the record for the most consecutive race wins in 2013 with nine.
- Vettel joined Ferrari in 2015, replacing Fernando Alonso, and became Mercedes' and Lewis Hamilton's closest opponent in two title campaigns in 2017 and 2018, finishing runner-up in both years.
- He left Ferrari at the end of the 2020 season to race with Aston Martin for the 2021 and 2022 seasons before announcing his retirement from Formula One at the end of the 2022 season.

Novak Djokovic has won his sixth ATP Finals Singles title:

- **Novak Djokovic won his sixth ATP Finals singles championship, defeating Norway's Casper Ruud.**
- Novak Djokovic defeated his opponent 7-5, 6-3 to earn a remarkable \$4.7 million payday.
- **Novak Djokovic has matched Roger Federer's record of six ATP titles.**
- Novak Djokovic took advantage of all five break-point opportunities in the game.

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- The ATP champion in Rome, Wimbledon, Tel Aviv, and Astana now has titles in three distinct cities.
- He also won the title in Shanghai in 2008 and has since added victories in 2012, 2013, 2014, and 2015.
- Novak Djokovic is also the oldest ATP Tournament champion in history.
- Casper Ruud became the first Scandinavian to compete in the ATP Finals.
- He also had his greatest year, winning in Buenos Aires, Geneva, and Gstaad.

India won the 15th Asian Airgun Championships with 25 out of 28 gold medals:

- India finished the 15th Asian Championships in South Korea with 25 gold medals.
- **Manu Bhaker and Samrat Rana** of India won the 10-meter Junior Air Pistol Mixed Team event.
- In qualification, **Bhaker and Rana shot 578 shots and finished second to Uzbekistan's Nigina Saidkulova and Mukhammad Kamalov.**
- In the comparable senior event, the Indian duo Sangwan and Vijyaveer Sidhu won the yellow metal.
- Valeriy Rakhimzhan and Irina Yunusmetova of Kazakhstan were completely outshot by **Sangwan and Vijyaveer.**
- They won the qualification round with a score of 579, while the Kazakhs came in second with 577.
- In the 15th Asian Championships in South Korea, India won 25 of the 28 events.

Manika Batra is the first Indian woman to win an Asian Cup Table Tennis medal:

- Indian table tennis player **Manika Batra** became the first Indian woman to win a medal at the Asian Cup Table Tennis Tournament.
- **Manika defeated World No.6 Hina Hayata of Japan** in the women's singles bronze medal match at the Asian Cup 2022 in Bangkok, Thailand.
- Union Minister Kiren Rijiju praised Manika Batra for her outstanding effort and achievements.

Key Highlights:

- In the medal match, Manika Batra defeated Hina Hayata 4-2.
- Manika Batra led the match 2-1, but Hayata appeared to be on the verge of tying the match with a 10-6 advantage in the fourth game.

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- She scored six points and successfully turned the tide in her favour.
- Manika is India's top-ranked table tennis player, currently rated 44th in the world.
- Manika Batra lost in the Semi-Finals to Mima Ito of Japan on the same day.
- Mima Ito won a bronze medal in Tokyo 2020.
- Manika Batra defeated World No. 23 Chen Szu Yu of Chinese Taipei in the quarterfinals of the Asian Cup 2022 Table Tennis Tournament.

Bhukya from Telangana and Patri from Odisha both won national U-13 badminton titles:

- **Nishanth Bhukya of Telangana and Tanvi Patri of Odisha won the boys' and girls' singles titles at the 34th Under-13 National Badminton Championships, respectively, with contrasting victories at the UP-Badminton Academy.**
- While Patri needed just 22 minutes to defeat local challenger and 15th-seeded Divyanshi Gautam 21-7, 21-10, fourth-seeded Bhukya defeated Andhra Pradesh's Akhil Reddy Boba 19-21, 21-12, 22-20.
- Patri recently won her **first National U-13 Ranking Tournament in Maharashtra, and she played brilliantly against Gautam from Agra.**
- To win the opening game, Patri successfully tossed and placed the shuttle while using cross-court volleys to keep Gautam on the defensive.
- After falling behind 5-9 in the second round, Gautam attempted to close the gap by dribbling the shuttle at the net, but Patri was too skilled with her placements and forced Gautam to make a string of unforced errors before winning both the game and the match.
- Boba proved to be quite difficult for Bhukya to handle in the boy's final as the Andhra shuttler sprinted to a 15-11 lead before winning the game at 21-19.
- Following a change of ends, fourth-seeded Bhukya defeated Boba by rallying from behind.
- After pulling parity at 20 all, it was neck-and-neck in the decider, but Bhukya managed his nerves to win it.

Cristiano Ronaldo becomes the first male player to score in five World Cups:

- The **first male player to score in five World Cups is Cristiano Ronaldo, who did so in Portugal's opening match against Ghana in Qatar.**

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- At **Doha's stadium 974**, Cristiano Ronaldo opened the scoring in the 65th minute with a goal from the penalty spot.
- It was also the **118th goal** for his nation.
- Portugal took a 1-0 lead after the 37-year-old striker scored from the penalty spot in the 65th minute.
- Since 2006, when he again converted a penalty against Iran in the group stage, he has now scored in every World Cup.
- Ronaldo scored once at the 2010 World Cup in South Africa, once in Brazil in 2014, and four times in Russia in 2018.
- He has now scored in five FIFA World Cups.

About FIFA:

- Founded: 21 May 1904
- Headquarters: Zürich, Switzerland
- Founded in: Paris, France
- Membership: 211 national associations

Narayan Jagadeesan sets the record for highest ever List A score:

- Narayan Jagadeesan of Tamil Nadu set a new world record for the highest individual score in men's List A cricket when he hit 277 off 141 balls against Arunachal Pradesh in the Vijay Hazare Trophy at the Chinnaswamy in Bangalore.
- Tamil Nadu became the first team in List A cricket to score 500 runs before winning the Group C match by 435 runs, the largest victory margin at this level.
- Somerset's previous record was a 346-run victory over Devon in 1990.
- This happened after Jagadeesan, 26, became the first player in men's List A cricket history to score five consecutive centuries.
- He also broke the record for the best individual score held by Alistair Brown and Rohit Sharma.
- Brown's previous Surrey high was 268 against Glamorgan in 2002.
- Rohit Sharma set the Indian record for the highest List A score of 264 in an ODI against Sri Lanka at Eden Gardens in 2014.

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- The **416-run first-wicket stand** between Jagadeesan and Sai Sudharsan (154) is the greatest for any wicket in List A cricket.

Women's Madras Boating Club won the 81st Annual Madras-Colombo Rowing Regatta:

- The women of the Madras Boating Club won the 81st Annual Madras-Colombo Rowing Regatta in Colombo, Sri Lanka.
- The 81st Annual Madras-Colombo Rowing Regatta was conducted, and they were given the **Adyar Trophy**.
- Colombo Rowing Club won the **Men's division** and received the **Deepam Trophy**.

Key Highlights:

- The **first Madras-Colombo Rowing Regatta** was conducted in 1898, making it the oldest sports event between Sri Lanka and India.
- The **Madras Boat Club** and the **Colombo Rowing Club** sponsor the Regatta, with Colombia Rowing Club hosting the Indian team this year.
- The primary event of the Regatta is the men's boat race, which is regarded as the world's second-oldest boat race.
- The men's championship is awarded the famous **Deepam Trophy**, while the women's title is awarded the **Adyar Trophy**.
- This year's men's races were divided into two categories: A and B.
- **Coxless Pair, Double Scull, and Single Scull** were the categories.

Indian boxers won gold medals at the Youth World Boxing Championships 2022:

- Young Indian boxers **Vishwanath Suresh, Vanshaj, and Devika Ghorpade** won gold at the IBA Youth Men's and Women's World Boxing Championships 2022 in La Nucia, Spain, with a commanding 5-0 victory.
- Vishwanath earned India's first gold medal in the event after defeating Philippines' Ronel Suyom in the men's 48kg final.
- **Bhawan Sharma** won silver in the women's 48kg category after losing 0-5 to **Gulsevar Ganieva** of Uzbekistan.
- Ashish took silver in the 54kg weight class.
- In the men's final, he defeated **Japanese pugilist Yuta Sakai** 1-4.

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Aim of IBA:

- La Nucia hosted the IBA Youth Men's and Women's World Boxing Championship 2022.
- To promote the sport and spirit of boxing in all of its manifestations, in light of its education, culture, and sporting values, and to stimulate the global development of boxing.
- To promote the best standards in boxing organization, judging, referral, coaching, training, education, medical and anti-doping controls.
- To protect everyone's right to engage in boxing and to improve women's boxing programs.

Canada won its first Davis Cup title after defeating Australia:

- Felix Auger-Aliassime of Canada defeated Australia's Alex de Minaur 6-3, 6-4 in the second match of the Davis Cup finals.
- The world number six, Felix Auger-Aliassime, had to defend three break points in the first set but regained his flow in the eighth game.
- Auger-Aliassime kept his composure in the second set, defending two break points in the second game.
- He battled back from 0-40 to maintain his serve in the sixth game.
- Earlier, Denis Shapovalov defeated Thanasi Kokkinakis 6-2, 6-4 to give Canada the first point, a beaten finalist in 2019.
- Shapovalov has lost both of his singles matches this week and required back treatment during a three-set loss against Italy's Lorenzo Sonego in the semi-finals.

About Davis Cup:

- The 2022 Davis Cup is the 110th edition of the Davis Cup, a men's tennis tournament between national teams.
- Rakuten is the sponsor.
- The Russian Tennis Federation was the defending champion, but owing to Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022, they and Belarus were barred from playing in international events.

Rituraj Gaikwad sets a world record by hitting seven sixes in one over:

- Rituraj Gaikwad smashed a world record seven sixes in the 49th over of Maharashtra's Vijay Hazare Trophy quarter-final versus Uttar Pradesh at Ahmedabad, Gujarat.

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- In the quarter-finals, Maharashtra's Rituraj Gaikwad became the first batsman in List-A cricket to knock seven sixes in one over.
- Gaikwad set this milestone against Uttar Pradesh in Ahmedabad.
- He stayed unbeaten after collecting 220 runs off 159 balls.
- His previous best score in List-A cricket was 187 not out.
- This is also his sixth century in the past eight innings of the Vijay Hazare Trophy.
- He struck 43 runs, including seven sixes, against left-arm spinner Shiva Singh in the 49th over of the innings.
- Rituraj hit a six over long-on on the first ball, a straight six on the second ball, a six on the leg side on the third ball to complete the hat-trick, a six over mid-off on the fourth and fifth balls, and a no-ball on the fifth ball.
- This is the most expensive over in List-A cricket, with a total of 43 runs scored. Sir Garfield Sobers, Ravi Shastri, Herschelle Gibbs, Yuvraj Singh, Ross Whiteley, Hazratullah Zazai, Leo Carter, Kieron Pollard, and Thisara Perera are among the batsmen who have smashed six sixes in one over.

IMPORTANT OBITUARIES NEWS

Assam's noted artist Neel Pawan Baruah passes away

- An eminent artist from Assam, Neel Pawan Baruah passed away at the age of 86 in Gauhati Medical College & Hospital, Assam.

About Neel Pawan Baruah :

- Baruah was born in 1936 in the Jorhat district, Assam.
- He was a prominent painter and illustrator, who founded the Assam Fine Arts & Craft Society at Guwahati in 1971 to revive the art of Brindabanivastra, a famous textile painting associated with Mahapurush Srimanta Sankardev.
- He had created a unique style by sketching art on match and cigarette boxes, displayed at various exhibitions.

Awards & Honors :

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- In 2021, the Assam government conferred him with Assam Saurav Award, the state's second-highest award.

Steel Man of India Jamshed J Irani passes away

- The former Managing Director of Tata Steel Jamshed J Irani who was also famously known as the 'Steel Man of India' passed away at the age of 86 in Jamshedpur, Jharkhand.

About Jamshed J Irani :

- Jamshed J Irani was Born on June 2, 1936, in Nagpur, Maharashtra.
- He joined the British Iron and Steel Research Association as a senior scientific officer in Sheffield in 1963.
- He joined the Tata Iron and Steel Company (now Tata Steel), in 1968, as Assistant to the Director in charge of Research and Development.
- He joined the Board of Tata Steel in 1981 and was also a Non-Executive Director from 2001 for a decade.
- He also held the post of National President of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) from 1992-93.
- Jamshed J Irani retired from the Board of Tata Steel back in June 2011.

Awards & Honors :

- Jamshed J Irani was also conferred upon Padma Bhushan- the third highest Civilian Award in 2007.
- He was conferred an honorary Knighthood (KBE) by Queen Elizabeth II in 1997 for his contributions to Indo-British Trade and Cooperation.
- Irani was appointed as an International Fellow at the Royal Academy of Engineering in 1996.
- Dr. Irani was also the recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Government of India in 2008 as an acknowledgement of his services in the area of metallurgy.

About TATA Steel Limited :

- TATA Steel Limited is an Indian multinational steel-making company, based in Jamshedpur, Jharkhand.
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra.

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Padma Bhushan recipient & Noted women's rights activist Ela Bhatt passes away

- Noted women's rights and micro-finance activist, lawyer, and Padma Bhushan recipient Ela Bhatt passed away at the age of 89 in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.

About Ela Bhatt :

- Bhatt was born on 7 September 1933, in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.
- She was a well-known Gandhian and advocated the economic empowerment of women.
- She founded the Self-Employed Women's Association of India (SEWA) in 1972 and served as its general secretary from 1972 to 1996.
- In her pursuit of women's economic welfare, she founded India's first women's bank, the Cooperative Bank of SEWA in 1973.
- In 1979, she co-founded Women's World Banking (WWB), a global network of microfinance organizations assisting women, and served as its chairperson from 1984 to 1988.
- In 1986, she was appointed to the Rajya Sabha by the president and chaired the National Commission on Self-Employed Women.
- Bhatt became a member of The Elders in 2007- a group of world leaders founded by Nelson Mandela, working for peace, justice, and human rights
- She was the chancellor of Gujarat Vidyapith from 7 March 2015 to 19 October 2022.

Awards & Honors :

- She received India's fourth-highest civilian honor Padma Shri in 1985 and the third-highest civilian honor, the Padma Bhushan, in 1986.
- For her efforts in empowering women through entrepreneurship, she received the Gandhi Peace Prize in 2011.
- She also won the Ramon Magsaysay Award for Community Leadership in 1977 & the Right Livelihood Award for Changing the Human Environment (1984).

Writer & art critic Vijayakumar Menon passes away

- Eminent art critic and scholar in fine arts Vijayakumar Menon Passed away at the age of 76.

About Vijayakumar Menon :

- Vijayakumar Menon was born in Elamakara, Ernakulam district, Kerala.
- He was an Indian art critic, writer, translator, and art teacher from Kerala.

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- He was an inmate of Jnana Ashram in Vyasagiri and Vyasa Tapovanam for the past 33 years.
- He has authored many books such as Adhunika Kaladarsanam; Ravivarma Padanam; Bharathiya Chitrakala-Irupatham Noottandil; and Bharathiya Lavanya Darsanavum Kala Parasparyavum.

Awards & Honors :

- He was a winner of several awards including the Kerala Lalithakala Akademi Award for best book on art, Kerala Sahitya Akademi's endowment for scholarly literature, Kesari Puraskaram, and the Gurudarsanam Award.

Arunachal Pradesh MLA Jambey Tashi Passes away

- Arunachal Pradesh legislator Jambey Tashi passed away at the age of 48 in Guwahati, Assam.

About Jambey Tashi :

- Tashi was an Indian politician of the Bharatiya Janata Party in Arunachal Pradesh, serving as the MLA from the Lumla assembly constituency three times since 2009
- He was also a member of the National Minority Morcha in the BJP
- He is also the cousin of Chief Minister Pema Khandu
- He had been a member of the Indian National Congress and People's Party of Arunachal Pradesh.
- He was holding the post of Advisor to the Planning and Investment Minister of the state.

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

- Shyam Saran Negi, the first voter of independent India passed away at the age of 106 at his native place in Kinnaur.
- He cast his vote for the 34th time on November 2, 2022, for the Himachal assembly polls.
- Negi would be cremated with full honours at his village in Kalpa.

About Shyam Saran Negi :

- Shyam Saran Negi was an Indian school teacher in Kalpa, Himachal Pradesh.
- He cast the first vote in the 1951 general election in India, the nation's first election since the end of British Rule in 1947.

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- In 2014, Mr. Negi was made a **brand ambassador** for the **Electoral Commission** in a bid to encourage voting and starred in a Google video encouraging people to vote in the year's general election.

Additional Info :

- The **Election Department** has introduced the facility of a **12-D form** for people above the **age of 80 years**.
- Under this scheme, anyone in the age bracket who wants to vote while staying at **home** can do so and the department will provide a **vote-from-home facility**.
- This facility is also available for **differently abled people** and **Covid-19 patients**.

Shane Watson has published a new book titled "Winning the Inner Battle."

- "Winning the Inner Battle," a new book Shane Watson wrote "Bringing the best version of you to cricket."
- This book will provide you with all of the information you will ever need to fully understand how to bring your finest performance every time it is required.
- **Shane Watson is one of Australia's best all-rounders**, having played 298 times for his country.
- Winning The Inner Battle, Shane Watson's new book addresses the mental component of the game via his own experiences of reviving his career after considering retirement in 2015.

Nirmala James wrote "E. K. Janaki Ammal: Life and Scientific Contributions."

- **Nirmala James, a retired schoolteacher**, has written a new book named "E. K. "Edavalath Kakkat Janaki Ammal: Life and Scientific Contributions," a documentary on the life and **amazing achievements** of Edavalath Kakkat Janaki Ammal (E. K. Janaki Ammal), India's first woman botanist.
- The book, produced by Enview Research and Development, was released at an event commemorating E.'s 125th birthday. Janaki Ammal, K. She was born in Thalassery, Kerala, on **November 4, 1897**.
- The event was organized by the University of Kerala's Botany Department's Centre for Biodiversity Conservation (CBC).

About the book:

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- The book tells the story of Dr. Janaki Ammal, who achieved her professional goals despite gender and caste hurdles.
- She is well-known for her contributions to cytogenetics and plant breeding. Nirmala James has written over 25 books, including children's books.
- This book delves into the life and work of E. K. Janaki Ammal, one of India's most prestigious female scientists.
- The book tells various noteworthy insights from Janaki Ammal's father Krishnan's diary, as well as the author's discoveries while travelling through the roads Janaki Ammal walked.
- The book is an improved translation of the author's Malayalam edition, which was published in 2020.

Iconic Brazilian singer Gal Costa Passes away

- An icon in the Tropicália and Brazilian singer, Gal Costa has passed away at the age of 77.

About Gal Costa :

- Gal Maria da Graça Costa Penna Burgos was born on 26 September 1945, in Bahia, Brazil.
- In more than 55 years of her career, Costa released **40-plus albums** including the iconic **Fa-tal-Gal a Todo Vapor (1971)** and **Índia (1973)** - 4 of which have been nominated for Latin Grammys in the **best Musica Popular Brasileira album category**.
- She is best known for lending her unique voice to compositions such as **Ary Barroso's "Aquarela do Brasil" (Watercolor of Brazil)**, **Tom Jobim's "Dindi," Jorge Ben Jor's "Que Pena" (What a Shame)** and **Caetano Veloso's "Baby."**
- She was widely referred to as the **"muse of the Tropicália."**

Awards & Honors :

- In 2011, she was honored with the **Latin Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award**.

Renowned Indian mathematician and Padma Shri Awardee, Shri RL Kashyap passes away

- Renowned Indian mathematician and Padma Shri Awardee, Shri Rangasami Lakshminarayan Kashyap passed away at the age of 84 in Karnataka.

About Shri RL Kashyap :

- Shri RL Kashyap was born 28 March 1938 in Mysore, Karnataka.
- He worked as a professor in the Department of Electrical and Computers for three decades at

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Purdue University in America.

- He developed the **Ho-Kashyap rule**, A pivotal algorithm in Pattern recognition, with another professor in Harvard, Yu-Chi Ho.
- He was the **founder of a spiritual organization called Sakshi Trust.**
- Kashyap is the **only person in the world to translate all the 4 vedas.**
- He has translated around **25,000 Shlokas/Mantras** of Rigveda, Yajurveda, Samaveda, and Atharvaveda into English.
- He also wrote more than 250 research papers.

Awards & Honors :

- He was awarded the **Padma Shri in 2021** by the **central government** for his considerable service in the **field of studying the Vedas.**
- His accolades and achievements include **Karnataka Rajyotsava Award, Visvesvaraya Science Award, Veda Brahma Award.**

TV Actor Siddhaanth Vir Surryavanshi passes away

- **Famous television actor Siddhaanth Vir Surryavanshi** also known as **Anand Suryavanshi**, passed away at the age of 46 while working out at a gym.

About Siddhaanth Vir Surryavanshi :

- He appeared in over **25 Hindi television shows** during his 21-year career.
- He was best known for his roles in shows like **'Kkusum'** and **'Kasautii Zindagi Kay'**.
- He started his career as a model and then made his debut with **'Kkusum'**.
- He was also a part of several other TV shows including, **'Kasautii Zindagii Kay', 'Sufiyana Ishq Mera', 'Ziddi Dil Maane Na'** and **'Waaris'**.
- His last projects include TV shows **Kyun Rishton Mein Katti Batti** and **Ziddi Dil.**

Actor Kevin Conroy, the voice of Batman's animated series, passes away

- **Hollywood actor Kevin Conroy**, best known for voicing **Batman** on Warner Bros.' long-running television series **Batman: The Animated Series**, has passed away at the age of 66.

About Kevin Conroy :

- Conroy was born on November 30, 1955, in **Westbury, New York, United States.**
- Conroy was the voice of **Batman** on the acclaimed animated series that ran from **1992-1996**,

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often acting opposite Mark Hamill's Joker.

- He appeared in episodes of **He-Man** and the **Masters of the Universe** and **Masters of the Universe: Revelation** on **Netflix** as **Mer-Man** in the latter franchise.
- He also appeared in several DC Universe Animated Original Movies, including **Batman: Gotham Knight** (2008), **Superman/Batman: Public Enemies** (2009), and **Justice League vs. the Fatal Five** (2019).

Veteran Telugu actor Krishna passes away

- Veteran Telugu actor and father of Mahesh Babu, Ghattamaneni Siva Rama Krishna Murthy has passed away at the age of 79 in Hyderabad, Telangana.

About Krishna :

- Krishna was born on 31 May 1943 in Burripalem, **Andhra Pradesh**.
- He was an Indian actor, director and producer known for his works predominantly in **Telugu cinema**.
- He is referred to as "**Superstar**" in the Telugu media.
- Nicknamed '**Daring and Dashing Hero**', he was a pioneer in experiments and adopting emerging technologies.
- He had begun his career in the early 1960s and acted in about 350 films.
- He was elected as a **Member of Parliament** for the Congress party in 1989.
- He directed **17 feature films** and produced many films under his **Padmalaya Studios** production company.
- He also produced and directed the **first 70mm film** in Telugu, **Simhasanam**.

Awards & Honors :

- In **1997**, he received the **Filmfare Lifetime Achievement Award – South** in addition to an **Honorary doctorate** from **Andhra University** in 2008.
- In **2009**, the **government of India** honoured him with the **Padma Bhushan** for his contributions to **Indian cinema**.

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

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- **Mehran Karimi Nasseri, the exiled Iranian, who lived for 18 years at Charles de Gaulle Airport in Paris, passed away at the age of 76.**

About Mehran Karimi Nasseri :

- Mehran Karimi Nasseri was born in 1945 in **Soleiman, Iran.**
- He also known as **Sir Alfred Mehran.**
- He was an **Iranian refugee** who lived in the departure lounge of **Terminal 1 in Charles de Gaulle Airport** from 26 August 1988 until July 2006.
- He wrote an autobiography titled, **The Terminal Man**, which was published in 2004.
- Nasseri's story inspired the **1993 film Lost in Transit.**
- He was the inspiration behind **American director and producer, Steven Spielberg's blockbuster film, The Terminal**, starring Tom Hanks and Catherine Zeta-Jones.

Indian basketball legend Abbas Moontasir passes away

- **Indian basketball legend Gulam Abbas Moontasir** passed away in Mumbai, Maharashtra at the age of 80.

About Abbas Moontasir :

- Moontasir was Born in **Mumbai, Maharashtra, India.**
- He started **playing basketball** at the age of **9** at the local courts of Nagpada, Central Mumbai.
- He made his **international debut in Mumbai in 1960** against Australia & later, he represented his country in the **quadrangular in Colombo in 1964.**
- He received global recognition after he captained the Indian side at **Asian Basketball Championship** in 1969 and 1975, held in Bangkok.
- He continued playing till 1986 when he represented the **Railways in the Federation Cup.**
- He was **suspended for three years** due to constant bickering with referees and officials in the country.
- He was also among the country's sports icons who shot for the **1987 film 'Freedom Run'** to promote national integration.
- After retirement, at the age of 44, he wrote a book, titled '**Principles of Basketball**'
- He also featured in two **Bollywood films - Khoon Ki Takkar in 1981 and Aashiana in 1986.**

Awards & Honors :

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- In 1970, he became the first Indian basketball player to receive the Arjuna Award for his achievement in national sport.

Former Indian Ambassador Abasar Beuria Passes Away

- Noted Odia literature and former Indian ambassador Abasara Beuria passed away at the age of 80 in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

About Abasara Beuria:

- Beuria began his career as a lecturer and then as a bank officer before joining the Indian Foreign Service (IFS).
- He is a former diplomat, author, and Chairman of, the Institute of Odia Studies & Research (IOSR).
- He had served in Indian diplomatic missions in Japan, Russia (formerly the USSR), the United States of America, the United Arab Emirates, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, and Madagascar.
- He played a key role in the translation of engineering books in Odia.

Veteran Actress Tabassum Govil passes away

- Veteran actress Tabassum Govil, who was popularly known as Baby Tabassum passed away at the age of 78.

About Tabassum Govil :

- Tabassum was born in 1944 in Mumbai.
- She started her career as a child artist in 1947 with Nargis.
- The actress later starred in films like Mera Suhaag (1947), Manjhdhar (1947), Bari Behen (1949), Deedar (1951), and Swarg (1990).
- Tabassum hosted the popular Doordarshan celebrity talk show Phool Khile Hain Gulshan Gulshan - India's first talk show from 1972 to 1993
- Her last film was Rajesh Khanna and Govinda-starrer "Swarg" in 1990 in which she made a guest appearance as herself.
- In the 2000s, she appeared in the daily soap "Pyaar Ke Do Naam: Ek Raadha, Ek Shyaam".

Veteran Punjabi actress Daljeet Kaur Khangura passes away

- Veteran Punjabi film actress Daljeet Kaur Khangura passed away at the age of 69 in Raikot, Punjab.

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About Daljeet Kaur Khangura :

- Kaur was born on 15 November 1982 in Ludhiana, Punjab, India.
- She has acted in more than 10 Hindi and 70 Punjabi films.
- She is an Indian television actress primarily known for her portrayals of Niyati in Kulvaddhu, Anjali in Iss Pyaar Ko Kya Naam Doon? and Manjiri in Kaala Teeka.
- She has appeared in several successful films, including Mamla Garbar Hai, Putt Jattan De, Patola, Ki Banu Duniya Da, and Saida Jogan.
- She participated and became the winner of Nach Baliye with Shalin Bhanot.
- In 2019, she participated in the reality show Bigg Boss 13
- Daljeet was also a national hockey and kabaddi player.

Rasna founder Areez Khambatta passes away

- Founder and chairman of the popular drink Rasna, Areez Pirojshaw Khambatta passed away at the age of 85 in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.
- Rasna is now the world's largest soft drink concentrate manufacturer.

About Areez Pirojshaw Khambatta :

- Khambatta established the popular orange-flavoured beverage brand in 1976.
- He has contributed immensely to Indian industry, business, and societal development through social service, as the Commandant of Ahmedabad Home Guards & Civil Defence for 20 years.
- He was the former chairman of the World Alliance of Parsi Irani Zarhostis (WAPIZ).
- He also served as the past president of the Ahmedabad Parsi Panchayat and the vice president of the Federation of Parsi Zoroastrian Anjumans of India.

Awards & Honors :

- He was awarded the President of India's Home Guard and Civil Defence Medal, as well as the Paschimi Star, Samarseva, and Sangram Medals.
- He was honoured with the National Citizen's Award for his outstanding contribution to the field of commerce by then President of India Shankar Dayal Sharma.
- He was also conferred the Samman Patra by the finance ministry for his contribution to the National Exchequer as the highest taxpayer of Gujarat.

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- He was felicitated by the Ahmedabad Parsi Panchayat and chosen as the first Outstanding Parsi of Ahmedabad

Former India football captain Babu Mani passes away

- Former India football captain Babu Mani passed away at the age of 59.

About Babu Mani :

- He made his international debut against Argentina in the 1984 Nehru Cup in Kolkata.
- He represented India in 55 international matches.
- He was a part of the first Indian team that qualified for the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Asian Cup in 1984.
- He was a member of the Indian team which won gold medals at the 1985 and 1987 editions of the South Asian Games.
- He was also part of the Bengal Team which won the Santosh Trophy in 1986 and 1988.
- He also played for and won significant trophies for Kolkata's top three clubs, Mohammedan Sporting (Federation Cup 1983), Mohun Bagan (CFL 1984, 1986, 1992, IFA Shield 1987, Durand Cup 1984, 1985, 1986, Rovers Cup 1985, 1992, Federation Cup 1986, 1987, 1992, 1993), and East Bengal (CFL 1991, IFA Shield 1990, 1991, Durand Cup 1990, 1991, Rovers Cup 1990).

Ex-Odisha Minister Golak Naik Passes away

- Former Minister, Golak Bihari Naik has passed away at the age of 65.

About Golak Bihari Naik:

- Naik started his political career with BJP and later joined the Biju Janata Dal (BJD).
- He became a first time legislator from Khunta assembly constituency in 2000.
- Notably, he was elected thrice to the Odisha Legislative Assembly– twice as a BJP candidate from Khunta constituency and once as BJD candidate from Udala constituency.
- He served as a minister in the Naveen Patnaik-led government from 2000 to 2009.
- He represented Udala assembly constituency as BJD MLA from 2014 -2019.
- He had served as minister of the Textiles, Fisheries and Animal Resources in the BJD-BJP coalition government.

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Veteran Actor Vikram Gokhale Passes Away

- Veteran film, television and stage actor Vikram Gokhale has passed away at the age of 77 in Pune.

About Vikram Gokhale :

- He was the son of the Veteran Marathi theatre and film actor, Chandrakant Gokhale
- He made his film debut in 1971 with Amitabh Bachchan's Parwana.
- He was known for his on-screen roles in films like Hum Dil De Chuke Sanam, Agneepath.
- He also forayed into direction with the Marathi film Aaghaat.
- The actor was last seen in the Marathi film 'Godavari'.

Awards & Honors :

In 2010, he received the National Award for Best Actor for his work in the Marathi film Anumati.