


**Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022**

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## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

### CWJ Special Current Affairs December 2022 PDF Index

S. No	Topics	Page No
1.	<a href="#">Important Days</a>	02
2.	<a href="#">Important Banking and Economy News</a>	14
3.	<a href="#">Important Business News</a>	90
4.	<a href="#">Important State News</a>	100
5.	<a href="#">Important National News</a>	155
6.	<a href="#">Important International News</a>	182
7.	<a href="#">Important MOU's and Agreement News</a>	208
8.	<a href="#">Important Mergers and Acquisitions News</a>	216
9.	<a href="#">Important Appointments and Resignation News</a>	222
10.	<a href="#">Important Awards and Honours News</a>	260
11.	<a href="#">Important Defence News</a>	285
12.	<a href="#">Important Summit &amp; Conference News</a>	307
13.	<a href="#">Important Science, Technology and Environmental News</a>	308
14.	<a href="#">Important Apps and Services News</a>	330
15.	<a href="#">Important Rankings and Indices News</a>	331
16.	<a href="#">Important Books and Authors</a>	350
17.	<a href="#">Important Sports News</a>	354
18.	<a href="#">Important Obituaries</a>	374

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

### IMPORTANT DAYS

#### World AIDS Day: 1st December

- **WORLD AIDS Day 2022** is observed on the **1st of December 2022**.
- World AIDS Day 2022 **theme set by the WHO this year is “Equalise”**.
- **World AIDS Day was first initiated in 1998 and observed on December 1.**
- World AIDS day was the **first day celebrated for health awareness**.
- The day is an opportunity for everyone around the world to come together in the fight against the disease and stand in solidarity to support those suffering from HIV, as well as remember those who lost their lives to this illness.
- The Idea of Conceiving **World AIDS Day was started in 1988**.
- From 1996 onwards, the observance of **World AIDS Day was taken over by the United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS**, expanding the campaign to an annual education and prevention campaign.
- The **World AIDS Campaign was registered as a nonprofit organization in 2004 in the Netherlands**.

#### World Computer Literacy Day: 2nd December

- **World Computer Literacy Day 2022** is observed on the **2nd of December 2022**.
- World Computer Literacy Day was **launched in 2001 by an Indian company called N.I.I.T. to celebrate its 20th anniversary**.
- The **Company was founded in 1981 by Rajendra Singh Pawar and Vijay K. Thadani**. N.I.I.T stands for National Institute of Information Technology, is a skills and talent development company.
- A study revealed that men formed the majority of computer users in the world.
- As a result, N.I.I.T took up the cause to educate more women and children by equipping them with computer literacy skills.
- Since its starting in 1981, the company has spread to over 30 countries of the world.

#### International Day for the Abolition of Slavery: 2nd December

- **International Day for the Abolition of Slavery 2022** is observed on the **2nd of December 2022**.
- International Day for the Abolition of Slavery 2022 theme set by the UN this year is **“Stories of Courage: Resistance to Slavery and Unity against Racism”**.
- The International Day for the Abolition of Slavery focuses on eradicating modern forms of slavery like trafficking, sexual exploitation, child labour, forced marriage, and forced recruitment of children into armed conflict.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- The **International Labor Organization** puts the number of victims of modern slavery at 40 million worldwide.
- From past times to the present, slavery has spanned various nations, civilizations, and religions.
- Similarly, victims of slavery hailed from a wide range of races and religious backgrounds.
- **Africans were kidnapped in the 17th and 18th centuries**, sold into slavery in the American colonies, and exploited to work as slaves in the production of products such as tobacco and cotton.
- **ILO has adopted a legally binding Protocol designed to strengthen global efforts to eliminate forced labour**, which entered into force in November 2016.
- U.N. Working Group on Slavery submitted a report that tendered the date for consideration as the **World Day for the Abolition of Slavery in 1985**.

### National Pollution Control Day: 2nd December

- **National Pollution Control Day 2022** is observed on the **2nd of December 2022**.
- National Pollution Control Day is observed to **create awareness about pollution which is causing harm to our environment and living beings**.
- It is nationally observed for the remembrance of an Industrial accident that **took place in Bhopa which took thousands of lives in 1984**.
- The **Bhopal gas tragedy happened on the night of 2nd and 3rd December in the year 1984** because of the unintentional discharge of the poisonous chemical known as **Methyl Isocyanate (also called MIC)** as well as some other chemicals released from the Union Carbide Chemical Plant positioned in the city.
- Nearly 25000 people died due to the release of Poisonous gas and it is reported as one of the biggest Industrial Pollution disasters that took place in history.

### International Day of Persons with Disabilities: 3rd December

- **International Day of Persons with disabilities 2022** is observed on the **3rd of December 2022**.
- The International Day of Persons with Disabilities 2022 theme set by the UN this year is **“Transformative solutions for inclusive development: The role of innovation in fuelling an accessible and equitable world”**.
- In **1976**, UN General Assembly decided that from **1981 International Day of Persons with Disabilities will be celebrated globally**.
- UN announced 3rd December as the official date for celebrating the International Day of Persons with Disabilities.
- The First paralympic games were **hosted in 1960**.
- In **1992** The International Day of People with Disability was proclaimed by the United Nations.



## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- In 2013 Australia was the first country to pass the National Disability Insurance Scheme for the welfare of people with disabilities.
- Later now many countries announced reservations and Quotas for disabilities in Government and Private jobs.

### Indian Navy Day: 4th December

- Indian Navy Day 2022 is observed on the 4th of December 2022.
- Indian Navy Day 2022 theme set for this year is “Swarnim Vijay Varsh”.
- At the Senior Naval Officer’s Conference in May 1972, Indian Navy Day was decided to be celebrated on December 4 to acknowledge the efforts & achievements of the Indian Navy during the 1971 Indo-Pak war.
- Indian Navy was established by the East India Company in 1612.
- Indo- Pakistan took place in 1971.
- During the war, Pakistan launched an attack on December 3 on Indian air bases.
- In response to their offensive attacks, the Indian Navy planned an attack on the night of December 4 & 5, as Pakistan didn’t have the aircraft to carry out bombings.
- There were hundreds of Pakistani Navy personnel killed during the attack. Commodore Kasargod Pattanashetti Gopal Rao led the whole operation of the Indian Navy.

### World Soil Day: 5th December

- World Soil Day 2022 is observed on the 5th of December 2022.
- In 2002, the International Union of Soil Sciences recommended creating an international day to celebrate and generate awareness about soil.
- It was a movement led by the Kingdom of Thailand under the late King Bhumibol Adulyadej.
- His vision and passion for this most precious natural resource led, shaped, and guided the movement.
- The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United States supported the formal establishment of World Soil Day
- In 2014, the U.N. General Assembly designated December 5 as the first official World Soil Day at the 68th UN General Assembly.

### International Volunteer Day: 5th December

- International Volunteer Day 2022 is observed on the 5th of December 2022.
- International Volunteer Day 2022 theme set by the UN this year is “solidarity through volunteering”.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- Volunteerism started in Europe for supporting elderly people within the community and carrying out Church-related work and helping the poor.
- Organized Volunteering was started in the **18th Century** and mainly to carry out military services than give back to society.
- Organizations like the Red Cross, Lions Club, Rotary Club, and the Y.M.C.A. started collecting donations, mobilizing volunteers, and doing charity work and community service.
- In **1985**, the **United Nations Volunteers Programme** coordinated **International Volunteer Day** on **December 5**.

### National Microwave Oven Day: 6th December

- **National Microwave Oven Day 2022** is observed on the **6th of December 2022**.
- **Percy Spencer**, a self-taught American engineer, developed a way to safely prepare food with microwaves.
- In 1945, he realized a candy bar in his pocket was melting while working with active radar.
- He discovered that he could direct the magnetron's power into a metal box and trap it there.
- He also noted that food placed in the box quickly heated up.
- Raytheon submitted a patent for a microwave oven on October 8, 1945.
- In **1955** the first domestic microwave was introduced.
- Litton invented a microwave oven with a design similar to those used today, which helped promote home microwaves even more.
- In the **United States**, there were around **40,000** microwaves in use in 1971, rising to one million by 1975.

### BR Ambedkar Death Anniversary: 6th December

- **BR Ambedkar Death Anniversary 2022** is observed on the **6th of December 2022**.
- **Ambedkar** was born into a **Mahar (Dalit) caste**, who were treated as untouchables and subjected to socio-economic discrimination.
- 6th December 2022 will be celebrated as the 67th death anniversary of Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar.
- The death anniversary of Dr. BR Ambedkar is referred to as Mahaparinirvana Divas.
- **Ambedkar's ancestors had long worked for the army of the British East India Company**, and his father served in the British Indian Army at the Mhow cantonment. Although they attended school, Ambedkar and other untouchable children were segregated and given little attention or help by teachers.
- They were not allowed to sit inside the class.
- BR Ambedkar was the chief architect of the Indian Constitution.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- He has done various works for the development of various castes in India mainly he tried to demolish untouchability.

### International Civil Aviation Day: 7th December

- **International Civil Aviation Day 2022** is observed on the **7th of December 2022**.
- The International Civil Aviation Day 2022 theme set by the UN this year is “Advancing Innovation for Global Aviation Development”.
- The **International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)**, a specialist organization within the **United Nations**, established **December 7** as the day to celebrate the impact that civil aviation has had on the world.
- Tourism and business have both been changed forever due to flying, not to mention the cultural connections that have been enabled.
- The **first International Civil Aviation Day** was held in **1994** as part of ICAO’s 50th anniversary and in **1996** the **United Nations General Assembly** officially recognized 7 December as International Civil Aviation Day.

### Armed Forces Flag Day: 7th December

- **Armed Forces Flag Day 2022** is observed on the **7th of December 2022**.
- On Armed Forces Flag Day 2022, patriotic events are arranged to encourage public participation and support the cause across the nation.
- The colour code for the day is red, light blue, and dark blue.
- It represents **three Indian armed forces- Army, Air Force, and Navy**.
- The idea of Armed Forces Flag Day observation every year was first decided in the year 1949 by the **Defence Minister**.
- He set up a committee to observe a Flag Day every year on December 7.
- The general idea behind this was the collection of funds from people by distributing flags.
- The Armed Forces Flag Day also called Flag Day of India as is commemorated through the collection of funds through the distribution of flags.
- Indian citizens express their gratitude to the country's ex-military and current military personnel and pay homage to those who died in service.

### International Anti-Corruption Day: 9th December

- **International Anti-Corruption Day 2022** is observed on the **9th of December 2022**.
- International Anti Corruption Day 2022 theme set by the UN this year is “Recover with Integrity”.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- Transparency International has organized, easy-to-read data on corruption levels around the **world starting from 1995**.
- The U.N. has launched a special campaign on corruption in the last two years with the theme 'Recover with Integrity'.
- Corruption has existed from time immemorial.
- Some of the earliest records of Anti Corruption texts can be found in the Code of Hammurabi of Babylonia, the Great Edict of Horemheb in Egypt, and Arthashastra in India.
- These texts spoke about bribery practices among officers of the state and law.
- The **Concept of Public Interest and welfare started to begin in the 19th Century. Corruption became a big topic of decisions in the public interest.**
- Bribes made officials and people compromise their quality of work and time and finally resulted in spreading to all kinds of people making society polluted.

### Human Rights Day: 10th December

- **Human Rights Day 2022** is observed on the **10th of December 2022**.
- Human Rights Day 2022 theme set by the **WHO this year is "Dignity, Freedom, and Justice for all"**
- On Human Rights day 2022, donate to some Human Rights Charity that takes care of people's rights in society.
- Human Rights Day's **first observation was started in 1948 when the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.**
- The day was popular to all when the UN issued a Human Rights Stamp which covered and understood the concept by millions of people.
- It was issued by the **United Nations Postal Administration in 1952**, which received over 200,000 advanced orders.
- The aim of the **Declaration of Human Rights** is to establish a common standard of living for all people across the planet and to encourage all UN Members of State, to increase the standard of living among people in their respective countries.

### Nobel Prize Day: 10th December

- **Nobel Prize Day 2022** is observed on the **10th of December 2022**.
- Alfred Nobel's father was an engineer himself and **Alfred Nobel expressed early interest in engineering, and explosives in particular.**



## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- Nobel became interested in stabilizing the unpredictable explosive nitroglycerin. While conducting the experiments an unexpected accident took place which cost the life of his brother.
- But Nobel continued his work ultimately succeeding in inventing dynamite as a superior and more stable version of nitroglycerin.
- Alfred Nobel went on to invent an even better alternative to dynamite in the form of gelignite.
- Later he re-evaluated his life's goals and decided to use his earnings to set up a prize that recognized the best in humanity.
- The prizes in the different categories reflect his interests in various fields.
- **Alfred Nobel died on 10 December 1896, in Sanremo, Italy**, at his very last residence, Villa Nobel, overlooking the Mediterranean Sea.

### International Mountain Day: 11th December

- **International Mountain Day 2022** is observed on the **11th of December 2022**.
- The International Mountain Day 2022 theme set by the **UN this year** is **"Women Move Mountains"**.
- Increasing climate variability, resulted in a lack of mountain agriculture, so a lot of men migrated elsewhere in search of alternative livelihoods.
- Women have therefore taken on many tasks formerly done by men, yet mountain women are often invisible due to a lack of decision-making power and unequal access to resources.
- In the **United States**, there was a tradition where students skip classes and visit the nearby mountains that surround them for recreation.
- This is a kind of celebration in the United States.
- The **United Nations General Assembly declared the International Year of Mountains in 2002**.
- The U.N. establishes **December 11 as International Mountain Day** each year for the protection and sustainability of mountains.
- Mountain Day is established and celebrated in **Japan as a national holiday for people**.

### UNICEF Foundation Day: 11th December

- **UNICEF Foundation Day 2022** is observed on the **11th of December 2022**
- **UNICEF was created by the U.N. Relief Rehabilitation Administration in 1946** to provide relief funds for children and mothers affected by **World War II with immediate aid**.
- In that same year, the U.N. General Assembly founded the **United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)** to further institutionalize post-war relief work.
- UNICEF relies entirely on contributions from governments and private donors.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- In 2019, UNICEF's 137 government partners, along with intergovernmental organizations and inter-organizational arrangements, contributed \$4.7 billion.

### Universal Health Coverage Day 2022 Theme and History: 12th December

- **Universal Health Coverage Day 2022** is observed on the **12th of December 2022**.
- Universal Health Coverage day 2022 theme set by the WHO this year is “**Build the world we want: A healthy future for all**”.
- The **first healthcare system** was established by a German named Chancellor Otto von Bismarck in 1883.
- The insurance model, called the ‘**Bismarckian system**’, required everyone to have insurance for their medical expenses, which was similar to the current-day non-profit health-insurance companies.
- **Universal Health Coverage Day** was originally promoted by the **World Health Organization**.
- The World Health Organization is part of the United Nations and is responsible for international public health.
- In December 2012, the **United Nations General Assembly** approved a resolution demanding countries to fast-forward universal healthcare progression.

### National Energy Conservation Day: 14th December

- **National Energy Conservation Day 2022** is observed on the **14th of December 2022**.
- National Energy Conservation Day 2022 aims to create awareness among the people on saving energy by reducing the use of energy and using it efficiently.
- National Energy Conservation Day 2022 was **first observed on December 14th, 1991 by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency BEE**, under the Union Ministry of Power which falls under the government of India.
- The Bureau of Energy Efficiency assists in the development and implementation of strategies and policies to reduce excessive consumption of energy.
- The committee also executed ‘**The Energy Conservation Act**’ in 2001.
- The main objective of the day is to reduce the use of energy and to encourage people to use it efficiently.

### Vijay Diwas: 16th December

- **50th Vijay Diwas 2022** is observed on the **16th of December 2022**.
- **Vijay Diwas** is celebrated for the remembrance of the victory of the Indian Armed Forces in ‘**Operation: Vijay**’ against the infiltrating Pakistani troops.
- Rich tributes are given to the Armed Soldiers who lost their lives in the war.
- Pakistani troops attacked 11 Indian airfields that proved the war on **December 3, 1971**.
- At that time **Indira Gandhi** was the **Prime Minister of India**.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- The war ended in just 13 days which is considered one of the shortest wars in history.
- As a result of the war, **Bangladesh was liberated from Pakistan** as a separate country.
- The Independent Flag of Bangladesh was **first hoisted on March 23**.

### Minorities Rights Day in India: 18th December

- **Minorities Rights Day 2022** is observed on the **18th of December 2022**.
- December 18 commemorates declarations on the rights of persons belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious, and Linguistic Minorities.
- Minorities Rights Day was **first observed on December 18th, 1992 by the United Nations**.
- The UN adopted the statement on the individual Rights belonging to religious or Linguistic National or Ethnic Minorities.
- In India, it is the responsibility of the **National Commission for Minorities (NCM) to carry out the events on this day**.
- The NCM was established by the Union Government under the **National Commission for Minorities Act, in 1992**.

### Goa's Liberation Day: 19th December

- **Goa's Liberation Day 2022** is observed on the **19th of December 2022**.
- Goa was still in disrepair after **450 years of Portuguese rule on August 15, 1947**, when India attained freedom.
- One of the first nations to colonize sections of India was Portugal, which continued to cling onto Goa and other Indian regions even after India gained her freedom.
- The former Indian prime minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, believed that military intervention was their only choice after numerous fruitless conversations and diplomatic attempts with the Portuguese.
- **Action Vijay, which translates to "Operation Victory,"** was a 36-hour military operation that began on **December 18, 1961**, by the combined forces of the Indian navy, air force, and army.
- 451 years of Portuguese rule in the region **officially came to an end and the territory was taken back by India on December 19, 1961**.

### International Migrants Day: 18th December

- **International Migrants Day 2022** is observed on the **18th of December 2022**.
- Although the day was **established in 2000, it has been observed since 1997** that several Asian migrant organizations designated **December 18** as the day to advocate for the respect, rights, and protection of migrants.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- On account of the ever-increasing number of migrants around the world, on December 4, 2000, the **United Nations General Assembly declared December 18 as the day for International Migrants**
- Goals connected to migration are included in the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development of the United Nations**.
- Among them is education access, which will result in improved prospects and a higher standard of living.

### International Human Solidarity Day: 20th December

- **International Human Solidarity Day 2022** is observed on the **20th of December 2022**.
- People are welcome to participate in discussions regarding actions to foster solidarity on International Human Solidarity Day when nations demonstrate their adherence to various international agreements.
- On December 22, 2005, the **UN General Assembly recognized solidarity as one of the fundamental and enduring values of the twenty-first century by passing Resolution 60/209**.
- Through the creation of the World Solidarity Fund to end poverty and the declaration of International Human Solidarity Day, the idea of solidarity was propagated.

### National Mathematics Day: 22nd December

- **National Mathematics Day 2022** is observed on the **22nd of December 2022**.
- The renowned mathematician **Srinivasa Ramanujan, whose works had a widespread impact both in India and around the world**, is the driving force behind the **establishment of Mathematics Day in that country**.
- **Ramanujan was born in 1887 to an Iyengar Brahmin family in Erode, Tamil Nadu**.
- Despite having little formal schooling, he mastered trigonometry at the age of 12 and created a number of his theorems.
- Ramanujan ran away from home at the age of 14 and joined Pachaiyappa's College in Madras.
- The aspiring mathematician quickly caught the attention of Chennai's mathematicians. He was assisted in obtaining a clerk position at the Madras Port Trust in 1912 by Ramaswamy Iyer, the Indian Mathematical Society's founder. Ramanujan subsequently started submitting his work to British mathematicians.
- In 1913, GH Hardy, a Cambridge-based mathematician, invited Ramanujan to London after being impressed by Ramanujan's theorems.
- In 1914, Ramanujan travelled to Britain, where Hardy helped him enrol in Trinity College, Cambridge.
- After being elected as a member of the London Mathematical Society in 1917, Ramanujan was well on his path to success.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- In 1918, he also became a Fellow of the Royal Society, one of the youngest individuals to hold this prestigious status.

### National Consumer Rights Day: 24th December

- **National Consumer Rights Day 2022** is observed on the **24th of December 2022**.
- When **India's Consumer Protection Act of 1986 was passed**, consumer rights were given serious consideration.
- The purpose of this legislation was to protect consumers against unfair commerce, the sale of subpar goods, fraud, and inadequate service.
- India's economy has changed tremendously throughout the years, greatly impacting how many Indians shop and travel.
- As a result, the consumer's tried-and-true habits have been altered, necessitating a revision and overhaul of the **Consumer Protection Act**.
- **On August 6, 2019, India's parliament passed the amended Consumer Protection Bill**, taking into account this dynamic and modern economy.
- The Right to Information Act, which made India's governance procedures open to the public and had significant ramifications for consumer rights, is a supplement to the **Consumer Protection Acts of 1986 and 2019**.
- The rights to safety, information, freedom of choice, and consumer education are a few of these.

### Christmas Day: 25th December

- **Christmas Day 2022** is observed on the **25th of December 2022**.
- The truth is that nobody is certain of the date and location of Jesus' birth.
- The **apostles Matthew, Mark, Luke and John** share comparable narratives in the New Testament of the Bible, although they never specify the time of Jesus' birth.
- **Sextus Julius Africanus, the earliest Christian historian, is largely responsible for the creation of December 25.**
- Historians hold that the early church wished to connect the **Son of God's birth with the "rebirth of the sun,"** which occurs after the winter equinox, which is one theory as to why December 25 was picked as the official date for Christmas.
- Another perspective based the date on March 25, which is the spring equinox, as the day of Jesus' conception.
- The birth of Jesus would take place exactly nine months later, on December 25.



## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

### Good Governance Day: 25th December

- **Good Governance Day 2022** is observed on the **25th of December 2022**.
- Good Governance Day 2022 is observed for the **birth anniversary of Former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee**.
- **Atal Bihari Vajpayee, a former prime minister, and Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya were both named as recipients of the Bharat Ratna**, the country's highest civilian honor, on December 23, 2014.
- Following the declaration, the newly-elected Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared that December 25 would be observed as Good Governance Day.
- Three times, Atal Bihari Vajpayee led India as prime minister. In 1996, his first term lasted just 13 days.
- He completed his second term from 1999 to 2004 after serving it for a total of thirteen months from **March 1998 to April 1999**.
- In 1962, he made his debut appearance in the Rajya Sabha.
- He won seven elections for the Lok Sabha. Mr. Vajpayee received the Bharat Ratna, the highest civilian honour in India, in 2015.

### IMPORTANT BANKING & ECONOMY NEWS

#### **IRDAI approves amendments, simplifies rules to set up insurance firms**

- The **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** has **amended rules on registering insurance companies and investments in them**.

#### **Aim:**

- To **promote ease of doing business** and (simplify) the process of setting up an insurance company in India

#### **Key Highlights:**

- Now, **Private equity (PE) funds** can **directly put money in insurance companies**, and investment by them through **special purpose vehicles (SPVs)** has been made optional, thus providing flexibility
- **Corporate agents (CA)** can **tie up with 9 insurers** against **three insurers earlier**.
- **Insurance marketing firms (IMF)** can tie up with **6 insurers (earlier 2 insurers)** in each line for life, general, and health insurance products.
- Investments up to **25%** of paid-up capital by a **single investor** will be treated as **'investors'** and investments above that as a promoter.
- Under the current guidelines, the threshold for being a **"promoter"** as a single investor is **more than 10%**.

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- IRDAI has introduced provisions by which promoters will be allowed to dilute their stake down to **26%** on condition that the insurer has a **satisfactory solvency record** for the **preceding 5 years** and is a listed entity.
- The earlier norms required promoters to hold on to a **50% stake** if it was more than that.
- The IRDAI also approved a reduction in solvency norms for general and life insurers, which is expected to provide them access to an additional **₹3,500 crore**.
- To enable efficient utilization of capital by life insurers, IRDAI informed that the factors for **calculation of solvency** provided in **regulations** are **reduced** for unit-linked business (without guarantees) to **0.60%** from **0.80%**; and for **PMJJBY** from **0.10%** to **0.05%**.
- This will provide a **relaxation in capital requirements** by about **₹2,000 crores**.
- The period for **State and Central Government premium dues** for **calculation of solvency position** in case of **crop insurance** increased from **180 days** to **365 days**.

### About IRDAI:

- Founded: 1999
- Headquarters: Hyderabad, Telangana
- Chairperson: Debasish Panda
- IRDAI is a **regulatory body** under the jurisdiction of the **Ministry of Finance**, Government of India, and is **tasked with regulating and licensing the insurance and reinsurance industries** in India.

### RBI working with ICRIER to develop a food inflation projection framework

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** is working with the **Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER)** to **develop a food inflation projection framework** as the **central bank** looks to depend more on a **consultative approach** to **collect first-hand data** and **improve policy responses**.
- **Combining high-frequency information on prices** with market intelligence on high-impact food items helps **nowcast food inflation** and generate **near-term inflation forecasts**.
- **Three key vegetables** viz **tomatoes, onions, and potatoes (TOP)**, with a **combined weight** of **2.2%** in the **consumer price index (CPI) basket** in India.
- However, contribute heavily to volatility in both **food inflation** and **headline inflation**, impacting the performance of nowcasts.
- Under the **flexible inflation targeting (FIT) framework** introduced in India in **2016**, the inflation target is defined as **4% CPI headline inflation** with a **tolerance band of ± 2%** around the target.

### About RBI:

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## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- 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

### Indore plans India's first retail municipal bond for solar plant

- The Indore Municipal Corporation, Madhya Pradesh (MP) is planning to issue the nation's first local government bond targeting individual investors, with proceeds used to fund a solar power project.
- Indore Municipal Corp. seeks to raise as much as 2.6 billion rupees (\$31.8 million) via a 10-year bond sale in Dec 2022.

### Key Highlights:

- The 60-megawatt solar plant will be built near Indore at 3 billion rupees.
- It will help the city save an electricity bill of as much as 250 million rupees a month.
- The issuer has mandated A.K. Capital Services Ltd. and SBI Capital Markets Ltd. as lead managers of the offering.
- The green debt sale is occurring at a time when the World Bank has estimated that Asia's third-largest economy will need to invest \$840 billion over the next 15 years on urban infrastructure to meet demand from a fast-growing urban population.

### Additional Info:

- Indore has won the award of India's cleanest city for 6 years in a row, based on a survey conducted by the country's housing and urban affairs ministry.

### About MP:

- Governor: Mangubhai Patel
- Chief Minister: Shivraj Singh Chouhan
- Capital: Bhopal
- National Park: Van Vihar National Park, Dinosaurs Fossil National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Bagdara Wildlife Sanctuary, Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary, Ghatigaon Wildlife Sanctuary, Ratapani Wildlife Sanctuary
- Tiger Reserve: Kanha Tiger Reserve, Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve

### Interest subvention on KCC crop loan to continue in FY23, FY24 - RBI

- The government has approved the continuation of the interest subvention scheme (ISS) with modification for the financial years 2022-23 and 2023-24.

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## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- The applicable lending rate to farmers will be 7% and the rate of interest subvention to lending institutions will be 1.5%.

### Key Highlights:

- An additional interest subvention of 3% per annum will be provided to such of those farmers repaying in time, i.e., from the date of disbursement of the loan/s up to the actual date of repayment or up to the due date fixed by the banks for repayment of such loan/s, whichever is earlier, subject to a maximum period of one year from the date of disbursement.
- To provide short-term loans for allied activities including animal husbandry, dairy, fisheries, beekeeping, etc. up to an overall limit of ₹3 lakh to farmers through Kisan Credit Card (KCC) at a concessional interest rate during the years 2022-23 and 2023-24.
- It has been decided to provide interest subvention to lending institutions viz. Public Sector Banks (PSBs) and Private Sector Banks (in respect of loans given by their rural and semi-urban branches only), Small Finance Banks (SFBs), and computerized Primary Agriculture Cooperative Societies (PACS) which have been ceded with Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs), on use of their resources.

### About KCC Scheme:

- KCC scheme is a credit scheme introduced in August 1998 by Indian public sector banks to issue Kisan credit cards to the farmers of India.
- This model scheme was prepared by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) on the recommendations of the R. V. Gupta Committee.

### Tamilnad Mercantile Bank ink bancassurance pacts with Chola MS General & Max Life

- Old private sector lender Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Limited (TMBL) has entered into bancassurance partnerships with Cholamandalam MS General Insurance Company Ltd, part of the Chennai-based Murugappa Group, and Max Life Insurance Company

### Aim:

- To provide general insurance products and life insurance schemes respectively to TMB's customers.

### About the Partnership:

- Under the tie-up, Tuticorin-based TMB's 500-plus branches will start retailing the insurance products of both companies.
- The agreement was done for marketing, distribution & selling the general insurance products.

### What is bancassurance ?

- Bancassurance is a relationship between a bank and an insurance company.

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## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

### Aim:

- To offer insurance products or insurance benefits to the bank's customers.
- This partnership arrangement can be profitable for both companies.

### About TMBL:

- Founded: 11 May 1921
- Headquarters: Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu, India
- MD & CEO: S.Krishnan
- Tagline: Be a Step ahead of Life
- It was set up at the Nadar Bank limited in 1921, became the scheduled bank under the RBI Act in May 1935 & the name was changed to Tamil Nadu Mercantile Bank in 1962.
- It offers a wide range of banking and financial services primarily to Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME), agricultural and retail customers

### Star Health launches policy for outpatient expenses with a 1-year term

- Star Health and Allied Insurance Co Ltd, a standalone health insurance company, has launched the Star OutPatient Care Insurance Policy.

### Aim:

- To provide complete health and wellness benefits to customers at an affordable cost.
- To bridge the gap between expenses related to in-patient hospitalization, which is catered to by the health insurance industry, and outpatient expenses.

### Key Features:

- Star OutPatient Care Insurance Policy is a standalone cover that provides access to doctors, clinics, and diagnostic centres all over India.
- The policyholder can avail of unlimited virtual teleconsultations, unlimited in-clinic consultation, pharmacy expenses, and diagnostic tests up to the sum insured in any of the networked facilities on a cashless basis.
- The policy is available on an individual or floater basis and can cover up to 6 family members.
- The minimum entry age for adults is between 18 years to 50 years and for dependent children, from 31 days to 25 years.
- The policy has 4 sums insured (SI) options that customers can choose from - a cover of ₹25,000, ₹50,000, ₹75,000, and ₹1 lakh for a policy term of one year.



## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- The policy will also cover pre-existing diseases after a waiting period of one, two, and four years in the platinum, gold, and silver plans, respectively.

### About Star Health and Allied Insurance Co Ltd:

- Founded: 2006
- Headquarters: Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India
- Chairman & CEO: V Jagannathan
- Executive Director: Vikas Sharma

### AMFI seeks to raise the TDS limit to ₹50,000 per annum

- The mutual fund industry has urged the government to increase the threshold for withholding tax (TDS) on the dividend to ₹50,000 per annum from the current level of ₹5,000 per annum.
- In a pre-Budget representation, the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) announced the current threshold for TDS on dividends has been causing hardship to retail investors particularly when TDS on banks' fixed deposits was raised from ₹10,000 to ₹40,000 a couple of years ago.

### Capital gains tax:

- Long-term capital gains (LTCG) of listed equity shares and units of equity-oriented MF schemes are taxed at 10% if the LTCG exceeds ₹1 lakh in a financial year.
- The industry has urged the government to remove the restriction on ELSS investment in multiples of ₹500 and permit investments of any amount, subject to a minimum of ₹500.

### Debt-linked schemes:

- AMFI has sought permission to launch the Debt Linked Savings Scheme, on the lines of ELSS, to channelize long-term savings of retail investors into highly-rated debt instruments with appropriate tax benefits, which will help in deepening the bond market.
- AMFI has suggested that Fund of Funds schemes that invest in equity schemes should be treated as an equity-oriented scheme for long- and short-term capital gains tax instead of non-equity MF schemes.
- AMFI has proposed a cap of 15% on the surcharge rate on income distribution on units from equity MF schemes for the non-corporate assessee on equity shares.

### About AMFI:

- Founded: 22 August 1995
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- CEO: N.S.Venkatesh,
- Members: 44

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- The Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) is the **regulatory body** for the **mutual fund sector** in India.
- It is a division of the **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)**, Ministry of Finance, Gol.

### SEBI revises framework for approving changes in control of stock brokers

- Market regulator **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has put in place a **revised framework** for seeking its prior approval for changes in **control of stock brokers, depository participants, and other market intermediaries** which will be effective from **December 1, 2022**.
- The framework will apply to **stock brokers/clearing members, depository participants, investment advisers, research analysts or research entities, registrars to an issue, and share transfer agents and KYC (Know Your Client) Registration Agencies (KRAs)**.

### Key Highlights:

- Under the provisions, an **intermediary should apply online** for SEBI's prior approval and along with the application, the entity concerned has to submit various details.
- The prior approval granted by SEBI shall be **valid for six months** from the date of such approval.
- The **'fit and proper person criteria** should also be complied with.
- In case the entity is a registered stock broker, clearing member, or depository participant, then **NOC (No Objection Certificate)** should be obtained from all stock exchanges/clearing corporations/depositories
- In cases involving schemes of arrangements that need **National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) approval**, the application seeking approval for the proposed change in control of the intermediary should be filed with SEBI before applying with NCLT.
- An **in-principle approval** will be given for **3 months** provided all other regulatory compliances are met, as per the circular.
- **Within 15 days** from the date of the **National Company Law Tribunal's order**, the intermediary should **submit an online application for SEBI's final approval**.

### About SEBI:

- Established: January 30, 1992
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Chairman: Madhabi Puri Buch
- The SEBI is the **regulatory body for securities and commodity markets** in India under the ownership of the **Ministry of Finance** within the Gol.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

### YES BANK partners with Turtlefin to launch 'EasyNsure'

- TurtleFin, India's leading insurtech platform, has partnered with YES BANK, to create a first-of-its-kind comprehensive technology platform – EasyNsure.
- Its distinctive API will power the platform and help it offer a slew of insurance solutions in a single place.

#### About EasyNsure:

- EasyNsure will bring multiple insurance partners onto a common platform, providing a host of benefits such as –
- A seamless single-point online insurance service,
- Ability to compare and select a suitable insurance cover basis the customer's need,
- A facility to compare costs for rationalizing purchase decisions, among others.
- The platform is already live with over 40 Life and General Insurance plans to be readily available for consideration.
- So far, the platform has created over 30,000 insurance quotes with more than 6,500 proposals and 5,200 policies being punched.
- This has helped the platform record a total premium of INR 6,050 lakh.
- The technology platform will also allow business tracking across the Bank hierarchy, simplifying revenue reconciliation.

#### About YES BANK:

- Founded: 2004
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO: Prashant Kumar
- Tagline: Experience our Expertise

### RBI To Launch First Pilot Of Retail Digital Rupee

- The Reserve Bank of India's first pilot for a retail e-rupee, its version of the central bank digital currency (CBDC), will be launched.
- The pilot will cover select locations in a closed user group comprising participating customers and merchants.

#### Key Highlights:

- The first phase will begin with 4 banks i.e. State Bank of India, ICICI Bank, Yes Bank, and IDFC First Bank in 4 cities including Mumbai, New Delhi, Bengaluru, and Bhubaneswar, and later extend to Ahmedabad, Gangtok, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Indore, Kochi, Lucknow, Patna, and Shimla.

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## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- Payments to merchants can be made using **QR codes** displayed at merchant locations.
- The pilot will test the robustness of the entire process of **digital rupee creation, distribution, and retail usage** in real-time.
- Based on the usage and the functions performed by the digital rupee and considering the different levels of accessibility RBI has demarcated the **digital rupee into two broad categories: general purpose (retail) and wholesale.**
- On **November 1, 2022**, RBI launched its **first pilot project** to use the **digital rupee** in the **wholesale market** for **secondary trade in government securities (G-secs).**
- From **December 1, 2022**, a **retail digital rupee (e-R)** pilot will be launched.
- In effect, the retail e-rupee will be an **electronic version of cash** and will be primarily meant for **retail transactions.**
- It will be potentially available for use by all the **private sector, non-financial consumers, and businesses.**
- RBI is expected to enable the **distribution of retail e-rupee (CBDC-R)** through banks.
- All the transactions in CBDC will be carried out between **person-to-person (P2P)** and **person-to-merchant (P2M) forms.**
- This e-rupee will be in the form of a **digital token representing legal tender.**
- The key motivations for exploring the issuance of CBDC include a **reduction in operational costs** involved in physical cash management.
- It will **add efficiency** to the **settlement system** and **boost innovation** in the **cross-border payments space.**

### 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

### SBI board approves raising Rs 10,000 crore via infrastructure bonds

- **State Bank of India (SBI)** approved raising **Rs 10,000 crore** (including a green shoe option of Rs. 5,000 crores) through **infrastructure bonds** during the **financial year 2023**
- In the **July-September quarter**, SBI's **gross non-performing assets (NPA)** eased to **3.52%** from **3.91%** in **Q1FY23** and **4.9%** in **Q2FY22.**
- Similarly, **net NPAs** dropped to **0.8%** in **September 2022 quarter** from **1%** in **June 2022 quarter** and **1.52%** in **September 2021 quarter.**

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- The bank also recorded credit growth at **19.93% year-on-year** in July-September.

### About SBI:

- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Chairman: Dinesh Kumar Khara
- Tagline: Pure Banking, Nothing Else

### SEBI restructures advisory panels on FPIs, social stock exchange

- Capital markets regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has restructured its advisory committees about foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) and social stock exchange.
- The SEBI has set up **three separate committees** in a fresh push towards reforming the capital markets and improving the ease of doing business.

### FPI Advisory Panel Committee:

- Rejigging its FPI Advisory Committee, Sebi has informed that **former finance secretary Hasmukh Adhia** will now chair the 16-member panel.
- It was **earlier headed by K V Subramanian**, former chief economic adviser to the government of India.
- **Chew Hai Jong**, Managing Director at GIC, and **Michael Drumgoole**, Managing Director - Direct Custody and Clearing at JPMorgan, are the new inductees

### Social stock exchange Panel:

- The **18-member committee** will now be headed by **R Balasubramaniam**, chairman of the **Grassroots Research and Advocacy Movement (GRAAM)**.
- It was **earlier chaired by Ishaat Hussain** (Director at SBI Foundation and former Finance Director at Tata Sons).
- About the social stock exchange, Sebi has inducted **Anil Kumar SG**, Founder & CEO, of Samunnati Financial Intermediation & Services; **Santosh Jayaraman** Global Head- Of sustainability, HCL Tech; **Pushpa Aman Singh**, Founder and CEO of GuideStar India; and **Hemant Gupta**, Managing Director at BIL Ryerson Technology Startup Incubator Foundation, among others
- The expert group will advise Sebi on issues about the regulatory framework for **social enterprises**.
- It will advise on the matters to be taken up for changes in the **legal framework** for **simplification** and **transparency** in systems governing social enterprises, and on the regulation of intermediaries for ensuring investor protection to SSEs.

### What is Foreign Portfolio Investment?



## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- Foreign Portfolio Investment or FPI refers to the investment made in the financial assets of an enterprise, based in one country, by the foreign investors.

### About SEBI:

- Established: January 30, 1992
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Chairman: Madhabi Puri Buch

### Sri Lankans holding the Indian rupee (INR) in physical form

- India has allowed Sri Lankan citizens to hold up to \$10,000 (8.14 lakh Indian rupees) in Indian rupees (INR) in the physical form.
- Though the INR would not be legal tender in the island nation after India approved a Sri Lankan request to designate the INR as a foreign currency.

### Key Highlights:

- This will provide the island nation with much-needed liquidity support to help it tide over its economic crisis amid inadequate dollar liquidity.
- The decision is also in sync with the Indian government's efforts to popularise the INR among Asian nations and reduce dollar dependence.
- Sri Lankans will now be able to convert the INR into another currency.
- To enable this, Sri Lankan banks must enter an agreement with an Indian bank to open INR Nostro accounts - accounts that banks hold in a foreign currency in another bank.
- Nostro means 'ours' and Vostro means 'yours' in Latin.
- Another significant development is that offshore banking units (OBU) of Lankan banks have been permitted to accept savings, time, and demand deposits from non-residents.
- Transactions between Sri Lankan residents can only be done through banking channels and only for permitted activities.
- Sri Lanka has designated 15 foreign currencies, including the US Dollar, Pound Sterling, Renminbi, Kroner, and Swiss francs.
- In 2021, the Thai Baht was added to this list.

### RBI announces four-tiered regulatory framework for Urban Co-operative Banks

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced a four-tiered regulatory framework for the categorization of Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs).

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

1. **Tier 1** - All unit UCBs and salary earners' UCBs (irrespective of deposit size), and all other UCBs having deposits up to ₹100 crores;
2. **Tier 2** - UCBs with deposits more than ₹100 crore and up to ₹1000 crore;
3. **Tier 3** - UCBs with deposits more than ₹1000 crore and up to ₹10,000 crore;
4. **Tier 4** - UCBs with deposits of more than ₹10,000 crores.

### Key Highlights:

- RBI prescribed a minimum net worth of ₹2 crores for Tier-1 banks and ₹5 crores for all other banks.
- While Tier-1 UCBs shall continue to maintain a minimum CRAR (Capital to Risk-Weighted Assets) of 9% on an ongoing basis, Tier-2 to -4 UCBs shall maintain a minimum CRAR of 12% on an ongoing basis.
- UCBs in Tier-2 to -4, which do not currently meet the revised CRAR of 12% of RWAs, shall achieve the same in a phased manner.
- Such UCBs shall achieve the CRAR of at least 10% by March 31, 2024, 11% by March 31, 2025, and 12% by March 31, 2026.
- UCBs, which currently do not meet the minimum net worth requirement, shall achieve the minimum net worth of ₹2 crore or ₹5 crores in a phased manner.
- Such UCBs shall achieve at least 50% of the applicable minimum net worth on or before March 31, 2026, and the entire stipulated minimum net worth on or before March 31, 2028.

### 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

### IIFL Mutual Fund launches India's first passive tax-saver fund - IN50

- IIFL Mutual Fund has launched India's first passive tax saver fund, IIFL ELSS Nifty 50 Tax Saver Index Fund (IN50) will be on sale through a new fund offer (NFO).
- The dedicated Fund Manager for the IIFL ELSS Nifty 50 Tax Saver Index Fund is Parijat Garg.
- It is the first passively managed tax-saving scheme (also known as Equity-Linked Savings Scheme, or ELSS) to be launched after the capital market regulator, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), allowed fund houses to launch such passive funds on May 23, 2022.

### About IN50:

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- The scheme, IIFL ELSS Nifty 50 Tax Saver Index Fund, opened for subscription on December 1 and closes on December 21, 2022.
- As an open-ended passive equity-linked savings scheme that replicates or tracks the Nifty 50 index and has a statutory lock-in period of 3 years, the fund will provide both a tax benefit and create wealth.

### India extends USD 100 million credits to Maldives to overcome financial crisis

- India handed over USD 100 million to the Maldives to ease the financial challenges faced by the archipelagic state in the Indian Ocean.
- Maldivian Foreign Minister Abdulla Shahid and Finance Minister Ibrahim Ameer were present at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs ceremony in New Delhi.
- The assistance being extended to the Maldives is without any terms and conditions and the Maldives is free to use it in its economic recovery.
- India has also provided a \$ 500 million loan to the Maldives for the Greater Male Connectivity Project.

#### About Maldives:

- President: Ibrahim Mohamed Solih
- Capital: Malé
- Currency: Maldivian Rufiyaa.

### RBI & Financial Services Agency of Japan exchange Letter of Cooperation in the field of Central CounterParties

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Financial Services Agency (FSA), Japan exchanged letters of cooperation in the field of Central Counterparties (CCPs) to improve cooperation.
- With this exchange of letters, RBI and FSA are committed to deepening relations between the two countries and strengthening the exchange of information.
- RBI and FSA also expressed their willingness to hold a dialogue or exchange views about matters of common interest
- The letters confirm the interest of both jurisdictions in enhancing cooperation in line with their respective laws and regulations.

### RBI imposes Rs 1.25 crore penalty on Zoroastrian Co-operative Bank

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a penalty of Rs 1.25 crore on Zoroastrian Co-operative Bank, Mumbai.

#### Reason:

- For non-compliance with certain directions, including one related to discounting of bills.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- Also, the RBI has imposed a penalty of Rs 20 lakh on Indian Mercantile Co-operative Bank, Lucknow for non-compliance with certain norms related classification of non-performing assets.
- The central bank also imposed penalties on 5 other cooperative banks.

### BoB launches Foreign Currency Loan against INR Deposits for Corporates

- Bank of Baroda (BoB) has launched “Foreign Currency Loan against INR Deposits of Indian Companies for their Overseas Subsidiaries/Joint Ventures” at its branch in Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City), Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- BoB is the first bank to offer this facility at GIFT City.
- Foreign Currency Loan against INR Deposits’ provides Indian companies with an alternative facility to raise funds for their international businesses.

### Key Highlights:

- Under the new loan scheme, BoB’s International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) Banking Unit (IBU) in GIFT City in Gandhinagar will provide financial support to Overseas Subsidiaries/Joint Ventures of Indian corporates by leveraging their INR deposits.
- It helps Indian companies meet the cash flow requirements for their international operations.
- BoB already offers Loans against NRE/FCNR Deposits and Loans against Deposits at the IBU.

### About BoB:

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

### ICICI Bank launches STACK for companies in the real estate sector

- ICICI Bank has launched a STACK for companies in the real estate sector to offer solutions to their banking requirements on one platform.

### Note:

- ICICI Bank is the first bank in the industry to offer real estate-specific STACK to provide unparalleled convenience to players in this sector.

### About STACK:

- The STACK, which is a combination of digital and physical solutions, enables participants of the real estate sector namely builders, Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs), and Alternate Investment Funds (AIFs) to undertake banking transactions efficiently.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- It is an extension of the ‘**ICICI STACK for Corporates**’ which the Bank launched in **2021** to provide a customized set of banking solutions for corporates and their entire ecosystem.
- The STACK is a **one-stop shop** for mortgage loans to prospective home buyers.
- The Bank **extends customized home loan solutions** to retail buyers at the project premises.

### About ICICI Bank:

- Founded: 5 January 1994
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO: Sandeep Bakhshi

### City Union Bank authorized to enable GST payments

- Old private sector lender, City Union Bank (CUB), announced that the **Goods and Services Tax Network**, under the auspices of the **GST Council**, has included CUB as one of the banks available for paying GST.
- City Union Bank’s digital solutions include – **digital signatures, QR codes, Video KYC, and digital payment solutions**, such as **UPI 123pay, payment on the go through wearables, increased payment limit for online transactions, & soft launch of voice biometric authentication for mobile banking.**

### About CUB:

- Founded: 1904
- Headquarters: Kumbakonam, Tamil Nadu, India
- MD & CEO: Dr. N. Kamakodi

### BookMyForex launches “Interbank Rate Forex Card” – India’s first true zero markup travel card

- India’s first online foreign exchange marketplace, BookMyForex.com has launched the **Interbank Rate Multi-Currency Forex Card**, which is **India’s first true zero markup travel card.**
- The card has been developed in association with Yes Bank, and M2P, and is powered by Visa.

### Key Highlights:

- The card is accepted **globally at 35+ million stores, 1+ million e-commerce websites, and 2+ million ATMs.**
- The card can be loaded with **14 different currencies**, and the exchange rates on forex cards remain fixed.
- The forex card comes with a **Free International SIM with unlimited incoming calls & WhatsApp chat facility for one month.**

### About BookMyForex.com:

- Headquarters: Gurugram, Haryana
- CEO: Sudarshan Motwani

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- **BookMyForex (a MakeMyTrip Group Company)** is India's very first tech initiative in the foreign exchange domain and the market leader in the online retail forex space.

### **IDFC AMC to be renamed as Bandhan Mutual Fund as regulators approve a change in ownership**

- Markets regulator **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has approved the acquisition of **IDFC Asset Management Company Limited (IDFC AMC)** by a consortium comprising **Bandhan Financial Holdings Limited (BFHL), GIC, and ChrysCapital**.
- Following the completion of the proposed transition, **BFHL** will own about **60%** and **GIC** and **ChrysCapital** will own approximately **20%** each in **IDFC AMC**.
- On completion of the transition, **IDFC AMC** is proposed to be **renamed as Bandhan Asset Management Company Limited**, and **IDFC Mutual Fund (IDFCMF)** is proposed to be **renamed as Bandhan Mutual Fund**.
- Consequently, each scheme of **IDFC MF** will be **renamed to replace the word 'IDFC'** with the word **'Bandhan'**.

### **RBI permits overseas Indian banks to deal in financial products not permitted in domestic markets**

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has allowed **foreign branches/foreign subsidiaries** of **Indian banks** and **All India Financial Institutions (AIFIs)** to deal in financial products that are not available or are not permitted by it in the **domestic market** without its prior approval.
- The **relaxation** applies to **Indian Banks** and **AIFIs** operating in **foreign jurisdictions** and **International Financial Services Centers (IFSCs)** in India including **Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City)**.

#### **Key Highlights:**

- While allowing branches/subsidiaries in **foreign jurisdictions** as well as in **IFSCs** to deal in such products, the parent bank in India/AIFI has to ensure prior approval from its Board and, if required, the appropriate authority in the concerned jurisdictions.
- RBI asked entities to appropriately capture and report to it their exposure and **mark-to-market (MTM)** on these products.

### **SEBI reduces the timeline to list debt securities issued on a private placement basis**

- Markets regulator **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** reduced the timeline for listing debt securities issued on a private placement basis to **3 days** from the current timeline of **4 days**.
- The new guidelines would come into **effect from January 1, 2023**.

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- SEBI has listed out the steps involved in **pre-listing** and **post-listing** along with relevant timelines, both through **Electronic Book Provider (EBP) platform** and otherwise.
- The time taken for a listing of such securities after the closure of the issue has been **reduced to three working days (T+3)** as against the **present requirement of 4 working days (T+4)**.
- **T** refers to the **issue closure date**.
- Subsequently, the issuer would have to ensure **receipt** of an **International Securities Identification Number (ISIN)** from a depository before pay-in and apply to other depositories for admission of such proposed **debt issuance by T+1**.
- On or before T+1/T+2, the **issue of credit confirmation letter** by depositories to the issuer, and issuers will have to make an application for listing of its **debt securities by T+3**.

### 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.**

### Tata Play becomes the first firm to file confidential papers with SEBI for IPO

- **Tata Play**, a **direct-to-home platform**, has **become the first company to submit confidential papers** to the **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** for an **initial public offering (IPO)**.
- Tata Play confidentially pre-filed its **draft red herring prospectus (DRHP)** with the markets regulator.
- The proposed IPO is Tata's first since the public issue of TCS in **2004**.
- Tata play is a **joint venture between the Tata group and Walt Disney**.

### NPCI extends UPI market cap deadline by 2 yrs

- The **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** has **extended the deadline for the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) to meet the market cap deadline of 30% to December 31, 2024**.
- The **earlier deadline** to meet the market cap norms was **December 31, 2022**.
- Currently, there's **no cap on volume**, and **Google Pay** and **PhonePe** hold a **market share of about 80%**.

### Key Highlights:

- **Payment apps PhonePe and Google Pay** have received a breather, with the NPCI giving them **2 more years** to comply with **guidelines on volume caps**.

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- Flipkart-owned PhonePe and Google Pay have 47% and 33% market shares respectively.
- In November 2020, the NPCI issued guidelines capping the share of transactions handled by a third-party application provider (TPAPs) at 30% each.

### 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.
- It was created by the RBI for operating retail payments and settlement systems in India.

### About UPI:

- Launched: 2016
- UPI is an instant real-time payment system developed by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).
- The interface facilitates inter-bank peer-to-peer (P2P) and person-to-merchant (P2M) transactions.
- As of November 2022, the UPI transactions included Banks live on UPI - 373, Volume of the transaction - 7,309.45 million, Value of the total transaction - 11,90,593.39 Cr.

### Protean & Fino Payments Bank tie-up to expand PAN card issuance services in India

- Fino Payments Bank has partnered with Protean eGov Technologies (formerly NSDL e-Governance Infrastructure Limited), a market leader in universal, citizen-centric, and population-scale e-governance solutions, to expand PAN card issuance services in India, especially in rural areas.

### Note:

- The association makes Fino the first payments bank to act as a PAN Service Agency (PSA) of Protean and facilitate paperless PAN issuance services.
- As per the Ministry of Finance, more than 43.34 crore Permanent Account Numbers (PANs) have been linked with Aadhaar till January 2022 i.e. around 36% of India's population has an Aadhaar-linked PAN card.

### Key Highlights:

- At Fino Bank points people can apply for a PAN card through Aadhaar-based authentication, without the need to submit or upload any documents.
- Further, applicants have the option to choose a PAN card either in digital or physical form.

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- Recently, the **digital version, or e-PAN, was** introduced and will be sent within a few hours of applying to the applicant's email id & it is admissible as an actual PAN card.
- Those opting for physical education will receive their PAN cards at their Aadhaar mentioned address **within 4-5 working days.**
- Managing Director and CEO of Protean eGov Technologies: Mr. Suresh Sethi

### About Fino Payments Bank:

- Established: 2017
- Headquarters: Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra
- MD & CEO: Mr. Rishi Gupta
- Fino Payments Bank is a **subsidiary of Fino Paytech Limited**, which is backed by marquee investors like Bharat Petroleum, ICICI group, Blackstone, IFC, Intel, and LIC.

### RBI authorized Tamilnad Mercantile Bank to undertake government business

- **Private sector lender Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Limited (TMBL)** has been **authorized** by the **Reserve Bank of India** to **undertake government business** on behalf of the banking regulator.
- An agreement in this connection was signed by the bank with RBI in **Mumbai** for appointing TMB as an **'agency bank'** of RBI to undertake government agency business.

### About TMBL:

- Founded: in 1921 as the Nadar Bank.
- Headquarters: Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu, India.
- CEO: K V Rama Moorthy.

### ADB & ABIS Signs Sustainability-Linked Debt Facility to Support Climate-Resilient Fish Farming in India

- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** and **ABIS Exports India Private Limited (ABIS)** entered into an **agreement** on **sustainability-linked and blue-debt facility non-convertible debentures** for \$16 million (in equivalent Indian rupee).

### Aim:

- To **enhance food security in India** by supporting the construction of a **micro fish feed plant** and by training up to **6,000 farmers** in **climate-resilient fish farming practices** as well as **financial literacy.**
- This is **ADB's first private sector sustainability-linked financing**, with adjustments in pricing when pre-defined sustainability targets are met.

### Key Highlights:

- Targets include **emissions reductions, water conservation, and farmer training.**

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- The **sustainability-linked financing** received an independent second-party opinion, consistent with industry principles.
- Training in climate-smart fish farming practices and financial literacy through a **\$500,000 technical assistance (TA) grant** will enhance the **climate resilience of fish farmers**.
- **Food security** is a priority for ADB, which recently announced plans to provide at least **\$14 billion over 2022–2025 to ease a worsening food crisis in Asia and the Pacific**.

### About ADB:

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

### About ABIS:

- ABIS is the flagship operating company of the **Indian Broiler group**, which also has operations in **poultry, poultry-feed, dairy, edible oil, and hospitality**.
- ABIS is committed to **reducing carbon emissions, improving water conservation, and providing increased farmer extension services**.

### Razorpay Becomes India's First Payment Gateway to Support Credit Cards on UPI

- **Razorpay, India's Leading Full-Stack Payments and Banking Platform for Businesses** announced the platform's readiness to support **Credit Card Transactions on Unified Payments Interface (UPI)**.
- With this launch, **Razorpay** becomes **India's First PG** to support Credit Cards on UPI.
- Customers of **HDFC Bank, Punjab National Bank, Union Bank, and Indian Bank** will be the first to enjoy the benefits of this innovation.

### Key Highlights:

- This offering is in line with the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** and the **Reserve Bank of India's (RBI)** latest innovation in the digital space.
- At present, UPI enables customers to make transactions through their **bank accounts**.
- **Approximately 250 million Indians use UPI** for their **day-to-day transactions**, and nearly **50 million users** have **one or more credit cards**.

### About Razorpay:

- Founded: 2014
- Headquarters: Bangalore, Karnataka



## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- MD: Shashank Kumar

### RBI Releases “Handbook of Statistics on Indian States, 2021-22”

- The 7th edition of the Handbook of Statistics on Indian States 2021-22 is released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

#### About the report:

- Handbook of Statistics on Indian States 2021-22 seeks to provide comprehensive data about the regional economies of India.
- It covers sub-national statistics on socio-demographics, state domestic product, agriculture, price and wages, industry, infrastructure, banking, and fiscal indicators across the states during various periods ranging from 1951 to 2021-22.
- 2 new sections have been included in the recent edition – health and environment.

#### Key findings of the report:

- Karnataka has the highest total installed capacity of grid-interactive renewable power among all states.
- It had a total installed capacity of 15,463 megawatts (MW).
- It is followed by Tamil Nadu (15,225 MW), Gujarat (13,153 MW), and Maharashtra (10,267 MW)
- Maharashtra was followed by Rajasthan (10,205 mw), Andhra Pradesh (8,969 mw), Madhya Pradesh (5,206 mw), Telangana (4,378 mw), Uttar Pradesh (3,879 mw), Punjab (1,617 mw) and Himachal Pradesh (988 mw) and Uttarakhand (713 mw).

#### 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

### Asian Development Bank partners with GOI to provide \$3 million PRF facility

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India signed a \$3 million project readiness financing (PRF) facility to support preparatory activities for designing a project to improve municipal infrastructure in priority areas of Agartala city, Tripura.

#### Signatories to the PRF for the proposed Agartala Municipal Infrastructure Development Project:

- Rajat Kumar Mishra, Additional Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs in the Ministry of Finance who signed for the Government of India
- Takeo Konishi, Country Director of ADB’s India Resident Mission signed for ADB.

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### Key Highlights:

- The proposed project aligns with the findings of the **ADB's North East Economic Corridor (NEEC) study** that **recognizes Agartala's vital role** as a key growth and border centre in generating prosperity and economic growth in the northeastern region.
- ADB's recent engagement with Tripura to **develop urban infrastructure** identifies key infrastructure deficits in Agartala city.
- **"Climate change mitigation** and adaptation components will be incorporated into the project design during PRF implementation to ensure alignment with India's climate commitments."

### About ADB:

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

### Centre To Allow Foreign Funds To Own Over 51% In IDBI Bank

- According to a government clarification, the **Indian government will allow a consortium of foreign funds and investment firms to own more than 51% of IDBI Bank Ltd.**
- The **current guidelines of the Reserve Bank of India restrict foreign ownership in new private banks.**

### Key Highlights:

- The central bank's residency criteria for promoters applies **only to newly set up banks** and would **not apply to an existing entity like IDBI Bank.**
- The Indian government and the RBI would also consider relaxing the **five-year lock-in period** for shares if a non-banking financial company is merged into IDBI Bank.
- The clarifications come ahead of a **December 16, 2022 deadline** to submit expressions of interest for a majority stake in IDBI Bank, one of the few lenders that the government is trying to offload its stake in.
- The **government and Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) together hold 94.71% of IDBI Bank** and are looking to sell 60.72%
- Pursuant to the transaction, the **government will own 15% stake and LIC 19% shareholding in IDBI Bank**, taking their total holding to **34%.**
- Earlier, The **Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM)** had announced that **potential investors** should have a **minimum net worth of ₹22,500 crores** and must report a net profit in 3

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out of the past 5 years to be eligible for bidding for IDBI Bank & also, a maximum of four members would be allowed in a consortium.

- IDBI Bank was **penalised** by the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** in 2017 with several restrictions on lending after its bad-loan ratio surged and capital ratios depleted.

### World Bank upwards India's GDP growth forecast to 6.9% for FY23

- The **World Bank** in its latest India development update titled 'Navigating the Storm' revised upwards its **GDP growth forecast for India to 6.9% for 2022-23** from 6.5% in its Oct 2022 Update.
- In October, 2022 it cut India's GDP growth forecast to 6.5% from 7.5% earlier.
- The **World Bank's India Development Update** announced that India is affected by **spillovers** from the **US, Euro area and China**.
- It however saw the government meeting the **fiscal deficit target of 6.4% of the GDP in 2022-23**.
- The World Bank expects inflation at **7.1%** in the current fiscal year.

### About World Bank:

- Established: December 1944
- Headquarters: Washington, D.C., United States
- President: David Malpass

### ESIC to invest up to 15% surplus funds in the stock market via ETFs

- The **Government of India** has allowed **Employee State Insurance Corporation (ESIC)** to invest up to 15% of its **surplus funds** into **equity through exchange-traded funds (ETFs)**, in a bid to **accrue better returns** on its **surplus funds**.
- The decision was taken at an **ESIC meeting** chaired by the **Union labour minister Bhupender Yadav** at the **corporation's headquarters** in **New Delhi**

### Key Highlights:

- The decision to **invest surplus funds** into equity was taken due to the **low returns on debt instruments** and the need to diversify the corporation's portfolio.
- The initial investment shall start at **5%** and **increase up to 15% gradually**, after a review of **two quarters**.
- The investment will be confined in **Exchange Traded Funds i.e., Nifty50 and Sensex**.
- It will be managed by **fund managers of Asset Management Companies (AMCs)**.
- The equity investment will be **monitored by the existing custodian, external concurrent auditor and consultant** looking after the debt investments in addition to the management of the ETF for equity.

### Other Approvals:

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- ESIC approved the proposals for setting up a new 100 bedded ESIC Hospital at Shyamlibazar, Agartala, Tripura and 100 bedded ESIC Hospital at Idukki, Kerala.
- The 'Nirman Se Shakti' initiative has been started to strengthen and modernize the infrastructure of hospitals and dispensaries in a phased manner.

### About ESIC:

- The ESIC was set up in 1952 under the ESI act 1948.
- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Director General: Dr. Rajendra Kumar.
- ESIC is one of the two main statutory social security bodies under the ownership of the Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India, the other being the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation.

### Who is eligible?

- It is applicable to factories employing 10 or more workers.
- It is applicable on shops, establishments, insurance, Non-Banking Financial Companies etc employing 20 or more persons.

### Bank of Baroda Wins EAG Laureate Award on Financial Security

- State-owned Bank of Baroda (BoB) has bagged an EAG Laureate Award in the International Olympiad on Financial Security held in Sochi, Russia.

### About EAG:

- The Eurasian Group on combating money laundering and financing of terrorism (EAG) is a FATF-style regional body which comprises 9 countries including India.
- The 9 countries are: Belarus, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, India, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.
- EAG is an associate member of the FATF.
- EAG has organised a contest on 'Best example of AML-CFT Financial Analysis' amongst the Compliance Officers of the member countries in the international Olympiad on Financial Security at Sochi, Russia on October 10, 2022.
- Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is an intergovernmental organisation combating money laundering and maintaining certain interests.

### About Bank of Baroda:

- Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO): Sanjiv Chadha
- Headquarters: Vadodara, Gujarat

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- Tagline: India's International Bank
- It is the **second largest public sector bank in India** after the **State Bank of India (SBI)**.

### SEBI releases uniform format for OTC trades in non-convertible securities

- Capital markets regulator **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has issued a uniform format for **reporting over-the-counter (OTC) trades** in listed **non-convertible securities (NCS)**
- The new guideline would come into force from **January 1, 2023**.
- The development comes after Sebi observed that information on OTC trades in listed non-convertible securities provided to the stock exchanges by the investors is **incomplete and inaccurate**.

#### About OTC:

- OTC trades are **generally trades** executed between **two market entities** without others being aware of the price at which the transaction was effected.
- Under the format, information about **deal type whether brokered or direct - ISIN**, listed or unlisted security, issuer name, coupon rate, issue description, traded price, traded yield, trade date and time, settlement date, settlement status, and reported trade executed on **RFQ (Request For Quote) platform** will have to be disclosed.
- SEBI asked **stock exchanges** to **monitor** the compliance of the guideline and bring to the notice of the **regulator periodically**, discrepancies in reporting of OTC trades by investors.

#### 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 **securities** and **commodity markets** in India under the ownership of the **Ministry of Finance**.

### ADB approves \$250 mn policy-based loans to strengthen the logistics sector

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved a \$250 million policy-based loan to support India's wide-ranging reforms

#### Aim:

- To **strengthen** and **modernize** the **logistics infrastructure**, **improve efficiency**, and **lower the cost** in the logistics sector.

#### Key Highlights:

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- The loan will finance the first subprogram of the ‘**Strengthening Multimodal and Integrated Logistics Ecosystem**’, which supports the government’s efforts to create a comprehensive policy, planning, and institutional framework at the federal, state, and city levels.
- This will **rationalize India's high cost of logistics** and **reduce greenhouse gas emissions**.
- The program will help to **strengthen supply chains** by **simplifying external trade logistics** and domestic cargo movements, modernizing warehouses, improving business processes with integrated digital platforms, and stimulating private investments in the sector.
- India’s recently approved **National Logistics Policy** and **Prime Minister Gati Shakti-National Master Plan** provide **transformative institutional** and **regulatory frameworks** for the holistic development of the logistics ecosystem in the country.

### **RBI signs currency swap agreement with Maldives Monetary Authority**

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has signed a **Currency Swap Agreement** with the **Maldives Monetary Authority (MMA)** under the **SAARC Currency Swap Framework**.
- This is to **provide swap support** as a backstop line of funding for **short-term foreign exchange liquidity requirements**.
- This agreement will enable the MMA to make drawals in multiple tranches up to a **maximum of USD 200 million** from the RBI.
- RBI had signed a similar agreement to provide a **\$400 million currency swap facility** to Sri Lanka in 2020.

### **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

### **About MMA:**

- Established: July 1, 1981
- Location: Male, Maldives
- Governor: Ali Hashim
- The MMA is the **central bank of the Republic of Maldives**.

### **Paisabazaar & RBL Bank launch 'Duet Credit Card'**

- Digital marketplace for consumer credit and free credit score platform Paisabazaar and RBL Bank launched a **created credit card 'Duet'**.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

### About the Card:

- Duet is a 2-in-1 product that meets two distinct consumer needs seamlessly.
- It is a credit card that offers cashback on purchases and also a line-of-credit from RBL Bank that enables instant transfer of money into the bank account.
- It will be part of Paisabazaar's neo-lending product suite and will replace Paisa On Demand (PoD) credit cards on the platform.
- The card provides a flat 1% cashback on all online and offline spending with no upper limit.
- Duet is a lifetime free credit card from RBL Bank, with easy-to-understand direct cashback benefits.

### About RBL Bank:

- Founded: 1943
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- MD & CEO: R Subramaniakumar
- RBL Bank, formerly known as Ratnakar Bank, is an Indian private-sector bank.

### IndusInd Bank ties up with SV CreditLine for co-lending agreement for ₹500 Cr

- The non-banking finance company SV CreditLine and the private sector lender IndusInd Bank have signed a co-lending collaboration for a ₹500 crore loan targeted solely towards women borrowers.

### Key Highlights:

- The agreement will help rural women access affordable loans which they could use for a wide range of economic activities such as agriculture, animal husbandry, trading, and local manufacturing, among others.
- One of India's biggest and most reputable non-banking financial companies is SV Creditline Limited (SVCL) established in 2010.
- SVCL provides a variety of small credit facilities to women in the low-income segment with an annual household income of Rs. 125,000 in rural areas and Rs. 200,000 in urban areas.

### Note:

- SV CreditLine Group CEO Vivek Goyal

### About IndusInd Bank:

- Founded: April 1994
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- CEO: Sumant Kathpalia.

### SEBI introduces credit rating-wise investment limit for active debt funds

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- The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** introduced a **credit rating-based single issuer limit** for **investment** for most actively managed **debt mutual fund schemes**.

### Key Highlights:

- According to the SEBI, the above investment limits may be extended by **up to 2%** of the NAV of the scheme with prior approval of the **Board of Trustees** and **Board of Directors** of the **asset management companies**, subject to compliance with the **overall 12% limit** specified in **clause 1 of 7th Schedule** of MF Regulation.
- According to the rules, a mutual fund scheme shall **not invest more than 10%** of its net asset value in debt and money market securities of companies rated '**AAA**'.
- For companies rated '**AA**', the exposure **cannot be larger than 8%**.
- While the limit is set at **6%** for '**A**'-rated companies.
- The limits can be extended by **another 2%** with prior approval of the board of trustees and the board of directors of the asset management company.

### IDFC First Bank & NASSCOM COE partner to promote the startup ecosystem

- **IDFC FIRST Bank** and the **National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM) Centre of Excellence (COE)** has **partnered** to **grow the innovation ecosystem** through an **exclusive range of banking solutions**.
- A **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** was signed between **IDFC FIRST Bank** and **NASSCOM COE** appointing the Bank as a **Preferred Banking Partner for startups**, at an event in **Bangalore, Karnataka** attended by startup founders.

### Key Highlights:

- **IDFC FIRST Bank** will offer its curated products and solutions for startups including **Zero Balance Startup Current Accounts**, uniquely designed **Working Capital solutions** for pre-profit startups, and **Business Credit Cards for Startups**.
- The Bank will offer **tailored financial products** to support innovation and entrepreneurship.
- **NASSCOM COE** and **IDFC FIRST Bank** will collaborate across a range of initiatives such as **Investor Connect, knowledge-sharing sessions**, and tech conclaves to engage with the startup community extensively.

### About NASSCOM Center of Excellence:

- CEO: Sanjeev Malhotra

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- NASSCOM CoE is the country's largest Deeptech innovation ecosystem comprising startups, innovators, enterprises, and the government.

### About IDFC FIRST Bank:

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

### ADB approves \$780 mn loans to expand Chennai's metro rail network

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved a \$780 million multitranche financing facility (MFF) to build new lines and improve the connectivity of the metro rail system at Chennai, the capital of India's Tamil Nadu, with the city's existing bus and feeder services.
- The project will expand Chennai's metro rail system to provide a safe and integrated transport solution essential to improving urban mobility and making the city more liveable.

### Key Highlights:

- The project will construct 10.1 km of an elevated section between Sholinganallur to State Industries Promotion Corporation, including 9 metro stations and system components; 10 km of the underground section between Lighthouse and Meenakshi College including 9 stations.
- It also includes 31 km of system components, such as electrical, mechanical, power, and telecommunication infrastructure, between Chennai Mofussil Bus Terminus to Okkiyam Thoraipakkam.
- ADB will provide an additional \$1 million technical assistance (TA) grant to help the Chennai Metro Rail with the planning and management of the metro system's multimodal integration.

### Background:

- In 2021, ADB and the Indian government signed a deal for a \$500 million loan to expand Bengaluru's metro rail network by constructing two new lines of 56 km length.
- ADB has committed \$57.75 billion for 826 projects in India of which 18.85 billion is for 188 transportation projects.
- In 2021, ADB committed a record \$4.6 billion in sovereign loans to India.
- ADB also committed \$36.51 million in technical assistance and \$3 million in grants under the sovereign portfolio.

### About ADB:

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

### SEBI amends norms to bring in buying, and selling of mutual funds under insider trading rules

- The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has amended norms to bring buying and selling of **mutual fund units** under the ambit of insider trading rules.
- At present, insider trading rules apply to dealing in securities of listed companies or those proposed to be listed, when in possession of **Unpublished Price Sensitive Information (UPSI)**.
- The units of **mutual funds** are **specifically excluded** from the definition of securities under the rules.

### Key Highlights:

- **Asset management companies (AMCs)** will have to **disclose** the details of holdings in the units of their mutual fund schemes, on an aggregated basis, held by the AMC, trustees, and their immediate relatives on the platform of stock exchanges.
- It has prescribed a **minimum standard of code** of conduct for designated persons in line with provisions of existing insider trading rules.
- The compliance officer of the AMC would determine the closure period during which a designated person cannot transact in units of the mutual fund.
- The proposal to bring MF units under insider **trading regulations** was first mooted by the **Sodhi Committee** in 2013.
- However, the regulator decided to exclude these when the regulations came into force in 2015.

### ADB approves \$300 Million Loan to Improve Roads and Regional Trade in India

- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** approved a \$300 million loan to upgrade more than 300 kilometers of **state highways** and major district roads in **Assam**, including six road sections in the **state's western, central, and southern regions**.

### About the Project:

- The project will **expand state highways** and **major district roads** from **single-lane to two-lanes** and introduce **new climate- and disaster-resilient structures**.
- It will establish **pedestrian and public transport facilities**, **elevate highways** in **flood-prone areas**, and include **landslide prevention structures** in **hilly and mountainous areas**.



## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- The project will strengthen the capacity of the **Assam Public Works (Roads) Department** in managing **road assets**, **integrate climate and disaster resilience** in road projects, and ensuring safeguards such as **environment, resettlement, and indigenous peoples' concerns** are considered.
- The roads to be upgraded under this project are connected to **South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) corridors** and borders with **Bhutan and Bangladesh** and are expected to **boost cross-border trade and transport**.
- The project will **complement the multimodal logistics park** being built in **Jogighopa** and a future one in **Silchar** to serve road, rail, inland waterway, and air transport facilities.
- To **protect wildlife and habitats** in project areas, **viaduct structures** will be constructed to **avoid human-elephant conflict** in the **elephant habitats**.

### Edelweiss Mutual Fund launches the fourth tranche of 'BHARAT Bond ETF'

- Edelweiss Mutual Fund has launched the **fourth tranche of BHARAT Bond ETF** –India's first corporate bond ETF (exchange-traded fund).

#### About BHARAT Bond ETF:

- Bharat Bond ETF is an initiative of the **Government of India**, from the **Department of Investment and Public Asset Management**.
- It will provide retail investors with an option to explore the '**safe**' **debt mutual fund category**, which was earlier dominated by institutional investors.
- It will also help **deepen India's debt market penetration**.
- Edelweiss proposes to raise an initial amount of **Rs. 1,000 crores** with a **green shoe option of Rs. 4,000 crores**.
- So far, **5 maturities of Bharat Bond ETFs** have been launched - **2023, 2025, 2030, 2031, and 2032**.

#### Salient Features:

- The ETF will invest in constituents of the **Nifty Bharat Bond Indices**, consisting of **AAA-rated public sector companies**.
- The benchmark index it will follow will be the **Nifty Bharat Bond Index – April 2033**.

#### Investing Amount:

- The **minimum investment** is **Rs 1,000** and in multiples of **Re 1** thereafter.
- For retirement funds, qualified institutional buyers, and non-institutional investors, the minimum investment amount is **Rs 2,00,001** and in multiples of **Re 1** thereafter.

#### Note:

- Managing director and CEO, Edelweiss Mutual Fund: **Radhika Gupta**,

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

### IRDAI increases limits for intermediaries & corporate agents can distribute products of 9 insurers

- The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has notified increased limits for corporate agents (banks) and insurance marketing firms (IMFs).
- Corporate agents (banks) can now enter into a tie-up with as many as 9 life insurers, 9 general insurers, and 9 health insurers.
- Insurance marketing firms (IMFs) can now have distribution tie-ups with a maximum of 6 life insurers, 6 general insurers, and 6 health insurers.
- IRDAI's move to open the bancassurance channel for insurers is part of its effort to achieve the long-term goal of 'insurance for all' by 2047.

#### About the amendments:

- The amendments to regulations about the registration of Indian insurance companies are aimed at promoting ease of doing business and simplifying the process of setting up an insurance company in India.
- Investment through Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) has been made optional for Private Equity (PE) Funds enabling them to invest directly in insurance companies, providing more flexibility.
- Investments up to 25% of the paid-up capital by a single investor (50% for all investors collectively) will now be treated as 'investor' and investments over and above that will only be treated as promoter".
- A new provision has been introduced to allow the promoters to dilute their stake up to 26%, subject to the condition that the insurer has a satisfactory solvency record for the preceding 5 years and is a listed entity.
- Corporate agents and IMFs were earlier permitted to tie up with only 3 and 2 insurers, respectively, in each segment.
- IRDAI move to open the bancassurance channel will give customers wider choice and access to insurance plans.

#### About IRDAI:

- Founded: 1999
- Headquarters: Hyderabad, Telangana
- Chairperson: Debasish Panda
- The IRDAI is a regulatory body under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Finance, GoI & is tasked with regulating and licensing the insurance and reinsurance industries in India.

### StocX.in launches India's first private market index

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- **StocX.in**, an internet unlisted securities portal, has launched India's first private market index often known as **StocX Private Market Index (SPMI)**.
- StocX.in constructed the StocX Private Market Index utilizing a technique often known as "**Change Percentage**".
- Until now, there was **no method to monitor the value actions** of privately traded securities (i.e the shares of corporations that aren't listed within the inventory market).
- The largest problem in developing such an index is the **availability of value**.
- The index is computed utilizing **1000 as the bottom worth** as on **1 January 2022**.
- The index will monitor the costs of **greater than 30 corporations** actively traded within the unlisted market and supply evaluation and developments by way of knowledge analytics.

### Centre's fiscal deficit touches 45.6 pc of the full-year target at end-Oct

- According to the data released by the **Controller General of Accounts (CGA)**, the government's **fiscal deficit** in end-October touched **45.6%** of the **full year's Budget Estimate**.

#### Key Highlights:

- In actual terms, the fiscal deficit difference between **expenditure and revenue was Rs 7,58,137 crore** during the April-October period of 2022-23.
- In the corresponding period last year, the deficit was **36.3%** of the budget estimates for 2021-22.
- For **2022-23**, the fiscal deficit of the government is estimated to be **Rs 16.61 lakh crore** or **6.4%** of the **GDP**.
- As per the CGA data, the **net tax revenue at Rs 11.71 lakh crore** was **60.5%** of BE 2022-23.
- During the corresponding period of 2021-22, the tax revenue (net) was **68.1%** of that year's BE.

#### About the fiscal deficit of India:

- The government describes the fiscal deficit of India as "the **excess of total disbursements from the Consolidated Fund of India, excluding repayment of the debt**, over total receipts into the Fund (excluding the debt receipts) during a financial year".
- It is calculated as a **percentage of Gross Domestic Product (GDP)**, or simply as total money spent more than income.
- **Fiscal Deficit = Total expenditure of the government (capital and revenue expenditure) - Total income of the government (Revenue receipts + recovery of loans + other receipts).**

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

### PNB HFC launched the affordable home loan scheme Roshni for Tier 1 & Tier 2 cities

- PNB Housing Finance (HFC) unveiled a low-cost home loan program Roshni which enables individuals to apply for loans under this scheme ranging from Rs. 5 lakh to Rs. 30 lakh.

#### Key Highlights:

- This launch is in line with PNB Housing Finance's long-term goal of enabling and assisting an individual's desire to purchase a home.
- Recently, the PNB HFC opened branch offices focused on Roshni in the following cities: **Chennai, Coimbatore, Ghaziabad, Hyderabad, Indore/Ujjain, Lucknow, Mumbai, Nagpur, Pune, Rajkot, and Varanasi.**
- The program offers a variety of loans for self-building, home expansions and renovations, plot purchases combined with construction, loans against property, and the purchase of property investment.

#### Who is Eligible:

- Loan applicants eligible for this are **first-time credit borrowers**, self-employed without a professional role, and **salaries from a low-income group** with a family income as low as Rs. 10,000 to the middle-income group category.

#### About PNB HFC:

- Founded: 11 November 1988
- Headquarters: New Delhi, India
- MD & CEO: Girish Kousgi
- PNB Housing is a registered housing finance company with National Housing Bank (NHB).

### ADB approves \$250 mn loans to strengthen India's logistics sector

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a \$250 million policy-based loan to support the Government of India's wide-ranging reforms.

#### Aim:

- To strengthen and modernize the country's logistics infrastructure, improve efficiency, and lower the cost in the logistics sector.

#### Key Highlights:

- The loan will fund the first sub-program of the Strengthening Multimodal and Integrated Logistics Ecosystem (SMILE) Program.
- The sub-program supports the government's efforts to create a comprehensive policy, planning, and institutional framework at the federal, state, and city levels.

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- This will rationalize India's high cost of logistics and reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.
- It also supports the ministry of commerce and industry's initiatives to issue standards for warehousing, which would encourage operational efficiency and private-sector investment.

### Tamilnad Mercantile Bank signs pact with Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance

- Private sector lender Tamilnad Mercantile Bank (TMB) has partnered with life insurance firm Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance to sell term, annuity, and other value-packed products of the private life insurer across its over 500 branches.
- The agreement to this effect was signed by the TMB's MD & CEO S. Krishnan and Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance MD & CEO Tarun Chugh
- Under this strategic partnership, New and existing customers of the bank would be able to avail of the services of Bajaj Allianz Life offerings including savings, retirement, and investment products.

#### About TMB:

- Founded: 11 May 1921
- Headquarters: Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu, India
- MD & CEO: S.Krishnan

#### About Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance:

- Founded: 2001
- Headquarters: Pune, Maharashtra
- CEO: Tarun Chugh

### ADB & IIFL HFL initiate policy dialogue around green affordable housing

- Asian Development Bank (ADB) and IIFL Home Finance (IIFL HFL) organized 'Kutumb' in Delhi to discuss the scope of green affordable housing in India.
- The 'Kutumb' was launched with an event titled 'Green Affordable Housing Ecosystem' in Delhi.

#### About Kutumb:

- Kutumb endeavors to promote green, sustainable, future-ready, and affordable housing by actively collaborating and consulting with developers, architects, and rating agencies.
- In February 2022, IIFL HFL signed a \$68 million loan with ADB to improve financial access to affordable green housing for the economically weaker sections and lower-income groups in India.

#### About ADB:

- Established: 19 December 1966
- Headquarters: Mandaluyong, Philippines

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- President: Masatsugu Asakawa
- Membership: 68 countries

### Road transport ministry to launch Surety Bonds Insurance Product for Infrastructure Sector

- The Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways is set to launch India's first-ever surety bonds insurance product for highway contractors on December 19, 2022, to boost liquidity in the infrastructure sector.
- This comes 2 years after the union ministry directed the Insurance Regulatory and Developmental Authority of India (IRDAI) to explore the feasibility of surety bonds.

### About surety bonds:

- A surety bond is a **three-way agreement** between the **principal, surety, and obligee**.
- It is **different from corporate bonds and financial guarantees**.
- A surety is a company that provides a **financial guarantee** to the **obligee (usually a government entity)** that the **principal (business owner)** will fulfill their obligations.
- It refers to the **performance or delivery obligation** to complete the insured project, the corporate bonds refer to the financial obligation to repay debts or loans.
- If the principal fails to perform in this manner, the bond will cover the **resulting damages or losses**.
- A surety bond is provided by the insurance company on behalf of the contractor to the entity which is awarding the project.
- These bonds are mainly **aimed at infrastructure development to reduce indirect costs for suppliers and contractors**.
- This helps in the diversification of options hence acting as a **substitute for a bank guarantee**.
- **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) (Surety Insurance Contracts) Guidelines, 2022** came into force in **April 2022**.
- The premium charged for all surety insurance policies underwritten in a financial year, including all installments due in subsequent years for those policies, should **not exceed 10%** of the total gross written premium of that year, subject to a **maximum of Rs 500 crore**.
- The limit of the guarantee should **not exceed 30% of the contract value**.

### Benefits of surety bond insurance products introduced for highway contractors:

- The new mechanism will **help boost liquidity** in the infrastructure sector by freeing up the working capital of the constructors that are stuck as bank guarantees.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- These funds can be used by contractors to **expand their business** and further boost the infrastructure of the country.
- This will **help address** the **challenges** associated with **highway construction**.

### About the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH):

- Union Minister: Nitin Gadkari
- Minister of state: General V. K. Singh
- Secretary: Giridhar Aramane

### Banks should not ask for verification at the branch level if e-KYC has been done - RBI

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** announced that **banks** should not ask for **verifications/updates** at the **branch level** in case a customer has done **e-KYC** or those who have completed the **KYC (know-your-customer) process** on the **C-KYC portal**.
- Bank customers who have completed their **KYC verifications online** can do the **annual updates** as well as changes if any in their details online.
- Customers who have uploaded their KYC details on the **central KYC (C-KYC) portal** should not be asked for verification by any bank.
- In such a case, the customer can just mail or message from the registered email ID or mobile to the bank to access the KYC details from the C-KYC portal.

### About KYC:

- The KYC is the method of a company that **verifies** the **customer's identity** and **assesses** possible risks to the business relationship from **criminal intentions**.
- Here is a required document serving as identification evidence and **address proof** - **Passport, Voter ID card, Driving Licence, PAN card, and Aadhaar Card**.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** introduced **Know your customer (KYC) guidelines** for all banks in **2002**.
- In **2004**, RBI directed that all banks ensure that they are fully acquiescent with the KYC provisions before **December 31, 2005**.
- The main aim of KYC was to **prevent money laundering, terrorist financing, and theft**.

### Finance Ministry allows PSUs to invest in debt schemes of all mutual funds

- The **finance ministry** in an office memorandum allowed **public sector undertakings (PSUs)** to invest in **debt schemes of all mutual funds**.
- Earlier, provisions limited **central public sector enterprises (CPSEs)** to investment in public sector mutual funds only, in which the government held **more than 50% share**.

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### Key Highlights:

- The period of maturity of any instrument of investment shall **not exceed 1 year** from the date of **investment**, except in the case of **term deposits** with banks and government securities where it can extend up to **three years**.
- The **department of investment and public enterprises (DIPAM)** in the official memorandum announced that the guidelines are based on proposals received from CPSEs, mutual funds, and private sector banks citing liberalization of policies and the introduction of new monetary instruments for trade-in **short-term funds**.
- Only **Maharatna, Navratna, and Miniratna CPSEs** are **permitted to invest in debt-based schemes of mutual funds**.
- However, these guidelines will not apply to state-owned banks and insurance companies.
- It also bars the involvement of any broker or agent in any form on either side.
- The guidelines issued by DIPAM on the investment of surplus funds by CPSEs supersede the earlier guidelines issued by the **department of public enterprises** in 2017.
- The eligible instruments available for the investment of surplus funds by CPSEs include treasury bills, government securities, term deposits with scheduled commercial banks, commercial banks' instruments, loans or deposits with CPSEs, and mutual funds.

### Canara HSBC Life Insurance Launches Non-Participating 'Guaranteed Fortune Plan'

- Canara HSBC Life Insurance launched a new "Guaranteed Fortune Plan" a non-linked, non-participating individual savings scheme offering life cover and a lump sum amount on outliving the policy term.
- The product offers **two plan** options:
  1. Guaranteed Savings Option
  2. Guaranteed Cash Back Option.

### About Guaranteed Fortune Plan:

- According to the Canara HSBC Life Insurance, the **1st option** provides a **lump sum on outliving the policy term**.
- The **2nd option** offers **customers guaranteed cash back** at the end of every 5th policy year, with an opportunity to defer the amount till maturity or withdraw it earlier.
- In addition to cashback, the 2nd option also gives policyholders a **lump sum payment** at the end of the policy term.

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- The plan also includes a unique feature called **CARE (Claims Accelerated for Relief & Ease) Pay Benefit**.
- This in-built benefit pays **100% of total premiums paid (excluding underwriting extra premiums and taxes)** on intimation of death.

### About Canara HSBC Life Insurance:

- Founded: 2008
- Headquarters: Gurugram, Haryana
- MD & CEO: AnujMathur
- It was a joint venture between **Canara Bank (51%), HSBC Insurance (Asia Pacific) Holdings Limited (26%), and Punjab National Bank (23%)**.

### HDFC Bank partners with Startup India to launch 6th ParivartanSmartUp Grants

- **Private Sector lender HDFC Bank in partnership with the Government of India's flagship initiative 'Startup India' launched its sixth ParivartanSmartUp Grants, the annual grants program for social start-ups**

### Aim:

- **To identify start-ups** working in the social impact space and support them through monetary grants to their incubators.
- The grants have been offered under the **aegis of Parivartan**, the umbrella name for the bank's social initiatives.

### Key Highlights:

- The bank has been enabling start-ups through its **state-of-the-art Smart-Up program**, which provides **specialized banking and value-added services** to entrepreneurs.
- So far, the bank has disbursed over **Rs 30 crore** to **more than 45 incubators** which supported over 165 start-ups working in areas like environment, agri-business, ed-tech, waste management, healthcare, and skill development sectors.
- The bank will also focus on building capacities of incubators and startups working in **tier-II & III cities**.

### About HDFC Bank:

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

### Trucknetic partners with DBS Bank India to provide trucking solutions

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- India's Uber for Trucks, Trucknetic, has partnered with DBS Bank as a logistics partner on their BusinessClass platform.

### Aim:

- To offer comprehensive digital banking, logistics, value-added services, and deals to Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) across the country.
- Trucknetic's partnership with DBS Bank for its SME platform will help accelerate its mission to provide world-class, reliable, and cost-effective logistical solutions to small businesses and the Ministry of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in India.

### About Trucknetic:

- Founder: ArhamPratap Jain
- Trucknetic is India's first digital platform to book all kinds of trucks, including EVs.
- It makes use of superior expertise like AI, ML, and knowledge analytics to provide environment-friendly and cost-effective logistical solutions.

### Universal Sampo General Insurance partners with Zopper to launch a special integrated insurance offering

- Universal Sampo General Insurance Company Limited has partnered with an insurance infrastructure Application Programming Interface (API) platform, Zopper, to roll out a special integrated offering for customers.

### Aim:

- To cover 1 million assets by offering users personalized insurance solutions, as well as a hassle-free customer experience from policy generation to claims management
- Through this partnership, customers will have access to buy insurance seamlessly along with an option to purchase a protection plan.

### About Universal Sampo General Insurance Company Limited:

- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- MD & CEO: Sharad Mathur
- Universal Sampo General Insurance is a Joint Venture of Indian Bank, Indian Overseas Bank, Karnataka Bank, Dabur Investment Corp, and a leading general insurer from Japan, Sampo Japan Insurance Inc.

### IndusInd Bank enters into Rs 500 crore co-lending pact with SV Credit Line

- The non-banking finance company SV CreditLine Limited (SVCL) and the private sector lender IndusInd Bank have signed a co-lending collaboration for a ₹500 crore loan targeted solely towards women borrowers.

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- The agreement will **help rural women access affordable loans** that they could use for a wide range of economic activities such as **agriculture, animal husbandry, trading, and local manufacturing**, among others.

### About SVCL:

- Established: 2010
- Vans Pte. Ltd. and SV Corporation Pvt. Ltd. are the businesses that promote SVCL, which the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has registered as an NBFC-MFI under **Section 451A**.
- SVCL provides a variety of small credit facilities to **women in the low-income segment** with an annual household income of **Rs. 125,000 in rural areas** and **Rs. 200,000 in urban areas**.
- The company's **Business correspondents (BC) partners** are IndusInd Bank, Edelweiss Housing Finance Limited, Jana Small Finance Bank Limited, MAS Financial Services Limited, DCB Bank, and IDBI Bank.

### About IndusInd Bank:

- Founded: April 1994
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO: Sumant Kathpalia
- Tagline: We Make You Feel Richer

### HDFC ERGO partners with NIIT to create a large pool of developers

- **HDFC ERGO General Insurance Company**, a leading general insurance company in India, has partnered with **NIIT**, a global talent development corporation, to launch **HDFC ERGO Technocrat – Advance Dot Net Developer Program** to create a large pool of developers.
- It will create ready-to-deploy talent, who can play a pivotal role in offering **technology-powered insurance solutions**.

### About HDFC ERGO Technocrat – Advance Dot Net Developer Program:

- The program will be delivered through **live, instructor-led sessions** and will also offer a stipend to the participants.
- The applicants will have to **clear a 2-level assessment test**, post which they will receive a provisional offer letter from HDFC ERGO.
- NIIT is a **leading Skills and Talent Development Corporation** that is building a manpower pool for global industry requirements.

### About HDFC ERGO General Insurance Company Limited:

- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

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- MD: 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**

### ASK Capital gets Central Bank of Ireland nod to launch India-based fund

- ASK Capital has received approval from the Central Bank of Ireland to launch an India-based fund ASK Indian Entrepreneur Fund through the UCITS route.

#### Aim:

- To raise **USD 500 million** from global investors to take high-return bets on enterprises promoted by Indian entrepreneurs over the next 3 years.
- ASK is the **fourth asset or wealth management firm in India** to receive approval for a UCITS (Undertakings for Collective Investment in Transferable Securities) fund.
- Kotak AMC, Whiteoak Capital, and UTI AMC already have such funds.

#### About UCITS:

- UCITS is a regulatory framework of the European Commission for the management and sale of mutual funds.
- The UCITS label serves as a **stamp of quality and reliability** for overseas investors

#### Key Highlights:

- The UCITS vehicle ASK Indian Entrepreneur Fund will be modelled on ASK's flagship portfolio management services (PMS), ASK Indian Entrepreneur Portfolio (IEP).
- UCITS Fund provides global investors with **familiar, tax-efficient, and convenient access** to the high-growth Indian equity markets.
- With UCITS approval in place, to reach out to institutional investors, endowments, pension funds, family offices, and investors via private banks across **Europe, the Middle East, Latin America, and parts of Asia**
- MD & CEO of ASK Capital: Sameer Dev

### The government repays IL&FS loans to ADB & KfW to fulfil the commitment

- The central government has repaid the sum of **Rs. 1109 crore** and **Rs. 29 crores** to the Asian Development Bank and German state-owned lender KfW, respectively, to fulfil guarantees offered to Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services (IL&FS).
- The government **provided loan guarantees**; as a result, it has taken the place of the lenders and entered the list of IL&FS creditors.

#### About the Loan:

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- **Government dues** and **creditor dues** are handled separately under the **bankruptcy waterfall mechanism**, which establishes the order of priority for various claims.
- The government-guaranteed loans were used to fund initiatives carried out by IL&FS companies.
- To meet its commitments as guarantors, on **30 June 2022**, the government made **payments totalling Rs 1,109 crore to ADB** and **Rs 29 crore to KfW**.
- According to IL&FS' recent status report for the quarter that concluded in **September 2022**, the company secured a loan from ADB in August 2002 for **\$50.4 million**.
- In **November 2005**, a further loan from **KfW Frankfurt** for **54 million euros** was obtained.

### About IL&FS:

- Founded: 1987
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- IL&FS is an **Indian state-funded infrastructure development and finance company**.

### CBDT Exempts NRIs Without PAN From E-filing Form 10F Upto March 2023

- The **Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)** has **exempted non-resident Indians (NRIs)** without permanent account numbers (PANs) from e-filing Form 10F up to March 2023.
- This will apply to those NR taxpayers who are not having a PAN and are not required to have a PAN as per relevant provisions of the **Income-tax Act, 1961** are exempted from mandatory electronic filing of Form 10 F till 31 March 2023,
- The CBDT in **July 2022** mandated **electronic filing** of the form but this created a hurdle for non-resident taxpayers as in certain cases, a non-resident payee is not required to obtain a PAN under the Act.

### About Form No. 10F:

- Form No. 10F is an **important document to claim the benefit of the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA or Tax Treaty)**.
- To claim the benefit of any DTAA in respect of any income earned in India, a **non-resident payee** is required to furnish certain details in **Tax Residency Certificate (TRC)** along with Form No. 10F, as per **Section 90(5)** of the Act read with **Rule 21AB** to the Indian payer at the time of withholding of taxes.

### About CBDT:

- It is a **statutory body established** as per the **Central Board of Revenue Act, of 1963**.
- It is **administered** by the **Department of Revenue** under the **Ministry of Finance**.

### RBI Shortlists 7 Global Consultancy Firms to Use AI, ML to Improve Regulatory Supervision

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has shortlisted 7 global consultancy firms, to use artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) for supervisory functions.
- 7 applicants have been shortlisted for taking part in the request for proposal (RFP) process for the selection of consultant(s).

### List of 7 firms shortlisted by RBI:

1. Accenture Solutions Private Limited
  2. Boston Consulting Group (India) Pvt Ltd
  3. Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu India LLP
  4. Ernst and Young LLP
  5. KPMG Assurance and Consulting Services LLP
  6. McKinsey and Company,
  7. PricewaterhouseCoopers Pvt Ltd.
- In September 2022, the RBI invited expressions of interest (EoI) for engaging consultants for use of advanced analytics, artificial intelligence, and machine learning for generating supervisory inputs.
  - RBI's supervisory jurisdiction extends over banks, urban cooperative banks, NBFCs, payment banks, small finance banks, local area banks, and credit information companies, and selects all Indian financial institutions.
  - It undertakes supervision of these entities to assess their financial soundness, solvency, asset quality, governance framework, liquidity, and operational viability to protect depositors' interests and financial stability.

### 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

### SBI donates ₹4.26 cr to rejuvenate lakes in the Kolar district of Karnataka

- The State Bank of India (SBI) has sanctioned a donation of ₹4.26 crore to rejuvenate 7 major lakes in the Kolar district of Karnataka.

### Key Highlights:

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- SBI will undertake the rejuvenation of 7 major lakes as part of its corporate social responsibility (CSR) - Manjalanagara Amnikere and S Vadigepallikere in Srinivaspura Taluk, Peddapallikere in KGF, Tambihallikere and Channegowdanakere in Kolar Taluk, C Hosurkere in Mulabagal Taluk and Rajalukere (WS) in Bangarpet Taluk of Kolar District.
- The rejuvenation would include bund development and channel development for the 7 lakes.
- Earlier in 2022, the Finance Minister, Ms. Nirmala Sitharaman chose Kolar district as the district for implementing the rejuvenation of lakes under the Amruth Sarovar Yojana.
- As a part of this, 75 tanks or lakes would undergo rejuvenation work (desilting, bund strengthening, channel work, etc.), using resources from MGNREGA, the FM's MPLADS funds, and also a component of CSR.

### About SBI:

- Chairperson: Dinesh Kumar Khara is its chairperson.
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- Tagline: The Banker to Every Indian.
- It is a nationalized public sector bank.

### HDFC Bank partners with LEAF to provide financial aid to marginalized farmers

- Ooty, Tamil Nadu (TN) headquartered Lawrence Dale Agro Processing (LEAF) has entered into a strategic partnership with private sector lender HDFC Bank to offer customized financial products and services to marginalized farmers.

### Objective:

- To expand the financial accessibility and inclusivity of farmers and the scope of the Farmer Producer Organisation (FPO) ecosystem

### Key Highlights:

- The bank would extend its specialized services and facilities to farmers, agri-producers, and other rural communities.
- With this deal, 4 lakh farmers across the 3 states stand to benefit.
- Following the MoU, HDFC Bank would work with LEAF Farmers Network in the operational areas under LEAF in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu.

### About HDFC Bank:

- Founded: August 1994
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

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- CEO: Sashidhar Jagdishan

### SEBI gives nod to AIFs to raise money from FPIs

- Market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) issued a framework for the Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs) in India will now be able to raise money from Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs).
- At the time of onboarding investors, the manager of an AIF will have to ensure that FPIs are residents of a country, the securities market regulator of which is a signatory to the International Organisation of Securities Commission's (IOSCO) Multilateral Memorandum of Understanding, or a signatory to a bilateral Memorandum of Understanding with SEBI.

### Key Highlights:

- Investors contributing **25%** or more in the corpus should not be a person mentioned in the Sanctions List notified by the **United Nations Security Council**, and should not be a resident in a country **identified** in the public statement of the **Financial Action Task Force (FATF)**.
- The investor should also not be from a country that has not made **sufficient progress** in **addressing the deficiencies** or has not committed to an action plan developed with FATF to address such deficiencies.

### About Alternative Investment Funds:

- It refers to **any privately pooled investment fund**, (whether from Indian or foreign sources), in the form of a trust or a company or a body corporate, or a **Limited Liability Partnership (LLP)**.

### 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
- It is the **regulatory body** for securities and commodity markets in India under the ownership of the **Ministry of Finance** within the Government of India (GoI).

### Paytm board approves Rs 850-crore share buyback via open market

- The board of **One97 Communications Ltd**, the listed entity that runs **Paytm**, approved a share **buyback** program worth **₹850 crores** via an **open market** route through the **stock exchanges** method.
- The company will undertake a buyback of up to **₹850 crores** (**excluding buyback taxes and other transaction costs**) at a **maximum price of ₹810 per share**.

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- Assuming a full buyback of ₹850 crore and applicable buyback taxes, the **total outlay** will be more than **approximately ₹1,048 crores**.
- When a publicly listed company buys its shares from existing shareholders, it's known as a **share buyback**.
- The **maximum limit** of buy-back is **25 % or less** of the **aggregate paid-up capital** and **free reserves** of a company.

### About Paytm:

- Founded: August 2010
- Headquarters: Noida, Uttar Pradesh, India
- CEO: Vijay Shekhar Sharma
- Paytm is an **Indian digital payment** and **financial services company**.

### RGICL launches 'Reliance Health Infinity Policy'

- Reliance General Insurance Company Limited (RGICL) has launched the first-of-its-kind premium health insurance product – 'Reliance Health Infinity Policy' that offers limitless benefits.

### About 'Reliance Health Infinity Policy':

- The policy is available in individual and family floater, covering up to 8 members, and categories and offers sum-insured options starting from **₹5 lakh to ₹5 crores**.
- It has features like **MoreGlobal Cover**, **Maternity Cover**, **OPD Cover**, **unlimited restoration of the sum insured**, and **15-plus useful add-on benefits**.
- It also rewards customers for being fit both financially and physically by offering India's first credit score-based discount and **Body Mass Index (BMI)**-based discount on the premium
- Children above 90 days of age and adults between the age of 18 to 65 years are covered in this policy.
- The basic plan of the Policy is well-rounded and provides coverage against critical expenses like Organ donors, Pre-& Post hospitalization, Daycare procedures, emergency ambulance, and special treatments.
- The policy has also introduced smart discounts like **Credit Score-based (first in the country)**, **BMI- (Body Mass Index)-based**, and **Stay Healthy discounts** to reward customers for staying fit both financially and physically.
- The Reliance Health Infinity policy can be bought for a 1-year, 2-year, or 3-year policy tenure

### About RGICL:

- Founded: 17 August 2000
- CEO: Rakesh Jain

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- Reliance General Insurance Company Limited is an India-based private insurance company and is part of Reliance Anil Dhirubhai Ambani Group, wholly owned through Reliance Capital.

### Cashfree Payments enables eUPP to provide educational institutions with instant and secure payments for parents and students

- India's leading payments and API banking solutions company, **Cashfree Payments**, is enabling eUPP (**eLite Unified Payment Platform**), a fee payment management system for schools and colleges, to offer an instant and secure fee payments experience for end users
- Currently, through this partnership, more than 500 educational institutions across the country are leveraging Cashfree Payments' payment collections suite for their payment needs.

#### About eUPP:

- eUPP is an online fee payment management system for schools, colleges, universities, and other educational institutions.
- It brings all educational expenses on a single platform and provides maximum benefits to families, students, and parents from their expenditures towards education-related activities.
- eUPP is owned by **Connexm Pte Ltd**, a Singapore Headquartered company, and has a portfolio of products under its umbrella to help an institution cover the entire paradigm of their requirements.

### Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Inks Pact With Kotak Mahindra General Insurance

- Private sector lender **Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Ltd. (TMB)** has entered into a strategic alliance with **Kotak Mahindra General Insurance Co. Ltd.**, for marketing the products of the insurance arm of **Kotak Mahindra Bank**.
- To offer customer-centric choices in every product, Tamilnad Mercantile Bank executed the agreement for marketing the general insurance products under the tie-up with **Kotak Mahindra General Insurance Company Ltd.**
- In Nov 2022, **Tamilnad Mercantile Bank** tied up with **Cholamandalam General Insurance and Max Life Insurance Company** to offer their insurance products.

#### About TMB:

- TMB was founded in 1921 as the Nadar Bank but changed its name to Tamilnad Mercantile Bank in November 1962
- Headquarters: Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu, India
- MD & CEO: S.Krishnan
- Tagline: Be a Step ahead of life

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### About Kotak Mahindra General Insurance Company Ltd:

- Founded: 2015
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- MD & CEO: Suresh Agarwal

### SIDBI partners with M1xchange to provide liquidity to MSMEs

- **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)**, the principal financial institution engaged in the promotion, financing, and development of **Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME)** has partnered with **M1xchange** as the financier.
- This move is expected to bring liquidity to MSMEs at competitive interest rates.
- This is a highly effective and efficient solution for addressing the issue of the delayed payment of MSMEs.

### About M1xchange:

- MD & CEO: Mr. Sundeep Mohindru
- **M1xchange offers early liquidity to MSMEs within 24 hours through its online bidding platform through the end-to-end digital process.**
- It is one of 3 Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS) platforms, the 2 others are RXIL & InvoiceMart.
- **TReDS is regulated by the RBI which enables discounting of bills of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) resulting in an improvement of cash flow and liquidity and overall improvement in the functioning of MSMEs.**
- M1xchange provides online invoice discounting and factoring solutions, purchase bill and trade receivables discounting system,
- To date, M1xchange facilitated bill discounting of more than Rs 37,000 crores to over 14,000 MSME suppliers spread across 1,400 towns across the country at a competitive rate of interest.
- The TReDS looks forward to increasing its footprints in digital factoring by 25% to 30% in the current fiscal year 2022-23.

### About SIDBI:

- Founded: 2 April 1990
- Headquarters: Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, India
- Chairman & MD: Sivasubramanian Ramann

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- 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, Gol.

### **IREDA signs Rs. 4,445 crore loan agreement with SJVN Green Energy Ltd. for a 1,000 MW Solar power project**

- Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. (IREDA) signed a loan agreement for Rs. 4,444.71 crores with SJVN Green Energy Ltd. (SGEL, a subsidiary of SJVN Ltd.), for a 1,000 MW Solar power project at Bikaner, Rajasthan.
- In the presence of Shri Pradip Kumar Das, Chairman & Managing Director (CMD), IREDA and Shri Nand Lal Sharma, CMD, SJVN, Shri Pradipta Kumar Roy, DGM (IREDA) and Shri S. L. Sharma, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) (SGEL) signed the loan agreement at the corporate office of IREDA.

#### **Key Highlights:**

- The IREDA-funded project will connect to the 400/220 KV substation Bikaner-II (near Bikaner).
- SJVN has bagged the project through the tender floated by IREDA under the CPSU Phase-II (Tranche III) Scheme for the development of Grid connected Solar PV Power Project through a competitive Bidding Process based on Viability Gap Funding (VGF) support.

#### **About SJVN Green Energy Ltd:**

- Founded: April 2022
- Headquarters: Shimla, Himachal Pradesh
- CEO: S.L.Sharma

#### **About the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE):**

- Cabinet Minister: Raj Kumar Singh
- Minister of State: Bhagwanth Khuba

### **Only about 13% recovery in written-off loans during the last 5 years**

- According to the Finance Ministry data presented in the Rajya Sabha, only about 13% of the loans written off by the scheduled commercial banks (SCBs) during the last 5 financial years have been recovered

#### **Key Highlights:**

- Total recovery of over ₹1.32 lakh crore from written-off loan accounts made during the last 5 financial years.
- In response to two separate questions on the issue, the Ministry presented data on write-off and recovery.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- As per inputs received from RBI, SCBs (scheduled commercial bank) wrote off an amount of over ₹10.09 lakh crore during the last 5 financial years (Fiscal Year 2017-18 to the Fiscal Year 2021-22).
- **NPAs (non-performing assets), including those with full provisioning made on completion of 4 years, are removed from the balance sheet of the bank as a write-off.**
- Banks write off NPAs to clean up their balance sheet, get a tax benefit and optimize capital, by RBI guidelines and policies approved by their boards.
- Further, as per RBI data on domestic operations, “stressed assets, including restructured standard assets, as a percentage of gross advances in SCBs, has declined from 9.8% as on March 31, 2014, to 7.8% as on March 31, 2022.

### About scheduled commercial banks:

- The scheduled commercial banks are those banks that are included in the second schedule of the RBI Act 1934 and which carry out the normal business of banking such as accepting deposits, giving out loans, and other banking services.
- The scheduled banks are further classified into:
  - SBI & Associates
  - Nationalized Banks
  - Other Public Sector Banks
  - Private Banks
  - Foreign Banks
  - Regional Rural Banks

### HDFC Securities launches investor education and market analysis platform 'Roots'

- Leading Indian stock brokerage firm, **HDFC Securities has launched Roots, a dedicated platform providing comprehensive investor education and market analysis.**
- The site offers multiple forms of valuable information, including articles, bite-sized tips, podcasts by experts, video tutorials and explainers, and live social media feed on the Indian financial markets.
- The biggest USP of the platform is that it produces content that is being searched on Google by current or prospective investors and traders.
- **The Blog section of Roots is updated with articles addressing all aspects of investing in the Indian financial markets, from intraday trading to ETFs, and more.**
- The portal also includes a UGC section (User Generated Content) where investors and traders can suggest topics they want to learn more about.

### About HDFC Securities Limited:

- Founded: 2000
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

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- MD & CEO: Dhiraj Relli
- HDFC Securities Limited is a financial services intermediary and a subsidiary of HDFC Bank.

### **AU Small Finance Bank and HDFC Life announce Bancassurance Tie-up**

- AU Small Finance Bank, India's leading small finance bank, and HDFC Life, one of India's leading life insurers, entered into a corporate agency arrangement for soliciting insurance plans of HDFC Life through the bancassurance business model.

#### **Aim:**

- To enrich the Bank's life insurance offering by enabling its customers to access the digital platform and the touch points of HDFC Life for servicing.

#### **About the Partnership:**

- The partnership would enable diverse customers of AU Small Finance Bank to access the entire range of life insurance products offered by HDFC Life, thus fulfilling their need for financial protection.

#### **About bancassurance:**

- Bancassurance is an arrangement between a bank and an insurance company, through which the insurer can sell its products to the bank's customers.
- Both the bank and the Insurance companies benefit.

#### **Aim:**

- To offer insurance products or insurance benefits to the bank's customers.
- The bancassurance sector is regulated by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI).

#### **About AU Small Finance Bank:**

- Headquarters: Jaipur, Rajasthan, India
- MD & CEO: Sanjay Agarwal
- It was founded as vehicle finance company AU Financiers (India) Ltd in 1996 and converted to a small finance bank on 19 April 2017.

#### **About HDFC Life Insurance Company Ltd:**

- Founded: 2000
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO: Vibha Padalkar

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- It is a joint venture between Housing Development Finance Corporation Ltd (HDFC), one of India's leading home finance institutions, and Abrdn, a global investment company.

### Tata AIA Life Insurance opens Emerging Opportunities Fund

- Tata AIA Life Insurance Company Limited (Tata AIA) has launched a new Emerging Opportunities Fund that will invest in mid-cap companies and emerging market leaders

#### Objective:

- To generate capital appreciation in the long term by investing in a portfolio of stocks that offer opportunities in the mid-cap space and emerging leaders in the new-age sectors.
- The New Fund Offering (NFO) window will remain open from 15th December to 30th December 2022 at Rs 10 per unit, which is applicable only during the NFO period.

#### About the Emerging Opportunities Fund:

- The new offer will provide consumers with a unique opportunity to benefit from the long-term growth potential of equity while securing their loved ones with the protection of a life insurance cover.
- Investments in the funds can be made through Tata AIA's ULIP offerings like Fortune Pro, Wealth Pro, Fortune Maxima, and Wealth Maxima.
- Besides, investors' funds will also be diverted to Tata AIA's Param Rakshak Solutions.
- The fund can invest up to 30% of the portfolio in equity and equity-related instruments falling outside the mid-cap range.

#### About Tata AIA Life Insurance Company Limited:

- Founded: 1 April 2001
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- MD & CEO: Naveen Tahilyani

### BoB proposes to sell its majority stake in Nainital Bank

- State-owned Bank of Baroda (BoB) plans to sell its majority stake in Nainital Bank.
- The bank has authorized the issuance of an advertisement inviting expressions of interest (EOI) through a preliminary information memorandum (PIM) from interested parties (IPs).
- BoB currently holds 98.57% of the total equity share capital of NBL
- It has decided to bring in a strategic partner in its subsidiary Nainital Bank Ltd (NBL).
- The strategic partner will help the Bank of Baroda to reduce its stake in percentage terms.

#### About Nainital Bank:

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- Founded: 1922
- Headquarters: Nainital, Kumaon, India
- MD & CEO: Dinesh Pant
- The Nainital Bank Limited is a **scheduled commercial bank**.
- It is a **wholly-owned subsidiary of the Bank of Baroda**.
- Nainital Bank was originally **promoted by the Late Bharat Ratna Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant**.
- In **1974**, RBI directed the Bank of Baroda to manage the affairs of NBL.

### Equitas Small Finance Bank signs MoU with Controller General of Defence accounts

- **Equitas Small Finance Bank Limited**, one of the leading Small Finance Banks (SFBs), **signed a Memorandum Understanding (MoU)** with the **Controller General of Defence Accounts, Ministry of Defence, Government of India**.
- The MoU will allow Equitas to be a **SPARSH (System for Pension Administration (Raksha))** service center to provide **data verification for pensioners**.

#### Note:

- **Equitas** is the **first small finance bank inducted for the SPARSH program**
- The **Ministry of Defence** also signed the **MoU with five other banks viz. Indian Postal Payment Bank, Union Bank of India, Axis Bank Ltd., ICICI Bank Ltd., and Bandhan Bank**.

#### About the MoU:

- Under this MoU, **Defence pensioners and their families** can avail of a few services for the pension account from branches PAN India.

#### Key Services:

- Annual issuing of life certificate (digital or manual)
- Change of bank details for pension accounts
- Information about pensioners and their accounts.
- Also, offer the best interest rates for senior citizens along with a host of other value-added services like **insurance benefits (IHO)** and attractive reward points program.

#### About Equitas Small Finance Bank:

- Founded: 2016
- Headquarters: Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India
- MD & CEO: Vasudevan P N

### State Bank of India to begin overseas rupee trade with smaller nations

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- **State Bank India (SBI)** will start overseas trade in rupee with smaller countries like Mauritius and Sri Lanka to steer clear of any transactions with Russia which carries the risk of sanctions by the West.
- In all 18 such special rupee accounts have been opened by 11 banks, including 2 in Russia and one in Sri Lanka, following approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

### Key Highlights:

- **Union Bank of India** has opened a special rupee account of Ros Bank Russia while Chennai-based **Indian Bank** has opened such accounts with three Sri Lankan banks, including Colombo-based **NDB Bank** and **Seylan Bank**.
- To be sure, no specific Indian bank has been authorized by the government for facilitating rupee trade with any particular country, and all interested banks are allowed to open such accounts with any country of their choice.
- Given that about 30-35 countries, including those from Asia, Scandinavia, and Africa, have expressed interest in better understanding the proposed rupee trade mechanism for possible adoption, the number of Vostro accounts is expected to rise shortly.
- The Finance Ministry has asked the **Indian Banks' Association (IBA)** and the **Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO)** to spearhead an awareness campaign to sensitize stakeholders about the rupee trade.
- The RBI had in July 2022 notified the new mechanism for settling international trade in the rupee.
- This was aimed at not just reducing the rupee against the dollar but also internationalizing the domestic currency.

### About SBI:

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

### About Mauritius:

- President: Prithvirajsing Roopun
- Prime Minister: Pravind Kumar Jugnauth
- Capital: Port Louis
- Currency: Mauritian rupee (MUR)

### About Sri Lanka:

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## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- President: Ranil Wickremesinghe
- Prime Minister: Dinesh Gunawardena
- Capital: Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte (legislative), Colombo (executive and judicial)
- Currency: Sri Lankan rupee

### RBI extends Market trading hours to pre-pandemic level

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) extended the hours of trading for a number of the markets that it regulates; the new timings from 9 am to 5 pm will come into effect from 12 Dec 2022.

### Key Highlights:

- Under the new timings, the **call/notice/term money market** will close at 5 pm, the market for **Commercial paper and Certificates of Deposit** will close at 5 pm, **Repo in Corporate Bonds** ends at 5 pm and **Rupee Interest Rate Derivatives** will end at 5 pm.
- The timing of **Government Securities (Central Government Securities, State Development Loans, and Treasury Bills), Foreign Currency (FCY)/Indian Rupee (INR) Trades** including **Forex Derivatives** will be **9:00 AM to 3:30 PM**.
- The **tri-party repos** in government securities shall continue with the post-pandemic trading hours of **9 am to 3 pm**
- In **April 2020**, the RBI announced **shortened market hours** for all trading segments in light of the disruptions caused by the pandemic.
- Trade timings for all market segments were revised to **10 am to 2 pm** at that time.

### 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

### Bank of Baroda Launches the 2nd edition of Green Ride with Milind Soman

- Bank of Baroda, one of India's leading public sector banks, has launched the 2nd edition of Green Ride – Ek Pehal Swachh Hawa Ki Aur, an initiative with environmental advocate and fitness enthusiast, Milind Soman.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- Under this initiative, Milind will embark on an **8-day sustainable journey** on a bicycle and an **electric scooter**, promoting **eco-friendly transportation**, a **green lifestyle** as well as the **importance of health & fitness**
- The **1400 km Green Ride** will be **flagged off from Mumbai** on December 19 and conclude in **Mangalore, Karnataka** on December 26, 2022.
- Under a unique initiative called “**Plant A Tree**”, the Bank will plant a fruit-bearing tree on behalf of its customers for **every Auto Loan or Home Loan** disbursed over the **next three years**.

### About BoB:

- Founded: 20 July 1908
- Headquarters: Vadodara, Gujarat
- Chairman: Has Mukh Adhia
- MD & CEO: Sanjiv Chadha

### Axis Bank takes over RCom’s enterprise arm, Globalcom

- Reliance Communication’s (RCom) enterprise business, Globalcom IDC Ltd, has been taken over by **Axis Bank**, due to the **non-payment of dues**.
- RCom had received notice from **Axis Trustee Services Limited** seeking to **sell 100% equity shares of Globalcom**.
- Axis Bank has taken over Globalcom to recover RCom’s direct dues to the bank.
- RCom received another email from Axis Bank stating that it has invoked the **pledge over 20,99,994 (100 percent) equity shares of Globalcom**.
- According to **RCom’s disclosure**, RCom and Reliance Infratel owe **₹1,401.03 crores** and **₹1,404.03 crores**, respectively, to Axis Bank against this loan.
- Recently **Reliance Jio** acquired **Reliance Infratel**, for **₹3,500 crores**.
- In **2016**, RCom and **Reliance Infratel Limited** availed a loan facility of **₹565 crores** and **₹635 crores**, respectively from the State Bank of India.

### About Axis Bank:

- Founded: 3 December 1993
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO: Amitabh Chaudhry
- Axis Bank is the **third largest private sector bank in India**

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

### About RCOM:

- Founded: 15 July 2004
- Headquarters: Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- RCom was an **Indian mobile network provider** that offered voice and **2G and 3G and 4G data services**.
- In **February 2019**, the company **filed for bankruptcy** as it was **unable to sell assets to repay its debt**.

### RBI Imposes Rs2.66 Crore Penalty On Bank Of Bahrain & Kuwait BSC

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a monetary penalty of ₹2.66 crores on Bank of Bahrain & Kuwait BSC(India Operations) for non-compliance with regulatory directions on “Cyber Security Framework in Banks”.
- The penalty has been imposed in the exercise of powers vested in RBI under the provisions of section 47 A (1) (c) read with sections 46 (4) (i) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 (the Act).

### Reason:

- The bank failed to implement systems to detect unusual and unauthorized, internal or external activities in its database.
- The penalty is based on deficiencies in regulatory compliance and is not intended to pronounce upon the validity of any transaction or agreement entered into by the bank with its customers.
- RBI has also imposed penalties on 20 cooperative banks, including 17 from Gujarat for contravention of various norms
- The penalty on 17 co-operative banks ranges between Rs 50,000 - Rs 7 lakh

### About Bank of Bahrain & Kuwait BSC:

- Founded: 16 March 1971
- Headquarters: Bank of Bahrain & Kuwait BSC
- CEO: A.Rahman Saif

### 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

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

### IDFC FIRST Bank announces zero-fee banking on savings accounts

- On the occasion of its foundation day, IDFC FIRST Bank has announced zero-fee banking on savings accounts.

#### Key Highlights:

- The bank mentioned that it had waived fees on **25 commonly used banking services** related to savings accounts such as cash deposit and withdrawal at branches, **third-party cash transactions, demand drafts, immediate payment service (IMPS), National Electronic Funds Transfer (NEFT), Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS), cheque book, SMS alerts, interest certificates, insufficient balance for ATM transactions, international ATM usage.**

#### Who can avail of the service?

- Customers, who are maintaining **at least Rs 10,000 average monthly balance** in their savings account, will be offered these services **free of cost.**

#### About IDFC FIRST Bank:

- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO: V. Vaidyanathan
- IDFC FIRST Bank was founded by the **merger of Erstwhile IDFC Bank and Erstwhile Capital First on December 18, 2018.**
- It is the **first universal bank to offer monthly interest credit** on savings accounts, lifetime free credit cards with dynamic and low annual percentage rates

### Paytm & HDFC ERGO launch 'Payment Protect' insurance policy to protect mobile transactions

- **One97 Communications Limited (OCL), which owns the brand Paytm, in association with HDFC ERGO General Insurance, a leading general insurance company in India launched a group insurance plan called 'Paytm Payment Protect'.**

#### Aim:

- To insure transactions are made through the **Unified Payment Interface (UPI)** across all apps and wallets.

#### About 'Paytm Payment Protect':

- With the new insurance offering, which will come at **Rs 30 per annum**, users would be able to secure themselves against **mobile fraudulent transactions up to Rs 10,000**



## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- This product is aimed to enhance the digital payments experience and increase the adoption of the same in the country.
- Higher cover options for cover up to Rs 1 lakh per annum will soon be added to the product.

### About HDFC ERGO General Insurance:

- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD: 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

### Bandhan Bank signs MoU with Defence Ministry to extend services to defence pensioners

- Bandhan Bank has signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Controller General of Defence Accounts (CGDA), Ministry of Defence (MoD), Govt. of India (GoI) for extending the banking services to the Defence Pensioners and their families.
- The bank is aligned with the vision of the government in being a one-stop solution to all pension related activities of defence pensioners under the Outreach Programme for Defence Pensioners on System for Pension Administration Raksha (SPARSH).
- The MoU was signed in New Delhi, in the presence of Shri. Sham Dev, IDAS, Controller, O/o PCDA (Pensions), Prayagraj, Ministry of Defence, Government of India, Shri. Girdhar Aramane, IAS, Defence Secretary, Government of India, Smt. Rasika Chaube, Financial Advisor (Defence Services) and Shri Debraj Saha, Head – Govt. Business, Bandhan Bank.

### Key Highlights:

- The Bandhan Bank will provide services to Defence Pensioners and their families through 557 branches.
- The Defence Secretary virtually inaugurated a SPARSH Service Centre in Delhi Cantonment.
- It offers various services such as service requests and grievance redressal, annual life certification, Pensioner Data verification (PDV), and managing profile changes including Aadhar number, PAN number, postal address and bank details.

### About Bandhan Bank:

- Founded: 2015
- Headquarters: Kolkata, West Bengal, India
- MD & CEO: Chandra Shekhar Ghosh

### About CGDA:

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- Headquarters: Delhi Cantt, Delhi
- Additional charge of the CGDA: Rashika Chaube
- CGDA heads the **Defence Accounts Department (DAD)**, which is one of the oldest government organisations in India.
- CGDA functions under the **Ministry of Defence of India**.

### **DBS Bank India partners with Gofrugal Tech to empower SMEs towards ONDC**

- **DBS Bank India Limited (DBIL)** has partnered with **GoFrugal Technologies Pvt Ltd**, a seller-centric platform, which offers **omnichannel ERP solutions** and claims to empower micro, small and medium enterprises (**MSME**) and retail merchants to adopt **Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC)**.

#### **About the Partnership:**

- The partnership furthers **DBS Bank India's** commitment to **reimagining SME banking** through **innovation** and **providing digital solutions beyond traditional banking**.
- Through this partnership, **DBS Bank India** is **integrating its digital solutions** with **GoFrugal Technologies** to **help small businesses catalogue** their products quickly and expand their sales channels via **ONDC**.
- Earlier, in **April, 2022** **DBS Bank India** joined hands with **start-up venture capital fund Anthill Ventures** and **evangelist network Headstart Network Foundation** to launch **DBS Business Class foundedED** to support promising start-ups in India.

#### **Note:**

- CEO of **GoFrugal Technologies**: **Kumar Vembu**

#### **About DBS Bank India Limited:**

- Established: 1994
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO: **Surojit Shome**

#### **About ONDC:**

- The government launched **ONDC** in **April 2022** as an **alternative to global e-commerce giants**.
- **ONDC**, an initiative by the Government of India, is a platform based on an **open protocol** that will **enable local commerce** across mobility, grocery, food order and delivery, hotel booking and travel etc.

#### **Aim:**

- To **create new opportunities** by offering the **Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)** a level playing field.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

### Indian Bank launches special fixed deposit of 555 days with returns up to 7.15%

- Indian Bank has launched a new special retail term deposit dubbed “Ind Shakti 555 days”.
- The bank also announced the availability of the "IND SHAKTI 555 DAYS" special retail term deposit product, which has a minimum amount of Rs. 5000 and runs for 555 days with an interest rate of 7.00% for the general public and 7.15% for senior citizens.

#### IND SHAKTI 555 DAYS – RATE OF INTEREST

Public	7.00%
Senior Citizen	7.15%

#### Revision of Interest Rates on Retail Domestic Term Deposits:

Period	Less than Rs 2 Crore	
	Existing (%p.a)	Revised (%p.a)
7 days to 14 days	2.80	2.80
15 days to 29 days	2.80	2.80
30 days to 45 days	3.00	3.00
46 days to 90 days	3.25	3.25
91 days to 120 days	3.50	3.50
121 days to 180 days	3.85	3.85

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

181 days to less than 9 months	4.50	4.50
9 months to less than 1 year	4.75	4.75
1 year	6.10	6.10
Above 1 year to less than 2 years	6.30	6.30
2 years to less than 3 years	6.50	6.50
3 years to less than 5 years	6.40	6.25
5 years	6.40	6.25
Above 5 years	6.30	6.10

### Above Indian Bank:

- Founded: 15 August 1907
- Headquarters: Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India
- MD & CEO: Shanti Lal Jain

### RBI asks Razorpay, Cashfree to hold off onboarding new merchants

- **Payment companies Razorpay and Cashfree Payments** have received notices from the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** to withhold onboarding any **new online merchants** to their platforms, pending their audit for the **payment aggregator/payment gateway licences (PA/PG)**.

### Key Highlights:

- **Razorpay, Pine Labs, and Stripe** were among the **first ones** to get an **in-principle nod** to provide PA/PG services.
- As part of the migration to a full PA licence, Razorpay will have to make some **systematic upgrades** and **migrations** to an escrow account from a nodal account, among a few other things.
- **Razorpay** was granted the in-principle approval for a PA licence in **July, 2022**.

### About RBI:

- Established: 1 April 1935
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Governor: Shaktikanta Das

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## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- Deputy governors: Mahesh Kumar Jain, M. Rajeshwar Rao, Michael Patra, and T. Rabi Shankar

### SEBI board approves phasing out shares buyback through stock exchanges

- Capital markets regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) decided to gradually phase out the buyback of shares by companies through the stock exchange route to address the drawbacks associated with the existing mechanism.
- At present, for share buyback, companies have both the options of the stock exchange and tender offer.

### Key Highlights:

- A SEBI committee, headed by HDFC vice-chairman and CEO Keki Mistry, proposed the mechanism of share buybacks through open market transactions.
- The minimum utilization of the amount for buyback through the stock exchange has been increased to 75% from 50% currently.
- Buybacks will be undertaken through a separate window on stock exchanges until then.
- The timeline for completion of buybacks through tender offers has been reduced by 18 days.
- SEBI has also accepted the recommendations of a working group on improving governance standards at exchanges – new rules include increased accountability of directors, stricter investment policy, and data sharing.
- SEBI has also given a green light proposal for Execution Only Platforms for direct plans of Mutual Fund schemes.
- The SEBI will also reduce the time taken for registration of FPIs to facilitate ease of doing business.

### 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, Gov.

### NSE Gets SEBI's In-Principle Nod To Set Up Social Stock Exchange As Separate Segment

- The National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) received in-principle approval from the market regulator Securities Exchange Board of India (SEBI), to set up a Social Stock Exchange (SSE) as a separate segment of the NSE.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- The idea of SSE was first floated by **Finance Minister Ms. Nirmala Sitharaman** in her Budget speech for the **financial year 2019-20**.

### Key Highlights:

- The government through gazette notification has declared a new security “**Zero Coupon Zero Principal (ZCZP)**” under the **Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1956**.
- Currently, the regulations have prescribed the **minimum issue size as Rs 1 crore** and the **minimum application size for subscriptions as Rs 2 lakh**.
- Under the new rules, SSE will be a separate segment of the existing stock exchanges.
- **Social enterprises eligible to participate** in the SSE will be entities **NPOs** and **for-profit social enterprises** having social intent and impact as their primary goal.
- The social enterprises will have to engage in a social activity out of **16 broad activities** listed by the regulator.
- The **eligible activities** include **eradicating hunger, poverty, malnutrition, and inequality; promoting healthcare, supporting education, employability, and livelihoods; gender equality empowerment of women and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, (questioning), intersex, asexual, and (agender) (LGBTQIA+) communities; and supporting incubators of social enterprise**.
- Corporate foundations, political or religious organizations or activities, professional or trade associations, and infrastructure and housing companies, **except affordable housing**, will not be eligible to be identified as a social enterprise.

### Note:

- NSE MD & CEO: Ashishkumar Chauhan

### Tata Power gets ₹450 crores sustainable trade finance facility from Japan's MUFG Bank

- **Tata Power** has received a **Rs 450 crore "sustainable trade finance facility"** from **MUFG (Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group) Bank of Japan** to fund its solar projects in India.
- This credit facility was extended for **two solar projects** under **TP Kirnali Limited (TPKL)**.
- **TPKL** is a **100% subsidiary of Tata Power Renewable Energy Limited (TPREL)**.

### Key Highlights:

- MUFG has extended the financing to fund **TPKL's two solar power projects** -
  1. A **100 MW renewable project** in **Parthur, Maharashtra**
  2. A **120 MW green energy project** in **Mesanka, Gujarat**.



## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- It is the first sustainable trade finance facility offered by MUFG in India and TPKL will utilize the funds towards **generating renewable energy capacity**.
- MUFG will open up opportunities to explore raising more green finance as Tata Power expands its **clean energy portfolio** to contribute towards **India's net-zero targets**.
- Meanwhile, Tata Power **aimed** to become **carbon net zero before 2045** and MUFG has announced its commitment to achieving **net zero emissions** in its finance portfolio by **2050** and its operations by 2030

### About Tata Power:

- Founded: 18 September 1919
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO: Praveer Sinha
- Tata Power Company Limited is an **Indian electric utility company** and is part of the Tata Group.

### About MUFG Bank, Ltd:

- Headquarters: Chiyoda, Tokyo, Japan
- It was established on January 1, 2006, following the **merger** of the **Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi, Ltd. and UFJ Bank Ltd.**

### Canara Bank hits business milestone of Rs 20 lakh crore

- **Canara Bank** has achieved a milestone of **crossing the total global business of Rs 20,00,000 crore**.
- **Stock of Canara Bank** closed at **₹291.45 apiece** on the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE), down by 6.54%.

### About Canara Bank:

- Established: 1906
- Headquarters: Bengaluru.
- MD & CEO: Lingam Venkata Prabhakar
- Canara Bank is an **Indian public sector bank** under the control and ownership of the Ministry of Finance, Government of India.

### Honda Cars India partners with Indian Bank to provide vehicle loans

- **Indian Bank** has **partnered with Honda Cars India Ltd (HCIL)** to provide **vehicle finance** for its customers.
- The partnership will offer **easy loan disbursement, reasonable interest rates, special offers, flexible policies and simplified process**.
- The customers can avail of financing benefits across over **5,700 branches** of Indian Bank and HCIL dealer network across the country.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

### About Honda Cars India:

- Founded: 1995
- Headquarters: Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh, India
- President & CEO: Takuya Tsumura

### About Indian Bank:

- Founded: 15 August 1907
- Headquarters: Chennai, Tamil Nadu
- CEO: Shri Shanti Lal Jain.

### CSB Bank partners with OneCard and Mastercard to launch a co-branded credit card

- **CSB Bank (erstwhile Catholic Syrian Bank Limited)**, one of the oldest private sector banks in India, in collaboration with **Mastercard** and **OneCard** has unveiled its **first consumer credit card – CSB Bank OneCard- in India.**
- The launch aligns with the bank's growth strategy and its vision to **enhance customer experience with innovative digital banking solutions.**

### About the co-branded credit card:

- The co-branded credit card is a **metal credit card** loaded with **rewards, privileges and safety and security features.**
- Customers can easily tap-and-pay through OneCard on all merchant outlets across the country and enjoy a **1% Forex rate** when travelling abroad.
- With **zero joining and annual fees**, the card provides **5X rewards** on the Top 2 spend categories every month.

### About CSB Bank Limited:

- Founded: 26 November 1920
- Headquarters: Thrissur, Kerala, India.
- MD & CEO: Pralay Mondal

### About OneCard:

- Co-founder & CEO: Anurag Sinha

### Axis Bank crosses Rs 100 crore in AUM for retirement business

- **Axis Bank** has received a regulatory nod to act as a **pension fund manager** and has already crossed **Rs 100 crore** in **assets under management (AUM)** for its retirement business.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- The bank received a commencement of business certificate from the **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)** on September 20, 2022 and the AUM has been managed in the **first 45 days** of the business.
- The bank has launched a **step-down subsidiary Axis Pension Fund Management** through its **subsidiary Axis Asset Management Company**, which marks its foray into the retirement business.
- The Axis Pension Fund will **capitalise** on the **investment management capabilities** and **distribution strength** of the group and **aims** to be the **preferred retirement solutions provider**.

### About Axis Bank:

- Founded: 3 December 1993
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO: Amitabh Chaudhry

### J&K Bank signs MoU with Administration of Ladakh union territory

- **Jammu and Kashmir Bank** signed a **memorandum of understanding** with the **Administration of Ladakh union territory**, conferring preferential status to each other.
- According to the MoU, the Ladakh UT Administration would **nominate J&K Bank** as '**preferred banker**' for all its banking-related services, while as, J&K Bank would give the '**most favoured client**' status to **UT Administration** and its active permanent employees who maintain the their salary accounts with the Bank.
- **Lieutenant Governor Ladakh (UT) R K Mathur** also **handed over** the keys of the **e-rickshaws** provided by **J&K Bank** to the **University of Ladakh** besides the commitment letter under which J&K Bank would **provide support** to **50 tuberculosis (TB) patients** from Kargil as part of their **Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities**.
- Mathur announced to launch of '**public participatory programmes**' across Ladakh wherein the UT administration in collaboration with councils and panchayats will work with the Bank in the **identification of beneficiaries** on a large scale who can avail loans from the bank under **different employment generation schemes**.

### About J&K Bank:

- Founded: 1 October 1938
- Headquarters: Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir, India
- MD & CEO: Baldev Prakash

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- J&K Bank functions as a **universal bank** in Jammu & Kashmir and as a **specialised bank** in the rest of the country.

### Karnataka Bank goes live on ICEGATE

- Karnataka Bank has gone live on the Indian Customs Electronic Gateway (ICEGATE), the national portal of Indian Customs of Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs, enabling its customers to pay customs duty online.
- The integration of Karnataka Bank on ICEGATE portal will **enable** all its **individual** and **corporate customers** to **pay customs duty** at their **convenience**, enabling smooth conduct of their business.

### About Karnataka Bank Limited:

- Founded: 18 February 1924
- Headquarters: Mangalore, Karnataka, India
- MD & CEO: Mahabaleshwara M. S

### Worldline ePayments India gets RBI's in-principle nod to act as a payment aggregator

- Worldline ePayments India (WEIPL), a leader in digital payments, has received in-principle authorisation from the Reserve Bank Of India (RBI) to act as a payment aggregator (PA).
- WEIPL received the communication from RBI on **Dec 20, 2022**.
- The authorisation by the RBI was under the **provisions** of the **Guidelines on Regulation of Payment** dated **March 17, 2020**.
- The RBI has been proactive in **introducing regulations** and **frameworks** to **help the entire digital ecosystem** and to **increase the adoption of digital payments further**.

### About WEIPL:

- Chief Executive Officer of Worldline India: Ramesh Narasimhan
- WEIPL, **part of Worldline group**, offers solutions for all sorts of payment needs offering **in-store, online, and omnichannel payments** to its customers.

### IFSCA introduces a new framework to boost distribution of capital market products from Gift City

- Gift City regulator International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) has come up with a **regulatory framework** for the **distribution of capital market products** and **services from international financial services centres (IFSCs)**.
- With this move, distributors of capital market products can register with the IFSCA, and undertake **global distribution** from these IFSCs and offer their services to clients in various jurisdictions.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- Currently, there is **only one IFSC in India GIFT City in Gujarat.**

### Key Highlights:

- In Gift City, **distributors are permitted to enter into arrangements** with other distributors (called associated distributors) from India, IFSC and foreign jurisdictions.
- The capital market services that can be provided out of the IFSCs include **portfolio management services and investment advisory services.**
- Distributors such as **banking units, finance companies, broker-dealers** and those with a **net worth more than \$1,50,000** are permitted to invest in select countries where the omnibus structure is allowed, subject to adequate measures such as prior consent of clients, maintenance of records, compliance with KYC and AML/CFT norms, etc.
- A **comprehensive code** of conduct has also been prescribed to **ensure distributors maintain high standards of integrity, disclosure, diligence, promptitude and fairness** in their dealings with clients.

### About IFSCA:

- Headquarters: Gandhinagar, Gujarat
- Chairman: Injeti Srinivas
- The IFSCA is a **statutory authority** established under the **International Financial Services Centres Authority Act, 2019 ("IFSCA Act")** with a **mandate to develop and regulate** the financial products, financial services, and financial institutions in the International Financial Services Centres ('IFSC').
- It will consist of **nine members**, appointed by the central government.

### IRDAI to introduce 'Bima Vahaks' to expand insurance force

- The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) will soon introduce "Bima Vahaks" in **each gram panchayat**

### Aim:

- To **enhance the insurance force** in India.
- The announcement was made by **Rakesh Joshi**, a member of the IRDAI at the **Business Standard BFSI Insight Summit 2022** in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

### About Bima Vahaks:

- Each Gram Panchayat will have a 'Bima Vahak' who would be tasked to **sell and service simple parametric bundled insurance products**, Bima Vistar, covering health, property, life, and **personal accident.**

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- The insurance companies have adopted a state each and with the help of state governments are looking to **develop state-level insurance plans**.
- This would **improve penetration** in the areas that do not seem to have much attention from the larger players.
- It intends to form a **women-centric insurance distribution channel**, which is likely to foster greater trust and build awareness about insurance products in the rural parts of India.
- Through Bima Vistaar, the committee will **aim** to bring to the forefront schemes like **parametric insurance** among others, to **provide wide coverage** for rural India in the event of **natural disasters**, such as **floods**, and **earthquakes**.

### About IRDAI:

- Headquarters: Hyderabad, Telangana
- Chairperson: Debasish Panda
- The IRDAI is a **regulatory body** under the jurisdiction of the **Ministry of Finance**, Government of India, and is **tasked** with **regulating** and **licensing** the **insurance** and **reinsurance** industries in India.

### HDFC Bank Signs MoU with Kerala Startup Mission (KSUM)

- HDFC Bank signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **Kerala Startup Mission (KSUM)**, the **nodal agency** of the **Government of Kerala** to engage more deeply with the **start-up community** and to **promote entrepreneurship** in Kerala.
- The MoU was signed by **Rajesh Krishnamoorthy**, Circle Head – Ernakulam Circle, Kerala, and **Anoop Ambika** CEO, of Kerala Startup Mission.

### Key Highlights:

- The Bank will **extend** its full suite of specialized services and facilities tailored for start-ups, known as **Smart-Up**, to all the firms associated with KSUM.
- With this MoU, HDFC Bank and KSUM will work together in **mutually beneficial areas**.
- HDFC Bank and KSUM have been collaborating **since 2019** when an MoU was signed for a year.

### About KSUM:

- Founded: 2006
- Headquarters: Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India
- CEO: Anoop Ambika



## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- KSUM is the **central agency** of the **Government of Kerala** for **entrepreneurship development** and **incubation activities** in Kerala, India.

### About HDFC Bank:

- Founded: August 1994
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO: Sashidhar Jagdishan
- Tagline: We Understand Your World

### Infibeam Avenues receives RBI nod for Bharat Bill Payment license

- India's first listed payments infrastructure firm, Infibeam Avenues Ltd has received a Perpetual Licence from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for its bill payments business, BillAvenue.
- The license will allow BillAvenue to function as a Bharat Bill Payment Operating Unit (BBPOU) under Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS).
- As a BBPOU, BillAvenue operates as both a **biller** and **customer operating unit** onboarding billers and agent institutions to **service customers**.

### About BillAvenue:

- BillAvenue is a **unified, interoperable online bill payment platform**, built on the **National Payments Corporation of India's (NPCI) Bharat BillPay** infrastructure to provide 'anytime, anywhere' bill payment facilities to customers across India through a network of **small & medium agents to large Agent Institutions (AI)**.
- BillAvenue services telecom, broadband companies, cable TV, DTH players, electricity distribution companies, LPG & Gas distribution companies, FASTAG, health insurance, life insurance, NBFCs, and municipalities.
- The license will help the company offer safe, secure, and uninterrupted services to our **18,000 plus billers**, agent institutions, and our network of one million agents spread across 2,000 cities and towns in India.

### About Infibeam Avenues Ltd:

- Headquarters: Gandhinagar, Gujarat
- Managing Director: Vishal Mehta

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

### SEBI expands committees on cyber security and information systems

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has expanded two of its committees – the High Powered Steering Committee on Cyber Security (HPSC-CS) and Information Systems Security Committee (ISSC)

#### Aim:

- To strengthen cyber security frameworks and cyber resilience requirements.

#### About HPSC-CS:

- The committee on cyber security has been expanded to 8 members from 6 earlier.
- Chair - Navin Kumar Singh, Director General (DG) at National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre (NCIIPC).

#### New Members:

- G Padmanabhan, ex-executive director, Reserve Bank of India
- Sushil Kumar Nehra, Additional Director, Cyber Security Division, MeitY

#### Roles & Responsibility:

- The 8-member committee oversees and guides cyber security initiatives.
- Also it advises SEBI in developing and maintaining cyber security and cyber resilience requirements aligned with global best practices and industry standards by the needs of the Indian capital market structure.

#### About ISSC:

- The SEBI also expanded its panel on the Information Systems Security Committee (ISSC) to 7 members, chaired by Prof Krishnamurthy.

#### Roles & Responsibility:

- The panel approves Information Security Policies, suggests amendments to the existing ones, and provides inputs and suggestions to take urgent actions on cyber security incidents of SEBI-regulated entities.
- The move comes at a time when Central Depository Services (India) (CDSL), the largest depository in India by a number of accounts, faced cyber security issues in November, 2022 which impacted settlement activities.

#### About SEBI:

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- 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 **securities** and **commodity markets** in India under the **ownership** of the **Ministry of Finance** within the Government of India.

### Bajaj Allianz General Insurance launches 'Respect Senior Care Rider' for senior citizens

- Bajaj Allianz General Insurance, one of the leading private general insurers of India, has launched its unique health insurance rider 'Respect Senior Care Rider'.

#### About 'Respect Senior Care Rider':

- It is one of the **first health insurance riders** from the Company, which will **offer 360-degree assistance** for **senior citizens**.
- The company collaborates with Strategic Partners to provide a seamless services experience for customers by providing them with a **24×7 direct connection** in **under 30 seconds** with the **medical support & emergency platform** that will activate rapid response within 10 minutes.
- Rider available in **3 plans**. ie..
  - **Plan 1** offers Planned and emergency Ambulance Services, Concierge Services such as Home Assistance/ Daily Care, and Cyber, Travel Legal Assistance.
  - **Plan 2** offers services like Physiotherapy Service at home, Nursing Care at home and Tele-Consultation Services for Psychological Conditions.
  - **Plan 3** provides a smartwatch with fall detection technology, which tracks and records key vitals like SP02, Body Temperature, Medicine Reminder, Heart Rate, SOS
- This rider is available to people over **50** who have health insurance through their company.
- The **price** of the product starts from **INR 700** and **ranges up to INR 7,500** excluding GST

#### About Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Company Limited:

- Headquarters: Pune, Maharashtra
- MD & CEO: Tapan Singhel
- Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance is a **joint venture** between **Bajaj Finserv** and **Allianz SE**.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

### Indian Banks' GNPA's decline to 5% in September 2022 - RBI report

- The **Gross non-performing assets (GNPA)** ratio of **Scheduled Commercial banks (SCBs)** has declined **sequentially to 5%** as of **September 2022** from the **peak levels** of around **9%** in **2017-18** led by lower fresh slippages.
- The **reduction in NPAs** was mainly contributed by **written-off loans** in the case of **PSBs (public sector banks)**, while the upgradation of loans was the primary driver for asset quality improvement for **PVBs (private banks)**, the central bank stated in its report on **Trend and Progress of Banking in India for 2021-2022**.

### Key Highlights:

- As of **March 2022**, **gross NPAs** were at **5.8%**, lower than **7.3%** in **2021**.
- Over the same period, the net NPA ratio **improved to 1.7%** from **2.4%**.
- The share of large borrowers accounts, those with a **total exposure of ₹5 crores** and above comprised **47.8%** of the total advances in **2021-22** compared with **48.4%** in **2020-21**.
- Correspondingly, their share in total NPAs also declined to **63.4%** from **66.4%**.
- On the other hand, the share of **special mention accounts-0 (SMA-0)** loans that are **overdue for 0-30 days** shot up for both PSU and private banks as of March 2022, reflecting temporary stress among borrowers.
- The share of restructured standard advances to gross loans also **increased by 110 bps** for **all borrowers** and **50 bps** for **large borrowers**.
- This was **lower than the increase of 30 bps** for all borrowers and **40 bps** for large borrowers in 2020-21, owing to the RBI's resolution framework for restructuring stressed retail loans and MSME loans during the pandemic.
- However, the share of **SMA-1** and **SMA-2** loans, which indicate **impending stress** for **longer time buckets** declined to their **lowest levels since March 2016** for all accounts.

### 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

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

### Indian Bank launches 'MSME Prerana' flagship program in Rajasthan

- **Indian Bank**, one of the leading public sector banks in the country, has **launched its flagship business mentoring program for Micro Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) entrepreneurs - 'MSME Prerana' in Rajasthan.**
- "MSME Prerana", is a **first-of-its-kind initiative** for the MSME sector in the country by any bank.

#### Aim:

- To **empower MSME Entrepreneurs** through **skill development** and **capacity building training** in their local languages, assisting them in acquiring necessary financial and managerial skills, capacity to handle the crisis in business, and understanding of dynamics of credit rating and risk management.
- Indian Bank has already conducted this online program in **7 languages across 10 states.**

#### About Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME):

- MSMEs are **regulated** under the '**Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises Development Act, of 2006**'.
- Cabinet Minister: Narayan Rane
- Minister of State: Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma

#### Micro enterprises:

- The Enterprises with an **annual turnover of less than Rs 5 crore** and the **maximum investment** in plant and machinery or equipment shall **not be more than 1 crore rupees.**

#### Small Enterprise:

- The enterprises where the investment in plant and machinery or equipment **does not exceed 10 crore rupees** and turnover does not exceed **50 crore rupees.**

#### Medium Enterprise:

- The enterprises where the investment in plant and machinery or equipment **does exceed 50 crore rupees** and turnover **does not exceed 250 crore rupees**

#### About Indian Bank:

- Founded: 15 August 1907
- Headquarters: Chennai, Tamil Nadu
- MD & CEO: Shri Shanti Lal Jain
- Tagline: Your own Bank

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

### ADB approves USD 125 mn loan to improve urban services in TN

- Multilateral funding agency **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** and the **Government of India (GoI)** signed a **\$125 million (about 1025 crore)** loan to develop **climate-resilient sewage collection and treatment, and drainage and water supply systems** in 3 cities **Coimbatore, Madurai & Thoothukudi** of **Tamil Nadu (TN)**.

#### Signatories:

- **Rajat Kumar Mishra**, Additional Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs in the Ministry of Finance signed for the GoI.
- **Hoe Yun Jeong**, Officer-in-Charge of ADB's India Resident Mission signed for ADB.
- The financing is the **third** and the **last tranche** of the **\$500 million multi-tranche financing facility (MFF)** for the Program approved by ADB in **2018** to build priority water supply, sewerage, and drainage infrastructure in strategic industrial corridors across **10 cities** in TN.

#### About the Projects:

- The financing will support the development of **two sewage treatment plants** in **Coimbatore** with **529 kilometres** of sewage collection pipelines, install 14 pumps and lift stations and build 14 km of sewage pumping mains.
- In **Thoothukudi**, a **climate-resilient stormwater drainage system** will be developed.
- In **Madurai**, the project will support the commissioning of **813 km** of new water supply distribution pipelines that will connect **163,958 households** to 115 newly established district-metered areas with smart water features to reduce non-revenue water.
- In **Coimbatore** and **Madurai**, **two all-female self-help groups** will be trained on the benefits of household connection to the sewage collection system, water conservation, sanitation, and health and hygiene.

#### About ADB:

- Established: 19 December 1966
- Headquarters: city of Mandaluyong, Metro Manila, Philippines
- President: Masatsugu Asakawa
- Membership: 68 members
- ADB is a **regional development bank**.

### Spice Money Partnered with Axis Bank for Financial Inclusion in Rural India

- Fintech player **Spice Money** has **partnered** with private sector lender **Axis Bank** to **facilitate the opening of instant, zero-balance savings or current accounts** for rural citizens through its **Adhikari network**.



## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

### Aim:

- To bridge the **rural-urban divide** and **bring financial inclusivity** by providing access to banking products at the doorstep, thereby financially empowering thousands of rural citizens living in the hinterlands of India
- A regulated entity under the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**, the fintech firm delivers various financial services such as cash deposits and **withdrawals, insurance premiums, bill payments, and loans** to the **rural masses**.
- Recently, the company has come on board the government-promoted e-commerce platform **ONDC (Open Network Digital Commerce)** to facilitate **smaller merchants** in rural locations.

### About ONDC:

- Founded: December 31, 2021
- ONDC is a **private non-profit Section 8 company** established by the **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)** of the Government of India to **develop open e-commerce**.

### Aim:

- To **create a facilitative model to revolutionize digital commerce**, giving greater thrust to the penetration of retail e-commerce in India

### About Spice Money:

- Headquarters: Noida, Uttar Pradesh, India
- CEO: Mr. Sanjeev Kumar
- The Spice Money network, comprising more than **10 lakhs Adhikaris**, covers more than 18,000 pin codes, 700 districts, and 5,000 blocks, serving over 10 crore households.

### About Axis Bank:

- Founded: 3 December 1993
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO: Amitabh Chaudhry
- Axis Bank is the third largest private sector bank in India.

## IMPORTANT BUSINESS NEWS

**Gross GST income for November 2022 was Rs. 1,45,867 crore:**

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## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- According to information provided by the finance ministry, the **Goods and Services Tax (GST) receipts for November 2022 were Rs 1,45,867 crore.**
- When compared to the same month a year ago, when the **GST collection was Rs 1,31,526 crore**, the revenue for **November is 11% higher.**
- For the ninth consecutive month, GST revenue has stayed above Rs 1.40 lakh crore.
- The **total GST income collected in November 2022 was Rs 1,45,867 crore**, of which the **CGST, SGST, IGST, and Cess components totalled Rs 25,681 crore, Rs 32,651 crore, Rs 77,103 crore, and Rs 10,433 crore, respectively (including Rs 817 crore collected on import of goods).**
- The government has made a regular settlement of Rs 33,997 crore to CGST and Rs 28,538 crore to SGST from IGST.
- In November 2022, the Center and the State will have earned a combined amount of Rs 59678 crore for the CGST and Rs 61189 crore for the SGST after regular settlements.
- Also distributed by the Centre in November 2022 was Rs 17,000 crore, which served as GST compensation for the States and UTs.
- Revenues from domestic transactions, including the import of services, were 8% higher this month than they were during the same period last year, while revenues from imported commodities were 20% higher.
- The **Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will preside over the 48th meeting of the GST Council on December 17.**

### The NSE introduces a new Nifty Bharat Bond Index:

- **NSE Indices, a division of the National Stock Exchange, announced the introduction of a new index in the Nifty Bharat Bond Index series.**
- Each index in the Bharat Bond Index series evaluates **the performance of a portfolio of "AAA" rated bonds issued by government-owned businesses** and maturing in a certain year. The series has a target maturity date structure.
- The **sixth installment of the Bharat Bond ETF series** will follow the recently created **Nifty BHARAT Bond Index, which has a 2033 maturity date.**
- In December 2019, the first Bharat Bond ETFs were introduced, mirroring the Nifty Bharat Bond indices. CEO of NSE Indices is Mukesh Agarwal.
- As a result of the Bharat Bond ETFs' introduction, a new category of target maturity date **index funds with more than 1.30 lakh crore** in assets under management has also been created.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- In addition to the current five target maturity indices, the introduction of the new **Bharat Bond index**, which **matures in 2033**, would give fixed-income investors more investment options and support the development of a ladder structure of varying maturities.

### India is the first nation to get \$100 billion in remittances in the entire world:

- According to the **World Bank**, India will be the first nation in the world to receive **\$100 billion in remittances in 2022**.
- Remittances to the other **South Asian nations fell by 10% but increased by 12% in India**. To reach **\$163 billion in 2022**, remittances to **South Asian countries increased by 3.5%**.
- Remittances to the **other South Asian nations fell by 10% but increased by 12% in India**.
- Remittances are anticipated to reach **\$794 billion globally in 2022**.
- The majority of remittances, which are expected to total **\$163 billion in 2022**, are sent to South Asia.
- **India will provide \$100 billion**.
- With **\$142 billion**, Latin America and the Caribbean come in second.

### The largest wind-solar hybrid power developer in the world is Adani Green:

- The **third wind-solar hybrid power plant has been put into operation in Jaisalmer in Rajasthan by Adani Green Energy Ltd (AGEL)**, the Adani Group's renewable energy division.
- The **first 390 MW hybrid power plant in India** was operationalized by AGEL in May 2022.
- The largest co-located hybrid power plant in the world, with a **600 MW capacity**, was commissioned in **September 2022**.
- These two hybrid energy production facilities are situated near Jaisalmer, Rajasthan.
- AGEL currently has a **total operating generation capacity of 7.17 GW** after the successful commissioning of its 450 MW plant.
- Additionally, this makes **AGEL the largest wind-solar hybrid power farm developer in the world**.
- This recently installed hybrid power plant has a total operational generation capacity of 450 MW.
- With SECI, the plant has **Power Purchase Agreements (PPA) for 25 years at Rs 2.67/kwh**.
- The 420 MW solar and 105 MW wind power plants that make up this new hybrid power plant were installed using cutting-edge technologies.
- Adani Green Energy now has the largest operational hybrid power generation capacity of 1,440 MW thanks to this hybrid facility.

### About Adani Green Energy Ltd

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## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- CEO: Vineet Jaain
- Founded: 23 January 2015
- Headquarters: Ahmedabad

### NSE indices Launch New Nifty Bharat Bond Index

- NSE Indices Limited (formerly known as India Index Services & Products Limited (IISL), a subsidiary of the National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) has launched an index Nifty Bharat Bond Index - April 2033 under the Nifty Bharat Bond Index series

#### About the Bharat Bond Index series:

- The Bharat Bond Index series follows a **target maturity date structure** wherein each index in the series measures the performance of a portfolio of '**AAA-rated bonds** issued by government-owned entities maturing in a specific year.
- The Nifty Bharat Bond Index - April 2033 has a base date of **November 30, 2022**, and a **base value of Rs 1,000**.
- The index will be **rebalanced/reconstituted** at the **end of every calendar quarter**.
- The launch of the Bharat Bond ETFs has also opened up the target maturity date index funds category with overall assets under management of **more than ₹ 1.30 lakh crore**.
- The **first Bharat Bond ETFs** tracking the Nifty Bharat Bond indices were launched in **December 2019** with **initial assets** under management of around **₹ 12,000 crores**.
- In December 2019, NSE Indices launched the first two indices in the Bharat Bond Index with maturities in **April 2023** and **April 2030**, and in July 2020, further two indices with maturities in April 2025 and April 2031 were launched.

#### About NSE Indices Limited:

- Founded: March 1998
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- MD & CEO: Ashishkumar Chauhan

### India to soon have variable capital companies as expert panel gives a nod

- A **nine-member expert committee**, headed by **MS Sahoo**, has drafted a legal framework for allowing **Variable Capital Company (VCC) structure** in the **International Financial Centres (IFSCs)**.
- The committee has proposed a **legal framework within the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) Act, 2019**, which provides for one implementing agency, IFSCA.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- The agency registers VCCs as **body corporates**, as well as **authorizes** and **supervises** their operations.
- The VCCs were introduced as a **vehicle for investment management** in IFSCs.

### Key Highlights:

- The committee has laid down key principles which include ensuring VCCs are **low-cost structures** that **attract lower governance requirements**; having principle-based legislation with the flexibility to introduce subordinate legislation and close alignment with the requirements under the **fund management entity (FME) regulations** that would apply to funds housed within the VCC.
- Funds in India pooled through limited liability companies are governed under the **Companies Act, 2013**, or under the **Limited Liability Partnership Act** or **trusts** governed under the Indian Trusts Act, 1882.
- The IFSCA set up an **expert committee** under the **chairmanship of KP Krishnan** in **September 2020** to examine the feasibility of the VCC in India.
- The VCC will be incorporated in the form of a company and shall be governed by the **Registrar** of VCCs akin to the Registrar of Companies (in India), with IFSCA playing the role of Registrar.
- The expert committee has suggested that **tax residency certificates** be issued at the sub-fund level to ensure they can take advantage of DTAAAs.

### About IFSCA:

- Headquarters: Gandhinagar, Gujarat
- Chairman: Injeti Srinivas

### The global economy appears to be heading for a recession, exacerbated by inflation:

- The **world economy appears to be heading for a catastrophic recession**, with analogies being drawn between the **2008 global financial crisis** and the **2020 slowdown caused by the Covid-19 pandemic**.
- Many people believe that any significant setback may be avoided if the policy is fine-tuned, which may be difficult to achieve.
- **For the past few months, the US dollar has been soaring.**
- It is already at its highest level in two decades, and analysts anticipate it will rise even further in the following days.
- However, the spike in the value of the dollar is roiling economies and markets around the world, creating winners and losers.
- While a strong dollar benefits Americans, it has negative effects on other countries, particularly emerging ones.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- The increase in the US dollar has caused the value of the British pound, euro, Chinese yuan, Japanese yen, Indian rupee, and many other currencies to fall.
- As a result, basic imports such as food and gasoline become more expensive for these countries.

### Retail inflation fell below 6% in November for the first time since 2022:

- Retail inflation in India has been reduced from 6.77% in October to 5.88% in November 2022.
- It is the first time in this fiscal year that the inflation rate has fallen below the RBI's tolerance band of 2 to 6%.
- Food costs, which make up over 40% of the CPI basket, fell to 4.67% in November from 7.01% in October.
- Since January, retail inflation has remained beyond the Reserve Bank of India's 2%-6% tolerance level, prompting a 225 basis point increase in interest rates, bringing it to 6.25%.
- Core inflation, excluding volatile food and energy components, is expected to be between 6% and 6.26% in November, according to three experts, up from 5.9% to 6.3% in October.
- The RBI recently sent a letter to the government outlining its reasons for failing to keep inflation within the target zone for three consecutive quarters.
- So far, the letter has not been made public.

### In November, WPI inflation fell to a 21-month low of 5.85%:

- In November, wholesale price-based inflation fell to a 21-month low of 5.85 percent due to lower food, fuel, and manufactured-goods prices.
- After lingering in the double digits for 19 months, wholesale price index (WPI) inflation fell to 8.39% in October.
- In November 2021, inflation was 14.87 percent.
- The decrease in the rate of inflation in November 2022 is mostly due to lower prices for food, basic metals, textiles, chemicals & chemical products, and paper & paper products compared to the previous year's corresponding month.
- A lower level of inflation was last observed in November 2022, when WPI inflation was 4.83 percent in February 2021.
- In November, food inflation was 1.07 percent, compared to 8.33 percent the previous month.
- Vegetable inflation was (-) 20.08 percent in November, compared to 17.61 percent in October.



## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- In November, inflation in the 'Fuel and power' basket was 17.35%, while it was 3.59% in manufactured goods.

### First-ever "Surety Bond Insurance" for Infrastructure Projects is introduced by Nitin Gadkari:

- Nitin Gadkari, the minister of roads, transport, and highways, introduced the nation's first-ever surety bond insurance product, reducing the reliance on bank guarantees for infrastructure companies.
- For infrastructure projects, surety bond insurance will serve as a security measure and will protect both the principal and the contractor.
- The item will meet the needs of a variety of contractors, many of whom are engaged in business in today's increasingly unstable climate.
- If the contractor breaches their contractual commitment, the Surety Bond Insurance protects the principal from potential damages by acting as a risk transfer instrument.
- The product grants the principal a guarantee under which all contracts and other business transactions will be carried out by the terms mutually agreed upon.
- The Principal may file a claim against the surety bond and recoup any losses they have suffered if the contractor fails to uphold the conditions of the contract.
- In contrast to a bank guarantee, the **Surety Bond Insurance does not require substantial collateral from the contractor**, freeing up significant assets that the contractor can use for the expansion of their firm.
- The item will assist in lowering costs as well.

### 8% Annual Growth in Note in Circulation to Rs 32 Lakh Crore:

- The note in circulation (NiC), according to Finance Minister Smt Nirmala Sitharaman, increased by 7.98% annually to reach Rs 31.92 lakh crore.
- According to her, the demand for money is influenced by several macroeconomic variables, such as economic growth and interest rate levels.
- The amount of money in circulation has increased to a record high of Rs 32 lakh crore six years after demonetisation, demonstrating that cash is still Indians' preferred method of payment.
- From Rs 17 lakh crore on November 4, 2016, it has climbed by a staggering 72% compared to the pre-demonetisation period.
- On November 8, 2016, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the demonetisation (of the Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 notes that were no longer accepted as legal tender) with the intention of, among other things, limiting the flow of illegal money into the economy.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- When comparing absolute numbers, it's crucial to compare them to the GDP, which is the primary metric for gauging the amount of money in circulation in relation to economic expansion.
- A quick calculation reveals that the amount of cash in circulation now is **13% of GDP, down from 14% last year.**
- After the Covid-19 pandemic broke out, the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) injected money into the system, bringing the figure down to 13% in 2020.**
- In 2016, the amount of money in circulation as a percentage of GDP was 12%.
- Digital payments have increased together with the amount of cash in circulation.

### **IPL surpasses a valuation of \$10 billion and becomes a decacorn:**

- IPL's valuation exceeds \$10 billion: **The Indian Premier League (IPL), whose whole market value is more than \$10 billion, has developed into a decacorn.**
- According to a D and P Advisory assessment released, the league is currently valued at \$10.9 billion.
- Notably, **it has increased by an astonishing 75% since 2020.**
- Profitable collaborations with media sector titans have benefited IPL's growth.
- **A decacorn is a firm that is valued at above \$10.0 billion.**
- The IPL has accomplished the feat in less than 15 years since its inception.
- **The inaugural ICC T20 World Cup was held in 2008**, with India emerging victorious months earlier.
- Since then, the IPL has become significantly stronger thanks to the participation of well-known athletes from around the globe.
- In a report titled "**Beyond 22 Yards**," the D and P Advisory claimed that the IPL reached an important milestone after selling its media rights for the **years 2023 to 2027.**
- The league sold its media rights for **\$6.2 billion, representing a three-fourth increase in revenue over the previous cycle.**
- For the first time, the rights were distributed among many broadcasters.
- Contrarily, the IPL is the second-largest sports league in the world in terms of revenue from broadcasting fees for each game.
- **The estimated revenue from each game's telecast is \$12 million.**
- Only the National Football Competition (NFL) generates more money each game (\$17 million) than the Indian T20 league.
- Notably, the number of IPL games will gradually increase in the next years.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

### Gross Direct Tax Collections Increase by 25.90% in the Fiscal Year 2022–2023:

- The total amount of direct taxes collected in the fiscal year 2022–2023 increased by 25.90 percent to 13,63,649 crore rupees.
- 10,83,150 crores of rupees were collected as gross revenue during the relevant period.
- Data from the Finance Ministry show that for the fiscal year 2022–23, net direct tax receipts totalled 11,35,754 crore rupees, representing an increase of 19.81 percent.
- For the corresponding time period, 9,47,959 crore rupees in net direct tax receipts were recorded.
- The significant tax mop-up indicates that the economy has recovered from its epidemic lows with an increase in corporate and household profits.
- This fiscal year saw an increase in net tax revenue as well.
- The I-T department's most recent data show that in FY2022-23, the net collection increased by 19.81%.
- It was 11,35,754 crore, 80% of the full-year Budget target, compared to 9,47,959 crore in the same time of the prior fiscal year.
- Corporation Tax (CIT) at 6,06,679 crore (net of refund) and Personal Income Tax (PIT) including Securities Transaction Tax (STT) at 5,26,477 crores make up the net direct tax collection of 11,35,754 crore (net of refund).

### Over Rs 10,000 billion would be added to India's GDP by the YouTube creator's ecosystem in 2021:

- In 2021, the creative ecosystem of YouTube, which is owned by Google, was expected to sustain more than 750,000 full-time equivalent employment in India and contribute more than Rs 10,000 crore to the GDP of the country, according to a statement made by YouTube.
- A new product called Courses, which would offer users a better learning experience and creators a new way to monetize their work, was also revealed by the company.
- Its beta debut was scheduled for 2023.
- According to the findings of the most recent Oxford Economics study conducted by YouTube, content created by Indian YouTube artists is currently viewed by billions of people worldwide.
- This has made it feasible for creators to make money from their work, allowing many of them to convert their passions into long-lasting jobs.
- YouTube announced that it would step up efforts to work with more healthcare organizations, including Narayana, Manipal, Medanta, and Shalby, to produce and promote trustworthy content covering more than 100 medical conditions in Hindi, Marathi, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Gujarati, Bengali, and English.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

### The Minimum Support Prices for Copra for the Season of 2023 are Raised by CCEA:

- The **Minimum Support Prices (MSPs)** for copra for the **2023** season have been authorized by the **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)**, which is presided over by **Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi**.
- The **Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices'** recommendations and the opinions of the major states that produce coconuts served as the basis for the approval.
- For the **2023 season**, the **MSP for milling copra of Fair Average Quality** has been set at **Rs. 10860 per quintal** and for **ball copra** at **Rs. 11750 per quintal**.
- This is an increase over the previous season of **Rs. 270/-** for milling copra and **Rs. 750/-** for ball copra per quintal.
- This would guarantee a margin above the weighted average cost of production for all of India of **51.82 percent** for milling copra and **64.26 percent** for ball copra.
- The Government's announcement of the **MSP for copra for the 2023 season** is consistent with its policy of setting the **MSP at a level that is at least 1.5 times the weighted average cost of production for all of India**.
- It is one of the crucial and forward-thinking actions to guarantee higher financial rewards for coconut growers and significantly enhance their well-being.

### Sebi Approves NSE to Establish Social Stock Exchange:

- The **Securities Exchange Board of India (Sebi)**, the country's capital markets regulator, gave in-principle clearance to one of India's top stock exchanges, the **National Stock Exchange of India (NSE)**, to establish a **Social Stock Exchange (SSE)** as a distinct segment.
- SSE is a unique idea in India and was first proposed by Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** in her **Budget address for the financial year 2019–20**.
- The framework for this was notified in July of this year based on the suggestions of a working group and technical group that Sebi had formed.
- Making more capital available to them is intended to benefit the private and nonprofit sectors.
- A gazette notification announcing a new security with "zero coupons zero principal" under the **Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act of 1956** was published by the union government.
- An SSE enables non-profit or non-governmental organizations to list on stock exchanges, giving them access to a different structure for collecting money.
- SSEs exist in nations like the **UK, Canada, and Brazil**.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- Several vehicles, including zero-coupon, zero-principal bonds, mutual funds, and social venture funds are suggested for the fund-raising.

### Reliance Jio launches 5G in Andhra Pradesh with an investment of Rs. 6,500 crores:

- Reliance Jio declared that it had started offering True 5G services in Andhra Pradesh.
- In the districts of Tirumala, Visakhapatnam, Vijayawada, and Guntur, 5G services have begun to be offered.
- Jio has made additional investments of more than Rs 6,500 crore for the deployment of a 5G network in Andhra Pradesh on top of their previous. Through the groundbreaking AR-VR Jio Glass and the Jio Community Clinic medical kit, Jio demonstrated the advantages of 5G in the field of healthcare.
- The lives of those in Andhra Pradesh will alter dramatically as a result of these advantages.
- The rollout of Jio's True 5G services would create new avenues for expansion in the fields of e-governance, education, healthcare, IT, and small and medium-sized enterprises.
- All 33 of Gujarat's district headquarters, as well as Delhi-NCR, Mumbai, Kolkata, Varanasi, Chennai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Pune, and Nathdwara, already have Jio True 5G service.
- Jio True 5G services would be accessible in every Andhra Pradesh town, taluka, mandalam, and hamlet by December 2023.

### Punjab ranks 2nd in average monthly income per agricultural household:

- Punjab ranks second in the country in average monthly income per agricultural household.
- As per information, Meghalaya tops across the country with an average monthly income per agricultural household (Rs 29,348).
- Punjab (Rs 26,701) is followed by Haryana (Rs 22,841), Arunachal Pradesh (Rs 19,225), Jammu and Kashmir (Rs 18,918), group of Union Territories (Rs 18,511), Mizoram (Rs 17,964), Kerala (Rs 17,915), group of northeastern states (Rs 16,863), Uttarakhand (Rs 13,552), Karnataka (Rs 13,441), Gujarat (Rs 12,631), Rajasthan (Rs 12,520), Sikkim (Rs 12,447) and Himachal Pradesh (Rs 12,153).
- Punjab would come in the first place, with Meghalaya having a significant proportion of horticulture and fruits, if we were to rank states based on their dependence on cash crops.
- The prominent crops produced in Punjab include rice, wheat, maize, bajra, sugarcane, oilseeds, and cotton, but rice and wheat alone constitute 80 per cent of the total gross cropped area.
- At present, sugarcane is cultivated on 1.25 lakh hectares in Punjab.



## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

### IMPORTANT STATE NEWS

#### Rajasthan Cabinet approves rural tourism scheme

- The Rajasthan Cabinet approved the Rajasthan Rural Tourism Scheme, 2022, to boost rural tourism and generate employment.
- The meeting was chaired by Chief Minister Shri Ashok Gehlot.

#### About Rajasthan Rural Tourism Scheme, 2022:

- The Rajasthan Rural Tourism Scheme will create employment opportunities in the villages and protect the handicraft industry by establishing rural guest houses, agricultural tourism units, camping sites, and caravan parks.
- The scheme will acquaint domestic and foreign tourists with Rajasthan's rural culture.
- The scheme will allow the establishment and operation of rural tourism units on a minimum of 1,000 square meters and a maximum of 2 hectares of agricultural land.
- The Cabinet also approved the Rajasthan Homeless Upliftment and Rehabilitation Policy, 2022, to provide terraces with a minimum space of 50 square feet per person for privacy and security to special categories such as women, the mentally challenged, and the sick
- The decision to amend the Rajasthan Civil Services (Absorption of Ex-Servicemen) Rules, 1988, will allow ex-servicemen to get a horizontal category-wise reservation in state recruitment.
- The amended Schedule-1 of the Rajasthan Computer State and Subordinate Services Rules, 1992, will change the present provision of 50% direct recruitment and 50% promotion for posts of programmers to 40% direct recruitment and 60% promotion.

#### About Rajasthan:

- Governor: Kalraj Mishra
- Chief Minister: Ashok Gehlot
- Capital: Jaipur

#### Meghalaya cabinet approves mental health and social care policy

- Meghalaya has become the first state in the Northeast to pass the first-ever Mental Health and Social Care Policy.

#### Aim:

- To address the issues of mental health and social care through collaborative engagement with communities



## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- The Meghalaya Mental Health & Social Care Policy was **approved** at the **cabinet meeting**, chaired by the **chief minister**.
- On the occasion of **World Mental Health Day** on **October 10, 2022**, the Meghalaya government announced the state's "**first-ever draft state mental health and social care policy**".

### Key Highlights:

- **After Kerala** and **Karnataka**, **Meghalaya** becomes the **third state** in India to have such a policy.
- The policy will ensure that **proper attention** is given to mental health, particularly for our youth and adolescents
- In **2014**, the Centre launched the **first-ever National Mental Health Policy** in an attempt to provide **universal psychiatry care**.
- Meanwhile, the cabinet has also approved the **amendment** of the **Meghalaya Victim Compensation Scheme 2019**.

### About Meghalaya:

- Governor: B. D. Mishra
- Chief Minister: Conrad Sangma
- Capital: Shillong
- Lake: Umiam lake, Ward's Lake

### First-ever Tribal Winter Festival held in Jammu-Kashmir's Bandipora

- A **first-of-its-kind Tribal Winter Festival** was held in the **Bandipora district** of **Jammu and Kashmir (J&K)**.
- The festival was **organized at Ketson Bandipora by District Administration Bandipora** in collaboration with **Tourism and Tribal Welfare Departments** to give a **boost to tourism in tribal areas**.

### About the Festival:

- **Deputy Commissioner Bandipora Owais Ahmed** highlighted the role of various government-sponsored, public-oriented schemes for the economic upliftment of people.
- The festival witnessed **music, dance, and cultural events** that left the people enthralled.
- The '**gatka**' was another attraction performed by **two tribal communities** portraying the fighting spirit of the Gujjars amid **all geographic, social, and political odds**

### About J&K:

- Lieutenant Governor: Manoj Sinha
- Capital: Srinagar, Jammu

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- National Park: Kishtwar High Altitude National Park, Kazinag National Park, Dachigam National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Ramnagar Wildlife Sanctuary, Hirpora Wildlife Sanctuary

### 23rd Hornbill Festival 2022 to begin in Nagaland

- The 23rd Edition of the Hornbill Festival 2022 is set to begin at Naga Heritage Village Kisama from 1st December to 10th December.
- Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar will grace the inaugural function of the festival as the Chief Guest.
- The first festival was held in 2000.
- It is organized by the State Tourism and Art & Culture Departments of the Government of Nagaland to encourage inter-tribal interaction and to promote the cultural heritage of Nagaland.
- A total of 132 stalls will be set up in Kisama wherein, 100 stalls will be taken up by the Micro Small & Medium Enterprises and 32 temporary stalls.

#### About Hornbill Festival:

- The festival is named after the bird "Indian hornbill", which is displayed in the folklore of most of the state's tribes.
- It is also called the 'Festival of Festivals'.

#### About Nagaland:

- Governor: Jagdish Mukhi
- Chief Minister: Neiphiu Rio
- Capital: Kohima
- National Park: Intanki National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuary: Fakim Wildlife Sanctuary, Fakim Wildlife Sanctuary

### UP CM Yogi Adityanath launches 'One District One Sport' scheme

- Uttar Pradesh (UP), Chief Minister Shri Yogi Adityanath has launched One District One Sport (ODOS), modeled after the government's highly successful One District One Product (ODOP) scheme.

#### Aim:

- To promote sports and sportspersons of UP.
- Currently, 57 districts have been taken up & divided across 13 sports & the sports department is working on appointing coaches.

#### About ODOS:

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- According to a press release from the **Chief Minister's Office (CMO)**, under ODOS, one sport will be identified in each of **UP's 75 districts**.

### ODOS Scheme (Sports & District)

- **Wrestling** - Varanasi, Gorakhpur, Chandauli, Baghpat, Aajgarh, Deoria, Maharajganj
- **Athletics** - Mainpuri, Firozabad, Jaunpur, Bhadohi, Sambhal, Sitapur, Kasganj, Unnao, Ayodhya, Kaushambi, Etah, Amethi, Rampur, Siddharthnagar, Santakbirnagar, Chitrakoot, Basti, Hamirpur, Hapur, Meerut, Ghazipur, Shamli, Ballia and Muzaffarnagar
- **Hockey**- Pratapgarh, Mau, Bareilly, Lucknow, Rae Bareli, Hardoi, Farrukhabad, Moradabad, Balrampur, Etawah, and Ghaziabad
- **Table Tennis** - Agra, Kanpur
- **Badminton** - Aligarh and Gautam Budh Nagar
- **Weightlifting** - Mirzapur, and Bijnor
- **Boxing** - Bulandshahr, and Kushinagar
- **Archery** - Sonbhadra, and Lalitpur
- **Football** - Hathras
- **Swimming** - Pilibhit
- **Shooting** - Banda
- **Kabaddi** - Kannauj
- **Lawn Tennis** - Prayagraj

### About UP:

- Governor: Anandiben Patel
- Chief Minister: Yogi Adityanath
- Capital: Lucknow
- National Park: Dudhwa National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: National Chambal Sanctuary, Nawabganj Bird Sanctuary, Chandraprabha Wildlife Sanctuary
- Tiger Reserve: Pilibhit Tiger Reserve

### Karnataka developing an app-based networking platform for the commercialization of IPRs

- Karnataka State Council for Science and Technology (KSCST) is developing an app-based networking platform called "Patentkart".

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

### Aim:

- To commercialize Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs)
- The app will be functional by early 2023
- It will benefit patent holders and their clients in commercializing their IP.
- **More than 700 patents** have been filed by KSCST-assisted IP cells in the **past three years**.
- **Patent Facilitation Centre** has supported the setting up of a **Patent Information Centre** at KSCST, IISc.
- **Karnataka State** has topped the **India Innovation Index** for three successive terms.

### About KSCST:

- Established: 1975
- KSCST is an **autonomous S&T organization** under the **Department of Science & Technology, Government of Karnataka**.
- Since its inception, it has established **58 IP cells** across Universities, Engineering Institutions, and Science, Law, and Agricultural colleges

### About Karnataka:

- Governor: Thawar Chand Gehlot
- Chief minister: Basavaraj Bommai
- Capital: Bengaluru
- National Park: Bandipur NP, Kudremukh NP, Bannerghata NP, Rajiv Gandhi NP
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: B R Hills Wildlife Sanctuary, Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary, Gudavi Bird Sanctuary
- Tiger Reserve: Nagarhole Tiger Reserve, Bhadra Tiger Reserve
- Festival: Hampi, Mahamastakabhisheka (Shravanabelagola)
- Dance: Yakshagana, Dollu Kunitha., Bolak-aat (Bolak Dance)

### Haryana govt launches Nirogi Haryana scheme

- The **Haryana government** has **launched** the **Nirogi Haryana project** across the state.
- The scheme was launched by the **President of India Ms. Droupadi Murmu** in Kurukshetra.
- The project was **inaugurated** by **Gian Chand Gupta, Haryana Speaker, and Kulbhushan Goyal, Panchkula Mayor**.

### About Nirogi Haryana Scheme:

- The Nirogi Haryana Project has been launched to **provide comprehensive free health check-ups and necessary medical treatment** to the beneficiary families.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- The **initial phase** of this scheme was started at **District Hospital, Sector 6, Panchkula**.
- It will be gradually enrolled in other dispensaries and health and wellness centers in **remote rural areas** of the **Panchkula district**.
- **51 health facilities** in the Panchkula district have been nominated to provide services to the listed beneficiaries.
- **1,82,354 persons from 42,000 families** in Panchkula listed under **Antyodaya Yojana** are **eligible** for this scheme.
- The beneficiaries of this scheme are divided into **6 categories** based on **age – 0 to 6 months, 6 to 59 months, 6 to 18 years, 18 to 40 years, 40 to 60 years, and above 80 years**.
- Each of these categories is provided with a **different colored OPD card**, each containing 8 pages.
- The empaneled beneficiaries are provided with an '**invitation letter**' by the **ANM or ASHA workers** to visit their health facilities on a specified date.
- Health check-up under this scheme includes complete general physical check-up including **physical measurement, height, weight, pulse, BP, dental, and eye check-up**.
- **Mandatory laboratory tests** are also provided for **each beneficiary** depending on the category.
- The results of the lab tests will be provided by **e-Upchar or ASHA/ANM** within the next two working days

### About Haryana:

- Governor: Bandaru Dattatreya
- Chief minister: Manohar Lal Khattar
- Capital: Chandigarh
- Tribes: Bazigars, Babaria

### Ramp for persons with disability to open at Chennai's Marina Beach

- India's **First permanent pathway** for persons with disability and senior citizens at **Chennai's Marina beach, Tamil Nadu (TN)** will be inaugurated by **Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin**.
- The facility was established by the **Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC)**.
- The pathway has been developed with funding from **Singara Chennai 2.0** at an **estimated cost of ₹1.14 crore**.
- The **3-meter-wide pathway** leads to a **22-meter-wide deck** for disabled people to view the sea.
- **Mr. Udhayanidhi Stalin** launched **6 vehicles** for the disabled acquired at a cost of **₹4.12 lakh** under the **MPLADS funds of Chennai Central MP Dayanidhi Maran**.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

### Ministry of Culture inaugurates 3-day long music, art, and literature festival Swar Dharohar in New Delhi

- The Ministry of Culture, Government of India in collaboration with “The Swar Dharohar Foundation,” inaugurated a 3-day “Swar Dharohar Festival” under Kalanjali.
- The 3-day festival would be organized at Central Vista, India Gate, New Delhi.
- The festival was Inaugurated by Chief Guest Sh. Mehtab Ali (Sitar Player) and Pt. Lalit Prasad (Classical Vocal).

#### About Swar Dharohar Festival:

- “Swar Dharohar Festival” is a Music, Art & Literature Festival.

#### Aim:

- To showcase the iconic art and culture of India and the rich literary Art & Heritage of the Indian States.
- The event will facilitate an opportunity for local artists to perform on the same stage as renowned artists.
- National, as well as local poets, will also showcase their art through Kavi Sammelan.

#### About the Ministry of Culture:

- Cabinet Minister: G. Kishan Reddy
- Minister of State: Meenakshi Lekhi

### International Lusophone Festival to be held in Goa

- The Ministry of External Affairs, in association with the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) and the Government of Goa, will organize the International Lusophone Festival in Goa from 3-6 December 2022.
- The festival will be inaugurated by the Chief Minister of Goa, Pramod Sawant at Durbar Hall in Raj Bhavan.
- Minister of State for External Affairs, Meenakshi Lekhi will be the Guest of Honour.

#### Objective:

- To strengthen India's contact with Lusophone countries.
- Goa has historical links with Lusophone countries which have been nurtured by the presence of Portuguese cultural institutions such as the Orient Foundation, and Camoes Institute.

#### About the Community of Portuguese Language Countries (CPLP):

- The Community of Portuguese Language Countries (Comunidade dos Países de Língua Portuguesa) also known as the Lusophone Commonwealth (Comunidade Lusofona), is a multilateral forum, founded on 17 July 1996 at the 1st CPLP Heads of State & Government Summit in Lisbon.



## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- The founding members were **Angola, Brazil, Cabo Verde, Guinea Bissau, Mozambique, Portugal, and Sao Tome and Principe**; while **Timor Leste and Equatorial Guinea** joined later.
- **India joined CPLP as an associate observer in July 2021.**
- As part of India's engagement with CPLP, the **Ministry of External Affairs celebrated World Portuguese Language Day in Delhi on 05 May 2022.**

### About Goa:

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

### ISB & Odisha govt to collaborate for women's empowerment & rural prosperity through a sustainable forest economy

- **Indian School of Business (ISB) and the Department of Mission Shakti, Government of Odisha signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enable women's economic empowerment & rural prosperity through a robust forest economy.**
- The MoU was signed by **Prof. Ashwini Chhatre, Executive Director - of Bharti Institute of Public Policy (BIPP), Indian School of Business, and Smt. Sujatha Karthikeyan, IAS, Commissioner-cum-Secretary, Department of Mission Shakti, Govt. of Odisha.**
- This MoU marks a significant step towards **Mission Shakti's vision** of making Odisha a land of equal opportunities, where women are empowered to live with **dignity and economic prosperity.**

### About the MoU:

- Under this **three-year MoU, ISB & Mission Shakti** will collaborate to build a prosperous and **sustainable forest economy** in Odisha through women-led community enterprises, starting with the **districts of Malkangiri, Koraput, Nabrangpur, Rayagada, Mayurbhanj, and Kendujhar.**
- Mission Shakti will facilitate the mobilization of the **Women Self Help Groups (WSHGs)** and **implementation of Community Forest Resource Rights** across the **six districts**, acting as the nodal department within Govt of Odisha in enabling this model in the state.
- The Government of India has launched '**Mission Shakti**' - an **integrated women empowerment program** as an **umbrella scheme for the safety, security, and empowerment of women** for implementation during the **15th Finance Commission period 2021-22 to 2025-26.**

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- Mission Shakti' has **two sub-schemes** - 'Sambal' and 'Samarthya'.
- While the "Sambal" sub-scheme is for the **safety and security of women**, the "Samarthya" sub-scheme is for the **empowerment of women**.

### 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

### Maharashtra to set up bulk drug park

- **Maharashtra**, which **accounts** for around **20%** of **India's pharmaceutical output**, **plans to set up a bulk drug park** in Raigad district at an **initial investment of ₹2,442 crores**.

### Aim:

- To **boost manufacturing of raw materials for medicines** in the country and **reduce dependency on imports**.

### Key Highlights:

- The **Indian Drugs Manufacturers' Association (IDMA)** has received a **proposal** from **D.R. Gahane**, **joint commissioner of the Maharashtra food and drug administration**.
- The **estimated cost of park construction** will be about **₹2,442 crores**, with the **Central government funding ₹1,000 crores** and the **state government putting in ₹1,442 crores**.
- The park will **help India achieve self-reliance in pharmaceutical manufacturing**
- The **Indian pharmaceutical industry**, the **third largest in the world by volume**, is dependent on raw material imports to produce medicines.
- The **Central government** has **already initiated work on three bulk drug parks** in **Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, and Gujarat**.
- The **central government** has set up a **high-level committee headed by Mansukh Mandaviya**, **union minister of chemical and fertilizer**, to **monitor the progress of bulk drug parks** that are being set up in three states.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

### 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

### First Sylhet-Silchar Festival 2022 to celebrate Indo-Bangla cultural ties to begin in Assam

- The first Sylhet-Silchar Festival celebrating the close cultural ties between the neighbouring regions of India and Bangladesh was inaugurated in Assam's Barak Valley, Silchar, Assam.
- The festival is being organized by India Foundation under the aegis of the Union Ministry of Culture in association with the Bangladesh Foundation for Regional Studies.

### About Sylhet-Silchar Festival:

- The event will commemorate 75 years of India's Independence and the 50th anniversary of Bangladesh's liberation from Pakistan.
- The event will showcase the cuisine, arts, crafts, culture, and local produce of the two regions which share close cultural ties.
- The festival will provide a platform to explore multi-disciplinary trade opportunities in sectors such as healthcare, tourism, education, and digital infrastructure.

### About Assam:

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

### India's 1st gold ATM comes up in Hyderabad

- Goldsikka with technology support from Hyderabad-based startup, OpenCube Technologies has launched its first Gold ATM at Begumpet and described it as India's first Gold ATM and the world's first Real Time Gold ATM.
- The ATM was launched into the market by the 'GoldSikka' company.
- Telangana Women's Commission chairperson, Sunitha Lakshma Reddy inaugurated the gold ATM Centre.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- The ATM has a capacity of **storing 5 kgs of gold**.
- This ATM can **dispense gold coins in different denominations ranging from 0.5 gm to 100 grams**.
- The prices are displayed live on the screen making it **transparent and clear** for the customers and the coins are dispensed in tamper-proof packs certified with **999 purity**.
- The company plans to launch **three machines** in Hyderabad at the airport, old city and proposes to launch them in Karimnagar and Warangal also.

### Note:

- CEO of Goldsikka: Sy Taruj

### Maharashtra becomes the first state in India to have a separate Divyang department

- On **International Day of Disabled Persons (Dec 03)**, Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde announced the **setting up of a separate Divyang department** for the **welfare of differently-abled people** with a **fund allocation of Rs 1,143 crore**.
- **Maharashtra is the first State** in the country to have a **separate Ministry for the disabled**.

### Aim:

- To **ensure the welfare of the disabled** and the **effective implementation** of various government schemes for them.

### Key Highlights:

- The government has **created 2,063 posts** for the new department which will formulate policies for the welfare of the disabled by taking into consideration the views of the stakeholder.
- The sections looking into issues of **Divyang (differently-abled) people** under the **Social Justice and Special Assistance department** will be clubbed to form the **new Divyang Welfare Department**.
- Welfare activities of Divyang people like **education, training, and rehabilitation** were so far taken care of by the state social justice department.

### 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

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

### MNRE floats draft proposal for offshore wind energy project off Tamil Nadu coast

- The Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE) has invited proposals for its draft tender on leasing out seabed areas for a 4 gigawatt (GW) equivalent offshore wind capacity project off the coast of Tamil Nadu (TN).
- The government proposes to lease out the sea bed, which includes specifically identified offshore wind sub-blocks B1, B2, B3, B4, and G1 off the coast of Tamil Nadu in the Gulf of Mannar, in the current financial year.

### About Windpower developers:

- Selection of offshore wind power developers (OWPD) for leasing of sea-bed areas equivalent to 4,000 megawatts (MW) of offshore wind power projects off the coast of Tamil Nadu through International Competitive Bidding.
- The grid connectivity and Long-Term Open Access/access to the grid under the general network access (GNA) framework to the grid shall be in the scope of the OWPD.
- The objective of the exercise is to introduce offshore wind energy as one of the green energy generation sources to contribute towards the 'Net Zero by 2070' target of the country.
- Besides, the government also aims to develop offshore wind energy projects, related ports and logistics infrastructure, and offshore wind expertise.

### About MNRE:

- Cabinet Minister: Raj Kumar Singh
- Minister of State: Bhagwanth Khuba

### 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

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

### TN govt signs MoU with a German bank to implement green power corridor

- Tamil Nadu Transmission Corporation has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for a loan with German bank KFW to implement phase two of the Green Energy Corridor (GEC) in TN.

#### Key Highlights:

- The Centre has approved Rs 719.79 crore for the project in Tamil Nadu, including the grant of 33% from the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, while 47% cost of the project will be funded by the loan from KFW and the remaining 20% as equity from the Tamil Nadu Transmission Corporation Limited (Tantransco).
- As per the ministry's instruction, the tender must be floated by December 2023.
- The work has been scheduled to be completed by 2025-2026.
- GEC phase-2 scheme will add 10,753 circuit kilometers of transmission lines and 27,546 megavolt-amperes capacity of substations in 7 states - Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, and Uttar Pradesh.
- In TN, Tantransco would establish a 400kV substation at Samugarengapuram in Tirunelveli district, three 230kV substations at Poolavady and Kongalnagaram in Tiruppur district, and Muppandal in Kanyakumari district under phase 2.
- The scheme would help create intra-state transmission infrastructure required for evacuating 4,000MW from renewable energy power projects by setting up 624 circuit km of transmission lines in TN.

#### About Tamil Nadu Transmission Corporation Limited (TANTRANSCO):

- Founded: October 1, 2010
- Headquarters: Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India
- Chairman: Vikram Kapur
- MD: S. Shanmugam
- TANTRANSCO is an electric power transmission system operator owned by the Government of Tamil Nadu.

#### About Tamil Nadu:

- Governor: R. N. Ravi
- Chief minister: M. K. Stalin
- Capital: Chennai
- Dance: Bharatnatyam, Karakattam



## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- 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

### Delhi Police to design a high-frequency radio system

- Delhi Police is set to design, install and supply the 'Open Standard Digital Trunking Radio System' (OS-DTRS) and will phase out the current tetranet wireless network services.
- The project will cost close to Rs 100 crore.
- **About OS-DTRS System:**
- It will be a more efficient internal communication system, aimed at a faster exchange of information and bigger networks.
- The trunking system provides multiple channels and common groups for policemen.
- It will also have a voice logger system, which can be used to describe a crime scene, interrogation details, and evidence.
- The project's master site will be at the Delhi Police HQ.
- Police are looking for private companies to run the system on 800 MHz frequency bands and microwave links.
- The master site will have OS-DTRS control and switching equipment, a network management system, 90 IP-based logger systems, 50-inch or bigger LED monitors, an antenna system, and maintenance systems.
- Around 15,000 concurrent radio sets will be made first and later expanded to 30,000 over time.
- This system will run for at least 10 years and will fix network problems faced by police personnel.

### About Delhi:

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

### Kashmir Tourism Department to organize Houseboat festival in Srinagar

- The Kashmir Tourism Department organized a houseboat festival in Srinagar At Dal Lake.

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## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- The event is organized by the **tourism department of Kashmir**, and several cultural programs will be held during the **two-day festival**, which will be followed by a **water laser show on Dal Lake**.
- The **lieutenant governor, Monoj Sinha**, is likely to be the **chief guest** on the occasion and will inaugurate this festival.
- In 2021, "**Union Home Minister Amit Shah**" inaugurated a **houseboat festival** organized by **J&K's tourism department at Dal Lake**.

### About the Festival:

- The festival would have components of **local Music, food, art, and culture** besides showcasing and emphasizing the heritage value of Houseboats.
- The houseboat festival is a **celebration** of the **unique role** played by **houseboats** in attracting tourists from across the globe for decades now.
- **Shikaras**, which are **small wooden boats**, were decked up on the Dal lake for the festive occasion

### Delhi, UP & Maharashtra top in electric vehicle penetration

- **Delhi, Maharashtra, and Uttar Pradesh** have the **highest penetration of electric two-wheelers, passenger vehicles, and three-wheelers** respectively.
- According to a **BNP Paribas report on India's electric vehicles for November 2022**, **Delhi** had **9.3% two-wheeler electric vehicle penetration** followed by **Kerala and Karnataka**.

### Key Highlights:

- In the **passenger vehicle (PV) segment**, **Maharashtra** registered **2.4% e-vehicle penetration** followed by **Kerala with 2.1%** and **Delhi with 2.1%** in **November 2022**.
- **Tata Motors** remained the **electric PV market leader** with a **76% volume market share**.
- **Uttar Pradesh** led the **electric three-wheelers penetration** in India with **77.1%** in **November**, **Punjab** with **72.7%**, and **Delhi** with **68.6%**.
- **Mahindra & Mahindra** and **YC Electric** had a **7.9% volume share** while **Rajasthan** saw the **fastest electric three-wheeler month-on-month volume growth**.
- Further, the **BNP Paribas report** mentions that **Ola** emerged as the **market leader** with a **21.4% volume share**, while **Ampere** overtook **Okinawa** to come **second** with **16.1%**.
- According to the **Vahan website** that records vehicles registered across the country, in **November 2022** as many as **1,19,161 electric vehicles** were registered in India, while in **October** for the first time, **electric vehicle sales** crossed over **1,00,000** with the registration of **1,15,896 vehicles**.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

### Odisha partners with EPIC Foundation to design and manufacture chips, electronics

- The Odisha government and Epic Foundation have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for designing and manufacturing chips and electronics products in Odisha.

#### Aim:

- To create an ecosystem of design, manufacturing, distribution, and service companies to meet the local, national and global demand for chips and electronics.
- The initial collaboration will focus on manufacturing a tablet PC to serve the growing requirement for devices in the education and healthcare sectors.
- This will be followed by the manufacturing of indoor and outdoor Wi-Fi access points, smart cameras, smart metres, and mobile and EV chargers.
- It has also signed MoUs with the Delhi government and the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) in Madras and Kanpur.
- EPIC Foundation will also work with Odisha Skill Development Authority to provide training on the manufacturing, repair, and servicing of electronics products to the local people.

#### About EPIC Foundation:

- EPIC Foundation is Hardware products think tank, a not-for-profit organization, founded by HCL Founders Dr Ajai Chowdhry and Arjun Malhotra along with semiconductor industry veteran Dr Satya Gupta.
- It is working with the industry, government, and academia to develop and scale India's design and manufacturing capabilities.
- Chairman: Dr Ajai Chowdhry
- CEO: Dr Satya Gupta

### 9th World Ayurveda Congress and Arogya Expo 2022 inaugurated in Goa

- The 4 days long 9th World Ayurveda Congress (WAC) was inaugurated at Panaji, Goa in the presence of Union Minister of State for Tourism and Shipping, Ports and Waterways Shripad Naik, and the Chief Minister of Goa Dr. Pramod Sawant.

#### Aim:

- To showcase the efficacy and strength of the AYUSH systems of medicine at the Global level to provide a global platform for all the stakeholders, including industry leaders, practitioners, traditional healers, educationists, students, medicine manufacturers, growers of medicinal plants, and marketing strategists.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

### Note:

- Every year **23 October** is observed in India as **Ayurveda Day**.

### Key Highlights:

- The market size of the **AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, and Homoeopathy) sector** in the country has grown from **USD 3 billion** in 2014 to over **USD 18 billion** now, clocking a phenomenal growth of 6 times.
- During 2014-2020, the **AYUSH industry** grew **17% year-on-year** while the **Ayurveda market** is predicted to grow at **15% CAGR** from 2021-2026.
- The **Ayush Grid project** was initiated by the Ministry in **2018** for creating a comprehensive IT backbone for the entire sector.
- Digitalization of the entire Ayush Sector will lead to its transformation in fields of **healthcare delivery** at all levels, including **research, education**, various health programs, and drug regulations.
- On this occasion, the **third edition** of the '**Ayushman comic book series** was also released.
- **All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA)** and **Rosenberg's European Academy of Ayurveda, Germany** signed an **MoU** to facilitate advanced studies in traditional Indian medicine systems.

### CM PinarayiVijayan declares Kerala Seed Farm in Ernakulam district as the first carbon-neutral farm

- **Kerala Chief Minister ShriPinarayiVijayan** declared the **State Seed Farm Aluva** near Kochi has become the **first seed farm** in the country to achieve a **carbon-neutral farm** in India.

### Aim:

- To achieve **40%** of its energy needs from renewable energy sources by **2025**.

### Note:

- As per scientific studies, **agriculture and livestock** account for **14%** of India's gross national greenhouse gas emissions.
- However, the usage of **power for agricultural activities** will push up the **emission** to **22%**.

### Key Highlights:

- The **103-year-old Seed Farm** located on the banks of the **Periyar River** in **Thuruth Island** on **13.5 acres** was accorded carbon neutral status following a study by the **Climate Change and Environmental Science department** of **Kerala Agricultural University**.
- Carbon neutrality indicates that emissions made during **agricultural practices** on a farm must be absorbed into the soil itself.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- The **total amount of carbon emission** from the farm, located at Thuruthu in Aluva, in the last 1 year was **43 tons** but its overall procurement was 213 tons.
- **Paddy** is the **main crop** at the farm which is **cultivated on 7 acres**.
- The government has also planned to set up model carbon-neutral farms in all **140 assembly constituencies** in Kerala.

### About Kerala:

- Governor: Arif Mohammad Khan
- Chief minister: Pinarayi Vijayan
- Capital: Thiruvananthapuram
- National Park: Eravikulam National Park, Silent Valley National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary, Kumarakom Bird Sanctuary, Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary, Idukki Wildlife Sanctuary

### Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu launches Sanitation Workers' Development Scheme

- The Tamil Nadu (TN) Shri Chief Minister (CM) MK Stalin launched the **Sanitation Workers Development Scheme** in Madurai, Tamil Nadu.

### Aim:

- To **identify conservancy workers** and ensure their welfare through various government initiatives.
- He unveiled the **logo** for the sanitary workers in TN.
- He also launched a **mobile app "SHWAS" (Sanitation Workers Health Welfare and Safety)** as part of this scheme for the identification and census collection of sanitation workers.
- CM also unveiled a **13-foot-tall bronze statue** of **Dr. B.R. Ambedkar** at the **Perungudi junction** near Madurai Airport.

### About Sanitation Workers' Development Scheme:

- The **first phase** of this scheme will be implemented in **5 urban local bodies** in TN.
- The scheme will benefit over **53,300 sanitation workers** in TN, including 18,859 permanent employees and 34,442 temporary contract workers in the urban local bodies.
- Under the scheme, **safety equipment** like gloves and boots will be distributed to beneficiaries.
- It will **ensure proper education** for the children of conservancy workers.
- It will also **cover informal workers** involved in conservancy operations in the private sector.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- The local bodies will be implementing this scheme with the assistance from **Ahmedabad-based Urban Management Centre**.

### 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

### The 27th edition of the International Film Festival of Kerala kicks off in Thiruvananthapuram

- The 27th edition of the International Film Festival of Kerala has started at Nishagandhi auditorium in Thiruvananthapuram.
- The Festival will be held from **December 9 to December 16, 2022**.
- Kerala Chief Minister **Shri Pinarayi Vijayan** inaugurated the International Film Festival at Nisha Gandhi Arena in Thiruvananthapuram and presided over by Minister, VN Vasavan.

### Key Highlights:

- 186 cinemas from more than 70 countries will be screened in this **8-day festival**.
- It is one of the distinguished film festivals in India, which is hosted by the **Kerala Chalachitra Academy**.
- Iranian director **Mahnaz Mohammadi**, who fights for women's freedom in Iran has bagged the **Spirit of Cinema Award 2022**.
- The 26th edition of the International Film Festival of Kerala began in Thiruvananthapuram on 18 March 2022 to 25 March 2022.

### Assam Cabinet approves bill to create SafaiKaramchari Commission

- The Assam Cabinet led by Chief Minister (CM), **Himanta Biswa Sarma** has approved a bill to set up a **SafaiKaramchari Commission**.
- For the **first time** in the history of Assam, the State Cabinet led by **CM Himanta Biswa Sarma** held the meeting at the historic **Gandhi Mandap in Guwahati, Assam**.



## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- In addition to this, the cabinet has also approved decisions related to **providing maternity benefits, monitoring drug prices, protecting SafaiKarmacharis' rights, and filling up vacancies in the Forest Department.**
- The cabinet has also **renamed the Dergaon Police Academy as LachitBarphukan Police Academy.**

### Key Highlights:

- The state cabinet has approved **Rs 525 crore** for the **construction of 162 new police stations** in the state under the **Moitry scheme.**
- There will be **no more optional papers** in the **Combined Competitive Examination** conducted by **Assam Public Service Commission (APSC).**
- The **Assam Power Distribution Corporation Ltd (APDCL)** and **Oil & natural gas corporation Limited (ONGC)** will jointly establish a **250 MW solar power project** for which the state cabinet has approved **Rs 285 crore** to APDCL.

### About Assam:

- Governor: JagdishMukhi
- Chief minister: HimantaBiswaSarma
- Capital: Dispur
- National Park: Kaziranga National Park, Manas National Park, Raimona National Park, Nameri National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Amsang Wildlife Sanctuary, Nambor Wildlife Sanctuary, SonaiRupai Wildlife Sanctuary

### Assam's 1st 3D Planetarium was Inaugurated at Nalbari

- The **Chief Minister of Assam ShriHimantaBiswaSarma** inaugurated the **Nalbari Science Centre and Planetarium** at Milanpur, Nalbari.
- This is **Assam's first 3D** and the **4rd planetarium** in Assam which is built at an **estimated cost of Rs. 8 crores 50 lakhs rupees.**
- The **foundation stone** of the planetarium was laid at Nalbari in **2012.**
- The CM will also visit Tamulpur for laying the foundation of 6 projects.
- He will lay the foundation stone and **Bhumipujan of Tamulpur Medical College** and a bridge along with several other projects with a cost of **Rs. 568 crores.**

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- Notably, a bridge was constructed at **Kumarikata-Kouli** connecting the **Bhutan border** in the Tamulpur district **76 years after Independence**.
- Infrastructural projects will be launched at **Tamulpur, Morigaon, Golaghat, Bishwanath, Majuli, Lakhimpur, Dhemaji, Dibrugarh, and Jorhat**.
- The **second phase** will begin on **January 5, 2023**, and the projects of the 2 phases are expected to be completed before the **2026 assembly election**.

### Assam to give a stipend of to all female PG students of Rs 10,000 each

- The **Assam government** will soon introduce a **scheme** under which **all female students pursuing post-graduate (PG) courses** in Assam will be provided a **yearly stipend of Rs 10,000 each**.
- The CM appealed to the female students pursuing PG courses to apply for getting the stipend in the portal to be launched by the **Department of Education** for the purpose.

### Key Highlights:

- A total of **35,800 beneficiaries**, of which 6,052 are boys and 29,748 are girls, have got scooters from the Assam government.
- To be eligible for the award, the **male candidates** had to score a **minimum of 75%** in the **higher secondary examination**, while for **female candidates** the cut-off was fixed at **60%**.

### Kerala to become 100% renewable energy-based State by 2040: Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan

- The **Chief Minister of Kerala Pinarayi Vijayan** inaugurated the **India Climate and Development Partners' Meet** and announced that **Kerala aspires to become a 100% renewable energy-based State by 2040 and net carbon neutral by 2050**.
- The event was **hosted by the World Bank and Kerala Government** where **Kerala State Action Plan on Climate Change 2023-2030 (Kerala SAPCC 2.0)** was released.
- **Kerala is the first State in India** to include **hydrogen-powered mobility** in its **zero emissions mobility policy**.

### About Kerala SAPCC 2.0:

- Mr. Vijayan described the Kerala SAPCC as an **"inclusive, sustainable" plan** with a focus on climate change adaptation in key sectors including **agriculture, coastal fisheries, water resources, health, forests, and biodiversity**.
- The government has constituted the **Kerala Hydrogen Economy Mission** to contribute **strategic inputs** and facilitate partnerships and collaborations toward transforming the State into a **green hydrogen hub**.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- Kerala would soon come out with a new **ESG (Environmental, social, and governance)**-focused industrial policy, which specifies incentives to **promote responsible industrial production**.
- The Kerala government and the **Agence Francaise de Developpement (AFD – French Development Agency)** signed a **performance-based loan agreement** for 100 million euros (Rs 865.8 crore).
- The agreement **aims to strengthen the state's resilience** to the impacts of climate change.

### Assam CM launches projects worth Rs 680 crore

- **Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma** arrived at Nalbari on a **day-long visit** during which he launched as many as **12 projects** with a cost of **Rs 680 crore**.

#### Aim:

- To **transform the district** into one of the **most progressive** ones on all fronts in Assam.

#### List of projects launched:

- The **district Sports Stadium Complex at Sariahtoli** is to be executed at the **cost of Rs 51 crore**
- The **beautification works of Nalbari town** at the cost of **Rs 106 crore**,
- The **integrated Deputy Commissioner's Office Complex** at an approximate cost of **Rs 50 crore**
- To **upgradation of Government Polytechnic Institute and Industrial Training Institute** at the cost of **Rs 5 crore**
- A **science center and planetarium with the first-ever 3D projection system** in Assam.
- Several **road development projects** running into an aggregate of nearly **Rs 200 crore** were also launched.

### Assam CM Sarma launches 'Bikashar Babe Eta Poshek' in Bongaigaon

- **Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma** launched '**Bikashar Babe Eta Poshek**', a development initiative of the Assam government at a function held at **Bongaigaon, Assam**.

#### Aim:

- To take the development journey of Assam in an organized manner.

#### About the Initiative:

- In the **first phase**, the program, which will run till **December 19, 2022**, will witness the laying of foundation stones and inauguration of **infrastructure projects worth Rs 15,000 crore** in **11 districts of Assam**
- He also laid the foundation stone of the **200 bedded Bongaigaon Medical College and Hospital**.
- The project is scheduled to be **completed within three months** at **Rs 61,067.41 lakh**.
- He also inaugurated the **Srijangram Model Hospital** constructed at **Rs 439.56 lakh**.

### PM Modi inaugurates the first phase of Mopa international airport in Goa

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the first phase of the greenfield international airport at Mopain North Goa.
- The airport would be named Manohar International Airport after former Goa chief minister (late) Manohar Parrikar.

### About the airport:

- The Mopa airport in North Goa is the **second international airport** in the coastal state apart from the existing airport at **Dabolim**, which is operated as a city enclave from **Indian naval air station INS Hansa**.
- The airport which was built at a **cost of ₹2,870 crores** will begin its operations on **5 January 2023**
- The **foundation stone** of the airport was laid by the **Prime Minister** in **November 2016**.
- Initially, **phase I** of the Airport will cater to **around 4.4 million passengers per annum (MPPA)**, which can be expanded to a **saturation capacity of 33 MPPA**.
- It has been built on the **theme of sustainable infrastructure** and has solar power plants, green buildings, LED lights on the runway, rainwater harvesting, state of an art sewage treatment plants with recycling facilities, among other such facilities.
- It has adopted some of the best-in-class technologies like **3-D Monolithic Precast buildings, StabilRoad, Robomatic Hollow precast walls, and 5G compatible IT infrastructure**.

### About Goa:

- Governor: P. S. Sreedharan Pillai
- Chief minister: PramodSawant
- Capital: Panaji (Panjim)
- National Park: Mollem National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuary: BhagwanMahaveer Sanctuary, Cotigao Wildlife Sanctuary

### Assam's unique theatre festival 'Under the Sal Tree' to begin on Dec 15

- The **12 th edition** of the 'Under the Sal Tree' theatre festival will start on **December 15, 2022**, for **3 days** at **BadungduppaKalakendra** at **Rampur** in lower Assam's **Goalpara** district.
- This unique theatre festival is held **every year** in the **middle of the Sal tree plantation**.
- It is organized completely in **natural settings, with no artificial devices**, not even a microphone to enhance the voice of the actors.
- In **2022**, the festival got **support** from the **Chief Minister of Assam, RabhaHasong Autonomous Council, Indian Oil Limited Corporation, and Bongaigaon Refinery**.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

### Key Highlights:

- The organizers use **only bamboo** and **straw** to build the stage and the sitting arrangements for the spectators.
- In **2022, 7 plays** will be **displayed** in the three-day festival & One play is from **Sri Lanka** while the rest are from different parts of India.
- In the earlier editions of the festival, **theatre groups** from **South Korea, Brazil, Poland, and neighboring Bangladesh** also participated in the festival.
- It is organized to spread the message of the **importance** of **co-existing with nature** and establishing a symbiotic relationship.

### About the 'Under the Sal Tree' theatre festival:

- The festival **started** in **2008**.
- **Late Sukracharjya Rabha** gets **international recognition** for the **open-air theatre festival** titled **under the Sal Tree**.
- Sukracharjya Rabha is one of the acclaimed theatre personalities of the region.

### About Assam:

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

### First-ever festival for persons with disabilities - Purple Fest Goa held in January 2023

- The **Purple Fest: Celebrating Diversity**, the **first-ever inclusive festival** in the state for **persons with disabilities (PwDs)**, will be organized in **Panjim, Goa, from January 6-8, 2023**.
- The **3-day festival** aims to show all how to bring inclusivity in our society, and how to support one another.
- It will be **hosted** by the **Goa State Commission for Persons with Disabilities** in association with the **Directorate of Social Welfare and Entertainment Society of Goa**.

### About The Purple Fest:

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## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- Purple Fest will be free for Goan delegates and students with disabilities.
- The **registration fee** for the festival is **INR 1,000** for the rest of the delegates.
- **Music concerts, dance, Fun live performances, and stand-up comedy** will be the **main attractions** of the festival.
- Sporting events, blind car rallies, birdwatching, and exhibitions will also be part of the festival.
- The **latest aids and products developed for PWDs** will also be displayed during the festival.
- Live art camps will also be organized.

### Why was the purple color chosen for this event?

- Recently, the color **purple** is **popularly associated with disability**.
- It **symbolizes an emerging positive narrative** about the contributions made by persons with disabilities in the workforce as well as in society.
- Purple is being used by **campaigners, charities, and governments** to refer to the power of disabled people.

### Arunachal Pradesh launches SevaApkeDwar 2.0' Camp Hosted At Gossang Village

- Arunachal government launched the 7th edition of the 'SevaApkeDwar 2.0' campaign at Gossang village in Upper Siang District, Arunachal Pradesh.

#### Aim:

- To ensure that the benefits of government schemes and services reach the doorsteps of people living in Arunachal Pradesh.
- It was organized by the **Upper Siang District Administration**.
- The decision to initiate the camp was undertaken during a recent **e-Pragati meeting** with the **Deputy Commissioners (DCs) of all the districts**.

#### About 'SevaApkeDwar 2.0':

- 'SevaApkeDwar 2.0' is the **second edition** of the **Sarkar ApkeDwar (SAD) program**.
- SevaApkeDwar 2.0 is different from the SAD program as it is based on the **actual needs of villagers**.
- Sarkar ApkeDwar was passed in the **2018-19 budget** of the state.
- It aimed at **delivering all government services to citizens-** e-ILP, Scheduled Tribe certificates, Residence certificates, Aadhar enrolment, income certificates, driving licenses, renewal of arms licenses, and other government schemes.

#### About Arunachal Pradesh:

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## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- Governor: B. D. Mishra
- Chief Minister: Pema Khandu
- Capital: Itanagar
- National Park: Namdapha National Park, Mouling National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuary: Mehao Wildlife Sanctuary, Dibang Wildlife Sanctuary, Sessa Orchid Sanctuary

### NIIFL Signs Agreement with Tamil Nadu for Renewable Energy Projects

- The National Investment and Infrastructure Fund Limited (NIIFL) announced the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Tamil Nadu Infrastructure Development Board (TNIDB).
- The MoU to help attract commercial capital into infrastructure opportunities in the state, under the public-private project (PPP) model.

#### About the MoU:

- Work has been initiated on 7 projects across departments that have the potential to attract private investment of Rs 5,000 to Rs 6,000 crore.
- The NIIFL's Strategic Initiatives and Policy Advisory (SIPA) team provide strategic advice to the Central and State Governments.
- TNIDB will receive support from NIIFL in identifying private-sector investment opportunities.
- This includes asset recycling and the development of greenfield and brownfield infrastructure projects.
- These projects include sectors such as renewable energy, roads, waste management, and tourism.

#### About NIIFL:

- Founded: February 2015
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- The Governing Council is chaired by Hon'ble Finance Minister of India Nirmala Sitharaman.
- NIIF is India's first infrastructure-specific investment fund or a sovereign wealth fund.

#### About TNIDB:

- Headquarters: Chennai, Tamil Nadu
- Chairperson: MK Stalin (CM of Tamil Nadu)

#### About Tamil Nadu:

- Governor: R. N. Ravi
- Chief minister: M. K. Stalin
- Capital: Chennai

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- Dance: Bharatnatyam, Karakattam
- National Park: Mudumalai 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

### Forest department launches 'Vanikaran' project to restore natural vegetation in Kerala

- The Forest department in association with Noolpuzha grama panchayat has launched the 'Vanikaran' (afforestation) Project in Kerala.

#### Aim:

- To root out invasive plants, especially *Senna spectabilis*, and restore natural forests.

#### About Vanikaran's (afforestation) Project:

- The project was being executed on 30 hectares of forest land under the Sulthan Bathery forest range of the Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary, where exotic invasive plants, including *Senna spectabilis*, *Eupatorium*, *Mikania micrantha*, and *Lantana Camara*, were posing a serious threat to the local species of trees.

#### About Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary-

- Established in 1973
- The sanctuary is an integral part of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve.
- Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary is the second-largest wildlife sanctuary in Kerala.

#### About Kerala:

- Governor: Arif Mohammad Khan
- Chief minister: Pinarayi Vijayan
- Capital: Thiruvananthapuram
- National Park: Eravikulam National Park, Silent Valley National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary, Kumarakom Bird Sanctuary, Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary, Idukki Wildlife Sanctuary

### Assamese Gamocha gets Geographical Indication Tag

- 'Gamocha', a symbol of the culture and identity of Assam, has received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag from the central government, 5 years after the first application was made in 2017.
- The GI tag has been registered in favour of the Directorate of Handloom & Textiles of the Assam government under the Geographical Indication of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- As per the application by the directorate, the **certificate** has been **awarded** for 'Gamocha' as of **October 16, 2017**
- The process was **started** in **2017** when an application for a GI tag was filed by the **Institute of Handicraft Development of Golaghat district**.

### About Assamese Gamocha:

- The 'gamocha', is a **handwoven rectangular cotton piece of cloth with red borders** and different designs and motifs.
- A 'gamocha' **literally means a towel** and is commonly used in **Assamese households** for **day-to-day affairs**.
- A 'gamocha' meant for exchange during the '**Bihu**' festival is known as '**Bihuwan**'.
- This **unique scarf**, which is **found only in Assam**, is also used as a signifier of reverence while decorating altars or covering religious books.

### About GI:

- A GI is tagged to **primarily agricultural, natural, or manufactured products, handicrafts, and industrial goods originating from a definite geographical territory**.

### About Assam:

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

### Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan inaugurates the 5th edition of the Kochi-Muziris Biennale

- Kerala Chief Minister Shri Pinarayi Vijayan inaugurated the 5th edition of Kochi-Muziris Biennale (KMB), at **Fort Kochi Parade ground, Kochi, Kerala**.
- It is the **largest contemporary art exhibition in India** held in **Kochi, Kerala**.
- The 5th edition was **originally scheduled for 2020** and postponed twice due to the Covid pandemic.
- After a **gap of 4 years**, the exhibition has been organized & the **4th edition** was held in **2018**.

### Key Highlights:

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- The Biennale will centre on the theme “In Our Views Flow Ink and Fire”.
- It is a **4-month-long celebration** of art that attracts tourists worldwide.
- In the Biennale 200 main artworks of 90 artists from about 40 different countries, across the 14 venues will be **showcased till 10 April 2023**.

### About KMB:

- Kochi-Muziris Biennale is **India's first-ever biennial of international contemporary art**.
- The **first edition** of the Kochi-Muziris Biennale was held in **2012**, and the year **2022** marks the **10th anniversary** of the biennial event.
- The event is the combined effort of the **Kochi Biennale Foundation** and the **government of India**.

### Aim:

- To bring artists from around the globe and **promote contemporary art**.
- **Kerala Muziris Biennale foundation president**: Bose Krishnamachari

### About Kochi Biennale Foundation:

- It is a **non-profit charitable trust** founded in **2010** for **promoting art and cultural educational activities** in India.

### About Kerala:

- Governor: Arif Mohammad Khan
- Chief minister: Pinarayi Vijayan
- Capital: Thiruvananthapuram
- National Park: Eravikulam National Park, Silent Valley National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary, Kumarakom Bird Sanctuary, Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary, Idukki Wildlife Sanctuary

### Tamil Nadu becomes the first state to launch its own Climate Change Mission

- Tamil Nadu (TN) has become the **first state in India** to launch its own **Climate Change Mission**.

### Aim:

- To make Tamil Nadu a “**climate-smart state**”.
- The TN government has launched this mission to **protect the natural resources** in TN.
- TN has **aimed** to achieve **carbon neutrality** much ahead of the **2070 target** set by the central government.

### Key highlights of the Tamil Nadu Climate Change Mission:

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- The Tamil Nadu government had announced the launch of the Tamil Nadu Climate Change Mission with an outlay of **Rs 500 crore** in the budget to undertake climate change management and mitigation activities.
- The TN government established **Tamil Nadu Green Climate Company**, a special purpose vehicle to **implement 3 major nature conservation projects** namely
  1. Green Tamil Nadu Mission
  2. Tamil Nadu Wetlands
  3. Tamil Nadu Climate Change.
- The Tamil Nadu government has appointed **former director of the United Nations Environment Programme Erik Solheim** as its **advisor for the climate change mission**.
- The government has allocated **Rs 77.35 crore** for carrying out **basic research** for the restoration of coastal habitats, the creation of mangrove forests, etc.
- On this occasion, a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **World Resources Institute, Anna University**, and the **National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management** was **signed**.
- It will help the government to establish **10 smart villages, 25 green schools**, and achieve blue flag beaches.
- Earlier in **Madurai, TN** the **Chief Minister** inaugurated the **sanitation workers' development scheme** to **protect the welfare of conservancy workers** in 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

### Uttarakhand Plans Genetic Enhancement of Its Indigenous Badri Cow

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- The government of Uttarakhand is planning for genetic enhancement of the Badri Cow through sex-sorted semen and embryo transfer technology to increase its productivity.
- Uttarakhand aims to achieve its target in the next 10 years.

### Key Highlights:

- The state government asked to adopt embryo transfer technology for the production of elite Badri bulls for semen production.
- For this purpose, the state established a nucleus breeding bull mother farm of Badri cattle at the Nariyal village in the Champawat district

### About Badri cow:

- The Badri breed derived its name from the holy shrine of Char Dham at Badrinath.
- It is found only in the hill districts of Uttarakhand and was earlier known as the 'pahadi' cow.
- Badri cow is the first registered cattle breed of Uttarakhand certified by the National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources (NBAGR).

### Characteristics:

- The cattle breed is small in size with long legs and varied body colors-black, brown, red, white, or grey.
- The uniqueness of Badri cow's produce is indigenusness and environment (in the Himalayas), as it eats medicinal herbs and is far away from toxic pollution, polythene, and other harmful things that cows in the plains are subject to.
- Badri cow's milk production capacity is low.
- The Badri breed is more resistant to diseases, mostly due to its eating habits.
- Badri cow only eats medicinal herbs which is why its milk has rich medicinal content and high organic value.
- Assisted Reproductive Technologies (ART) proposed for the project to generate employment and entrepreneurship will cost ₹50 crores.
- Hetha Organics sells Badri cow products online and Uttarakhand Cooperative Dairy Federation sells Badri Ghee under their brand name 'Anchal'.

### List of New methods to be implemented:

- Multiple Ovulation Embryo Transfer (MOET): a conventional embryo flush which is the most common procedure used in advanced cattle breeding.
- Ovum pickup in vitro fertilization (IVF): It will be used to increase the yield per animal.



## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- Introducing Assisted Reproductive Technologies (ART).

### About Uttarakhand:

- Governor: Gurmit Singh
- Chief Minister: Pushkar Singh Dhami
- Capital: Gairsain (summer), Dehradun (winter)
- National Park: Corbett National Park, Nanda Devi National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuary: Binsar Wildlife Sanctuary and Rajaji Wildlife Sanctuary

### Note:

- Corbett National Park (the first national park of India) at Ramnagar in Nainital District, and Valley of Flowers National Park and Nanda Devi National Park in Chamoli District, which together are a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

### Assam govt launches 'Orunodoi 2.0', DBT scheme to benefit over 1 mn people

- Assam Chief Minister (CM) Himanta Biswa Sarma launched the Orunodoi 2.0 scheme virtually from Assam House in New Delhi.
- The total financial outlay for Orunodoi is **Rs.4,142 crore per annum**.

### Aim:

- To provide financial security to financially disadvantaged families.

### About Orunodoi 2.0 scheme:

- Orunodoi, the poverty alleviation scheme, launched on **December 1, 2020**, entails a **monthly grant of Rs. 1,250 to each beneficiary**.
- It is **one of 18 flagship schemes** of the Government of Assam currently in operation
- To date, around **17 lakh women** have been receiving an amount of Rs 1,250 each on the 10th of every month through the **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) method** under the first phase of this social sector scheme.
- **10.54 lakh**, the additional number of people will benefit from the Assam government's second edition of 'Orunodoi'.
- With this, the total number of beneficiaries will come to **27 lakh**.
- From **April 2023** onwards, all the existing beneficiaries of the **Deen Dayal Divyangan Pension Yojana** and **Indira Miri Widow Pension Scheme** would be subsumed under Orunodoi 2.0.

### About Assam:

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## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

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

### Tramjatra event - 150 years of the Kolkata tram to be celebrated by users

- Kolkata will witness the Tramjatra event that will celebrate 150 years of its iconic tram and renew hope that this non-polluting mode of transport does not become entirely extinct in February 2023.

#### Objective:

- To educate people, particularly the younger generation, about climate change, air pollution, and sustainable development objectives with a focus on green mobility and Kolkata's tram legacy
- The theme of the 2023 Tramjatra will be Heritage, Clean Air, and Green Mobility

#### What is Tramjatra?

- Tramjatra (tram's journey) is a moving tram carnival that was started back in 1996 jointly by enthusiasts from Melbourne and Kolkata.
- It is essentially an international collaboration of tammies, artists, environmentalists, and tram-loving communities.
- At that time, Kolkata, the only Indian city where the tram still runs, was home to about two dozen routes.
- Currently, the number of routes that remain operational has shrunk to just two.
- It will also call upon the West Bengal government to preserve the historic mode of transport.

### Kerala registers Beypore Uru (boat) for GI tag

- The District Tourism Promotion Council, Kozhikode has applied for a Geographical Indication (GI) tag for the famous Beypore Uru (boat).
- The Beypore Uru is a symbol of Kerala's trade relations and friendship with the Gulf countries.

#### About Beypore Uru (boat):

- It is a wooden dhow (ship/sailing boat/sailing vessel) handcrafted by skilled artisans and carpenters in Beypore, Kerala.
- It is mainly made of Malabar teak, probably the biggest handicraft in the world.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- Beypore urus is purely made of wood, **without using any modern techniques**, and traditional methods are used to launch this ship into the water.
- The carpenters manually join each piece of wood to build the large boat.
- Uru making in Beypore is a centuries-old tradition that was established when India began its maritime trade with **Mesopotamia**.
- Beypore is a town located on the banks of the **Chaliyar River**.
- According to records, Uru ships have been in high demand for around 2,000 years.

### List of some items recently given Geographical Indication (GI) tag:

- Gamosa from Assam
- Tandoor Redgram from Telangana
- Raktse Carpo Apricot from Ladakh
- Alibaug White Onion from Maharashtra
- With this, the **total number of GI tags in India** has gone up to **432**.

### Top 5 states with maximum GI tags

1. Karnataka
2. Tamil Nadu
3. Kerala
4. Uttar Pradesh
5. Maharashtra

### Ladakh gets its first-ever GI Tag to its Raktsey Karpo Apricot

- The Union Government has granted the first-ever **Geographical Indication (GI) tag to Raktsey Karpo apricot of Ladakh**.
- The coveted GI tag certification for 20 years.
- Ladakh grows more than 30 types of Apricots, but the Raktsey Karpo variety is unique to the region.
- **Apricot is the major fruit of Ladakh** with large-scale cultivation in both Leh and Kargil Districts among the nine fruits grown in Ladakh.
- Apricot is also being promoted under One District One Product for Kargil.

### Key Highlights:

- **Raktsey Karpo apricots** are known for their pure organic sweetness.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- According to the Defence Institute of High Altitude Research (DIHAR), Raktsey Karpo's TSS (total soluble solids) at 37.9°Brix is the highest reported in the world in fresh apricots to date.
- TSS is one way of calculating sweetness, which is commonly used as a quality index in many types of fruit.
- A higher ratio is indicative of higher and more acceptable fruit quality.
- **“For Raktsey Karpo, the TSS to acid ratio was 33:1, which is significantly higher than the figures reported from other parts of the world.**

### About Geographical Indication Tag:

- A **Geographical Indication** is a sign used on products that have a **specific geographical origin and possess qualities or a reputation that are due to that origin.**
- Geographical indications are typically used for agricultural products, foodstuffs, wine and spirit drinks, handicrafts, and industrial products.
- The **GI of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999** seeks to provide for the registration and better protection of geographical indications relating to goods in India.
- This GI tag is valid for **10 years** following which it can be renewed

### Wayanad rice festival promotes climate-resilient crops

- The **Kerala-based Organisation named Thanal** in an experiment has planted 300 climate-resilient varieties of traditional rice on 1.5 acres of land at its agroecology center in Panavally in the **Wayanad district.**

### Aim:

- To sensitize people to the significance of conserving traditional crops that can withstand harsh climatic conditions.
- Thanal has been organizing annual **“rice field weeks” since 2012.**
- **Thanal also launched the Rice Diversity Block (RDB)** at Panavally under the Save Our Rice campaign in 2009, with a collection of 30 varieties of rice.

### Key Highlights:

- The **Thondy variety**, a traditional and popular rice among the people in Wayanad a few decades ago, could compete with any hybrid rice in terms of productivity.
- The festival also sets the stage for knowledge sharing and co-creation of knowledge between tribal farmers and experts.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- Most of the varieties were collected from Kerala, Karnataka, Assam, Tamil Nadu, Arunachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, and West Bengal.
- Many varieties are drought-resistant and flood-tolerant, while others have aromatic and medicinal properties.
- Black rice varieties are rich in minerals like zinc, iron, and other nutrients.
- India had nearly 1.5 lakh varieties of rice, with about 3,000 varieties unique to Kerala.

### Reliance Retail's unit launches FMCG brand 'Independence' in Gujarat

- Reliance Retail Ventures Limited's Fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) unit Reliance Consumer Products launched its indigenous consumer packaged goods brand, 'Independence' in Gujarat.
- The new launch has been introduced to consumers and kirana partners on the occasion of the centenary celebration of **Pramukh Swami Maharaj** at Akshardham in Ahmedabad.
- As per the company, Independence offers a wide range of products under several categories including staples, processed foods, and other daily essentials.
- The company plans to develop Gujarat as a “go-to-market” state to create excellence in execution for its FMCG business, as it prepares for a national rollout for the brand.

### About Gujarat:

- Governor: Acharya Devvrat
- Chief minister: Bhupendrabhai Patel
- Capital: Gandhinagar
- National Park: Gir National Park,
- Wildlife Sanctuary: Girnar Wildlife Sanctuary, Nal Sarovar Birds Sanctuary, Shoolpaneshwar Wildlife Sanctuary

### Tamil Nadu & Kerala are top beneficiaries of free health cover

- According to data, people from **Tamil Nadu** were the **biggest beneficiaries among 33 States and Union Territories (UT)** that have implemented the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY).
- **Till December 4, 2022**, about **8.4 million people** from the southern state, with an average per capita income of **Rs 2,41,131** (against the national average of Rs 149,848) have availed themselves of hospitalization benefits under the PM-JAY.
- Another **top beneficiary states** are **Kerala**, with about **4.6 million** availing of hospitalization benefits, followed by **Rajasthan (3.9 million)** and **Karnataka (3.5 million)**.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- As per the **socio-economic caste census (SECC) 2011**, currently, the **scheme covers the bottom 40% population** of the country, who are identified based on select deprivation and occupational criteria in rural and urban areas, respectively.

### About PM-JAY:

- Launched: 23 September 2018
- 41.8 million beneficiaries** across the country have **availed of free hospitalization benefits worth Rs 48,900 crore till November-end, 2022**.
- Under PM-JAY, a total of **1,949 procedures** are available for beneficiaries to get **cashless treatment** which includes all the costs related to treatment, medicines, supplies, diagnostic services, physician's fees, room charges, surgeon charges, OT & ICU charges, etc.
- The cost of PM-JAY, which **offers Rs 50,000 per year of free health cover** to **107 million households** in the country, is shared between the Centre and states in a **6:4 ratio**.

### TN introduces single window clearance system for green projects

- Tamil Nadu (TN) Chief Minister (CM) M K Stalin introduced a **single window system** to accord clearances to green projects to attain **1 Trillion economies by 2030**.
- The **Tamil Nadu Climate Change Mission** will coordinate initiatives such as '**meendum manjappai**', **e-buses, climate-smart villages, and green monument projects**.
- A **separate green corridor** will be created for **renewable energy** and the State is devising a **Repowering Policy** to promote wind energy.
- The CM further stated that **10 villages** have been **selected** for the **climate-smart villages project** and a **climate literacy initiative** will be taken up to create awareness about climate change among the people.
- Green Tamil Nadu Mission** will **increase the green cover** of the State as well as **help in carbon reduction**.

### 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



## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

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

### Tripura: Unakoti Seeks UNESCO World Heritage Tag

- Unakoti of Tripura has applied for a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) world heritage tag to preserve lakhs of Shaivite rock carvings, figures, and images of gods and goddesses.
- Unakoti is also known as 'Angkor Wat of the North-East'.

### What is Unakoti?

- Unakoti means 'one less one crore' in Hindi and Bengali.
- In the Kokborok language, it is called **Subrai Khung** and is the **central tourist spot** of the **Unakoti District**.
- The site displays almost the **same mystical charm** as the **Angkor Wat temple of Cambodia** & hence, it is called the **Angkor Wat of North-East**.
- Images found at Unakoti are of **two types- rock-carved figures** and stone images.
- Among rock-cut carvings- the **Central Shiva head** and **gigantic Ganesha figures** are noteworthy.
- **Central Shiva head** is known as '**Unakotiswara Kal Bhairava**' and is about **30 feet high** with an embroidered head-dress that is 10 feet high.
- On each side of the headdress, there are two female figures, one of **Durga** standing on a lion and another female figure on the other side.
- **3 images of Nandi Bull** are found **half buried in the ground**.

### About Tripura:

- Governor: Satyadev Narayan Arya
- Chief Minister: Manik Saha
- Capital: Agartala
- Tribes: Tripuri, Riang, Jamatia
- Festival: kharchi Puja, Garia Puja, Ker Puja, Bizu Festival, Tirtha Mukh Festival

### Madhya Pradesh government forms task force to recommend regulation of online gambling and gaming

- The **Madhya Pradesh government** has constituted a **high-level task force**, which will make **recommendations** about **regulating online gambling and gaming** in the state **after examining the technical and legal aspects**.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- The task force was constituted under the **chairmanship of the Additional Chief Secretary of the state home ministry.**
- The task force will also comprise other senior officials such as the **additional chief secretary of the home department, the principal secretary in the department of law and legislative affairs, and the director of public prosecution.**
- It has taken all these steps after the alleged **suicide of an 11-year-old boy while playing an online game.**

### Key Highlights:

- The panel will **examine technical and legal aspects** related to the **online gambling** and gaming industry and will, accordingly, suggest new changes.
- The task force will **submit the recommendations after examining** various **judicial precedents, legal situations, and technical aspects** to prevent online gambling and online gaming.
- Earlier, the **MP High Court directed** the **state government to work on curbing illegal gambling activities and regulating online gaming.**
- The government is also **considering forming a regulatory body to control online gaming.**

### About MP:

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

### Uttar Pradesh government signs MoU with Austin University for \$42 billion Knowledge Smart City in UP

- The **Uttar Pradesh (UP) Government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **United States (US)-based Austin University** for the **construction** of a smart city of knowledge.
- The Smart City of Knowledge will be built in the state at a **total cost of USD 42 billion.**
- To be built on **5,000 acres**, the Knowledge City will include the **best universities in the world.**

### Signatories:

- **Uttar Pradesh finance minister Suresh Khanna and additional chief secretary (Infrastructure and Industrial Development) Arvind Kumar** signed the MoU on behalf of the government.
- The MoU was signed during a state government delegation's visit to the United States as part of efforts to attract investment ahead of the **Uttar Pradesh Global Investors Summit-2023.**

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

### Key Highlights:

- The UP Chief Minister has set a goal of luring investments totalling ₹ 10 lakh crore through the **Global Investors Summit**, which will take place in the state capital, **Lucknow**, between **February 10 to 12, 2022**.
- At least **8 teams of ministers and government representatives** are travelling across 18 countries to attract investments through road shows and trade exhibits.
- Besides, **Star Consortium** will provide **data centre and logistics services** in the state whereas **SLG** will build a capital data centre.

### Other MoU:

- In **San Francisco**, a **US-based Saloni Heart Foundation** has inked a pact in the presence of **Minister Suresh Kumar Khanna** and **Additional Chief Secretary Arvind Kumar** of **Infrastructure and Industrial Development**
- **3 MoUs** were also signed with **Falcon X CEO Murali Chirala**, which includes establishing a centre in **Noida**.
- Along with this, **two investments of ₹20 crores** each will be made in **Uttar Pradesh**.

### Note:

- President of Austin University: **Ashraf Ali Mustafa**

### About UP:

- Governor: **Anandiben Patel**
- Chief Minister: **Yogi Adityanath**
- Capital: **Lucknow**
- National Park: **Dudhwa National Park**
- Wildlife Sanctuary: **Bakhira Wildlife Sanctuary, Chandraprabha Wildlife Sanctuary, Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar Bird wildlife Sanctuary**

### Tamil Nadu government makes Aadhaar a must for all of its schemes

- The **Tamil Nadu (TN) government** has announced that all those who are eligible for benefits (other than minor children) under various government **schemes** will have to **submit proof** of having an **Aadhaar** number or get an **Aadhaar identification**.

### Key Highlights:

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- As per the order, Aadhaar is **mandatory** for **government employees, government pensioners** and **beneficiaries of various schemes** implemented by the state government through various departments through their implementing agencies.
- The **Treasury and Accounts Department** through its **implementing agency** will provide **Aadhaar enrollment facilities** for those beneficiaries who are not yet enrolled.
- In case there is **no Aadhaar Enrollment Centre**, the Department will **provide enrollment facilities** at convenient locations through its implementing agency in coordination with the existing Registrar of UIDAI or by becoming the Registrar of UIDAI itself.
- The government has also announced a **remedial mechanism** in case **Aadhaar authentication fails** due to **bad biometrics** or any other reason.
- This will be done through **Aadhaar One Time Password (OTP)** or **time-based OTP with limited time validity**.

### 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

### The 63rd Session of the IHRC will be organized at Uttar Pradesh State Archives

- The **63rd Session** of the **Indian Historical Records Committee (IHRC)** was held at **Uttar Pradesh State Archives, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh (UP)**.
- It was **inaugurated** by **Daya Shankar Singh**, Minister of State (Independent Charge), Ministry of Transport, Government of Uttar Pradesh.
- **New Delhi** is the **Secretariat** of the Indian Historical Records Committee (re-designated Indian Historical Records Committee in 1911).

### Key Highlights:

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- The **two days Session** will comprise an **Inaugural and Business Session** on the first day and **Academic Session** on the next day.
- A total of **24 papers** based on the sources of post-1600 of Indian history will be presented by Scholars on various aspects of history.
- An exhibition entitled “**Saga of Freedom: Known and Lesser-Known Struggles**” based on the original archival sources from the collection of the **National Archives of India** during the session will also be inaugurated by the Hon’ble Minister.

### About IHRC:

- IHRC is an **all-India Forum of creators**, custodians, and users of records which was set up in **1919** to advise the Government of India on all issues connected with the management of records and their use for historical research.
- The IHRC is **headed** by the **Union Minister of Culture** and comprises **134 members** including agencies of the Government of India, nominees of the Government of India, and representatives from the State/UT Archives, Universities, and Learned Institutions.
- The IHRC has so far held **62 sessions**.
- The **Committee** has **two subsidiary bodies**,
  1. **Editorial Committee** to **examine** and **approve papers** based on archival sources for being presented at the Sessions of the Committees
  2. **Standing Committee** to **review** the **action** taken by the Committee on its recommendations and express its views on the agenda for the Committee’s meeting.
- **Secretary of, the Ministry of Culture** acts as the **Chairman of the Standing Committee of IHRC**.

### About the Ministry of Culture:

- Cabinet Minister: G. Kishan Reddy
- Minister of State: Meenakshi Lekhi

### About UP:

- Governor: Anandiben Patel
- Chief Minister: Yogi Adityanath
- Capital: Lucknow
- National Park: Dudhwa National Park

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- Wildlife Sanctuary: Bakhira Wildlife Sanctuary, Chandraprabha Wildlife Sanctuary, Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar Bird Wildlife Sanctuary

### Ladakh proposes 'Shukpa' as the State tree, 'Tsersnon' State flower

- The Ladakh administration has proposed Bhoti 'Shukpa' (*Juniperus polycarpos*) and Bhoti 'Tsersnon' (*Meconopsis aculeata*) as the state tree and state flower, respectively,
- Both are used as medicine in the Sow-Rigpa system.
- The proposed state tree and state flower for the union territory of Ladakh are placed in the public domain for suggestions and comments from experts and the general public by the committee constituted for the purpose.

### About Shukpa (*Juniperus polycarpos*):

- It is commonly known as 'Himalayan Pencil Cedar' or 'Turkistan Juniper' from the Cupressaceae family.
- It is locally known as 'Shukpa' by Buddhists and 'Chilgi' by the Brokpa tribes of Ladakh.
- It is used as raw material for aromatic incense preparation, timber in the construction of Buddhist monasteries, medicinal plants by local healers, fuel wood and fodder, making household articles, and for decoration of Lha-thos in Ladakh region.

### About Tsersnon (*Meconopsis aculeata*):

- It belongs to the 'Papaveraceae family also known as 'The Poppy family.'
- Commonly known as 'The Himalayan blue poppy' or 'poppy'.
- It is large, sky blue to purplish race Moseley arranged at the apex
- It is found in rock-crevices and amongst boulders in alpine zones, in all valleys at an altitude of 3000-4200m.

### About Ladakh:

- Lieutenant Governor: Radha Krishna Mathur
- Capitals: Leh, Kargil

### Odisha CM Launches 'Drink From Tap' Facility In 19 Cities & Towns

- Odisha Chief Minister Shri Naveen Patnaik launched the 'Drink From Tap' project in 19 cities and towns of Odisha.
- At least 5.55 lakh people in 19 cities and towns would benefit from the project.
- The project was launched in the places of Cuttack, Berhampur, Rourkela, Sundargarh, Biramitrapur, Rajgangpur, Keonjhar, and some parts of Bhubaneswar.



## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- Earlier, the facility was unveiled in **Puri** and **Gopalpur**.
- Under the project, **drinking water** will be **supplied** around the clock through **taps** installed in households.

### About Odisha:

- Governor: Ganeshi Lal
- Chief Minister: Naveen Patnaik
- Capital: Bhubaneswar
- National Park: Simlipal National Park, Bhitarkanika National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuary: Tikarpada Wildlife Sanctuary, Chilika Wildlife Sanctuary, Sunabeda Wildlife Sanctuary

### Assam CM inaugurates partial commissioning of JICA-assisted Guwahati Water Supply project

- Assam Chief Minister Shri Himanta Biswa Sarma inaugurated the partial commissioning of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)-Assisted Guwahati Water Supply Project at an event held on the premises of its water treatment plant at Kharghuli, Guwahati, Assam.

### Aim:

- To provide clean potable water to the residents of Guwahati, Assam.
- To provide water supply to more than a lakh households, all necessary steps are being taken to ensure the completion of the entire project by **March 2024**.

### About the Project:

- The project was launched in **2009**.
- It is scheduled to be ready for full commissioning by **March 2024**.
- It can cater to **1.25 lakh households** in parts of the city with a **24-hours water supply**.
- The partial commissioning would enable the **Guwahati Jal Board** to provide water to **approximately 13,000 households** in the city's multiple localities.
- The water supply project is not a project alone but symbolizes the relationship of **deep trust** and **mutual respect** between **India** and **Japan**.
- The India-Japan relationship completing **70 years** is a manifestation of that respect and mutual trust between the two nations.

### About Assam:

- Governor: Jagdish Mukhi
- Chief minister: Himanta Biswa Sarma
- Capital: Dispur

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- National Park: Kaziranga National Park, Manas National Park, Raimona National Park, Nameri National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Amsang Wildlife Sanctuary, Nambor Wildlife Sanctuary, Sonai Rupai Wildlife Sanctuary
- Airport: Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport, Dibrugarh Airport, Silchar Airport

### Kerala's first smart mobile composting unit inaugurated

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

### About Kerala:

- Governor: Arif Mohammad Khan
- Chief minister: Pinarayi Vijayan
- Capital: Thiruvananthapuram
- National Park: Eravikulam National Park, Silent Valley National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary, Kumarakom Bird Sanctuary, Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary, Idukki Wildlife Sanctuary

### J&K approves rehabilitation policy for Children in Street Situation

- The Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) Administrative Council which met under the chairmanship of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, accorded its approval to the Rehabilitation Policy for Children in Street Situation (CiSS) to safeguard them from different hazards.

### Key Highlights:

- According to the Juvenile Justice Act, children in Street Situations (CiSS) fall under the category of children in need of care and protection.
- The act empowers governments to frame a policy for the rehabilitation of such children in distress.
- Earlier, the Social Welfare department had conducted an exercise and identified 687 such children.
- A committee headed by the chief secretary will monitor and review its implementation.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- The Health, School Education, Housing and Urban Development, Rural Development, Home, Labour and Employment departments have been assigned specific roles and responsibilities to implement the policy.
- The Social welfare Department will be responsible for the regular monitoring of the implementation of the policy to protect and safeguard the future of all such children in J&K.

### About J&K:

- Lieutenant Governor: Manoj Sinha
- Capital: Srinagar, Jammu
- National Park: Dachigam National Park, Kazinag National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Rajparian (Daksum) Wildlife Sanctuary, Gulmarg Wildlife Sanctuary, Ramnagar Wildlife Sanctuary

### Meghalaya awarded for TB control programme

- The Meghalaya administration, which has launched a 'Jan andolan' (people's movement) against Tuberculosis, was honoured for using the best practices to combat the illness that affects nearly 2.6 million citizens annually in India.
- The award for Best Practice in Advocacy, Communication and Social Mobilisation in Tuberculosis Control was presented to representatives of the health department at a national workshop, in New Delhi, aimed at ending TB infections.

### Key Highlights:

- The state registered 4,189 TB cases in 2021 while in the first quarter of 2022, around 1,075 patients have been enrolled for treatment.
- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi had set a national target to eliminate the disease, which affects more than 26 lakh Indians each year, by 2025, 5 years ahead of the WHO's Sustainable Development Goals.
- A National Strategic Plan for TB Elimination (2017-25) has also been launched reorienting the programme's focus to ensure greater community engagement.
- The TB Mukht Bharat campaign, or 'Jan Andolan' to build greater awareness, remove the stigma and generate demand for services is running smoothly across the state.

### About Meghalaya:

- Governor: B. D. Mishra
- Chief Minister: Conrad Sangma
- Capital: Shillong

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- National Park: Nokrek National Park, Balpakram National Park, Baghmara Reserve Forest
- Wildlife Sanctuary: Siju Bird Sanctuary, Nongkhylllem Wildlife Sanctuary

### Kerala set to host first International Beach Festival

- The Government of Kerala will host the Bekal International Beach Festival at the Spice Coast, in the far north of Kerala, better known as North Malabar.
- Chief Minister Shri Pinarayi Vijayan will inaugurate the 10-day first international beach festival.
- The event would conclude on January 2, 2023.
- The festival is organised by Bekal Resorts Development Corporation (BRDC) in association with the District Tourism Promotion Council, Kudumbashree, Asmi Holidays, and the local self-government bodies in the district.
- This will be an annual festival celebrating the cultural heritage and natural beauty of Kasaragod, and Bekal will be its permanent venue.

### About the Festival:

- The festival captures the wholeness and the essence of the district's cultural and artistic uniqueness and displays the rich cultural diversity and grandeur of the country, at the majestic Bekal Beach Park.
- Around 5 lakh people from across the globe are set to revel at the festival.
- The festival will be staged at the three venues of Chandragiri, Thejaswini, and Payaswini.
- It would reflect a cross-section of the culture and the unique identity of the land.
- A special tour package named 'Yathrashree' is made available for tourists through Kudumbasree to explore exotic tourist destinations in the Kasargod district.

### About Kerala:

- Governor: Arif Mohammad Khan
- Chief minister: Pinarayi Vijayan
- Capital: Thiruvananthapuram
- National Park: Eravikulam National Park, Silent Valley National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary, Kumarakom Bird Sanctuary, Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary, Idukki Wildlife Sanctuary

### Ladakh celebrates Losar Festival to mark Ladakhi New Year

- Ladakh, Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) celebrated the Losar Festival to mark the Ladakhi New Year.
- The Festival is a major socio-religious festival of Ladakh celebrated during winter.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

### About the Losar Festival:

- Losar Festival is a **15-day long festival**.
- The term Losar means New Year in the **Tibetan Language**, **Lo** means **year** & **Sar** means **new**.
- For the **next 9 days** from **January 1, 2023** people **dance and sing** in honour of **Ibex** and **travel to Mount Kailash**.

### Other Famous Festivals in Ladakh:

- Hemis Tsechu - Late June and early July
- Sindhu Darshan Festival - June
- Saka Dawa Festival - June

### Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma launches projects worth Rs 973 cr in Dibrugarh

- **Assam Chief Minister Shri Himanta Biswa Sarma** laid the **foundation stones** and **inaugurated projects worth Rs 973.38 crore** for **Dibrugarh district, Assam**.
- For the development of Dibrugarh, the CM announced that **strengthening and improvement** of the **river bank of Buridihing** at an estimated cost of **Rs 250 crore** will be taken up.
- The CM attended the last program of the **first phase** of '**Bikakhor Babe Eta Pokhek**' (a fortnight for **development initiatives**) at **Tingkhong** in **Dibrugarh, Assam**.

### Key Highlights:

- The government plans to set up a **zoo** at **Tingkhong** in the district and the **Ahom ritual** of offering obeisance to **Me-Dam-Me-Phi** will be celebrated at historic **Tipam**
- He laid the **foundation stones** for **setting up mini stadia** at **four places**, a rural sports complex at **Abhoipur** at **Moran**, the upgradation of government ITIs at **Dibrugarh** and **Lahowal** as well as **Dibrugarh Government Polytechnic** located at **Lahowal** among several other projects in the district.
- The projects inaugurated by the chief minister include **Government Dental College** in **Dibrugarh**, a **PWD bungalow** at **Tingkhong**, **24 piped water supply schemes** under the **Jal Jeevan Mission**, and a **project facilitation centre** of the **Water Resources department**.
- He also informed us that the **road from Moran to Digboi** passing through **Naharkatia** will be upgraded to a **double-lane road** to give a **major boost** to **road connectivity** in the area.

### About Assam:

- Governor: **Jagdish Mukhi**
- Chief Minister: **Himanta Biswa Sarma**

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- Capital: Dispur
- National Park: Kaziranga National Park, Manas National Park, Dibru - Saikhowa National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuary: Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary, Laokhowa Wildlife Sanctuary

### GI Tag for Joynagar Moa - Extended For 10 years

- The geographical indication (GI) tag for Joynagar Moa (the popular West Bengal sweet) has been extended for 10 years.
- This variety of Moa originated in Jaynagar of the South 24 Parganas district in the Indian state of West Bengal.

### About Joynagar Moa:

- The moa is a popped rice (Khoi) ball held together with fresh date-palm jaggery, extracted only in the winter.
- The popped rice is mixed with jaggery, sugar, cashew nuts, and raisins.
- It has a short shelf life, lasting not more than five days without refrigeration.
- The sweet's history dates back to 1904 & its manufacture is synonymous with Joynagar, a settlement on the outskirts of Kolkata.
- The high perishability has prevented it from being shipped abroad all these decades, and its export began, on a very small scale, only in 2020.
- Jaynagarer Moa was given a Geographical Indication tag in 2015 which will enable the product to be protected from unauthorized uses and piracy.

### About GI:

- A GI is a sign used on products that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities or a reputation that are due to that origin.

The tag is issued by the Geographical Indication Registry under the Department of Industry Promotion and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

- The GI tag stands valid for 10 years.

### 10th Edition of the North East Festival begins at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in New Delhi

- The 10th Edition of the North East Festival 2022 began at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in New Delhi, Delhi.

### Aim:

- To promote the diverse life, culture, traditions and tourism of the North East region.

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## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- Union Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Shri Narayan Rane inaugurated the 4-day Festival.
- Director General, Tourism, Government of India, Shri GK Vardhana Rao will grace the occasion.
- The first 7 editions were organised from 2013 to 2019 respectively at Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts (IGNCA), Janpath, New Delhi, Delhi.
- The last 2 editions were held in Guwahati, Assam in a hybrid model, due to the spike in COVID cases in Delhi.
- Since its inception in 2013, this festival has contributed a lot to promoting tourism in the North Eastern states.

### About North East Festival 2022:

- The 2022 edition will host colourful dance dramas, musical performances, fashion shows, open-mic sessions, interactive sessions, and art and photography exhibitions.
- The festival will provide an opportunity for entrepreneurs from North East regions especially women and Scheduled Caste & Scheduled Tribes SC/ST entrepreneurs to showcase their skills, and products and create new growth opportunities.

### About Delhi:

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

### Home Ministry gives NOC for the name change of 2 places in Uttar Pradesh

- The Union Home Ministry has given its consent to change the names of two places in Uttar Pradesh (UP) following recommendations from the UP government.
- The 'no-objection' certificates were issued by the ministry for changing the name of the municipal council 'Mundera Bazaar' in Gorakhpur district to 'Chauri-Chaura' and that of 'Telia Afghan' village in Deoria district to 'Telia Shukla'.
- It gives a 'no-objection' certificate to change the name of any place after taking consent from the Ministry of Railways, Department of Posts and the Survey of India.
- For changing the name of a village, town or city, an executive order is needed.
- Renaming a state requires an amendment of the Constitution with a simple majority in Parliament.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

### Uttarakhand CM launches SBI Foundation and HESCO's Project

- The Chief Minister (CM) of Uttarakhand Pushkar Singh Dhami launched the Climate Resilient Livelihoods for Disaster Prone Region of Uttarakhand project.

#### Aim:

- To promote equitable economic and ecological development in 10 disaster-prone villages in the Joshimath Block of Chamoli District, Uttarakhand.

#### About the Project:

- The project aims to achieve this crucial balance by promoting diversified livelihoods, including horticulture, ecotourism, biofarming, agriculture, and environmental protection measures.
- The project is receiving funding support from SBI General Insurance Company Limited and will be implemented over a period of 3 years, until May 2025.

#### Additional Info:

- National parks in Uttarakhand include the Corbett National Park (the first national park of India) at Ramnagar in Nainital District, and Valley of Flowers National Park and Nanda Devi National Park in Chamoli District, which together are a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

#### About Uttarakhand:

- Governor: Gurmit Singh
- Chief Minister: Pushkar Singh Dhami
- Capital: Gairsain (summer), Dehradun (winter)
- National Park: Rajaji National Park, Gangotri National Park,
- Wildlife Sanctuary: Kedarnath Wildlife Sanctuary, Binsar Wildlife Sanctuary

### Jammu and Kashmir Tourist Department Organises Nowshera Folk Festival in Rajouri

- The Directorate of Tourism Jammu & Kashmir (J&K), in collaboration with District Administration Rajouri, organised the 'Nowshera Folk Festival' in Rajouri's Nowshera, J&K.
- The event was inaugurated by Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Vikas Kundal along with DDC Chairperson Naseem Liaquat Choudhury.
- About 2500 people participated in the grand cultural event.
- The event also appreciated the display of local art, handloom, and handicraft products along with a display of mannequins in Pahari and Gojri attire.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- Additional Deputy Commissioner **Nowshera Kartar Singh**, Assistant Director Tourism Rajouri, **Ambika Bali**; BDO Nowshera, Khalil Rehman and SDPO Nowshera Adil Ahmed flagged off a '**Heritage Tour Bus**' from Dak Bunglow Nowshera.

### 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

### Tamil Nadu govt launches 'Friends of Library' program to promote reading

- The school education minister of Tamil Nadu (TN) **Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozhi**, has launched the "**Friends of Library**" program, through which **books** would be **directly supplied** to those who are **unable to access state-run libraries**.

### About the Friends of Library program:

- The project will be **helpful to people with differently-abled persons, senior citizens, children, and hospital in-patients** among others who cannot come to a library will benefit from the initiative.
- Volunteers will hand over the books to such people from the libraries.
- The program will involve **2,500 libraries** in its **initial phase**, including 31 district libraries.
- A **knowledge-based society** was to be promoted as a result of this program.

### 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

### UP govt launches E-Sushrut Hospital Management Info System in medical colleges

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- Uttar Pradesh (UP) Deputy chief minister Shri Brijesh Pathak and Mayankeshwar Sharan Singh launched E-Sushrut Hospital Management Information System (HMIS) in 22 state medical colleges.
- The initiative was launched by the state medical education department in collaboration with the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (CDAC).

### Aim:

- To provide better treatment facilities to patients.

### About E-Sushrut HMIS software:

- With this software patient registration, admission, discharge, ambulance, food, medicines, and details of doctors will be done online.
- Through this system, the availability of doctors in the hospital can also be easily ascertained and patients will be able to pay the fee through online and net banking.
- It will ensure that all work related to the treatment of patients can be done easily and transparently.
- HMIS has been implemented in Gorakhpur, Jhansi, Kanpur, Prayagraj, Agra, Meerut, King George Medical University, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh University of Medical Science Saifai, GIMS Greater Noida, Lohia Institute, Sanjay Gandhi PGI, and Mirzapur Medical College.
- The software will have Records of facilities like ambulance, bed allotment, linen, food, etc to maintain transparency.

### About UP:

- Governor: Anandiben Patel
- Chief Minister: Yogi Adityanath
- Capital: Lucknow
- National Park: Dudhwa National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuary: Chandra Prabha Wildlife Sanctuary, Hastinapur WS, Katarniaghat WS
- Tiger Reserve: Pilibhit Tiger Reserve
- Airport: Chaudhary Charan Singh International Airport, Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport

### Dhanu Yatra' Begins In Odisha's Bargarh

- The 'Dhanu Yatra' festival, considered to be the world's largest open-air theatre, began after a gap of two years, in Bargarh in Odisha.
- The vibrant Dhanu Yatra is associated with the culture of Odisha.
- The Festival is being held from December 27, 2022, to Jan 6, 2023.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- Several artists from **130 cultural troupes** from across the country are scheduled to perform during the festival.

### About the 'Dhanu Yatra' festival:

- Dhanu Yatra, the **11-day-long annual extravaganza** places Bargarh on the Cultural Map of India.
- The festival marks the victory of good over evil, came into existence in Bargarh in **1947-48** as part of the celebration of the country's Independence, and is held annually.
- Dhanu yatra was held **last time** from **December 31, 2019, to January 10, 2020**.

### Odisha Cabinet approves Rs 367 crores for 'empowerment of women in agriculture

- The Odisha Cabinet headed by Chief Minister (CM) Shri Naveen Patnaik approved the provision of **Rs 367.19 crores** for **5 years** from **2022-23 to 2026-27** for implementation of the **State Sector Scheme "empowerment of women in agriculture-promotion of entrepreneurship for Women Self Help Group (WSHG)**.

### Objective:

- To **double the mushroom production** across the State through area expansion involving women beneficiaries/WSHGs and to make the state **self-sufficient** in the **production of button mushrooms and loose flowers**.
- The scheme will **ensure sustainable income generation** of women beneficiaries/WSHGs & the state shall emerge as the net exporter of mushrooms and **high-value flowers** over the mission period.
- Also, the Odisha Cabinet has approved the provision of **Rs 1142.24 crore** for **4 years** from **2022-23 to 2025-26** for implementation Of the **State Sector Scheme- "Development of Potato, Vegetable, and Spices"** with the involvement of **WSHGs and Farmers Producer Organizations (FPOs)**.

### Objective:

- To **provide financial assistance** to the farmers for the **cultivation of Potato, Onions, Hybrid vegetables, and Spices** to make the State self-sufficient in the production of **5 vegetables (Potato, Onion, Tomato, Cauliflower & Cabbage)** along with an **increase** in area and production under spices

### About Odisha:

- Governor: Ganeshi Lal
- Chief minister: Naveen Patnaik
- Capital: Bhubaneswar
- National Park: Simlipal National Park, Bhitarkanika National Park

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Tikarpada Wildlife Sanctuary, Chilika Wildlife Sanctuary, Sunabeda Wildlife Sanctuary, Kotagarh Wildlife Sanctuary
- Dance: Ghumura Dance, Ranapa Dance
- Tribes: Bagata, Banjara, Munda

### TN government sets up Nilgiri Tahr conservation project

- The Tamil Nadu (TN) government launched India's first Nilgiri Tahr (locally known as **Varaiaadu**) project to conserve the State animal of Tamil Nadu will be taken up for **₹25.14 crores**.
- The project would be implemented for 5 years from **2022-2027**.
- In the **2022-2023 TN Budget**, the Finance Minister announced in the Assembly that for the conservation of Tamil Nadu's State animal, expansion of its habitat and to spread awareness among the public, the government will implement the project the Nilgiri Tahr with an **initial allocation of ₹10 crores**.

### About the Project:

- The project will have **9 components**, including **bi-annual synchronized surveys** across the division, **diagnosis, and treatment for affected individuals**, and the **Shola grassland restoration pilot** in Upper Bhavani.

### About Nilgiri Tahr (*Nilgiritragus hylocrius*):

- The Nilgiri Tahr is the **only mountain ungulate** in Southern India among the 12 species present in India.
- As per a **Worldwide Fund for Nature Report 2015**, there are **3,122 Tahrs** in the wild.
- The tahr has been an endangered species and protected under **schedule-I** of the **Wildlife (Protection) Act of India, 1972**.
- It is **endemic** to the **Western Ghats**

### 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



## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- Biosphere Reserve: Agasthyamalai Biosphere Reserve

### Tata Power Renewable Energy to set up 255 MW hybrid power project in Karnataka

- Tata Power Renewable Energy (TPREL), a subsidiary of Tata Power, has received the “letter of the award” (LoA) from Tata Power Delhi Distribution Ltd, a joint venture of Tata Power and the National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi, for setting up a 255 megawatt (MW) hybrid (wind and solar) power project in Karnataka.

### Key Highlights:

- The project will be commissioned **within 24 months** from the PPA execution date.
- The letter was awarded through an **e-reverse auction**.
- The power generated from the project will be supplied to Tata Power- DDL, which supplies electricity to a populace of over **7 million** in North Delhi.
- The letter indicates the **current capacity bifurcation** as **85 MW solar** and **170 MW wind power** with the green-shoe option of additional capacity of 85 MW solar and 170 MW wind.
- With this win, the **total renewables capacity** of TPREL reaches **6,048 MW** with an **installed capacity** of **3,884 MW (Solar - 2,956 MW & Wind - 928 MW)** and **2,164 MW** under various stages of implementation.

### About Karnataka:

- Governor: Thawar Chand Gehlot
- Chief Minister: Basavaraj Bommai
- Capital: Bengaluru
- National Park: Bandipur NP, Kudremukh NP, Bannerghatta NP, Rajiv Gandhi NP
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: B R Hills Wildlife Sanctuary, Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary, Gudavi Bird Sanctuary, Bhadra Wildlife Sanctuary
- Tiger Reserve: Nagarhole Tiger Reserve, Bhadra Tiger Reserve
- Festival: Hampi, Mahamastakabhisheka (Shravanabelagola)
- Dance: Yakshagana, Dollu Kunitha, Bolak-aat (Bolak Dance)

### Home Minister Amit Shah launches mobile App ‘Prahari’ and manual of Border Security Force:

- The Border Security Force's (BSF) mobile app, Prahari, was introduced by Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi.
- Among the dignitaries in attendance were Nityanand Rai, the Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, and Pankaj Kumar Singh, the Director General of the BSF.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

### The Prahari app's utility

- According to **Amit Shah**, the **BSF "Prahari"** app is an excellent illustration of proactive governance.
- Jawans can now access personal information, information about lodging, Ayushman-CAPF, and information about leaves on their mobile devices.
- All of this information, including GPF, Bio Data, grievance redressal through the **Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System" (CP-GRAMS)**, and details on various welfare programs, is now available to Jawans via an app that also connects them to the Ministry of Home Affairs' portal.
- The recovered drones from Pakistan have been thoroughly mapped for their connections and positions across the border using a **"BSF Drone/UAV and Cyber Forensic Lab"** that has been established in **Noida, Uttar Pradesh**, according to the Union Home Minister.

### IMPORTANT NATIONAL NEWS

#### The Ministry of Power has launched a five-year procurement scheme for 4500 MW of aggregate power:

- A program for the **Ministry of Power's SHAKTI Policy** has been initiated to acquire a total of **4500 MW of power over five years**.
- The scheme, according to the Ministry, will aid states that are experiencing a lack of electricity and assist generation facilities in expanding their capacities.
- The **deadline for submitting a bid is December 21st**.
- The **B(v) of the SHAKTI scheme** is being used for the **first time to conduct bidding**.
- The nodal agency has been named **PFC Consulting Limited**.
- For the **delivery of 4,500 MW of electricity**, it has requested bids.
- The supply will **start in April** of the following year.
- **Gujarat Urja Vikas Nigam Ltd, Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Company Ltd, Madhya Pradesh Power Management Company Ltd, New Delhi Municipal Corporation, and Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation Ltd** are the utilities that have expressed interest in the program.

#### About the SHAKTI scheme:

- **Scheme for Harnessing and Allocating Koyala Transparently in India, or SHAKTI**, was introduced in 2018 to deliver coal to overworked power plants that are short on coal.
- States that are experiencing a lack of electricity are projected to benefit from this initiative, which will also aid in the capacity expansion of generation facilities.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- On October 25, 2022, the Ministry of Power published the guidelines for purchasing electricity on a **finance, own, and operate (FOO)** basis under SHAKTI Policy Paragraph B(v).
- On May 11, 2022, the technique for allocating coal by the terms of SHAKTI policy Paragraph B (v) was released.

### The NITI Aayog has released a study report titled "Carbon Capture to Achieve Net Zero Emission Target by 2070."

- 'Carbon Capture, Utilization, and Storage Policy Framework and its Deployment Mechanism in India' is the title of a study report that was published.
- The importance of carbon capture, use, and storage as a method for reducing emissions and achieving deep decarbonization from challenging industries is examined in the paper.
- The paper describes the broad-scale policy changes required across numerous sectors for its deployment.
- India has updated its **NDC targets to achieve 50% of total installed capacity** from non-fossil-based energy sources **by 2030, a 45% reduction in emission intensity by 2030, and Net Zero by 2070**, and the role of **Carbon Capture, Utilization, and Storage (CCUS)** becomes important as a reduction strategy to achieve **decarbonization from the difficult-to-abate sectors**.
- CCUS can enable the development of clean products while still utilizing our abundant coal resources, hence lowering imports and contributing to an Atmanirbhar Indian economy."
- **Suman Bery, Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog**, stated **Implementing CCUS technology** would undoubtedly be a significant step toward decarbonizing the difficult-to-abate sector.
- CCUS projects will also result in major job creation.
- It is **estimated that 750 mtpa of carbon capture by 2050** will generate **8-10 million full-time equivalent (FTE)** job opportunities in a phased way.
- India's reliance on fossil-based energy resources is anticipated to persist in the future; so, a CCUS strategy in the Indian context is required.

### Union Minister R.K Singh launched the 'Doctor Apke Dwar' Mobile Health Clinics:

- Union Minister of Power and New and Renewable Energy, **R.K. Singh**, launched **REC's CSR effort** for the procurement, operation, and maintenance of **ten 'Doctor Apke Dwar' Mobile Health Clinics (MHC)** at **Sadar Hospital, Aarah, Bhojpur District, Bihar**.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- The initiative intends to reduce operational costs for three years to ensure seamless operation. The project's entire cost is Rs. 12.68 crores.
- The goal of 10 Mobile Health Clinics (MHC) is to deliver primary health care to the poor population in all 14 blocks of Bihar's Bhojpur district.
- MHCs will be outfitted with additional basic equipment and staffed by a four-person team consisting of a doctor, a nurse, a pharmacist, and a driver/support staff.
- Patients will also receive free generic medications.
- Each MHC will have over 20 camps every month and see 50-70 patients per day.

### Animal Quarantine Certification Services Launched in Bengaluru:

- The Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying held Animal Quarantine Certification Services in Bengaluru as part of the National Milk Day celebrations.
- The Department of Animal Husbandry, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying commemorated National Milk Day.
- As part of the celebrations in Hasserghata Bengaluru, the Department launched Animal Quarantine Certification Services.
- Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Balyan, Minister of State in Finance, Fisheries, and Animal Husbandry, Government of India, inaugurated the station on National Milk Day in the presence of the Secretary, Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying.
- AQCS, Bangalore was established in August 2009, and it operates from the airport satellite office at Alpha 3, Kempegowda International Airport in Bengaluru.
- The station's duty has expanded significantly, and the movement of livestock and livestock products has increased dramatically.
- In the absence of a quarantine facility, the import of live animals such as horses, cattle, sheep, goats, and so on was prohibited in Bengaluru.
- This station will make it easier for regions of the country, particularly the southern states, to import and export animals and livestock goods, thereby increasing trade.

### Yak has been approved as a 'food animal' by the FSSAI:

- The Food Safety and Standard Authority of India (FSSAI) has recognized the Himalayan Yak as a "food animal"

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- According to an official at the **National Research Centre (NRC) on Yak** in Dirang, West Kameng district, **Arunachal Pradesh**, the move is likely to help stem the decrease of the high-altitude bovine animal population by merging it into the mainstream milk and meat businesses.
- The **'food animal' tag will become official once approved by a competent authority and published in the gazette.**
- The FSSAI's designation of the Yak as a food-producing animal will assist farmers in reaping financial benefits from rearing the animal and will open up numerous avenues of economic benefit for both farmers and food processors.
- Yaks have traditionally been raised through a rudimentary, unstructured, and difficult transhumance system.
- It is commonly expected that the FSSAI's classification of the yak as a food animal will clear the way for commercial rearing and consumption of the yak using the **NRC-Yak yak-rearing methodology.**

### India's assumption of the G-20 Presidency was marked by the illumination of 100 National Monuments:

- The **G-20 presidency will officially transition to India** on December 1, 2022.
- The anniversary will be marked by several activities happening all around the nation, including the **illumination of 100 monuments with the G-20 insignia.**
- **One Earth, One Family, One Future** is the focus of India's G-20 Presidency.
- The topic upholds the importance of all life—**human, animal, plant, and microorganism**—as well as the interdependence of these species both on Earth and in the larger cosmos.
- The brilliant colours of India's national flag served as inspiration for the design.
- It contrasts Earth with the lotus flower, which is the national flower of India and symbolizes progress despite obstacles.
- The earth represents **India's pro-planet philosophy of living in perfect harmony with the environment.**
- India will take centre stage in the world, which is a significant opportunity for the nation.
- About 200 meetings in 32 different sectors will be held by India in various cities all over the nation during its Presidency.
- From December 1 to December 7, 2022, 100 monuments, including **UNESCO World Heritage Sites**, will be illuminated with the G-20 insignia for seven days.
- In addition to **Sher Shah Suri's Tomb** in Bihar and **Modhera Sun Temple** in Gujarat, the list of 100 locations that will be illuminated also includes **Purana Quila** and **Humayun's Tomb** in Delhi.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- 19 nations make up the Group of Twenty (G-20).
- Along with the European Union, the G-20 consists of Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

### India's First Debt Collection Innovation Lab is Unveiled by Spocto:

- The first Innovation Lab (SIL) in India, focused on the debt collection sector of the banking sectors in India and the Middle East, was opened with the help of the world's top full-stack debt assistance and risk mitigation platform.
- To gain a deeper understanding of the NPA situation and possible technological solutions, SIL will collaborate with a variety of bank stakeholders.
- By utilizing technology that offers hyper-personalization and data-driven solutions to enhance repayments, Spocto will also advance digitalization in the ecosystem of the collection.
- The concepts will be refined in collaboration with a "borrower" focus group made up of people from diverse racial and socioeconomic groups.
- By incorporating feedback from both the borrower and lender sectors, SIL is expected to help spocto reduce the default rate by 10% by 2025.
- SIL aims to accelerate the development of disruptive technologies like AI/ML, big data, data security, and so on that preparedness.
- SIL is collaborating with each member of the collecting ecosystem to adopt a digital-first strategy to prepare for the future.

### New Delhi hosts an international conference on "J C Bose: A Satyagrahi Scientist":

- The government of India's Ministry of Culture and Vijnana Bharati organized an "International conference on the contributions of J C Bose: A Satyagrahi Scientist" at the Inter-University Accelerator Center in New Delhi on the occasion of the 164th anniversary of the birth of eminent Indian scientist Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsava.
- Bama Sundari Bose and Bhagawan Chandra's Bengali child was born on November 30, 1858.
- He developed the crescograph, a tool for gauging plant growth while working as a plant physiologist and physicist.
- He presented evidence of plants' emotions for the first time.



## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- Response in the Living and Non-Living (1902) and The Nervous Mechanism of Plants are two of his publications (1926).

### Dhaka celebrates the 51st Maitri Diwas, which marks India's recognition of Bangladesh:

- On December 6, Dhaka commemorated the 51st anniversary of "Maitri Diwas," which commemorates India's recognition of Bangladesh in 1971.
- The event was hosted by the Indian High Commission in Dhaka and featured participation from liberation war fighters, lawmakers, civil society leaders, media, dignitaries, and other notable individuals.
- A.K.M. Mozammel Haque, the Minister for Liberation War Affairs of Bangladesh, attended as the event's chief guest.
- On December 16, the Pakistani forces led by Lieutenant General Niazi surrendered to a joint force of the Indian Army led by Lieutenant General Jagjit Singh Arora and Mukti Bahini, liberating Bangladesh, formerly known as East Pakistan (Bangladeshi freedom fighters).
- On the 16–17th of December 1971, 93,000 Pakistani soldiers were disarmed in Bangladesh. After the Second World War, it was the biggest war surrender ever.

### Researchers at IIT Madras create the "Sindhuja-I" ocean wave energy converter:

- Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) have created an "Ocean Wave Energy Converter" that can produce power from waves in the ocean.
- The second week of November 2022 saw the successful conclusion of this device's trials.
- The item is known as "Sindhuja-I," which translates to "produced from the ocean."
- A floating buoy, a spar, and an electrical module make up the system.
- The wave and the buoy both oscillate up and down.
- In the current design, a long rod known as a spar can pass through the center of a system that resembles a balloon and is referred to as a "buoy."
- India's 7,500 km of coastline, which can generate 54 GW of electricity, can meet a significant portion of the nation's energy needs.
- Tidal, wave and ocean thermal energy are all stored in seawater. India has the potential to harness 40 GW of wave energy.
- The Device was placed at a depth of 20 meters around 6 kilometers off the coast of Tuticorin, Tamil Nadu.
- Within the next three years, this system hopes to produce 1 MW of electricity from ocean waves.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- The accomplishment of various goals, including the UN Ocean decade and sustainable development goals, will be made possible by the success of this project.
- India has set targets for developing a blue economy, deep-water missions, and sustainable energy.
- It might assist India in achieving its target to produce 500 GW of renewable electricity by 2030 in response to climate change.

### The production of coal in India increased by 11.66% in November:

- The total amount of coal produced in India increased by 11.66% from 67.94 million tonnes in November 2021 to 75.87 million tonnes in November 2022.
- According to data from the coal ministry, Coal India Ltd. (CIL) experienced an increase in November 2022 of 12.82%, while Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) and other captive mines experienced growth of 7.84% and 6.87%, respectively.
- Out of the top 37 coal mines, 24 mines produced more than 100% of the total output, and five mines produced between 80% and 100% of the total output.
- In November, the dispatch of power utilities grew by 3.55 percent to 62.34 million tonnes from 60.20 million tonnes during the same month last year.
- Raosaheb Danve Patil, the Union Minister of State for Coal, stated that India intends to boost its yearly coal production to 1.5 billion tonnes by 2030 to fulfill its rising fuel demand.
- Our overall dispatch for 2013–14 was 572 million tons, 817 million tons last year, and 900 million tons this year.
- Despite this, local production would not be able to meet the entire demand for coal, according to the minister.

### Goa hosts the 9th World Ayurveda Congress and Arogya Expo 2022:

- The World Ayurveda Congress & Arogya Expo 2022 will take place in Goa from December 8–11 to give industry leaders, practitioners, traditional healers, educators, students, medicine manufacturers, etc. a global platform for networking and intellectual exchange to strengthen the Ayurveda sector, envision its future, and facilitate interaction between experts and customers to increase Ayurveda commerce.
- This year's 9th World Ayurveda Congress (WAC) has the subject "Ayurveda For One Health."
- The third edition of the 'Ayushman comic book series was also released at the event.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) and Rosenberg's European Academy of Ayurveda, Germany, to allow advanced studies in traditional Indian medicinal systems.
- The All India Institute of Ayurveda's proposed satellite centre in Goa would enhance Ayurvedic tourism in the state.
- Goan students would be given a 50% discount on admission to several courses at the institute.

### India's First Drone Training Conference Was Launched by Anurag Thakur:

- Information and Broadcasting Minister **Anurag Singh Thakur** launched **India's first Drone Skilling and Training Virtual E-Learning Platform** at the **Chennai manufacturing site of Garuda Aerospace**, an Indian business that uses agri-drones to empower and mobilize farmers throughout the country.
- The Minister also launched **Garuda Aerospace's drone yatra, "Operation 777,"** which will go to **777 districts in India** to raise awareness of and show the value of drones for various agricultural applications.
- The **first of 1,000 planned Drone Centers of Excellence** was also inaugurated by the I&B Minister at the company's manufacturing facility in Chennai, which is also the biggest in India.
- After a brief crash course, he also practised flying a drone to obtain practical knowledge and grasp functioning and technology.
- According to **Garuda Aerospace's founder and CEO, Agnishwar Jayaprakash**, the company is dedicated to building an ecosystem of knowledge about drones and how they might affect India's agricultural industry, with the inclusion of farmers at its centre.
- Jayaprakash placed focus on establishing a system wherein farmers can be counselled on how better to undertake farming in a smart and precise method in terms of yield productivity.
- The goal is to develop deep tech data analysis, where we can deliver Agri advice services back to the farmers.

### 13th Installment of PM Kisan Status 2022 is forthcoming:

- **PM Kisan Status 2022:** On **December 20, 2022**, Prime Minister **Shri Narendra Modi** may introduce **PM Kisan.gov.in** for the **13th Installment Payment**.
- **PM Kisan's 13th instalment date is 2022.**
- The Indian government will transfer the 13th instalment of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana into the bank accounts of registered farmers before December 2022.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- Learn how to complete the **E-KYC process**, check the status of the **PM-Kisan Yojana's 13th instalment online**, and when the 13th instalment of the PM Kisan Yojana is due in 2022.
- The **Central Government of India will deposit a total of 2,000 rupees into each beneficiary's account from December 15 to December 20, 2022**, so farmers who have applied under the PM Kisan Yojana Yojana won't have to wait too long.
- The Indian Union Agriculture Minister has withdrawn this announcement.
- The **deadline for completing the PM Kisan E-KYC 2022**, which must be done by any or all beneficiaries to receive the benefits of the PM Kisan Yojana 2022, has been once again extended by the **Indian government till December 20, 2022**.

### Varanasi will commemorate "Universal Health Coverage (UHC) Day 2022":

- The **Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare will hold a two-day convention in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, on December 10 and 11, 2022**, with the subject "**Universal Health Coverage Day (UHC) 2022**."
- **Mrs Anandiben Patel, Governor of Uttar Pradesh**, will open the two-day event, which will be attended by **Dr Mansukh Mandaviya, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare**, and **Dr Bharti Praveen Pawar, Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare**.
- It's interesting that the United Nations proclaimed December 12 as "**International Universal Health Coverage Day**" in 2017.
- The theme of UHC Day this year is "**Build the World We Want: A Healthy Future for All**," emphasizing the value and function of health insurance in creating a healthy future for everyone.
- The event will take place at the International Co-operation and Convention Center Rudraksh Hall.
- The program will include participation from health ministers from various states.
- The **1st Regional Community Health Officers (CHO) Conference for Northern India will be held during the Varanasi event**.
- The regional meeting will be attended by concerned government officials from **Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, and Uttarakhand**.
- The goal of **Universal Health Coverage (UHC)** is to ensure that "all individuals have access to needed promotive, preventative, curative, and rehabilitative health care of sufficient quality to be successful, while simultaneously ensuring that people do not face financial hardship while paying for these treatments."

### The government extends the rooftop solar program through March 2026:

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- The **Rooftop Solar Program** will now run through **March 31, 2026**, according to a statement from the central government.
- The **program's subsidy will be accessible till the aim is currently attained.**
- The government has warned all residential customers not to pay any additional fees to any vendor on account of the **National Portal application fee or any additional fees for net metering/testing** that are not specified by the relevant distribution business.
- The subsidy under the **National Portal has been set at Rs 14,588 per kW (for a capacity of up to 3 kW)** for the entire nation, and residential consumers are required to install rooftop solar plants from any one of the vendors registered by the relevant distribution firm of their locality.
- The **Ministry is carrying out Rooftop Solar Programme Phase-II**, which offers CFA/subsidy to residential users for rooftop solar installation.
- A National Portal was created to make the Program's execution easier, and **Prime Minister Modi officially unveiled it on July 30, 2022.**
- The **National Portal now has access to the list of authorized vendors.**
- The National Portal does not charge for applications, and the individual distribution firms have set the costs associated with net metering.

### **The Indian government contributes Rs 5000 crore to the SWAMIH Fund to complete housing projects:**

- The government has contributed an extra **Rs 5,000 crore** to the **SWAMIH Invest Fund-I** to assist the strained real estate investment platform in reaching its final close of **Rs 15,530 crore.**
- India's largest social impact fund, the **Special Window for Affordable and Mid-Income Housing Fund**, claims that the government **recently invested Rs 5,000 crore** in it.
- For the completion of distressed, brownfield, and residential projects registered with regulatory agencies that fall under the category of affordable, middle-income housing, it seeks to offer priority loan financing.
- The fund announced that it has **awarded final permission to 127 projects**, which will result in the completion of more than **79,000 homes.**
- It also stated that **286 projects**, spread across more than **30 cities** and involving the construction of more than **1 lakh dwellings**, are now being examined.
- The fund's first close was three years ago in **December 2019**, when it received commitments totaling **Rs. 10,037.5 crores**, including **Rs. 5,000 crores** from the government.

### **TRAI decides there will be no fees for SMS and cell broadcast alerts during disasters:**

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## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- The **Telecom Tariff (69th Amendment) Order 2022 on Tariff for SMS and Cell Broadcast Alerts Disseminated Through Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) Platform During Disasters/Non-Disasters** was issued by the **Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)**.
- The Department of Telecom (DoT) asked TRAI to provide pricing for SMS and cell broadcast alerts and messages that TSPs will disseminate via the **CAP platform during both disasters and non-disasters**.
- The **Authority has decided that no fees shall be assessed for such SMS/Cell Broadcast Alerts or messages sent** either during a disaster, before notification of disaster, or after the disaster has passed, taking into account the importance of alerts or messages sent by directions issued under the **Disaster Management Act, 2005**.
- For events where a specific request for **free-of-charge messages is made by NEC/NCMC/SEC/Nodal Authorities**, DOT only permits **SMS/Cell Broadcast free of charge for a set amount of time**.
- However, there are times when the government would like to alert the populace to a potential disaster or times when the populace needs to be informed of special events like the holding of relief, vaccination, medical, and camp events, as well as times when specific law and order-related situations arise.

### **Kerala inaugurates the country's first carbon-neutral farm:**

- The **first carbon-neutral farm in the nation**, according to **Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan**, is a **seed farm in Aluva**.
- The seed farm's achievement of carbon neutrality was made possible by a considerable decrease in carbon emissions.
- **The Thuruthu farm in Aluva produced 213 tons of carbon in total but only 43 tons of it was emitted over the previous year**.
- As much as 170 tons more carbon has been obtained at the farm as compared to the emission rate, which has contributed to its **designation as the first carbon-neutral seed farm in the nation**.
- Carbon-neutral farms will be established in all 140 Assembly constituencies.
- "Efforts have already been undertaken to make **13 farms in Kerala carbon neutral**," added the Chief Minister.
- Carbon-neutral farming methods would be adopted through women's groups, and similar interventions would be done in the tribal sector as well.

### **Cochin International Airport has received the country's largest business jet terminal:**



## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- At the Cochin International Airport, Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan opened the country's first **chartered gateway** and a business jet terminal.
- As a result, Cochin Airport has become the country's fourth airport to operate a private jet terminal.
- **Cochin International Airport Limited (CIAL)** now has the country's largest Business Jet Terminal in addition to two magnificent domestic and international passenger terminals.
- The **newly launched business jet terminal was developed at a cost of 40 crore rupees** by remodeling the former domestic terminal.
- It has **40,000 square feet of space** and includes attractive lounges, customs, and immigration counters, a business center, and other modern amenities.
- The new airport facility will increase tourism as well as the state's **MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions) sector**.
- It will catapult the airport to the forefront of the country's aviation industry.
- The building will also function as a hub for the hospitality and aviation industries.

### The sixth Vande Bharat train on the Nagpur-Bilaspur route was signaled by PM Modi:

- India's sixth Vande Bharat Express between Bilaspur (Chhattisgarh) and Nagpur (Maharashtra) has been launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- After the Mumbai-Ahmedabad Vande Bharat express, this is the second Vande Bharat express in the state.
- At the Khapri Metro Station, he formally opened "Nagpur Metro Phase I" and set the cornerstone for "Nagpur Metro Phase II."
- Phase I development cost Rs. 8650 crores, while the Phase II development will cost at least Rs. 6700 crore.
- The Hindu Hrudaysamrat Balasaheb Thackeray Maharashtra Samruddhi Mahamarg, which connects Nagpur and Shirdi, was officially opened by him.
- One of the nation's longest expressways, constructed at 55,000 crores, runs across 10 Maharashtra districts, including Amravati, Aurangabad, and Nashik.
- Additionally, he created the **Central Institute of Petrochemicals Engineering and Technology (CIPET)**, Chandrapur, the Centre for Research, Management and Control of Hemoglobinopathies, Nagpur, and the AIIMS Nagpur and Nag river pollution abatement project.
- Indian Railways created the **Vande Bharat, a domestic semi-high-speed train**.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- By **August 15th, 2023**, the government plans to operate **75 Vande Bharat express trains across the nation.**
- The Vande Bharat Express includes travel classes similar to those on the Shatabdi Train but with superior amenities and a **top speed limit of 160 kmph.**
- Passengers are expected to have a completely new travel experience because of it.
- Better acceleration and deceleration are made possible by the sophisticated brake system on the Vande Bharat Express train.
- Automatic doors, an audio-visual passenger information system powered by GPS, WiFi hotspots on board for entertainment, and roomy seats are features found on all coaches.
- The chairs in the executive class rotate as well.

### The Government of India has extended the PM SVANidhi Scheme beyond March 2022

- The **Government of India has extended the PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) Scheme beyond March 2022** with the following provisions:
- Extension of lending period **till December 2024.**
- Introduction of **3rd loan of up to ₹50,000 in addition to 1st & 2nd loans of ₹10,000 and ₹20,000 respectively.**
- To extend the '**SVANidhi Se Samridhi**' component for all beneficiaries of the PM SVANidhi scheme **across the country;**
- As on November 30, 2022, 31.73 lakh Street Vendors have availed the benefit of 1st loan of ₹ 10,000 loans; Out of these 5.81 lakh have availed of the benefit of the second loan of ₹ 20,000 loans; Out of those who availed 2nd loan, 6,926 street vendors have availed the benefit of the third loan of ₹50,000.
- 42 lakh street vendors are to be provided benefits under PM SVANidhi Scheme by December 2024.
- The scheme was announced as a part of the **Economic Stimulus-II under the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.**
- It has been implemented since **1st June 2020**, for providing affordable working capital loans to street vendors to resume their livelihoods that have been adversely affected due to Covid-19 lockdowns.
- It is a Central Sector Scheme i.e., fully funded by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.'
- The Scheme is available for beneficiaries belonging to only those States/UTs which have notified Rules and Scheme under the Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- Beneficiaries from Meghalaya, which has its own State Street Vendors Act may, however, participate.

### PM took part in a program commemorating Sri Aurobindo's 150th birth anniversary:

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi attended a function honoring Sri Aurobindo's 150th birthday.
- Under the auspices of the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, the Prime Minister released a commemorative coin and postal stamp in honor of Sri Aurobindo.
- He is well known as the yogi Rishi Aurobindo.
- He was a revolutionary, a nationalist, a poet, a teacher, and a philosopher.
- Shri Krishnadhan Ghosh gave birth to him on August 15, 1872, in Calcutta.
- His father was a wealthy Calcutta doctor.
- He was also a journalist, and his first philosophical magazine, Arya, came out in 1914.
- His many books include The Life Divine, The Synthesis of Yoga, and Savitri.

### The Chief Justice of India inaugurates Digitization Hubs in ten Odisha districts:

- Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud virtually inaugurated ten district court digitization hubs (DCDH) in Odisha, stating that the judiciary needs to be modernized.
- With this inauguration, the state now has a total of 15 DCDHs, each serving a neighboring district and therefore covering all 30 district courts.
- The digitizing of all 30 districts in the state would be handled by the hubs in Angul, Bhadrak, Jharsuguda, Kalahandi, Keonjhar, Koraput, Malkangiri, Mayurbhanj, Nayagarh, and Sonepur.
- Each DCDH will be tasked with digitizing the districts around it.
- On April 30, 2021, four District Court Digitization Centres (DCDC) were established on a trial basis in the districts of Cuttack, Ganjam, Sambalpur, and Balasore.
- He praised the Orissa High Court's information and communication technology (ICT) policies implemented under the direction of Chief Justice S Muralidhar, saying, "Digitisation should be complemented with a drive for e-filing of cases."
- Digitization facilitates authorized users' access to records while also ensuring systematic information keeping, document and record security, and a reduction in the time required to locate documents.

### By 2031 India will have 20 new nuclear power plants:

- According to the government, India expects to commission 20 nuclear power stations by 2031, adding roughly 15,000 MW of power generation capacity.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- The first of these 20 nuclear power plants, a 700 MW unit, is scheduled to be completed in 2023 at **Kakrapar in Gujarat**, which already has three active nuclear power plants.
- According to a written reply by Minister of State in the PMO Jitendra Singh, the **500 MW Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor at Kalpakkam is projected to be operational in 2024, followed by two 1,000 MW units at Kudankulam in 2025.**
- He expects two 700 MW units in **Rawatbhata, Rajasthan, to be finished by 2026, and two 1,000 MW units in Kudankulam to be completed by 2027.**
- Two 700 MW units are planned to be built in **Gorakhpur, Haryana, by 2029**, according to the minister, who detailed the projects under consideration.
- Furthermore, the government granted administrative permissions and financial sanctions for the construction of **ten 700 MW atomic power plants at Gorakhpur, Haryana (units 3&4), Kaiga, Karnataka (unit 5&6), Chutka, Madhya Pradesh (units 1&2), and Mahi Banswara, Rajasthan.**
- These ten nuclear power units are expected to be built in stages by 2031, according to Singh.
- In a written response to a second inquiry, Singh stated that between 2017-18 and 2021-22, the Kundankulam Nuclear Power Project (units 1&2) contributed 48,382 Million Units of power to the national grid.

### The government has allocated Rs 1037.90 crore to the New India Literacy Programme over the next five years:

- The **Ministry of Education (MoE) has approved a new five-year program called the "New India Literacy Programme"** to address all aspects of adult education through the **new National Education Policy (NEP).**
- The ministry has also opted to use **"Education For All" rather than "Adult Education"** because the previous title did not adequately reflect all non-literates aged 15 and up.
- The scheme's goals are to teach not only foundational literacy and numeracy, but also other components required for a 21st-century citizen, such as critical life skills vocational skills development to obtain local employment; and basic education (including preparatory, middle, and secondary school).
- The policy will apply to non-literates aged 15 and up in all states and union territories.
- For the fiscal years 2022-27, the target for Foundational Literacy and Numeracy is 5 crore learners using the **Online Teaching, Learning and Assessment System (OTLAS) in collaboration with the National Informatics Centre, NCERT, and NIOS**, in which a learner may register himself/herself with essential information such as name, date of birth, gender, Aadhaar number, and mobile number.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- For 2022-27, the total estimated outlay for the "New India Literacy Programme" is Rs 1037.90 crore, which includes a central contribution of Rs 700 crore and a state portion of Rs 337.90 crore.

### Bhopal will host the 8th India International Science Festival 2022:

- The India International Science Festival (IISF)-2022 will take place in Bhopal in January 2023, and it is one of the key events to take place after India assumed the G-20 presidency.
- The IISF is a project of the Government of India's Ministries of Science and Technology and Earth Science, in collaboration with Vijnana Bharati, a science movement with a swadeshi spirit led by notable scientists from throughout the country.
- Since its beginning in 2015, the IISF 2022 is the 8<sup>th</sup> edition.
- It is a festival that brings together students, innovators, craftspeople, farmers, scientists, and technocrats from India and throughout the world to honour India's scientific and technological achievements.
- It also allows people and the scientific community in India and throughout the world to come together, collaborate, and experience the thrill of doing science for the benefit of India and humanity.
- During these four days, fourteen activities will be held in parallel, with the involvement of over 8,000 delegates from across the country.
- More than a million local tourists will attend the festival, which will be remembered for its distinctive magnificence and inventiveness in science.

### India will be the first country to auction off satellite spectrum:

- According to telecom regulator Trai chairman PD Vaghela, India will be the first country to auction spectrum for satellite communication, and it should be tailored to promote investments in the field.
- Vaghela stated at a Broadband India Forum summit on SatCom that the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai) will soon make recommendations to make permissions required for satellite communication from various ministries — Information and Broadcasting, Space, and Telecom — seamlessly to improve the ease of doing business in the sector.
- He also stated that Trai has received a referral from the Department of Telecommunications for the auction of spectrum and related components of satellite-based communication.
- The regulator has yet to issue a consultation document on the spectrum auction by the customary protocol for satellite communication.
- Satellite communication is any communication link that uses an artificial satellite as part of its transmission path.



## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- Satellite communications are essential in everyday life.

### About TRAI:

- Founded: 20 February 1997
- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Agency executive: Ram Sewak Sharma (Chairperson)

### Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Minister of Jal Shakti, will inaugurate the 7th India IWIS:

- **Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat**, Union Jal Shakti Minister, launched the 7<sup>th</sup> India Water Impact Summit (IWIS 2022) in the presence of Shri Bishweshwar Tudu, Minister of State for Jal Shakti.
- This year's summit theme is "**Restoration and Conservation of Small Rivers in a Large Basin**," with a focus on the "**Mapping and Convergence of 5Ps**" - People, Policy, Plan, Programme, and Project.
- The summit will be held from December 15th to 17th, 2022 at the **Dr. Ambedkar International Centre in New Delhi** by the **National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)** and the **Center for Ganga River Basin Management and Studies (cGanga)**.
- The **three-day summit** will try to provide insight into probable reasons for divergence and develop a strategy for achieving convergence.
- Science and Policy, Finance and Economics, Technology and Innovation, and International and Implementation Challenges are the summit's five broad themes.
- The Previous Edition: The major focus of the **5th edition of the India Water Impact Summit** was held in 2020 understanding the concept and subtleties of Arth Ganga.

### PMKKK Scheme has been renamed the Promotion of Prime Minister's Heritage (PM Vikas) Scheme:

- The **Pradhan Mantri Virasat Ka Samvardhan (PM VIKAS)** Scheme has replaced the **Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Ko Kaam Karyakram (PMKKK)**, according to Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani, Minister of Minority Affairs, in response to a question in the Lok Sabha.
- **Five former Ministry of Finance programs—Seekho aur Kamao, USTTAD, Hamari Dharohar, Nai Roshni, and Nai Manzil—**have been combined into one integrated program.
- The Cabinet has given the plan its blessing for the duration of the **15th Finance Commission**.
- PM VIKAS uses the elements of skill development, education, women's leadership, and entrepreneurship to enhance the livelihoods of minorities, especially the artisan groups.
- The scheme's ultimate goal is to boost recipients' incomes and give support through facilitating credit and market linkages.



## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- These components work in harmony to achieve this goal.

### About PM VIKAS:

- Minority Affairs Ministry, Nodal Ministry
- Scheme for the Central Sector
- Using the elements of skill development, education, women's leadership, and entrepreneurship, the goal is to improve the minority' quality of life, especially in the artisan communities.
- The plan merges five (5) current Ministry of Minority Affairs initiatives into one: Seekho aur Kamao, USTTAD, Hamari Dharohar, Nai Roshni, and Nai Manzil.
- Four things make up the scheme: 1) Skill-building and training, 2) Leadership and entrepreneurship, 3) Education, and 4) Infrastructure Development.

### Nation Honors Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on the Anniversary of His Death:

- **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's 72nd death anniversary was marked by tributes from Prime Minister Narendra Modi and several Union Ministers.**
- Recalling Sardar Patel on his Punya Tithi, Prime Minister Modi declared that the nation would be eternally grateful to Patel.
- The "Iron Man of India," **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, was born on October 31, 1875**, in the village of Nadiad in modern-day Gujarat.
- India will always be grateful to him for his exemplary service, his managerial prowess, and the tireless efforts he made to bring our country together.
- **Indian nationalist Vallabhbhai Jhaverbhai Patel** was known as Sardar.
- He served as **India's first deputy prime minister from 1947 until 1950.**
- He was a prominent member of the Indian National Congress and a barrister who oversaw the country's unification into a single, sovereign nation.
- He belonged to the conservative faction of the **Indian National Congress.**

### The fifth edition of Youth Co: Lab is released by Atal Innovation Mission and UNDP India:

- **Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog, and UNDP India** together launched the **fifth edition of Young Co: Lab**, making it the largest youth innovation movement in the Asia Pacific region.
- The applications for this **edition were introduced by Mr. Dennis Curry**, Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP India, and **Dr. Chintan Vaishnav**, Mission Director AIM, NITI Aayog.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- Through the fifth edition of Youth Co: Lab India, Atal Innovation Mission, and UNDP India are leading this movement and supporting young social entrepreneurs who have the potential to be great forces in driving social change and advancing the implementation of SDG target actions.
- The fifth edition of Youth Co: Lab India will **concentrate on locating and assisting youth-led early-stage social enterprises or innovations operating** in the following areas: 1) Digital and Financial Literacy for Youth, 2) Gender Equality and Women's Economic Empowerment, 3) Creating FinTech Solutions Focused on Biodiversity Conservation, 4) Promoting Biodiversity-friendly Lifestyles through Technological Solutions in Finance, 5) Accelerating Circular Economy through Upcycling Innovations ( Lifestyle For Environment).

### Delhi International Arts Festival was organized by the ministry of culture:

- Inaugurating the Delhi International Arts Festival at Kartavya Path with the slogan "Where Bharat Meets India," the Ministry of Culture worked in partnership with the **Prasiddha Foundation**.
- The event strives to honor the great epics, the warriors who fought for our freedom, and the numerous policies and programs established by our government in the interest of "Women's Empowerment," "Cleaning Our Holy Rivers," and "Maintaining a Country Free from Dirt and Disease."
- In addition to theater, classical musical performances, and other cultural acts, the festival will feature dance performances like Kathak and Odissi.
- Numerous locations in Delhi, including Kartavya Path India Gate Lawns, Central Vista, Samvet Auditorium Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts Janpath, Amphitheatre Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts Janpath, etc., will host several activities and performances.

### "AYURSWASTHYA Yojana" Status of Centers of Excellence:

- The status of the "AYURSWASTHYA Yojana" centres of excellence program was reported in a notification from the Ministry of Ayush.
- Under the initiative, money is given to qualified institutions and individual groups to help them set up and improve their facilities and/or conduct AYUSH-related research and development.
- The scheme was created by merging two previous programs of this Ministry, namely i) the **Central Sector Scheme of Grant-in-Aid for Promotion of AYUSH Intervention in Public Health Initiatives (PHI)** and (ii) the **Central Sector Scheme for Assistance to AYUSH Organizations (Government/Non-Government Non-Profit) Engaged in AYUSH Education/Drug Development**, primarily consists of two components: I AYUSH and Public (CoE).

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- To encourage the development of cutting-edge, highly specialized AYUSH medical health units in reputable AYUSH and Allopathic institutions in both the public and private sectors.
- To promote AYUSH at the national and international levels by promoting creative and innovative proposals for the establishment and improvement of the facilities and services of reputable institutions.
- This will help to improve the skills of AYUSH professionals in areas like education technology, research, and innovation.
- To encourage original ideas and proposals for prestigious organizations with established facilities and infrastructure that want to advance AYUSH systems to the level of a Center of Excellence.

### The first green steel brand in the nation, "KALYANI FeRRESTA," was introduced by Jyotiraditya Scindia:

- The first green steel brand in India, "KALYANI FeRRESTA," was introduced in New Delhi by Union Steel Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia.
- The Kalyani Group, a steel manufacturer with headquarters in Pune, created this ground-breaking steel with zero carbon footprints on the environment.
- The Kalyani Group effort will assist in changing the steel industry's long-standing reputation as a "hard to abate sector" with high carbon emissions into a low-emitting, environmentally friendly steel-producing sector.
- Internationally, the steel sector is responsible for 7% of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, with the Indian steel sector contributing 13% of those emissions.
- Instead of the commonly utilized coking coal, green steel is produced utilizing low-carbon energy sources such as electricity, hydrogen, and coal gasification.
- The company cut water use by 10%, eliminated 76,484 total carbon dioxide (tCO<sub>2</sub>) emissions, and recycled 99.4% of its garbage.

### Good Governance Week 2022 is inaugurated by Union Minister Jitendra Singh:

- Dr Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of state for Personnel, Public Grievances, and Pensions, has officially launched Good Governance Week, which runs from December 19–25, 2022, at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi.
- Paying respects to Bharat Ratna Late Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the former prime minister of India, in whose honour Good Governance Day and Good Governance Week are observed.
- In addition, the Minister started a five-day national campaign called "Prashasan Gaon Ki Ore" to honour former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's birthday.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- In all Indian districts, states, and union territories, **there will be a campaign to address public grievances and improve service delivery.**
- The **Campaign will involve over 700 District Collectors**, and representatives will visit Tehsil and Panchayat Samiti headquarters.
- Under the initiative, 3,120 New Services specified by District Collectors would be added for Online Service Delivery.
- The District Collectors have also noted 81,27,944 applications for service delivery that need to be eliminated and 19,48,122 public grievances that need to be resolved through state grievance portals during the planning phase of the Good Governance Week 2022.

### Indian Railways inaugurates Kashmir's longest "escape tunnel":

- The 111 km long **Banihal-Katra railway line** in Jammu and Kashmir, which was under construction, now has **India's longest escape tunnel**, measuring 12.89 km in length. It was built by the Indian Railways.
- The **Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Railway Line (USBRL)** project includes the tunnel with the greatest length.
- Following the **12.75 km T-49, the longest tunnel of the Indian Railways**, which was finished in January of this year, this is the fourth tunnel on the **Banihal-Katra route**.
- In the event of an emergency, the construction of the escape tunnel will make rescue efforts easier.
- The tunnel, which connects the Sumber Station yard on the south side to Tunnel T-50 after passing under Bridge No. 04 over Khoda Nallah on the north side at Khoda hamlet, is shaped like a modified horseshoe.
- The **New Austrian Tunnelling Method (NATM)**, a cutting-edge drill and blast method, was used to build the tunnel.
- To make rescue efforts easier in case of an emergency, the escape tunnel "T-13" was built.
- The **longest High-Altitude Tunnel is the Atal Road Tunnel in Himachal Pradesh** (Length: 8800 meters, or 5.5 miles, approximately.)
- **Jammu and Kashmir's Pir Panjal Railway Tunnel** (Length: 11,215 meters, or 11.22 km.)
- **Jammu & Kashmir's Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee Road Tunnel** (Length: 9280 meters, or 9.34 km.)
- **Kerala's Trivandrum Port Railway Tunnel** (Length: 9020 meters, or 9.02 km.)
- **Road Tunnel at Banihal Qazigund, Jammu & Kashmir** (Length: 8500 meters, or roughly 8.5 km)
- **Rail tunnel in Sangaldan, Jammu & Kashmir** (Length: 8000 meters, or approximately 8 km.)

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

### PM Modi will open the National Youth Conference in Karnataka:

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will officiate the opening of the National Youth Festival, according to Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai.
- The festival will be held in the twin cities of Hubballi and Dharwad.
- On January 12, in honour of Swami Vivekananda's birth anniversary, the National Youth Festival will be held.
- The youth festival will draw about 7,500 participants from all 50 States.
- The National Youth Festival is held to honour Swami Vivekanand's birthday, which falls on January 12.
- As a key component of the National Integration Camp's curriculum, the first National Youth Festival began in 1995.
- In Puducherry, the 25th National Youth Festival was held.
- The day after Swami Vivekananda's birthday, January 12, is always honoured as National Youth Day, and the week of January 12–16 is known as National Youth Week.

### The 75th Amrut Mahotsav of Shree Swaminarayan Gurukul Rajkot Sansthan was addressed by PM Modi:

- The 75th Amrut Mahotsav of Shree Swaminarayan Gurukul Rajkot Sansthan was addressed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi through video conference.
- In 1948, seer Shri Dharmajivandasji Swami founded the Shree Swaminarayan Gurukul Rajkot Sansthan in Rajkot.
- It has grown and has more than 40 branches worldwide, offering more than 25,000 students access to secondary, undergraduate, and postgraduate education facilities.
- At Sahajanand Nagar, where famous multi-speciality doctors are offering free medical services and free medicine to the public, massive blood donation camps and free medical check-up camps are being held as part of the Amrit Mahotsav celebrations.
- The number of elite educational institutions like IITs, IIITs, IIMs, and AIIMS is growing dramatically, according to Modi, who also noted that the number of medical colleges in the nation has expanded by more than 65% since 2014.
- For the first time in India, a futuristic and forward-thinking educational system was being developed through the new National Education Policy (NEP).
- When India celebrates a century of independence in 2047, the Prime Minister emphasized that ideal citizens and adolescents raised in a better education system will struggle to realize the dream of a

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

prosperous India, and the efforts of organizations like Shri Swaminarayan Gurukul will undoubtedly be crucial.

### Indian billionaire Gautam Adani will hold close to 65% of NDTV's shares:

- Indian billionaire Gautam Adani will control 64.71% of New Delhi Television Ltd (NDTV.NS) as the company's founders have decided to sell most of their shares, four months after he launched a takeover of the news network.
- Adani already held 37% of NDTV after an open offer and an acquisition of a company owned by founders Radhika and Prannoy Roy, despite several unsuccessful attempts by NDTV to block the takeover citing regulatory restrictions on moving shares.
- The husband-and-wife team will sell a 27.26% stake in NDTV to Adani-owned entity AMG Media Network and retain a combined 5%, regulatory filings by NDTV
- The AMG Media Network, after the recent open offer, is now the single largest shareholder in NDTV.
- Consequently, with mutual agreement, we have decided to divest most of our shares in NDTV to the AMG Media Network
- The ports-to-energy conglomerate's takeover of NDTV had raised fears among some journalists that one of the country's last bastions of free media was under threat.
- Ravish Kumar, a senior executive editor of NDTV, resigned soon after Adani acquired the entity backed by NDTV's founders

### Government organizes "Dance to Decarbonize" event to generate power by dance floor:

- The 'Dance to Decarbonize' event for the upcoming India Energy Week in Bangalore in February 2022 will take place at the National Stadium near India Gate, New Delhi.
- As part of a new initiative, the Ministry of Oil and Gas is planning a one-day event to harness renewable energy generated by dancing to charge electric vehicles.
- Through the use of dance and music, the event hopes to increase participation in the topic of sustainability.
- A state-of-the-art stage will be built where dancing people will generate renewable energy, which will be used to power electric auto-rickshaws and sport utility vehicles.
- India's goal of achieving net zero emissions by 2070 is weighed against the country's growing energy needs, economic expansion, and the priority placed on implementing responsible energy sources over long-term innovative energy systems.



## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- Cabinet ministers, members of parliament, representatives of the Ministry of Oil and Gas, diplomats, executives of electric vehicle manufacturers, CEOs and senior executives of specific industries, airline representatives, oil public sector officials in defence, and the Border Road Organization will attend the event billed as a step towards demonstrating India's goal of achieving net zero emissions by 2070.

### India Officially Recognizes E-sports As a Part of Multisports Event:

- The Indian government has officially recognized e-sports in the country.
- Esports will now be a part of the "multisports event" category in India under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and sports and a section related to "matters relating to online gaming" is added under MeitY as well.
- Under the Cabinet Secretariat, the addition of "esports" was notified under the sub-heading Department of Sports under, the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.
- This is a prominent step towards regularizing an industry that brings in millions if not billions of dollars every year in terms of investments and expenditures.
- The Government has made its intentions and willingness to boost the digital economy and gaming (now can be called esports) in India.
- The Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming and Comics (AVGC) Promotion Task Force, which was established earlier this year after the Union Budget of 2022-23, has also submitted a report outlining the opportunities, challenges and recommended actions that the Government of India can take to promote and nurture the industry.
- The government task force has recommended establishing incubators to accelerate the growth of startups in the AVGC industry and has asked the MIB to look into tax rebates, incentivizing foreign direct investments (FDI), and offering research and development opportunities to the industry

### Railways to renovate 1,000 small stations under Amrit Bharat Station Scheme:

- The Ministry of Railways, as part of its station redevelopment drive, has formulated a new scheme to modernise over 1,000 small stations over the coming years.
- Under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme, stations will be equipped with facilities inspired by the mega-upgradation of marquee stations such as New Delhi and Ahmedabad, albeit at a lower cost.
- Key features of these proposed stations include provisions for rooftop plazas, longer platforms, ballastless tracks, and 5G connectivity.
- The scheme will subsume all previous redevelopment projects where work is yet to begin.

### OBJECTIVE:

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- The scheme aims at the preparation of Master Plans of the Railway stations and the implementation of the Master Plan in phases to enhance the facilities including and beyond the Minimum Essential Amenities and aiming for the creation of Roof Plazas and city centres at the station in the long run,” the Railway Board said in the policy document.
- However, plans and consequent budgets will only be approved based on factors such as footfall and inputs from stakeholders.
- Zonal railways have been given the responsibility of selecting stations, which will then be approved by a committee of senior railway officials.
- The model envisages low-cost redevelopment of stations which can be executed timely.
- The separate scheme focused on small stations, was taken to ensure that the modernisation of small stations does not lose steam as the ministry focuses on mega-projects to upgrade New Delhi, Mumbai (CST), and Ahmedabad stations, which will take much longer.

### **Kerala’s Dharmadam becomes the first complete library constituency in India:**

- **Dharmadam, Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan’s constituency has achieved the position of complete library constituency in India, the first in India.**
- Out of the total 138 wards in the constituency, there were no libraries in 63 wards. Dharmadam reached the achievement with the opening of libraries in these wards too.
- **Complete librarianisation was made possible with the support of all sections** of the people of the constituency.
- **The People’s Mission for Social Development**, a people’s organization, has taken up the work of establishing libraries and expanding the existing ones in Dharmadam constituency,” he wrote.
- Mentioning that libraries and public spaces have a unique place in social progress, the Chief Minister said that this is why people have gone ahead with the activities of establishing libraries in every ward.
- A mission was formed to consolidate operations.
- **The District Library Council and local self-governing bodies**, which are **part of the mission, became active participants in the activities**
- The meetings were held at ward and panchayat levels to implement the objective.
- Committees were formed for this.
- These people’s committees provided local leadership for the activities.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- The building of libraries is an inspiration to the whole of Kerala through the people's movement for social development.

### Oxford Dictionaries names 'goblin mode' word of the year via online vote:

- Oxford Dictionaries declared that **goblin mode** has been selected by online vote as its word of the year.
- It defines the term as a type of behaviour that is **unapologetically self-indulgent, lazy, slovenly, or greedy, typically in a way that rejects social norms or expectations.**
- The word of the year is intended to reflect the ethos, mood, or preoccupations of the past twelve months.
- For the first time this year's winning phrase was chosen by public vote, from among three finalists selected by Oxford Languages lexicographers: **goblin mode, metaverse, and the hashtag IStandWith.**
- Merriam-Webster announced that its word of the year is **gaslighting** psychological manipulation intended to make a person question the validity of their thoughts.
- In 2021 the Oxford word of the year was **vaxxed** and Merriam-Webster's was "vaccine".

### President of India lays foundation stone for PRASHAD project and UNESCO World Heritage Site in Telangana:

- The President of India Smt. Droupadi Murmu laid the foundation stone for the project 'Development of Pilgrimage Facilities at Bhadrachalam Group of Temples' today at Sri Seetha Ramachandra Swamivari Devasthanam, Bhadrachalam in the Bhadrachalam District of the state of Telangana.
- She also laid the foundation stone for another project called 'Development of Pilgrimage and Heritage Infrastructure of UNESCO World Heritage Site at Rudreshwara (Ramappa) Temple' at Mulugu in the state.
- Both these projects have been approved under the PRASHAD (National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Heritage Augmentation Drive) Scheme of the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India.
- The President appreciated the Ministry of Tourism for boosting spiritual and cultural tourism by developing pilgrimage sites under the 'PRASHAD' scheme.
- **Launched in the year 2014-15, the scheme** aims to provide integrated infrastructure development to pilgrimage and heritage tourism destinations in the country.
- The project 'Development of Pilgrimage Facilities at Bhadrachalam Group of Temples, Telangana' has been approved by the Ministry of Tourism at an estimated cost of Rs 41.38 Crores.

### Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri launches guidelines for City Finance Rankings and City Beauty Competition:

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- **Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri** has launched the guidelines for **City Finance Rankings and City Beauty Competition in New Delhi**.
- The City Finance Ranking aims to evaluate, recognize and reward the cities on current financial health and improvement in financial performance over time.
- Guidelines for **City Beauty Competition** are aimed at encouraging and recognizing the transformational efforts of wards and cities to create beautiful, innovative, and inclusive public spaces.
- All cities and wards can participate in the City Beauty Competition.
- Mr. Puri claimed that this time, the efforts would advance the nation's effort to revitalize its cities
- The **Swachh Bharat Mission, Atal Mission for Rejuvenation, and Urban Transformation Mission**, he claimed, are just a few of the government's programs that have changed the nation.

### Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw launches 'Stay Safe Online' Campaign and 'G20 Digital Innovation Alliance':

- As part of India's G20 presidency, the Minister for Electronics & Information Technology, Communications, and Railways, **Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw**, introduced the "G20 Digital Innovation Alliance" (G20-DIA) and the "Stay Safe Online" campaign.
- The major goal of the 'Stay Safe Online Campaign' is to raise public awareness about staying safe online.

#### About Stay Safe Online Campaign:

- The 'Stay Safe Online Campaign' attempts to improve citizen awareness about staying safe online.
- It would also make Indian citizens aware of cyber hazards and how to cope with them.
- To reach a larger audience, the campaign will be executed in English, Hindi, and local languages.
- The Stay Safe Online Campaign involves the distribution of multilingual awareness content in the form of infographics, cartoon stories, riddles, short videos, and so on.

### Finance Minister inaugurates two-day long 65th Foundation Day celebrations of DRI in New Delhi:

- Finance Minister Smt **Nirmala Sitharaman** inaugurated the two-day-long 65th Foundation Day celebrations of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) in New Delhi.
- She will also launch the current edition of Smuggling in India Report 2021-22 on the occasion.
- As many as **22 Customs administrations covering the Asia-Pacific region** along with international organizations are invited to the event this year.
- The **8th Regional Customs Enforcement Meeting (RCEM)** will also be held at the event.

#### About the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI):

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- Under the supervision of the **Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC)** of the Government of India, DRI serves as the primary intelligence and enforcement agency for anti-smuggling issues.
- It was founded on **December 4th, 1957**.
- It has a **New Delhi headquarters** and about 800 personnel working in 12 zonal units, 35 regional units, and 15 sub-regional units.
- In addition to narcotics, gold, diamonds, electronics, foreign cash, and fake Indian currency, it is responsible for stopping the smuggling of these items.
- It works to stop smuggling items including drugs, jewellery, gadgets, cash in foreign currencies, and fake Indian currency.
- Additionally, it tries to stop commercial fraud and duty avoidance in connection with foreign trade.

### REC organizes 'Bijli Utsav' in Assam as a part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav:

- As a part of '**Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav**' – to celebrate **75 years of Independence**, REC Limited organized '**Bijli Utsav**' in **Anandapur Gaon of Baksa district and adjoining villages in Assam**.
- Numerous dignitaries such as **Katiram Boro, Speaker – Dr. Ashraful Amin – Addl. Deputy Commissioner – Baksa, Khagendranath Sarania, Principal – Anandapur Primary School, Nagen Chandra Das, Retd. Principal – Nehru Anchalik High School, Manasjyoti Pathak, AGM (RE) Baksa – Assam Power Distribution Co. Ltd. (APDCL), and officials from REC Regional Office in Guwahati** graced the occasion.
- The event witnessed speaker sessions by dignitaries and esteemed guests highlighting the consumer rights of electricity, the benefits of electricity and the challenges faced during electrification in remote areas, and how the quality of life improves with access to power.
- Beneficiaries from the villages were also invited on stage to share their experience and views on how electricity has transformed their lives.
- To engage with the villagers and children, various competitions and cultural programs were also held.
- **Nukkad Natak** was also performed to impart knowledge on subjects such as consumer rights of electricity, energy conservation, and the benefits of electricity.
- The event concluded with the distribution of **LED bulbs and geometry boxes** as prizes to the winners of the competitions.

### IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL NEWS

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

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- China organized the first high-level China-Indian Ocean Region Forum on Development Cooperation (IORFDC), with representatives from 19 countries including all countries from South Asia except India attending this event.
- 19 countries, including Indonesia, Pakistan, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Maldives, Nepal, Afghanistan, Iran, Oman, South Africa, Kenya, Mozambique, Tanzania, Seychelles, Madagascar, Mauritius, Djibouti, Australia, and representatives of three international organizations were present at the hybrid forum.
- The meeting was held in a hybrid manner under the theme of "Shared Development: Theory and Practice from the Perspective of the Blue Economy" in Kunming, China.
- The forum was organized by the China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA), China's new development aid agency.

### Key Highlights:

- In this forum, China proposed to establish a marine disaster prevention and mitigation cooperation mechanism between China and countries in the Indian Ocean region (IOR).
- China also proposed the establishment of a blue economy think tank network for China and countries in the IOR.
- The new China-led forum could be seen as a countermeasure to India's IORA.

### About IORA:

- IORA is an intergovernmental organization that was established in March 1997.
- It was formerly known as the Indian Ocean Rim Initiative and the Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC).
- It became an observer to the UN General Assembly and the African Union in 2015. Members: It has 23 Member States and 9 Dialogue Partners

### World's largest active volcano Hawaii's Mauna Loa erupts for the first time in nearly 40 years

- The world's largest active volcano, Hawaii's Mauna Loa, erupted for the first time in nearly 40 years.
- It is the volcano's first well-documented historical eruption.
- With the eruption of the volcano, the night sky above Hawaii's largest island glowed a hellish red as bright, hot lava sprang forth at the Volcano's summit
- Hawaii's Mauna Loa is the largest (not tallest) volcano in the world.



## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

### About Mauna Loa:

- Its name means “long mountain” in Hawaiian.
- The volcano has erupted for the **first time** in **almost 4 decades**.
- As per the **US Geological Survey**, **Mauna Loa**, which covers **half** of the island of Hawaii, has **erupted 33 times** since **1843**.
- Mauna Loa rises **13,679 feet (4,169 meters)** above the **Pacific Ocean**, part of the chain of volcanoes that had formed the islands of Hawaii.
- The **last time Mauna Loa erupted** was in **March and April 1984**, at that time lava had come to **5 miles (13 kilometres)** in the city of Hilo.
- Lava is still coming out at the summit of the volcano & as of now, there is **no danger** to the local people.
- Volcanic gas, especially **sulphur dioxide**, is released by this volcano.
- Hawaii is a state in the **Western United States**, located in the **Pacific Ocean** about **2,000 miles** from the **U.S. mainland**

### Globally one in eight people are migrants: WHO

- According to the **World Health Organization (WHO)**, Globally **one in eight** or **over one billion** people are migrants with **281 million** international migrants and many million individuals who are **stateless**.

### Reason:

- **Climate change**, **rising inequality**, **conflicts**, **trade**, and **population growth** are accelerating these trends.

### Key Highlights:

- To **support countries & territories** to build professional competence and capacity to adequately address refugee and migrant health issues, WHO is organizing the **3rd edition** of its **annual Global School on Refugee and Migrant Health in Dhaka, Bangladesh** with a focus on capacity-building.

### About WHO Global School on Refugee and Migrant Health:

- The **WHO Global School on Refugee and Migrant Health** is a **valuable resource** for building the capacity of health workers to **better serve refugees and migrants.**”
- The yearly Global School on Refugee and Migrant Health is a **flagship** of the **WHO Health and Migration Programme** and an **opportunity** to **strengthen the strategic and operational collaboration** with Regional and country offices on refugee and migrant health towards the implementation of the **Global Action Plan on promoting the health of refugees and migrants 2019-2023 (GAP)**.

### About WHO:

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- Founded: 7 April 1948
- Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland.
- Director General: Tedros Adhanom
- The World Health Organization is a **specialized agency** of the **United Nations** responsible for **international public health**.

### A Greener cooling pathway can create a \$1.6 trillion investment opportunity in India - World Bank

- The **World Bank (WB)** report, titled “**Climate Investment Opportunities in India’s Cooling Sector**” finds that as **temperatures steadily rise** in India due to **climate change**, keeping spaces cool using **alternative and innovative energy-efficient technologies** can open an investment opportunity of **\$1.6 trillion by 2040**.
- This also has the potential to **reduce greenhouse gas emissions** significantly and create nearly **3.7 million jobs**.
- From **2030 onwards**, **more than 160 to 200 million people** could be **exposed** to a **lethal heat wave** in India every year.
- Around **34 million people** in India will **face job losses** due to **heat stress-related productivity decline**.

#### Key Highlights:

- The **current food loss** due to **heat** during the **transportation** is close to **\$13 billion annually**.
- By **2037**, the demand for cooling is likely to be **8 times more than current levels**.
- The report, “**Climate Investment Opportunities in India’s Cooling Sector**” finds that **shifting** to a **more energy-efficient pathway** could lead to a **substantial reduction** in expected **CO2 levels** over the next two decades.
- In **2019**, the **Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC)** launched the **India Cooling Action Plan (ICAP)** to **provide sustainable cooling measures** across various sectors, including indoor cooling in buildings and cold chain and refrigeration in the **agriculture and pharmaceuticals sector** and **air-conditioning** in passenger transport.
- It aims to **reduce the demand for cooling** by up to **25% by 2037-38**.

#### About World Bank:

- Founded: July 1944
- Headquarters: Washington, D.C., United States
- President: David Malpass

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

### Germany announces €1 billion funding for energy transition projects in India

- Germany has unveiled a proposal to provide 1 billion euros (Rs 8440 crore) to India for energy transition projects across India under a bilateral partnership for green and sustainable development.
- The announcement comes days ahead of German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock's visit to India in December 2022.

#### Background:

- In May 2022 after signing the agreement with PM Modi & German Chancellor Olaf Scholz announced support of 10 billion Euro to India by 2030.
- The funding of 1 billion euros for the projects in India is part of this pledge.

#### Key Highlights:

- India & Germany agreed on funding for more than 20 development projects over the next 8 years.
- The funding, including 10% grants and 90% in the form of lines of credit, will support India's efforts in the fields of renewable energy, sustainable urban development in smart cities, and sustainable use of natural resources."
- The lines of credit will be provided by KfW Development Bank with "very cheap interest" ranging from 2.75% to 3.25% for development projects across the country.

#### About Germany:

- President: Frank-Walter Steinmeier
- Capital: Berlin
- Currency: Euro

### India & South Korea sign agreement for EDCF loan to develop Nagpur-Mumbai Super Communication

#### Expressway project

- India and South Korea signed an agreement on an Economic Development Cooperation Fund loan (EDCF) of over 245 billion (approx. Rs. 1,495.68 crores) Korean won for the establishment of the Intelligent Transport System on the Nagpur-Mumbai Super Communication Expressway Project in Delhi.

#### Objectives of the project:

- To enhance the efficiency in traffic management through the establishment of the Intelligent Traffic Management System (ITMS) and traffic center
- To improve the efficiency in toll management through the establishment of the Toll Collection System (TCS)

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- To establish a sustainable model of ITS and its O&M through the transfer of technology from the Republic of Korea.

### Key Highlights:

- The Republic of Korea was designated as **India's Official Development Assistance (ODA) partner** for development cooperation in **October 2016**.
- This is the **first project funded** by an **EDCF loan** by the **Government of the Republic of Korea**.
- The **bilateral relationship** between the two countries was upgraded to '**Special Strategic Partnership**' in the year **2015**.

### About EDCF:

- The EDCF was established in **1987** and plays an important role as **Korea's representative aid fund**.
- The EDCF's loans are **administered** by the **Export-Import Bank of Korea** under the **supervision** of the **Ministry of Strategy and Finance**.

### About South Korea:

- President: Yoon Suk Yeol
- Capital: Seoul
- Currency: South Korean won

### CAGs of India & Chile sign MoU to support capacity building

- The **Comptroller & Auditor General of India** and the **Comptroller General of the Republic of Chile** signed a **memorandum of understanding (MoU)** to **strengthen institutional and professional capacities** and learn from each other's best practices.
- The MoU was signed at the **Chilean capital of Santiago, Chile**.

### Signatories:

- **Girish Chandra Murmu**, Comptroller and Auditor General of India
- **Jorge Bermudez Soto**, the Comptroller General of the Republic of Chile.
- Under the new agreement, both sides agreed to **support capacity building** and **share methodologies** in public audits, and conduct training programs in their respective countries.

### About Comptroller & Auditor General of India:

- The Comptroller and Auditor General of India is the **supreme audit institution of India**, established under **Article 148 of the Constitution of India**.

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- The CAG is also the **statutory auditor** of Government-owned corporations and conducts a supplementary audit of government companies

### About Chile:

- President: Gabriel Boric
- Capital: Santiago
- Currency: Chilean peso

### Tech Mahindra to Establish its First Global Delivery Center in Egypt

- Tech Mahindra, a leading provider of digital transformation, consulting, and business re-engineering services and solutions, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Information Technology Industry Development Agency (ITIDA) to establish a global delivery center in Cairo, Egypt.
- Tech Mahindra aims to hire more than 1000 employees over the next three years to serve both global and local customers from its newly inaugurated center in Cairo.
- The new facility in Cairo will assist Tech Mahindra's clients across telecom, oil and gas, BFSI (Banking, Financial Services, and Insurance), energy and utilities, and the public sector by leveraging artificial intelligence, big data and Analytics, cloud, and 5G technologies.

### Note:

- CEO of ITIDA: Amr Mahfouz

### About Egypt:

- President: Abdel Fattah el-Sisi
- Prime Minister: Moustafa Madbouly
- Capital: Cairo
- Currency: Egyptian pound

### TCS bags Rail Delivery group contract to create UK Rail Data Marketplace

- Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has signed a six-year contract with an opportunity for extension with the United Kingdom-headquartered Rail Delivery Group to build and run the UK government's Rail Data Marketplace (RDM).

### Background:

- In 2021, UK Rail Minister Chris Heaton-Harris announced the creation of RDM for better coordination between the government and industry to advance innovation and offer new products and services.

### Key Highlights:

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- RDM will be used for **sharing real-time information** with passengers across the UK, simplifying data sharing across operational bodies, and **increasing data access for public and private bodies to improve transparency**.
- It would offer access to new data sources as well as present existing data in more accessible formats to **help businesses use rail open data to speed change, reduce costs and create new value for customers**.
- **TCS Dexam**, a controlled data exchange environment for enterprises and their ecosystem partners, will be used in the development of the RDM.
- Apart from preserving the security, privacy, and consent of data and its stakeholder, TCS Dexam will facilitate the **democratization, monetization, and commercialization of data**.
- **Google's Apigee platform** will also be used by TCS for the **development and management of APIs**, which partner applications will use to connect with the RDM.

### Number of people forcibly displaced crossed 100 million in 2022: UNDP

- According to the **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** report "Turning the tide on internal displacement: A development approach to solutions", for the **first time**, more than 100 million people were **forcibly displaced** in 2022, most of them within their own countries
- This was the **highest global figure** and **more than double** the number recorded 10 years ago, the analysis by **UNDP** and the **Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC)** showed.
- The data was collected by the IDMC from **January 2021 to January 2022**.
- These **internally displaced persons struggle to cover their basic needs**, find decent work or have a stable source of income, among other challenges, the global body highlighted, describing their plight as an **'invisible crisis'** due to gaps in development support.

### Key Highlights:

- At the **end of 2021**, due to **conflict, violence, disasters, and climate change**, more than 59 million people have been **forcibly displaced** within their own countries.
- In **Ukraine**, due to the war, **more than 6.5 million people** have been internally displaced.
- According to the **World Bank**, by 2050, around 216 million people will be displaced due to **climate change**.
- In 2021, the direct impact of the **internal displacement cost** was more than 21.5 billion dollars.
- **Sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle East, North Africa, and parts of the Americas** are the most affected regions by the internal displacement linked with conflicts and violence.



## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- **48% of internally displaced households** earn less money than they did before they were displaced.
- **Disaster-related internal displacement** has been recorded in **130 countries**.

### Key pathways suggested:

- Strengthening governance institutions
- Boosting socioeconomic integration through access to jobs and services
- Restoring security
- Enhancing participation e.g., equal access to rights and basic services
- Building social cohesion

### About UNDP:

- Founded: 22 November 1965
- Headquarters: New York City, United States
- Administrator: Achim Steiner

### UNGA Resolution on International Tax Cooperation Framework

- The **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)** has unanimously adopted a resolution to develop an **international tax cooperation framework** or instrument based on a **UN intergovernmental process**.
- **Nigeria** submitted this resolution on behalf of a consortium of **54 African countries**.

### About UNGA resolution:

- With this mechanism, emerging countries in **Africa** and **Asia** are expected to have a greater say in the **formulation of global tax regulations**.
- The proposed **UN framework on global tax cooperation** will put an end to the **Organisation for Economic Co-operation & Development's 60-year role** as the regulator of taxation across the world.
- These rules were agreed upon in **2021 by 137 countries** and jurisdictions under the **OECD/G20 Inclusive Framework on BEPS**.
- **Base erosion and profit shifting (BEPS)** refers to corporate tax planning strategies used by multinationals to shift profits from **higher-tax jurisdictions** to **lower/no-tax jurisdictions**, thus eroding the tax base of the **higher-tax jurisdictions**.
- The OECD defines BEPS strategies as **exploiting gaps** and mismatches in tax rules.
- The rules provide governments with a precise template for taking forward the **two-pillar solution** to address the tax challenges arising from **digitalization** and **globalization** of the economy.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- **Pillar 1** deals with the **biggest and most profitable multinational enterprises** and reallocates a part of their profit to countries where they sell their products and services.
- It is expected to **divert more than 125 billion USD** in tax to market jurisdiction each year.
- **Pillar 2** aims to **control tax competition** on corporate profits by introducing a **global minimum tax of 15% from 2023**.
- The rules specify the scope and mechanism for **Pillar Two's so-called Global Anti-Base Erosion (GloBE) rules**.
- It is expected to generate some **150 billion in additional global tax revenue** each year.

### About UNGA:

- Established: 1945
- President: Csaba Kőrösi

### About United Nations:

- Established: 26 June 1945
- Headquarters: New York, USA
- Secretary General: António Guterres

### Italy, Japan, UK to jointly launch 6th-generation fighter jet by 2035

- The **United Kingdom, Japan, and Italy** have announced a **partnership** to build a **sixth-generation warplane** scheduled to be ready for **deployment by 2035**.
- It will be called the **“Tempest”**.
- The Tempest is expected to **replace Britain's Typhoon**, a fighter that served British air defense for two decades.
- The **Mitsubishi F-X fighter jet** will replace the **ageing fleet of F-2s** that Japan previously developed with the United States.

### Key Highlights:

- The deal will give Japan greater support in countering China's growing assertiveness and allow Britain a bigger presence in the Indo-Pacific region.
- To meet the **5-year spending total of 43 trillion yen (USD 316 billion)**, the government will need an **extra 4 trillion yen (USD 30 billion)** in defense spending annually.
- The revised national security strategy is predicted to allow the country to have a **pre-emptive strike capability** and to **deploy long-range missiles**.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- It will have the ability to operate manned or unmanned.
- It will have the **ability to control swarms** of attack drones & It will have **innovative data systems**.
- It will be armed with **cutting-edge weapons** like hypersonic missiles.
- This advanced aircraft will be produced through the **Global Combat Air Programme (GCAP)**, which is a partnership between **London, Rome, and Tokyo**.
- Britain and Italy have been developing the Tempest to rival an aircraft being built by a **Franco-German coalition: Future Combat Air System (FCAS)**.

### About Japan:

- Prime Minister: Fumio Kishida
- Capital: Japan
- Currency: Japanese yen

### G7 nations establish an international climate club to fight global warming

- The **Group of Seven (G7) leading economies** have created an open, international climate club for countries that want to cooperate in the **fight against global warming**.
- This was announced by **German Chancellor Olaf Scholz**.
- **Germany** holds the **presidency of the G-7 until the end of 2022** and then passes it on to **Japan in 2023**.

### Key Highlights:

- According to the German government, the climate club **aims to support the rapid and ambitious implementation of the Paris Agreement**, which seeks to **limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit)**.
- The club will work to **help accelerate the industrial transition to cleaner forms of energy** and to further **develop emission-reduction measures**
- **Dec 12, 2022, marked the 7th anniversary of the adoption of the Paris Agreement**.
- **Germany increased its solar capacity by 10% in 2022**, and the **amount of additional wind power capacity** it installed on **land** and at **sea** was only about **3%**.
- The government aims to **increase offshore wind power capacity from about 8 gigawatts to 20 gigawatts by 2030**, but this year only **0.2 gigawatts** of new capacity were added.

### About G7:

- The Group of Seven (G7) is an **international forum** consisting of the **7 nations** with the largest advanced economies – **Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States**

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- The European Union has also represented at all G7 meetings.
- The presidency rotates each year.
- In June 2022, Germany hosted the G7 Summit 2022 at SchlossElmauin the Bavarian alps, Germany.

### India Signs Agreement For 3 Projects With Nepal Government In Education, Healthcare Sectors

- The Embassy of India and Nepal government's Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration have signed 3 Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) to collaborate on projects in the education sector.
- The collaboration will also focus on the healthcare and drinking water sectors.
- The projects shall be implemented at 101.79 million Nepalese rupees (NRs)

#### The three projects include

1. The construction of the Shree Janata Belaka Secondary School building in the Udayapur district, Nepal
  2. The construction of Ngonga Thenchowk Chholing meditation centre in the Soulu khumbu district, Nepal
  3. The construction of Lisnekhola Tikasung Dangchet Jharlang water supply project in Dhading district, Nepal.
- Since 2003, India has taken up over 532 High Impact Development Projects (HICDPs) in Nepal and has completed 476 projects in the areas of health, education, drinking water, connectivity, sanitation, and the creation of other public utilities.

#### About Nepal:

- President: Bidhya Devi Bhandari
- Prime minister: Sher Bahadur Deuba
- Capital: Kathmandu
- Currency: Nepalese Rupee

### FAO Opening Ceremony of International Year of Millets 2023 held in Rome, Italy

- The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, organized an opening ceremony for the International Year of Millets – 2023 (IYM2023) in Rome, Italy.
- An Indian delegation led by Sushri Shobha Karandlaje, Minister of State, Agriculture & Farmers Welfare along with Smt. Shubha Thakur, Joint Secretary (Crops), Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (DA&FW).

#### Key Highlights:

- Spearheaded by the Prime Minister, the Government of India sponsored the proposal for International Year of Millets (IYM) 2023 which was accepted by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- In **March 2021**, the **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)** adopted a resolution to declare **2023 as the International Year of Millets**
- The declaration has been instrumental for the Government of India to be at the forefront of celebrating the IYM.
- **Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi** has also shared his vision to make **IYM 2023** a 'People's Movement' alongside positioning India as the '**Global Hub for Millets**'.
- Recognizing the enormous potential of Millets, which also aligns with several **UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**, the Government of India (GoI) has prioritized Millets.
- A submission on the **National Food Security Mission – Nutri Cereals** was implemented considering the **high-nutritive value**, potential for economic empowerment of small & marginal farmers, and contribution to maintaining the **earth's biodiversity**.
- In **April 2018**, **Millets** were rebranded as "**Nutri Cereals**", and the year **2018** was declared as the **National Year of Millets**, aiming at larger promotion and demand generation.

### About Millets:

- Millets are considered '**Smart Food**' as they are **easy to cultivate**, mostly organic, and contain **high nutritional value**

### About FAO:

- Founded: 16 October 1945
- Headquarters: Rome, Lazio, Italy
- Director General: Mr. QU Dongyu
- FAO is a **specialized agency** of the **United Nations (UN)** that leads international efforts to **defeat hunger and improve nutrition and food security**.
- The FAO is composed of 195 members (including 194 countries and the European Union).
- In **October 2020**, India released a **commemorative coin** of **Rs 75 denomination** to mark the **75th anniversary of the FAO**.

### About Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare:

- Cabinet Minister: Narendra Singh Tomar
- Minister of State: Shobha Karandlaje, Kailash Choudhary

### India and Finland sign joint declaration of Intent on migration and mobility

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- India and Finland have signed a joint declaration of Intent on migration and mobility to arrive at a mutually beneficial arrangement on migration and mobility between the two countries.
- The declaration was signed by Union Minister of State for External Affairs Shri V. Muraleedharan and Minister of Employment of Finland Ms. Tuula Haatainen.
- India and Finland established diplomatic relations in 1949 after New Delhi became independent in 1947.
- The year 2022 marks 73 years of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

### Key Highlights:

- The declaration underlines the resolve of both countries to work jointly towards developing a common framework of arrangement and cooperation to facilitate the mobility of students, academics, researchers, businesspeople, and professionals and to combat irregular migration.
- In May 2022, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and his Finnish counterpart Ms. Sanna Marin held a meeting on the margins of the 2<sup>nd</sup> India-Nordic Summit in Copenhagen and discussed ways to further cement this partnership in trade, investment, technology, and other such sectors.

### About Finland:

- President: Sauli Niinistö
- Prime Minister: Sanna Marin
- Capital: Helsinki
- Currency: Euro (€) (EUR)
- Finland Ambassador to India: Ritva Koukku-Ronde

### EU agrees to grant Bosnia & Herzegovina membership candidate status

- European Union (EU) countries have agreed to offer Bosnia-Herzegovina candidate status to join the 27-member bloc, during the ongoing meeting in Brussels, Belgium.
- The step is to be formally approved by EU leaders at a summit in Brussels on December 15, 2022.
- Bosnia will join 7 other nations with candidate status: Turkey, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Albania, Moldova, and Ukraine.
- The move came as Kosovo became the latest country to formally apply to apply for membership in the bloc.

### Key Highlights:

- Bosnia first voiced its aspiration to join the EU in 2003.



## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- Bosnia now becomes the **third country** after conflict-ravaged **Ukraine** and **Moldova** to be granted **candidate status** in the **past six months**.

### Note:

- European Council president: Charles Michel

### Iran removed from the UN Commission on the Status of Women

- The **54-member United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)** adopted a resolution to remove **Iran** from the **Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)** for the remainder of its **four-year term** from **2022 to 2026**.
- The development comes in the wake of the country's brutal crackdown on protests calling for justice for **Mahsa Amini**, the **22-year-old woman** who **died** in police custody in **September 2022**.

### Key Highlights:

- The United States introduced the resolution, which **received 29 votes** in favour and **8 against**, with **16 countries abstaining**.
- The document expressed serious concern over the Iranian Government's actions since September 2022 "to continuously undermine and **increasingly suppress the human rights of women and girls**", and "often with the use of excessive force".
- **US Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield** called the CSW the **premiere UN body** for promoting **gender equality** and **empowering women**.

### About the UN Commission on the Status of Women:

- Established: 21 June 1946
- Headquarters: New York, United States of America (USA)
- UNCSW is a **functional commission** of the **United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)**.
- CSW has been described as the **UN organ promoting gender equality** and the **empowerment of women**.
- Its **45 members** are elected by ECOSOC, based on equitable geographical distribution, and serve for four years.

### G-7 approves 15.5 billion US dollar energy deal with Vietnam to help cut climate-damaging pollution

- A group of **9 rich industrialized nations** has approved a deal to provide **Vietnam** with **15.5 billion US dollars** to help the **Southeast Asian nation** move **faster** from **coal power** to **renewable energy**, cutting its **climate-damaging pollution**.
- The **\$15.5 billion** of funding will come from public and private sources over the coming **3 to 5 years**.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

### Key Highlights:

- The Group of Seven major economies, along with **Norway** and **Denmark**, stated that the aim is to help **Vietnam reduce its emissions to net zero by 2050**.
- It is a goal that experts say needs to be met globally to cap **global warming at 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit)**.
- The **Just Energy Transition Partnership with Vietnam** is among a **series of agreements** that developing and rich nations are negotiating.
- The **first such deal** was signed with **South Africa** in 2021.
- A similar agreement was reached with **Indonesia** in **November 2022**.

### About G7:

- G7 is an **international intergovernmental economic organization** of the world's seven advanced **economies**.
- Members- **Canada, Japan, Italy, France, Germany, the United States, and the United Kingdom**.
- G7 countries meet **annually to discuss issues** of common interest like **global economic governance, international security, and energy policy**.
- The G7 **does not have a fixed headquarters**.
- The UK currently chairs the G7 and has invited India along with **Australia, the Republic of Korea, and South Africa** as guest countries for the G7 summit.

### UAE to host next meeting of World Trade Organization

- The **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** will host the next major meeting of the **World Trade Organization** set to **take place by March 2024**.
- The UAE and Cameroon were both vying to host the event known as **MC13 (Ministerial Conference 13)**, a high-level event scheduled every few years where trade ministers aim to fix new global trade rules.
- The two countries reached an “amicable agreement” for the UAE to host the next meeting, known as **MC13**, and for Cameroon to host the one after that, citing a letter from the head of the WTO's General Council sent to Geneva-based ambassadors.

### About WTO:

- **Founded: 1 January 1995**
- **Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland**
- **Director-General: Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala**

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- 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.

### About UAE:

- President: Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan
- Capital: Abu Dhabi
- Currency: UAE dirham

### India hosts the 1st G20 Finance and Central Bank Deputies (FCBD) meeting under the G20 India Presidency in Bengaluru, Karnataka

- The First Group Twenty (G20) Finance and Central Bank Deputies Meeting, under the Indian Presidency, was held in Bengaluru, Karnataka, from 23-25 February 2023 under the co-chairship of Secretary, Economic Affairs, Shri Ajay Seth and Deputy Governor, Reserve Bank of India, Dr. Michael Patra.
- The theme of India's G20 Presidency, Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam or "One Earth, One Family, One Future, will guide the G20 Finance Track discussions.

### Aim:

- To seek the views of G20 members on India's G20 Finance Track priorities for 2023 across various workstreams.
- The meeting saw an enthusiastic gathering of over 160 foreign delegates including Deputies from G20 member countries, invitee countries, and International Organisations.

### Key Highlights:

- A side event on 'Strengthening Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) to Address Shared Global Challenges of the 21st century' was held on the sidelines of the Deputy's meeting.
- Another side event on 'Role of Central Banks in Managing Climate Risk and Green Financing' was also held.
- The discussions focused on issues relating to the global economy and risks, strengthening MDBs, managing global debt vulnerabilities, financing climate action and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and building resilient, inclusive, and sustainable cities of tomorrow.
- Overall, the meeting saw broad support for the proposed priorities of India's G20 Finance Track agenda for 2023.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- During the first session on the global economy and Framework Working Group priorities, G20 members discussed global economic challenges, including global inflation, food, and energy insecurity, and the macroeconomic implications of climate change.
- In the session on **International Financial Architecture**, delegates deliberated on various issues, including strengthening MDBs and exchanged views on work to be undertaken in 2023 on key topics including global debt distress, capital flows, and global financial safety net.
- In the infrastructure session, discussions took place on India's priorities for the Infrastructure Working Group 2023 including "**Financing Cities of Tomorrow: Inclusive, Resilient and Sustainable**".

### Indian govt allows Sri Lankans to hold \$10,000 worth of rupees in cash

- **Sri Lankans** can hold \$10,000 (Rs 8.14 lakh) worth of the Indian rupee (INR) in a **physical form**, though the **INR would not be legal tender** in Sri Lanka after India approved a Sri Lankan request to designate the INR as the foreign currency.

#### Reason:

- This is because designating INR as a legal currency in Sri Lanka will provide the country with **much-needed liquidity support** to help it tide over its **economic crisis amid inadequate availability** of the **US dollar**.

#### Key Highlights:

- To enable this, Sri Lankan banks must sign an **agreement** with an **Indian bank** to open "**INR Nostro accounts**" which means the accounts that banks hold in a foreign currency in another bank.
- Another important development is that **offshore banking units (OBU)** of Lankan banks have been permitted to **accept savings, time, and demand deposits from non-residents**.
- **All current account transactions** including **exports, imports, and remittances** can be undertaken between Lankan residents and non-residents.
- **So far, India's central bank** has approved banks to open **12 Vostro accounts** for trade in rupees with **Russia**.

### Quadrilateral agreement inked on Black Sea submarine electric cable

- **Romania, Hungary, Azerbaijan, and Georgia** signed an agreement on the **Black Sea submarine cable** for the transport of electricity from the **Caspian area to Romania**.
- The **500 kV submarine cable** between **Georgia and Romania** would be **1,100 km long** and have a **capacity of 1 GW**.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

### About the Agreement:

- The quadrilateral intergovernmental agreement will provide the financial and technical framework for the implementation of the project according to which Azerbaijan will supply its green electricity through power lines to Georgia, and then by the planned submarine cable to Romania, and from there to Hungary and the rest of Europe, through the European transport system.
- The project also includes a telecommunications cable.
- The feasibility study is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2023 and the cable could be built in late 2029.

### India announces candidature for UNSC membership for the 2028-29 term

- External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar announced the candidature of India for non-permanent membership at the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) for the 2028-29 term.
- On 1 December 2022 India got the presidency of the UNSC for December 2022, which rotates monthly. India will have this presidency till 31 December.

### Key Highlights:

- This is the second time India got the Presidency after holding the top spot in August 2021, during which the government focused on maritime security, UN peacekeeping, and counter-terrorism.
- India has become a member of the Security Council for the 8th time.
- India's previous seven terms on the council were from 1950–1951, 1967–1968, 1972–1973, 1977–1978, 1984–1985, 1991–1992, and 2011–2012.
- India has been at the forefront of efforts calling for urgent reform of the Security Council, which has been highly divisive in dealing with current challenges.
- India has presided over the Security Council during its two-year tenure as an elected member.
- During India's December Presidency of the UN Security Council, two high-level signature events took place.
- The meetings were held on 'Reformed Multilateralism and Counter-Terrorism' and chaired by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar.
- The high-level open debate on the theme – "Maintenance of International Peace and Security: New Orientation for Reformed Multilateralism" was held on December 14, 2022.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- On December 15, 2022, a high-level briefing on the theme – “Threats to International Peace and Security Caused by Terrorist Acts: Global Approach to Counter Terrorism – Challenges and Way Forward” sought to build a consensus on the principles of a global counter-terror architecture.
- The high-level briefing aimed to enhance the **Delhi Declaration** adopted during the special meeting of the **counter-terrorism committee** held in October 2022 in India.

### About UNSC:

- UN Security Council: The UN Security Council is composed of **15 members**.
- There are **5 permanent members**, including **China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, and the United States**.
- There are **10 non-permanent members** elected for two-year terms by the General Assembly.
- The UNSC is the **only UN body** with the authority to **issue binding resolutions** on member states.

### UN-Water & WHO Report Points to “Critical” Lack of Funding for WASH

- UN-Water and the World Health Organization (WHO) have released the 2022 edition of the **Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking Water (GLAAS)** report, which presents the **latest data from 121 countries and territories** and **23 external support agencies**.
- The 2022 GLAAS report seeks to **inform commitments, priority settings, and actions** during the **second half** of the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** and the **UN 2023 Water Conference**.

### About the Report:

- The report highlights opportunities to accelerate progress in key areas that positively affect the quality and sustainability of **water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services** and delivery, pandemic preparedness, and resilience to climate change.
- **Less than one-third of countries** reported **maintaining enough human resources** to **manage essential WASH tasks**.
- **Poor access** to WASH claims **millions of lives each year**.
- While **45%** of countries are on track to achieve their **nationally-defined drinking-water coverage targets**, **only 25%** of countries are on track to **achieve their national sanitation targets**.
- It provides **policy- and decision-makers** at all levels with **reliable, easily accessible, comprehensive data** on WASH systems, including governance, monitoring, human resources and finance.
- It monitors elements of WASH systems that are required to sustain and extend WASH services and systems to all, especially to the **most vulnerable population groups**.



## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

### About WHO:

- Founded: 7 April 1948
- Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland
- Director General: Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
- The WHO is a **specialised agency** of the **United Nations** responsible for international public health.

### About UN-Water:

- Founded: 2003
- Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland
- UN-Water Chair: Gilbert Houngbo
- UN-Water's role is to **ensure** that Members and Partners' **deliver as one**' in response to **water-related challenges**.

### Urban-20 (U20) event being organised under G20 presidency of India

- The **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)** is organising the **Urban 20 (U20)** event during India's **G20 presidency from December 01, 2022 to November 30, 2023**.
- In the process to organise the Urban 20 event, **Gujarat CM Shri Bhupendra Patel unveiled the logo, website, and social media handles of Urban-20**.

### What is Urban 20 (U20) ?

- Urban-20 (U20) is **one of the Engagement Groups of G20**.
- **Hosted: Ahmedabad**, a UNESCO World Heritage city will host the U20 event.
- **Participants** - Besides G20 countries, the Mayors and representatives of C40 (Climate 40), UCLG (United Cities and Local Governments) member cities, and Observer Cities.
- **Purpose:** It provides a platform for cities from G20 countries to **facilitate discussions** on various important issues of urban development including climate change, social inclusion, sustainable mobility, affordable housing and financing of urban infrastructure and propose collective solutions.
- **Objective** - The effort of this cycle will be to move from '**intention to action**'.
- It **drafts a roadmap for closing the gaps between policy and practice to address critical urban issues**.
- **Ahmedabad** became a **member of the C40 in 2022** and has been a member of other global alliances like the **International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives(ICLEI)**.
- The **first Sherpa meeting of the Urban 20 event** is scheduled to be held on **February 09-10, 2023**.
- Priority areas for the Urban 20 event are as follows:

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

1. Encouraging environmentally responsive behaviour
2. Ensuring water security
3. Accelerating Climate Finance
4. Leveraging 'local' potential and identity
5. Reinventing urban governance and planning frameworks
6. Catalysing digital urban futures

### About MoHUA:

- Cabinet Minister: Hardeep Singh Puri
- Minister of State: Kaushal Kishore

### Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina inaugurates the first Metro rail in Dhaka

- Bangladesh Prime Minister (PM) Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the country's first metro rail service in Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- The PM opened the 11.73-km part of the Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) Line-6 of the metro rail project from Diabari to Agargaon.
- The government-owned company Dhaka Mass Transit Company Limited (DMTCL) is implementing the metro rail project.
- This is part of the ambitious Bangladesh project of Mass Rapid Transit to be completed by 2030.
- She also released a commemorative banknote of Taka 50 to mark the metro's opening.

### Key Highlights:

- **Mariam Afiza** became the first operator of the metro & **PM Sheikh Hasina** became the first passenger to travel on the metro rail.
- It is built with financial and technical support from Japan.
- The metro rail network after completion in 2030 will cover a total length of 129 kilometers out of which 61 kilometers will be underground.
- **Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)** has been constructing the metro rail and providing soft loans for the project.
- The construction work of the MRT Line-6 began in 2016.
- Ten pairs of trains with 6 six coaches each will run on this route initially for 4 hours carrying about 5 lakh passengers daily.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- It is a great achievement for Bangladesh being the **first high-speed rail service** with a top speed of **110 kilometers per hour**.
- It is also the **first time** that **Bangladesh** will be running an **electric train** in a country that is **environmentally safe**.

### About Bangladesh:

- President: Mohammad Abdul Hamid
- Prime Minister: Sheikh Hasina
- Capital: Dhaka
- Currency: Taka

### India hands over 720 MW Mangdechhu Hydroelectric Project to Bhutan

- The India-assisted **720 Megawatts (MW) Mangdechhu Hydroelectric Power Project (HEPP)** has been handed to **Druk Green Power Corporation (DGPC)** in Bhutan.
- The handover was held in **Thimphu**, in a ceremony that was witnessed by **Bhutan's Minister of Economic Affairs Lyonpo Loknath Sharma**, and **India's Ambassador to Bhutan, Sudhakar Dalela**.
- With the handing over of the project, India and Bhutan have completed **4 mega hydroelectric power projects**.

### About Mangdechhu Hydroelectric Power Project:

- The Project was jointly **inaugurated** by **Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi** and his **Bhutanese counterpart Lotay Tshering** in **2019**.
- The commissioning of the project has **increased Bhutan's Electrical Power Generation Capacity** by **44%** and it is now at **2,326 Mega Watts**.
- The Project has generated **more than 9000 million units of energy** since its commissioning, reducing **2.4 million tons of emissions annually**.
- The commissioning of the Project led to an **increase of 31%** in **hydropower revenues** of **Bhutan** in **2020**.
- In **2021**, the Project exported electricity worth **Rs 12.13 billion** to India, increasing Bhutan's electricity exports to **Rs 24.43 billion**.

### About Bhutan:

- Prime Minister: Lotay Tshering
- Capital: Thimphu
- Currency: Bhutanese Ngultrum

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

### IMPORTANT MOUs & AGREEMENTS

#### **BIS signed an agreement with the top six engineering institutes in India:**

- The **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **India's top six engineering colleges to include Indian standards in the curriculum.**
- This program aims to institutionalize BIS's collaboration with notable institutes to ensure the active participation of academia.
- The Memorandum of Understanding was signed on November 28, 2022, with **the Indian Institute of Technology BHU, Malaviya National Institute of Technology Jaipur, Indian Institute of Technology Indore, Indian Institute of Technology Patna, Indian Institute of Technology Madras, and National Institute of Technology Trichy.**
- The institutes will be encouraged to strive for quality and leadership in teaching, research, and development in the fields of science and other disciplines.
- During the signing ceremony, **Shri Pramod Kumar Tiwari, Director General of BIS, stated that the MoU between the elite academic establishments and BIS** would improve and increase the standards formulation activity by facilitating R&D projects.
- It will encourage young minds to participate in the standardizing process by organizing seminars, conferences, workshops, symposia or lectures, training, and short-term education programs in collaboration.
- He also underlined the importance of working with start-ups and incubation centres, as well as academic institutions, to develop new standards and ensure compliance with existing ones.
- It is also expected that technological innovation and standards development will be smoothly intertwined to promote the development of technology-oriented products and services.

#### **BIS signed an agreement with six of India's premier engineering schools:**

- The **top six engineering schools in India and the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to integrate Indian standards into the curriculum.**
- This program aims to formalize BIS's relationships with prestigious institutions to ensure the academic community's active participation.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- The MoU was signed with the National Institute of Technology Trichy, Indian Institute of Technology BHU, Indian Institute of Technology Indore, Indian Institute of Technology Patna, and Indian Institute of Technology Madras.
- The organization will support the different institutes' commitment to quality and leadership in the teaching, research, and growth of science and other fields.
- The Director General of BIS, Shri Pramod Kumar Tiwari, stated during the signing that the MoU between the prestigious academic institutions and BIS would boost and **enhance the activity of developing standards by facilitating R&D projects.**
- It will promote the participation of young people in the standards process and co-organize training sessions, seminars, conferences, workshops, symposia, and short-term education initiatives.
- He also underlined the importance of working with academic institutions, start-up incubators, and incubators to develop new standards and ensure that they are followed.
- It is also envisaged that standards development and technological innovation would work together seamlessly to promote the creation of technology-focused goods and services.

### India and Germany reach an agreement on migration and mobility:

- A comprehensive agreement on migration and mobility was inked by German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock and External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, making it simpler for people to work, study, and travel in both nations.
- The agreement, which aims to make it easier for researchers, professionals, and students to move back and forth, is also expected to address the problems associated with illegal immigration.
- During her two days in India, German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock will talk about India's relations with China and Russia as well as cooperation on the transition to renewable energy.
- The agreement on migration and mobility is expected to promote more student exchanges between the two nations.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in May of this year that the Indian government would make it easier for German students to enroll in higher education institutions (HEIs) through initiatives like Study in India.
- Furthermore, the agreement assures that there are frequent interactions between the professional workforce, academia, and students.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- This supports efforts by Germany and India to develop their higher education systems' internationalization, to further connect their respective innovation and research environments, and to strengthen their respective dual structures for vocational education and training.

### **Airtel and Meta are collaborating to help India's digital ecosystem grow:**

- **Airtel has announced a collaboration with Meta Platforms, Inc. (Meta) to promote the expansion of India's digital ecosystem.**
- The announcement follows telecom operators' demand for revenue sharing with service providers to construct networks.
- **Airtel is now testing 4G and 5G Open RAN solutions** on select sites in the state of Haryana, and the technology will be commercially deployed across numerous locations in India over the next several quarters.
- Airtel will share its insights with wider TIP ecosystem partners, including Meta, to help expedite the adoption of **Open RAN-based networks around the world.**
- Airtel and Meta will collaborate **to invest in global connectivity infrastructure and new-age digital solutions based on CPaaS to meet the evolving needs of users and enterprises in India.**
- To bring **2Africa Pearls to India, Airtel will collaborate with Meta and STC.**
- 2Africa is the world's longest underwater cable system, and it is intended to bring quicker internet access to nearly 3 billion people worldwide.
- Meta creates solutions that assist people in connecting, finding communities, and growing enterprises.
- When Facebook first appeared in 2004, it revolutionized the way people communicated.
- Apps like Messenger, Instagram, and WhatsApp enabled billions of people worldwide.

### **Walmart and NSIC Sign an Agreement:**

- The **National Small Industries Corporation Ltd. and Walmart Global Sourcing India Private Limited** have signed a Memorandum of Understanding **to facilitate services for MSMEs in the Walmart Vridhhi program.**
- Using this MoU, **NSIC will be able to offer its programs and other services to MSMEs that take part in different Vridhhi programs.**
- Additionally, the MSMEs would be exposed to different benefits of obtaining working capital, help for large-scale purchases, etc. under various chances provided by NSIC.



## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- MSMEs, which are a part of the NSIC ecosystem, will also be connected to the Vriddhi program in pertinent clusters and will have "**free of charge**" access to the program's existing business training materials, advisory support, tools, and knowledge.
- **By 2030, MSME exports will be able to surpass \$2 trillion in value thanks in large part to the MoU.**
- Especially during the pandemic, Walmart played a crucial role in providing training and capacity building for MSMEs.
- A total of 110 million people are employed by the 63 million MSME businesses that make up India's MSME sector.

### **PFC signed an MoU with the Ministry of Power**

- **Power Finance Corporation Limited (PFC)** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Ministry of Power** between the signatories Mr. **Ravinder Singh Dhillon**, CMD, Power Finance Corporation, and Mr. **Alok Kumar**, Secretary, Ministry of Power.
- Power Finance Corporation plans to set up one of the largest funding agencies in the Renewables space, witnessing a **strategic change in its loan portfolio and getting its Memorandum of Association (MoA)** changed to fund the infrastructure and logistics space as well.
- It has been a key partner of the **Government of India in implementing several schemes Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS)**, Liquidity Infusion Scheme under Atmanirbhar Bharat, etc, and has been one of the highest dividends paying companies.

### **About PFC:**

- Power Finance Corporation Ltd. is an Indian central public sector undertaking under the ownership of the Ministry of Power, Government of India.
- Established in 1986.

### **IIT Ropar and the Army Training Command have signed an agreement to establish a Center of Excellence:**

- The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Ropar and the Indian Army's Army Training Command (ARTRAC) has struck an **agreement to establish a center of excellence for academics and applied research in defense and security at the premier institute.**
- The MoU was signed by **Rajeev Ahuja**, director of IIT Ropar, and Lt Gen **SS Mahal**, General Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the ARTRAC.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- IIT Ropar will also curate training programs as the exchange of information on educational programs for security practitioners of the armed forces, Central Armed Police Forces, intelligence agencies, and state police forces run by it as part of its on-campus and off-campus programs on research and innovation.
- The Centre of Excellence will be known as the '**Centre of Excellence for Studies and Applied Research in Defence and Security.**'
- The CoE will concentrate on emerging areas of research and technology, such as information warfare or security (quadcopters and drones, medium and light weaponry, missile technologies, body armor, force survivability, hypersonic applications, energy-directed weapons), wireless communication, and many other fields within the larger domain of defence and security.
- The CoE will be established to leverage **IIT Ropar's technical expertise and ARTRAC's operational expertise** in advanced materials and manufacturing, deep learning algorithm design and development, multipath and wireless networks, data transmission tools, remote sensing and forecasting, cyber security, and other areas.

### **Airbnb and the Goa government have signed an agreement to promote inclusive tourism:**

- **Airbnb inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the Department of Tourism, **Government of Goa**, to jointly market Goa as one of the most sought-after **high-potential tourism destinations in India and around the world.**
- This collaboration **aims to promote visitation to lesser-known distinctive sites** while also enabling economically regenerative community-led tourism in the state.
- On the official launch of '**Rediscover Goa,**' a week-long celebration of Goa's vast cultural diversity beyond its beaches and dazzling nightlife, **Airbnb and the Goa Tourism Department have joined forces to scale homestay capacity** across the state and support Goa homestay Hosts in providing quality tourism experiences to domestic and international guests.
- The declaration underscores both parties' commitment to **supporting the development of a sustainable tourist ecosystem in Goa**, while also emphasizing the state's current and forthcoming tourism hotspots.
- The **Department of Tourism, the Government of Goa, and Airbnb will collaborate to promote Goa as a high-quality tourism destination** by expanding the state's homestay culture and highlighting unique sites for hinterland tourism and homestay tourism that visitors can explore.
- This will be accomplished through carefully planned domestic and international destination promotion activities.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- Airbnb will support the Department of Tourism's vision by holding workshops and seminars to educate homestay hosts and B&B owners about the importance of responsible tourism, build host capacity, amplify and create awareness about local laws, and encourage host registration, all while working to onboard more Hosts and properties on the platform.

### The AIIA signed agreement with international institutions to promote Ayurveda:

- The All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the University of Medical Sciences in Cuba and has renewed its partnership with the Rosenberg European Academy of Ayurveda (REAA) in Germany for another five years to advance joint programs.
- The agreements were reached during the 9th World Ayurveda Congress and Arogya Expo.
- The Memorandum of Understanding with the Havana-based University of Medical Sciences was signed by Cuban Ambassador to India Alejandro Simancas Marin and AIIA Director Dr. Tanuja M Nesari.
- AIIA, a Delhi-based independent organization within the Ministry of AYUSH, now has 15 international partners and 35 national partners as part of its collaborative operations.
- These collaborations come at a time when Ayurveda and other traditional wellness systems are gaining popularity around the world.
- The primary goal is to encourage advanced scientific research, evidence-based studies and clinical trials, exchange programs, and patient care.

### AIC signs agreements with MSMEs to hasten the commercialisation of new products:

- Atal Incubation Centre (AIC) at the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) signed agreements with MSMEs for the incubation of newer technologies into commercial products.
- The agreements were signed to commemorate the launch of the AIC at the BARC to hasten the conversion of products from research labs to the market.
- The incubation agreements are signed specifically for technologies aligned with India's global commitments of achieving Net Zero (carbon neutrality) such as access to safe drinking water, and growth of potential import substitutes for advanced and affordable healthcare in the country.
- AIC-BARC is introduced as one of the three projects for the self-reliance of DAE and is established under the aegis of the Atal Innovation Mission, a flagship initiative of the union government to create and promote the culture of innovation and entrepreneurship in the country.
- The launch of AIC-BARC was announced in the 2020 Budget Speech of Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and will complement the Aatma Nirbhar Bharat initiative of the government.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- Moreover, the incubation centre will help promote start-ups and other emerging businesses and create new employment opportunities for people. As per the framework of AIC-BARC, the scientists of BARC will mentor the incubatee industries for further improvisation and development of market-ready products with the help of DAE technologies.
- **Ajit Kumar Mohanty, Director, BARC, representatives of Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog, and senior members of DAE** also attended the launch of the centre.

### Center and Manipur sign a peace accord with the Naga armed group:

- The Union government and the Manipur government have signed a cessation of operations agreement with the **Zeliangrong United Front (ZUF), a Manipur-based Naga armed group.**
- The banned group, active for a decade, has been demanding a separate State for the Zeliangrong Naga tribe.
- The armed group has said in statements earlier that they are the followers of Rani Gaidinliu, a freedom fighter from Manipur, who was jailed by the British for 14 years.
- The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) said in a statement that the **agreement would be a significant boost to the peace process in Manipur.**
- It was signed by senior officers of the MHA, the Government of Manipur and the representatives of the ZUF in the presence of Chief Minister N. Biren Singh. Union Home Minister Amit Shah was not present at the signing of the agreement.

### NTPC and Tecnimont sign an agreement to investigate the possibility of developing green methanol production:

- **NTPC**, India's largest power generation company, has signed a non-binding Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with **Tecnimont Private Limited, an Indian Subsidiary of Maire Tecnimont Group, Italy.**
- The objective of the MOU is to jointly evaluate and explore the possibility to develop a commercial-scale Green Methanol Production facility at the NTPC project in India.
- The **Green Methanol Project involves capturing carbon from NTPC power plants and converting it into green fuel.**
- Green Methanol has a wide range of applications, including serving as a base material for the chemical industry, storing renewable electricity, and even as a transportation fuel.
- It is also considered a substitute fuel for maritime fuel applications.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- **C.K Mondal, Director (Commercial), NTPC** commented that this project along with NTPCs under execution **Pilot scale Green Methanol project aligns** with NTPC's commitment to sustainability and renewable energy, and will significantly contribute to India's energy transition.

### About NTPC:

- NTPC Limited, formerly known as National Thermal Power Corporation Limited, is an Indian central public sector undertaking under the ownership of the Ministry of Power, Government of India which is engaged in the generation of electricity and allied activities.
- Founded: 7 November 1975
- Headquarters: New Delhi, India

### Tata Steel and TuTr Hyperloop join hands to develop hyperloop technology:

- **Tata Steel and TuTr Hyperloop** signed an agreement to **jointly work on the development and deployment of hyperloop technology.**
  - The research will focus on key challenges of design and materials selection.
  - The partnership seeks to **design, develop, and scale up the technology for commercialization.**
- **Phase-I work** will take place on the **50-meter test track at IIT Madras.**
  - The subsequent work to achieve a **10-km track will be completed in Phase-II and -III** involving a consortium of other industry partners from the automotive, construction, and engineering sectors.
  - Hyperloop is a future option for a high-speed, low-cost, sustainable transport system for both passengers and cargo.
- The hyperloop system has key elements such as tubes, pods, propulsion systems, and tracks.

### About TuTr Hyperloop:

- TuTr Hyperloop is a deep-tech startup that is focused on developing hyperloop technologies.
- It endeavours to provide customers with fast and reliable 'on-demand' transportation that is both affordable and greener in comparison with other modes of transport.
- Currently, India's (and Asia's) first hyperloop test track is under implementation at the Discovery campus of IIT Madras.
- TuTr seeks to leverage its partnership with IIT Madras and its co-location with India's largest deep tech ecosystem to catalyze the development of cost-effective Hyperloop technologies that help enhance the productivity of various industries by solving their pain points about goods movement.

### About Tata Steel:

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## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- Tata Steel group is among the top global steel companies with an annual crude steel capacity of 34 million tonnes per annum.
- It is one of the world's most geographically diversified steel producers, with operations and commercial presence across the world.
- The group recorded a consolidated turnover of US \$ 32.83 billion in the financial year ending March 31, 2022.

### IMPORTANT MERGERS & ACQUISITIONS

#### YES Bank acquires 9.9% stake in JC Flower Arc

- YES, Bank has signed a share purchase agreement (SPA) with JC Flowers Asset Reconstruction Company (ARC), purchasing a 9.9% interest in the ARC for Rs 11.43 per share.
- While the bank also plans to acquire the remaining 10% in due course, subject to requisite regulatory approvals.
- As per the guidelines, prior approval of RBI is required to be obtained by a banking company for the acquisition of 10% or more shareholding in an asset reconstruction company (ARC).
- The bank intends to participate as a minority shareholder in the ARC.
- JC Flowers ARC had Rs 595 crore in assets under management as of March 31, 2022, with an annual turnover of Rs 19.9 crore.

#### About YES Bank:

- Founded: 2004
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO: Prashant Kumar
- Tagline: Experience Our Expertise

#### RBI gives conditional approval to Carlyle & Advent's stake buy in YES Bank

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has given conditional approval to private equity investors Carlyle Group and Advent International to acquire up to 9.99% each in private lender Yes Bank.
- The proposed investment is by CA Basque investments, a part of The Carlyle Group, and Verventa Holdings Limited, an affiliate of funds managed by Advent.

#### Key Highlights:



## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- YES, Bank proposes to issue **3.70 crore equity shares** on a preferential basis at a price of **₹13.78 per share** and **257 crore warrants** convertible into equity shares at a price of **₹14.82 per warrant**, adding **₹8,900** to the **equity capital base** of the bank.
- The **fund-raising** would be conducted through a **combination of \$640 million (Rs 5,100 crore)** in **equity shares** and **\$475 million (Rs 3,800 crore)** through **equity share warrants**

### About YES Bank:

- Founded: 2004
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO: Prashant Kumar
- Tagline: Experience Our Expertise

### Alibaba Group sells a 3% stake in Zomato for ₹1,631 crore

- Alipay Singapore, an arm of Alibaba Group Holding Ltd, sold a **3.07% stake** in online food delivery giant Zomato for **₹1,631 crores** via an open market transaction.
- Alipay Singapore Holding Pte offloaded around **26,28,73,507 shares**, aggregating to a **3.07% stake** in the firm, according to the bulk deal data available with the **National Stock Exchange (NSE)**.

### About Zomato:

- Founded: 2008
- Headquarters: Gurgaon, Haryana, India.
- CEO: Deepinder Goyal

### About Alibaba Group Holding Limited:

- Founded: 28 June 1999
- Headquarters: Hangzhou, China.
- It, also known as Alibaba, is a **Chinese multinational technology company** specializing in **e-commerce, retail, Internet, and technology**.

### J SPL acquires Monnet Power for Rs 410 cr

- Jindal Steel and Power (JSP) Limited has acquired debt-laden Monnet Power for Rs 410 crore through the insolvency route.
- Monnet Power, has a **1050 MW** under-construction plant in **Odisha's Angul**.
- The power plant would be used for captive use and it will consume **20-25% less coal**.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- Monnet Power was admitted for the corporate insolvency resolution process (CIRP) in 2018 after proceedings were instituted by the IDFC Bank.
- In 2019, the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) ordered liquidation as there was no resolution plan.
- Monnet's bank debt was about Rs 3,819 crore.
- JSPL's proposal to increase capacity to 25.2 million tonnes per annum (mtpa) was cleared by the Odisha government in 2021.
- Currently, the capacity at Angul is about 6 mtpa.

### About JSPL:

- Headquarters: New Delhi, India
- Chairman: Naveen Jindal
- MD: Bimlendra Jha
- JSPL is an Indian steel company & it is a part of OP Jindal Group

### HDFC Bank to acquire 7.75% stake in Mintoak for Rs 31 cr

- India's largest private bank HDFC Bank has acquired a 7.75% stake in fintech start-up Mintoak Innovations (Mintoak) for a total cash consideration of Rs 31.14 crore.
- The acquisition is likely to be completed by 31 January 2023, subject to conditions precedent.

### Key Highlights:

- HDFC has executed agreements to subscribe 21,471 fully paid-up compulsory convertible preference shares (CCPS) of the face value of Rs 20 each at a premium of Rs 9,711 for an aggregate consideration of Rs 9,731 per CCPS to be issued by Mintoak.
- The bank will purchase 10,538 fully paid-up equity shares of the face value of Rs 10 each at a premium of Rs 9,721 taking the total consideration to Rs 9,731 per equity share from certain existing shareholders of Mintoak
- Mintoak is a fintech start-up that provides a payments-led platform offering value-added services to merchants for engaging with their customers and for acquirers to enhance their engagement with merchants through digital engagement and value-added solutions.
- It had a turnover of Rs 11.28 crore and a net profit of Rs 1.47 crore in FY2022.

### About HDFC Bank:

- Founded: August 1994
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- CEO: Sashidhar Jagdishan

### Life Insurance Corporation Raises Stake In HDFC To Over 5%

- **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)**, the country's largest insurer, has **increased its stake in Housing Development Finance Corporation (HDFC) Ltd** to over **5%** following the acquisition of shares from the open market.
- Once the deal is effective, HDFC Bank will be **100% owned by public shareholders**, and existing shareholders of **HDFC will own 41%** of the bank.
- In a notice to the stock exchanges, LIC stated that its stake increased from **4.991% to 5.003%**, after it acquired 2.14 lakh shares.

### About HDFC Ltd:

- Founded: 1977
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- CEO: Keki Mistry
- HDFC Ltd is an **Indian private development finance institution**.

### About LIC:

- Founded: 1 September 1956
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Chairperson: M R Kumar
- Managing Director: B C Patnaik, Smt. Ipe Mini, Siddharth Mohanty, Rajkumar
- The LIC is an **Indian central public sector undertaking** under the ownership of the **Ministry of Finance, Government of India**.

### LIC raises stake in IRCTC to 7.278%

- **Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) of India** has **increased its stake** in the **Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC)** from **5.005% to 7.278%**.
- LIC raised its stake in IRCTC **after adding 1,81,80,323 IRCTC shares** to its portfolio making it **5,82,22,948 IRCTC shares in total**.

### About IRCTC:

- Founded: 27 September 1999
- Headquarters: New Delhi, India
- Chairman & MD: Smt. Rajni Hasija

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- IRCTC, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Indian Railways, is the only entity authorized to provide certain services to the Indian Railways, including online ticketing, catering, and selling drinking water on trains and at railway stations.

### About LIC:

- Founded: 1 September 1956
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Chairperson: M R Kumar
- Life Insurance Corporation of India is an Indian central public sector undertaking.
- It is under the ownership of the Ministry of Finance, Government of India.

### CCI approves Brookfield's minority stake buy in UPL SAS

- The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved Woodhall Holdings Ltd's (WHL) acquisition of a minority stake in UPL Sustainable Agri Solutions Ltd (UPL SAS).
- Woodhall Holdings Ltd (WHL) is a special purpose vehicle (SPV) and part of Brookfield Asset Management

### Key Highlights:

- In October, 2022 UPL announced that Brookfield along with other investors will invest Rs 1,580 crore for a 9.09% stake in its agri-tech platform UPL SAS.
- The deal has been cleared under the green channel route.
- Under this framework, a transaction which does not raise any risk of an appreciable adverse effect on competition is deemed to be approved on being intimated to the fair trade regulator

### About CCI:

- Established: 14 October 2003
- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Chairperson: Sangeeta Verma
- The CCI is the chief national competition regulator in India.
- It is a statutory body within the Ministry of Corporate Affairs

### About UPL SAS:

- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Directors: Nitin Achyut Kolhatkar, Krishna Srivastava Ramprakash, Pradyumna Agrawal Kumar, Ashish Dobhal

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- UPL SAS is an Indian agrochemical company engaged in the manufacture, marketing, and sales of various agrochemicals such as insecticides, herbicides, and anti-sprouting agents.

### Reliance Jio acquires 100 pc stake in Reliance Infratel for Rs 3,720 crore

- Reliance Projects and Property Management Services (RPPMSL), a subsidiary of telecom major Jio, has completed a 100% stake acquisition in Reliance Infratel Limited (RITL) for about Rs 3,720 crore.
- The existing paid-up equity share capital of RITL has been canceled.
- Upon such cancellation, RPPMSL holds 100% equity share capital of RITL.
- The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) approved Reliance Projects and Property Management Services (RPPMSL) for the acquisition of Reliance Infratel (RITL) in November 2022.
- RIL has allotted to RPPMSL 50 lakh equity shares of Rs 10 each for cash aggregating to Rs 5 crore; and 372 crores zero coupon optionally fully convertible debentures of Rs 10 each, for cash, aggregating to Rs 3,720 crore.

### Reliance Strategic Business Ventures buys 23.3% stake in Exyn Technologies

- Reliance Strategic Business Ventures Limited (RSBVL), a wholly owned subsidiary of Reliance Industries Limited (RIL), acquired a 23.3% stake in Exyn Technologies Inc (Exyn) for a total consideration of \$25 million.

#### Key Highlights:

- RSBVL and Exyn have also entered into a **Strategic Partnership Agreement** for technology collaboration and commercialization of Exyn's technology.
- Exyn is an early-stage technology company, incorporated in Delaware, in 2014 with headquarters in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
- Exyn Technologies is **pioneering multi-platform robotic autonomy** for complex, GPS-denied environments.
- The investment and partnership by RSBVL will have synergies with Reliance's investments and strategic initiatives in drone, **industrial safety** and **security**, and **robotics areas**.

### PhonePe separates from Walmart-owned Flipkart

- One of India's largest digital payments platforms, PhonePe, has separated from parent e-commerce platform Flipkart in preparation for an initial public offering.
- The PhonePe Group was acquired by the Flipkart Group in 2016 and is now India's largest digital payments platform.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- The company has **more than 400 million registered users** and more than one in four Indians avail of its services
- As part of the transaction, the shareholders of the **Singapore entities** of both firms have purchased shares directly in PhonePe's India entity.
- Walmart will remain the majority shareholder of both business groups.
- PhonePe is also set to acquire fintech start-up ZestMoney for **\$200-300 million** and the deal may be closed in the next few weeks.

### About PhonePe:

- Founder and CEO at PhonePe: Sameer Nigam

### About Flipkart:

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

## IMPORTANT APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS NEWS

### SEBI approves Sundararaman Ramamurthy as MD & CEO of BSE

- **BSE Ltd** has received approval from the **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** for **Sundararaman Ramamurthy** as the managing director (MD) and chief executive officer (CEO) of the exchange.
- The top position was **vacant since July 2022** when the then **MD & CEO Ashish Kumar Chauhan** resigned from the post to join the National Stock Exchange (NSE)
- This is the **second stint** of Sundararaman Ramamurthy at **BSE**

### About Sundararaman Ramamurthy:

- He has worked as a senior vice president at **National Stock Exchange (NSE)**.
- He introduced **mobile stock trading to India** and diversified in new areas including currency, commodities and equity derivatives, SMEs, startups, mutual funds, insurance distribution, spot markets, and power trading.
- At present, he is the **chief operating officer** of the India arm of **Bank of America Corp.**

### About BSE Limited:

- Established: 1875



## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Chairman: S.S. Mundra

### Odisha's Manoj Kumar Sahoo Appointed Deputy Election Commissioner

- Senior Odia bureaucrat Manoj Kumar Sahoo has been appointed as Deputy Election Commissioner as part of a senior-level bureaucratic reshuffle effected by the Centre.

### About Manoj Kumar Sahoo:

- Sahoo is a 2006 batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of the Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Mizoram, and Union Territories (AGMUT) cadre.
- He has been appointed to the post for an overall tenure of 7 years up to December 16, 2023

### Other Appointments:

- Solomon Arokiaraj has been appointed as Joint Secretary of, the Department of Economic Affairs, and Ankita Mishra Bundela will be Joint Secretary of, the Department of Health & Family Welfare.
- Sanjeet has been named as Joint Secretary & Financial Adviser, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
- M Janaki will be the Additional Secretary, of the Central Vigilance Commission & Puneet Yadav has been appointed Additional Secretary of, the Union Public Service Commission.
- Sujata Sharma will be appointed as Joint Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas
- Varsha Sinha, a Central Secretariat Service (CSS) officer, has been appointed as Secretary of, the Oil Industry Development Board under the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas,
- Sanjay Roy, an Indian Information Service officer, will be Joint Secretary, Ministry of Steel.

### About the Election Commission of India:

- Founded: 25 January 1950
- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Chief Election Commissioner of India: Rajiv Kumar
- The Election Commission of India is a constitutional body.
- It was established by the Constitution of India to conduct and regulate elections in the country.

### Govt extends the term of Mr. Vinay Mohan Kwatra as Foreign Secretary

- The government has extended the term of Mr. Vinay Mohan Kwatra as Foreign Secretary till April 30, 2024.

### Other extensions granted by the government:

- Also, Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba's term was extended until August 2023.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla was also given an extension until August 2023.
- While ED Director SK Mishra was given his 3rd extension for a year.
- CBI Special Director Praveen Sinha's term was extended for six months in October 2022.
- Rajya Sabha Secretary-General PC Mody also had an extension this August for two more years

### Note:

- The first Foreign Secretary of India was KPS Menon senior.
- First woman Foreign Secretary: Chokila Iyer (2001-2002)

### About Mr. Vinay Mohan Kwatra:

- Mr. Kwatra is a 1988 batch Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer.
- He was appointed India's 34th foreign secretary in May 2022, succeeding Harsh Vardhan Shringla.
- He had earlier served as India's Ambassador to Nepal.
- He also worked in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) as joint secretary from October 2015 till August 2017, after which he served as ambassador to France until 2020.
- He is an expert on India's relations with the United States, China, and Europe.
- Kwatra headed the Policy Planning & Research Division of the Ministry of External Affairs
- He also served as the head of the Americas Division in the Foreign Ministry.
- Mr. Shringla is now serving as the Chief Coordinator of the upcoming G-20 summit to be held in India in 2023.

### Note:

- The next G20 Summit will be held in New Delhi in September 2023.

### WHO's first Chief Scientist Soumya Swaminathan left the health agency

- Dr. Soumya Swaminathan, the first Chief Scientist of the World Health Organization (WHO), will resign from her post after a five-year stint and return to India.

### About Soumya Swaminathan:

- Soumya Swaminathan was born in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India.
- She is an Indian paediatrician and clinical scientist known for her research on tuberculosis and HIV.
- She is the daughter of the "Father of the Green Revolution of India", M. S. Swaminathan, and Indian educationalist, Mina Swaminathan.
- She served as the Deputy Director General of Programmes (DDP) at the World Health Organization.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- She has been a familiar face at the regular international media briefings held by the WHO to guide on Covid-19 and other global outbreaks including **Monkeypox** and **Ebola**.

### **Sanjeev Bisht elected as the new chairman of the Spices Exporters Forum**

- **Sanjeev Bisht** has been elected as the **chairman** of the **All India Spices Exporters Forum (AISEF)** for the year **2022-23**.
- Bisht is the **vice president** of **Spices and Aqua** of the **Agri-Business Division** of **ITC Ltd** in **Andhra Pradesh**.
- He played an **instrumental role** in setting up the spices business for ITC from its inception.

#### **About AISEF:**

- Established: 1987
- It works towards protecting the interests of the spice exporters in the country, creating a **sustainable, pro-development business environment** for the industry and its stakeholders.

### **Former Health Secretary Preeti Sudan appointed as a UPSC member**

- Top Andhra Pradesh cadre Indian Administrative (IAS) officer and former health secretary **Mrs. Preeti Sudan** took the oath of office and **secrecy** as a member of the **Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)**.
- **UPSC Chairman Dr. Manoj Soni** administered the oath to Mrs. Sudan at Central Hall, UPSC Main Building.
- Even after the appointment of Sudan, there is a **vacancy** for **four members** in the commission.

#### **About Preeti Sudan:**

- Sudan has been a **consultant** to the **World Bank**.
- Sudan is **superannuated** as the **Union Health Secretary** in July 2020.
- She served as **Secretary of, the Department of Food & Public Distribution**, and in the **Women and Child Development and Defence Ministries**.
- She served as **Chair of COP-8 of the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control**, **Vice Chair of Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health**, **Chair of Global Digital Health Partnership**, and a member of **WHO's Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness and Response**
- Her notable contributions include starting two of the country's flagship programs - '**Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao**' and '**Ayushman Bharat**'.

#### **About UPSC:**

- Established: 01 October 1926

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi
- Chairman: Dr. Manoj Soni
- UPSC is headed by a **chairman** and can have a **maximum of 10 members**.

### Uttarakhand Government appoints Prasoon Joshi as its Brand Ambassador

- The Uttarakhand government has named Prasoon Joshi, the CEO, and CCO of McCann Worldgroup India, the state's brand ambassador.
- The Uttarakhand Gaurav Samman, apart from the Uttarakhand Ratna, is one of the state's two highest civilian awards given for achievements in various fields.

### About Prasoon Joshi:

- Joshi, a native of Uttarakhand, is a prominent and highly awarded member of the Indian advertising and media fraternity.
- Earlier the Dhamsi government also bestowed on Joshi the Uttarakhand Gaurav Samman honour for his contributions to art, literature, culture, and advertising.
- He has also written the lyrics for songs in popular Bollywood movies such as Rang De Basanti, Fanaa, and Taare Zameen Par.
- He has also written the script for the award-winning 2013 film, Bhaag Milkha Bhaag.
- Currently, Joshi is the Chairman of the Central Board of Film Certification (Censor Board).

### Awards & Honors:

- He was the first Asian to become the jury president at the Cannes International Festival of Creativity in 2014 for the prestigious Titanium category.
- He was also honoured with The Padma Award by the Indian Government, one of the highest civilian honours in the country
- He has received several prestigious international honours such as Young Global Leader by the World Economic Forum in 2006.

### About Uttarakhand:

- Governor: Gurmit Singh
- Chief minister: Pushkar Singh Dhamsi
- Capitals: Dehradun (Winter), Gairsain (Summer)
- National Park: Corbett National Park (the first national park of India), Valley of Flowers National Park, and Nanda Devi National Park

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Askot Musk Deer Sanctuary. Benog Wildlife Sanctuary, Kedarnath Wildlife Sanctuary

### India Assumes Presidency Of UN Security Council For December

- India assumed the Presidency of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) in December 2022.
- It is the second time in its two-year tenure as an elected member of the UN Security Council in 2021-22 that India has assumed the Presidency of the Council.
- India's 2021-2022 term on the Council ends December 31, 2022, with Ruchira Kamboj, India's first woman Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York.
- Earlier, India assumed the Presidency of the UNSC as a non-permanent member in August 2021.

### Key Highlights:

- Under India's December presidency of UNSC, there are two signature events at the ministerial level, scheduled for December 14 (Reformed Multilateralism) and 15 (Counter-Terrorism).
- External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will chair the events.
- On Dec 14, 2022, India will hold a high-level open debate on 'Maintenance of International Peace and Security: New Orientation for Reformed Multilateralism' (NORMS) at the Security Council.
- On Dec 15, 2022, the high-level briefing on the theme 'Threats to International Peace and Security Caused by Terrorist Acts: Global Approach to Counter Terrorism- Challenges and Way Forward.

### About UNSC:

- Founded: 24 October 1945
- Headquarters: New York, United States
- Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations Ruchira Kamboj
- Membership: 15 countries (Permanent members - China, France, Russia, United Kingdom, United States)

### IPS Officer Laxmi Singh becomes UP's first woman Police Commissioner

- The Government of Uttar Pradesh (UP) has appointed the IPS Officer Laxmi Singh as the new Noida Police Chief, making her the first woman officer to head a Police Commissionerate in UP.
- Laxmi Singh has replaced previous chief Alok Singh, who has now taken up duties at Police HQ in Lucknow.
- The Uttar Pradesh Government issued a transfer and the posting list of 16 Indian Police Service (IPS) Officers in UP.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

### Police Commissionerates in Uttar Pradesh

- Uttar Pradesh has **7 Police commissionerates**, a policy structure that was **first created** in 2020.
- Earlier, the Government had announced **three new Police commissionerates** in the **three districts** of **Ghaziabad, Agra, and Prayagraj**.
- This was in addition to the **four existing ones** in **Gautam Buddha Nagar, Lucknow, Varanasi, and Kanpur**.

### About Laxmi Singh:

- Laxmi Singh is a **2000-batch Indian Police Service (IPS)**.
- She also has the **distinction** of being the **first woman** to **score the highest** in the **UPSC exam**
- The **48-year-old bureaucrat** has been serving as an **Inspector General of Police, Lucknow range**.
- Currently, Laxmi Singh was serving as **IG** for the **Lucknow area**

### Additional Info:

- Notably, **Rajeshwar Singh IS** also the **first woman IPS topper** in the **UPSC exam** securing **33rd rank**.

### Awards & Honors:

- Laxmi Singh has been **awarded** the **PM's Silver nation** and the home minister's pistol during her training.
- She also received the **Police Medal** in 2016, and **UP DGP's Silver and Gold Medals** in 2020 and 2021.
- In 2021, she was honored with the **UP Chief Minister's excellence in Service Medal**.

### GroupM South Asia CEO Prasanth Kumar elected as president of AAI

- **Prasanth Kumar**, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), South Asia of GroupM Media (India) Pvt Ltd, has been elected as the **President** of the **Advertising Agencies Association of India (AAI)** for **fiscal 2022-23**.
- **Rana Barua**, Group CEO of Havas Group India was unanimously elected **Vice-President** of the **Association**.
- **Anupriya Acharya** will be the **ex-officio member** of the **AAI Board** for 2022-23.

### Other elected members of the board:

- **Vishandas Hardasani** (Matrix Publicities and Media India Pvt Ltd)
- **Kunal Lalani** (Crayons Advertising Pvt Ltd)
- **Rohan Mehta** (Kinnect Pvt Ltd)
- **Chandramouli Muthu Maitri** (Advertising Works Pvt Ltd, Cochin)
- **Sridhar Ramasubramanian** (Beehive Communications Pvt Ltd)
- **Shashidhar Sinha** (Initiative Media India Pvt Ltd)
- **K Srinivas** (Sloka Advertising Pvt Ltd, Hyderabad)



## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- Vivek Srivastava (Innocean Worldwide Communications Pvt Ltd)

### About AAI:

- The AAI, a not-for-profit, industry-led, and industry-managed trade association of advertising agencies, was formed in 1945.

### M Paramasivam was appointed as the new Executive Director of the Punjab National Bank

- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of M Paramasivam as the executive director of the government-owned Punjab National Bank for three years.

### About Paramasivam:

- Paramasivam, an agriculture graduate, started his journey at Canara Bank as an agricultural extension officer in 1990.
- During his tenure as Wing Head at Priority Credit Wing at Head Office, Canara Bank, FRUITS Portal was started in coordination with NABARD and Karnataka State Government.
- He was also instrumental in the commencement of Agri Credit Centers in terms of EASE-3 norms.

### About Punjab National Bank:

- Founded: 19 May 1894
- Headquarters: Delhi, India
- MD & CEO: Atul Kumar Goel
- Tagline: Name You Can Bank Upon
- It is the second-largest government-owned bank in India, both in terms of its business volumes and its network.

### Rajeeva Laxman Karandikar was appointed as chairperson of the National Statistical Commission of India

- Mr. Rajeeva Laxman Karandikar who is a Professor Emeritus at the Chennai Mathematical Institute (CMI) has been appointed as the part-time chairperson of the National Statistical Commission of India for 3 years.
- He will continue to be a professor while taking up his responsibility as the chairperson.
- The chairperson of the National Statistical Commission has the status equivalent to that of a Minister of State.

### About Mr Rajeeva Laxman Karandikar:

- Prof Karandikar, who joined CMI as a visiting professor in 2010 and was its director from January 2011 to April 2021

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- He has designed, supervised, and analyzed countrywide opinion polls for parliamentary elections and also for State assemblies since 1998.
- He was a member of the committee constituted by the Election Commission (EC) of India to advise the EC on the sampling scheme for EVM-WPAT verification.

### About the National Statistical Commission (NSC) of India:

- Founded: July 12, 2006
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India
- It is an autonomous body set up on the recommendation of Dr. C Rangarajan Commission.
- It has 4 members and a Chairperson.
- The Chief Statistician of India, also the secretary to the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI), is the Secretary of the Commission.

### Jawahar Reddy appointed as Chief Secretary of Andhra Pradesh

- Indian Administrative Service officer of the 1990 batch, K S Jawahar Reddy, was appointed as the Chief Secretary of Andhra Pradesh (AP).
- He will be in service till June 30, 2024.
- He will replace 1985-batch officer Sameer Sharma, who will retire on November 30, 2022.
- Jawahar Reddy is currently serving as Special Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister of AP CM YS Jagan Mohan Reddy since Feb 2021.
- Poonam Malakondaiah, two years senior to Jawahar Reddy, has been appointed as the Special Chief Secretary to CM.

### IAMAI appoints Rohit Jain as Chairman of the Digital Entertainment Committee

- The Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) has appointed Rohit Jain, managing director, of emerging markets Asia, Lionsgate, as the new chairman of their digital entertainment committee for the period of 2 years from 2022 to 2024.
- Rohit Jain has succeeded Amit Goenka, head of ZEE5 Global
- Amit Doshi, head, of IVM Podcasts has also been appointed co-chair, alongside Jain.

### Roles & Responsibilities:

- As chairman, Jain will play a key role in working with various stakeholders of the digital entertainment ecosystem, such as OTT players, regulatory bodies, and other industry associations to focus on creating a rewarding vision and guiding the digital ecosystem to a more evolved space.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

### About IMAI:

- Founded: 2004
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Chairman: Sanjay Gupta
- IMAI is a **not-for-profit industry body** representing the interests of the **online and mobile value-added services industry**.

### Vijender Sharma was elected as the President of the Institute of Cost Accounting of India

- The Institute of Cost Accountants of India (ICMAI) has elected Vijender Sharma as the President and Rakesh Bhalla as the Vice-President of the Institute for the year 2022-23

### About Vijender Sharma:

- Vijender Sharma is a **law graduate** and a **member** of ICAI.
- He has been an **Insolvency Professional** since January 2017.
- He was elected as a **member** of the **Council of the Institute** from 2015 to 2019 & re-elected from 2019 to 2023.
- He has handled roles of responsibility as the **Vice President of the Institute (2021-22)**, the **Chairman of the Professional Development Committee (2020-21)**, the **Chairman of the International Affairs Committee (2020-21)**, and the **Chairman of NIRC (2012-13 and 2014-15)**

### About Rakesh Bhalla:

- Rakesh Bhalla is a **commerce graduate** and a **member** of ICAI.
- He has managed the role of **Chairman of Direct Taxation (2021-22)** and the **Chairman of NIRC (2010-11 and 2013-14)**.
- Currently, he is the **Chief Financial Officer** of SML ISUZU Ltd.

### About the Institute of Cost and Management Accountants of India:

- Founded: 28 May 1959
- Headquarters: Kolkata, West Bengal
- It is under the **ownership** of the **Ministry of Corporate Affairs** of the Government of India.
- The ICMAI is a **professional body** for the **regulation** of the **profession of cost and management accountancy** in India.
- The ICMAI Institute is the **2nd largest Cost & Management Accounting body** in the world and the largest in Asia.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

### Madhya Pradesh Chief Secretary Iqbal Singh Bains gets 6-month extension

- As per the order of the Union Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievance and Pension, Madhya Pradesh (MP) Chief Secretary Iqbal Singh Bains who was set to retire on November 30, 2022, has been given a six-month extension, will continue in the post until May 31, 2023.
- Bains, a 1985-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of the Madhya Pradesh cadre.
- The extension of Iqbal Singh Bains was recommended by the Chief Minister of MP Shivraj Singh Chouhan.

### MoE appoints IAS Sanjay Kumar as Secretary of The Department of School Education & Literacy

- Indian Administrative Service (IAS) Officer Shri Sanjay Kumar was elected as the Secretary of the Department of School Education and Literacy, Government of India in Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi.
- He replaced Anita Karwal IAS.

#### About Sanjay Kumar:

- Sanjay Kumar, a 1990-batch Bihar cadre IAS officer.
- He was a former Secretary of, the Department of Youth Affairs, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.
- He also served as the principal secretary of education in Bihar.

#### About MoE:

- Cabinet Minister: Dharmendra Pradhan
- Minister of State: Subhas Sarkar, Annapurna Devi Yadav, Rajkumar Ranjan Singh

### Wearables brand Noise onboards Virat Kohli as a brand ambassador

- Nexxbase Marketing Pvt Ltd-owned Noise, a wearables technology company, has roped in cricketer Virat Kohli as its new brand ambassador for its smartwatch range.
- He joins the cohort of Bollywood actor Taapsee Pannu and cricketer Rishabh Pant.
- Kohli was earlier the brand ambassador of Bolt Games Pvt. Ltd owned Fire-Bolt.

#### About Noise:

- Noise is currently the market leader in India in the smartwatches segment with a 29.5% share.
- A recent report by Counterpoint Research showed that Noise ranked third worldwide in the smartwatch segment and regained the top spot in the Indian market.

### India to assume chairmanship of Wassenaar Arrangement on 1 Jan 2023

- India will assume the chairmanship of the Wassenaar Arrangement (WA), a multilateral technology control agreement, on 1 January 2023, for 1 year.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- The chairmanship was handed over to India at the 26th Annual Plenary Meeting of the Wassenaar Arrangement, held in Vienna from 30 November to 1 December 2022.
- Ireland's ambassador Eoin O'Leary handed over the chairmanship to India's ambassador Jaideep Mazumdar.

### About Wassenaar Arrangement:

- The WA is a multilateral export control regime (MECR) with 42 participating states including many former Comecon (Warsaw Pact) countries established in 1996.
- The WA is a regional and international security and export control mechanism.
- Its purpose is to control the export of conventional weapons and dual-use goods and technology.
- The body came into being in 1996 to succeed the Cold War-era Coordinating Committee for Multilateral Export Controls.
- According to the Arms Control Association, "Every six months, members exchange information on deliveries of conventional arms to non-Wassenaar members that fall under eight broad weapon categories: battle tanks, armored combat vehicles (ACVs), large-caliber artillery, military aircraft/unmanned aerial vehicles, military and attack helicopters, warships, missiles or missile systems, and small arms and light weapons."

### Membership:

- In December 2017, India joined the multilateral export control regime "Wassenaar Arrangement" as the 42nd participating state.
- The US, the UK, Japan, South Korea, France, Germany, and Australia are some key members of the WA.
- Prominent non-members include China and Israel.
- India will take over from Ireland.

### Mahua Acharya resigns as MD & CEO of state-owned CESL

- Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of state-owned Convergence Energy Services Ltd (CESL) Mahua Acharya, has resigned from the top post.
- She would also like to resign from the company's board as well and requested for an appropriate resolution to be passed in this regard.

### About CESL:

- CESL is focused on delivering clean, affordable, and reliable energy.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- It is a subsidiary of Energy Efficiency Services Ltd (EESL) a joint venture of public sector companies under the Ministry of Power.

### Sharath Kamal was named co-chairperson of the ITTF Athletes' Commission

- Two-time Commonwealth Games singles champion Sharath Kamal Achanta and China's Liu Shiwen were named co-chairpersons of the International Table Tennis Federation's (ITTF) Athletes' Commission in Amman, Jordan,
- This is for the first time that the ITTF has chosen two chairpersons, a male and a female & both will be part of the ITTF Executive Committee.
- Both Achanta and Liu will become members of the ITTF Executive Committee.
- They join South Korean Ryu Seung-min, the first vice-chair of the IOC Athletes' Commission, in representing the voice of athletes.

### About Liu Shiwen:

- Liu, 31, was a member of China's gold medal-winning team at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games and took silver in mixed doubles in Tokyo 2020.
- She also won the women's singles title at the Budapest 2019 World Championships, 13 singles titles on the ITTF World Tour, and the Women's World Cup five times.

### About Sharath Kamal Achanta:

- Achanta, 40, made his mark on the international stage when he won the men's singles title at the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games.
- Overall, he has 7 gold, 3 silver, and 3 bronze medals to his name at the Games.
- Also, the Athletes' Commission elected 2 deputy chairs Stefan Fegerl and Elizabeta Samara.
- In addition to that, 1 male athlete and 1 female athlete were elected to ensure gender parity at the highest levels of the commission.
- The other members of the Athletes' Commission are Omar Assar, Ingela Lundback, Jon Persson, Daniely Rios, Melissa Tapper, and Kelly Van Zon.

### About ITTF:

- Founded: 1926
- Headquarters: Lausanne, Switzerland
- CEO: Steve Dainton.
- The ITTF is the governing body for all national table tennis associations.



## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

### Senior nuclear scientist K V Suresh Kumar takes charge as Chairman and Managing Director of BHAVINI

- Shri K.V. Suresh Kumar, a Distinguished Scientist of the Department of Atomic Energy has assumed charge as Chairman and Managing Director of BharatiyaNabhikiyaVidyut Nigam Limited (BHAVINI) at Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu.
- His tenure will be for three years.

#### About Shri Suresh Kumar:

- He joined the operations of Fast Breeder Test Reactor (FBTR) in 1986.
- He was involved in the commissioning of various systems of FBTR such as Sodium heated Steam Generators, Steam & Water system, and Turbo-Generator.
- He has worked as the Director of the Reactor Facilities Group at the Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research (IGCAR) in Kalpakkam.
- Kumar was the Director, of Reactor Facilities Group from 2016 to November 2022 and was responsible for the operation of FBTR, KAMINI Reactor, and the fuel fabrication facility.
- He was also involved in the project design and safety review of the 500 MW PFBR.

#### About BHAVINI:

- BHAVINI is under the Government's Department of Atomic Energy.
- It is tasked with operationalizing the Stage-II of India's three-stage nuclear program with a focus on fast breeder reactor technology.
- It is currently constructing the 500 MWe Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor at Kalpakkam, 70 km away from Chennai

### Hansraj Gangaram Ahir assumes charge as NCBC chairperson

- Former Union Minister Hansraj Gangaram Ahir assumed charge as Chairperson of the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC).

#### About Hansraj Gangaram Ahir:

- He belongs to District Chandrapur, State of Maharashtra.
- He is an Agriculturist by profession.
- He had been elected four times Member of Parliament from Chandrapur Constituency, Maharashtra.
- He was a Member of the Maharashtra Legislative Council.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- He had been **Union Minister of State for Home Affairs and Union Minister of State for Chemicals and Fertilisers**, Government of India the **16th Lok Sabha**.

### About NCBC:

- Established: 14 August 1993
- Headquarters: New Delhi
- It is a constitutional body.
- It is responsible for the **protection and welfare of socially and educationally backward classes**.
- NCBC got **constitutional status** in 2018 through the **102nd Constitutional amendment**.

### About the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment:

- Cabinet Minister: Virendra Kumar Khatik
- Minister of State: Ramdas Athawale, Pratima Bhowmik, A. Narayanaswamy

### Tata Sons Chairman N Chandrasekaran appointed as Chair of B20 India

- **N Chandrasekaran**, chairman of Tata Sons, has been appointed as the chair of **Business 20 (B20) India** to lead the business agenda during India's G20 Presidency.
- India took over the **presidency of G-20** from Indonesia on **1 December 2022** and will hold the **G-20 Summit meeting** on **9-10 September 2023**.
- G20 is a **group of 19 countries** and the **European Union**.
- The **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)** is appointed as the **B20 India Secretariat** by the Centre to lead the B20 India process.

### Key Highlights:

- B20 India has identified priorities for deliberations under the theme **"R.A.I.S.E – Responsible, Accelerated, Innovative, Sustainable, and Equitable Businesses**.
- About **100 business policy initiatives** will be organised by CII under the **B20 calendar** across the country during the presidency year.
- B20 has been instrumental in **shaping economic policy statements** by the G20 grouping over the years.
- As **India** takes over the **G20 Presidency**, the Indian industry's proactive participation through the B20 India platform will contribute to the G20 dialogue and **help develop a conducive environment for businesses to drive growth**.
- B20 India work will be conducted through **Task Forces and Action Councils**, which will develop consensus-based policy recommendations for the G20.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- It will commence work on various task forces and action councils after the inception meeting, scheduled on 22-24 January 2023, culminating in the **B20 India Summit in August 2023**.

### About N Chandrasekaran:

- Chandrasekaran is **chairman** of the **board of Tata Sons**, the holding company and promoter of more than 100 Tata group companies with aggregate annual revenues of more than \$100 billion.

### Centre appoints Arun Kumar Singh as chairman and MD of ONGC

- **Former chairman of oil refining and marketing company Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)**, **Shri Arun Kumar Singh** appointed the **Chairman and managing director (MD)** of the central public sector undertaking **Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC)** by the **Search-cum-Selection Committee (SCSC)** of the Government of India.
- He will head the company for a **three-year tenure** with effect from the date of assumption of charge.
- The SCSC was chaired by **Chairperson, PESB with Secretary, Petroleum and Natural Gas and Shri B Ashok, ex-Chairman, IOCL** as members.

### About Arun Kumar Singh:

- He was the **MD (marketing)** of **Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL)** from October 2018 to September 2021
- He was elevated as **chairman and managing director of BPCL** & retired from BPCL in October 2022.
- He also held the position of **president (Africa & Australasia)** in **Bharat PetroResources Ltd**, a wholly owned subsidiary of the BPCL
- The ONGC Board was also **restructured** and approved by the SCSC in the context of emerging trends in the energy sector and national energy priorities.
- The **revamped Board of Directors** is expected to play a pivotal role in these tasks and work towards **realizing synergies**.

### About ONGC:

- **Founded:** 14 August 1956
- **Headquarters :** New Delhi
- The ONGC is a **central public sector undertaking** under the ownership of the **Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Government of India**.

### Dina Boluarte becomes Peru's first female President

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- Vice President of Peru, Dina Ercilia Boluarte Zegarra was sworn in as the new president of Peru after her predecessor, Pedro Castillo, was impeached by Congress following his attempt to dissolve the legislative body.
- Dina Boluarte is the first woman to hold office in the country's 200 years of independence after Congress ousted former president Pedro Castillo.
- She is the first female president in Peru's history and the 6th Peruvian president in less than 5 years.
- She served as the 64th president of Peru from 7 December 2022.

### About Dina Boluarte:

- Dina Boluarte is a Peruvian lawyer and politician.
- She served as a National Registry of Identification and Civil Status (RENIEC) official from 2007 until 2022.
- In 2021, she was appointed minister of development and social inclusion in the government of Pedro Castillo.
- Boluarte, who speaks Spanish and Quechua, was a member of Perú Libre

### About Peru:

- President: Dina Boluarte
- Prime Minister: Betssy Chavz
- Capital: Lima
- Currency: Sol

### Meghna Ahlawat was Elected as the First Women President of TTFI & Legendary Paddler Kamlesh Mehta to be Secretary General

- Meghna Ahlawat has been elected as the first-ever woman president of the Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI).
- She succeeded Dushyant Chautala.
- While 8-time national champion Kamlesh Mehta will be taking over as the new Secretary General and Patel Nagender Reddy has been elected as the Treasurer of the body.
- The Delhi High Court suspended TTFI in February 2022 & appointed a Committee of Administrators (CoA) to take over its functioning.
- The prime mandate of the new Electoral Committee will be to create an athlete-centric federation.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- Other key focus areas will involve capacity building for state bodies, and bringing in improvement in the competition structure, to chart out a concrete and clear pathway for the budding paddlers in the country.

### About TTFI:

- Established: 1926
- Headquarters: New Delhi
- It includes 32 state units and 37 institutions
- TTFI is the governing body for table tennis in India & it was a founding member of the International Table Tennis Federation.

### KV Shaji appointed as the new chairman of NABARD

- Shaji K V has become the Chairman of the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).

### About Shaji K V:

- Shaji KV is a native of Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.
- He worked for the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and Kerala Gramin Bank, the country's largest regional rural bank.
- From 2013 until 2017, he served as the Chairman of Kerala Grameen Bank
- Before joining NABARD, he spent 26 years in various roles at Canara Bank.
- He served as NABARD's Deputy Managing Director (DMD) till May 21, 2020.

### About NABARD:

- Founded: 12 July 1982
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- It was established on the recommendations of the B. Sivaraman Committee (by Act 61, 1981 of Parliament).
- The NABARD 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, Gov.

### IDF named Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina as the 'global ambassador for diabetes'

- Bangladesh Prime Minister (PM) Sheikh Hasina was named the "Global Ambassador for Diabetes" by the International Diabetes Federation (IDF) at the opening ceremony of the World Diabetes Congress 2022 held in Lisbon, Portugal.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- **Bangladesh Ambassador to Portugal Tarik Ahsan received the certificate on behalf of the prime minister from Prof Akhtar Hussain, president-elect of the IDF.**
- The global ambassador for diabetes is expected to represent the **voice of people** living with diabetes worldwide for **two years**.

### Note:

- **Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is the first global ambassador for diabetes.**
- The honorary “Global Ambassador for Diabetes” was conferred on a person in **recognition** of his or her **significant contribution to upgrading the life standard of the people living with diabetes.**

### About Sheikh Hasina:

- Hasina served as **Prime Minister of Bangladesh 3 times - 1997-2001, 2009-2014 & 2014 to Present.**
- She is the **longest-serving prime minister in the history of Bangladesh**, having served for a combined total of over **18 years**

### About IDF:

- Headquarters: Brussels, Belgium
- The IDF is an umbrella organization of over **230 national diabetes associations** in more than 160 countries and territories.

### Sushmita Shukla appointed as 1st VP & COO of Federal Reserve Bank of New York

- **Indian-origin Sushmita Shukla**, a veteran of the insurance industry, has been **appointed** as the **First Vice President and Chief Operating Officer (COO)** at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.
- She is the **second-ranking officer** at the institution **after the President and CEO, John C Williams**
- The appointment was approved by the **Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.**

### Roles & Responsibilities:

- Shukla (54) will establish, communicate, and execute the strategic direction of the organization and will also serve as an **alternate voting member of the Federal Open Market Committee.**

### About Sushmita Shukla:

- In **2018**, she began working with **Chubb**, which is based in New York and is the **world's largest publicly traded property and casualty insurance company.**
- Shukla was the **Senior Vice President and Chief Operations Officer** for International Accident and Health at Chubb.

### About Federal Reserve Bank of New York:

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## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- Established: November 16, 1914
- Headquarters: New York, United States
- President: John C. Williams
- The Federal Reserve Bank of New York is one of the **12 Federal Reserve Banks of the United States**.
- It is the **largest Reserve Bank** in terms of assets and volume of activity.

### Pottery Barn ropes in Deepika Padukone as brand ambassador

- American furniture retailer Pottery Barn announced a global partnership with actor Deepika Padukone who has been signed as a brand ambassador to promote the company's international expansion.
- She will also work with the company's in-house design team in San Francisco to co-create a capsule collection, that will be launched in 'Fall 2023'

#### About Pottery Barn:

- Founded: 1949
- Headquarters: San Francisco, California, United States
- President: Marta Benson
- Pottery Barn is an American upscale home furnishing store chain and e-commerce company.
- In July 2022, Pottery Barn launched its online retail website for India, in partnership with Reliance Brands.
- It has launched its first retail store in Ambience Vasant Kunj, New Delhi

### Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu takes oath as 15th CM of Himachal Pradesh

- Congress leader Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu was sworn in as the 15th Chief Minister (CM) of Himachal Pradesh at a mega swearing-in ceremony held at historic ridge ground in Shimla, HP.
- He will succeed Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur.
- He is the first Congress leader from lower Himachal comprising areas merged in Himachal in 1966 such as N Una, Hamirpur, Kangra, and the lower hills of Kullu to occupy the top state post.
- Meanwhile, Mukesh Agnihotri was sworn in as the deputy CM of HP.
- The Congress won the state Assembly elections by securing 40 out of 68 seats.

#### About Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu:

- Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu is an Indian politician from the Indian National Congress.
- He is the 4-time incumbent MLA of the Nadaun assembly constituency of HP.

#### About HP:

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## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- Governor: Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar
- Chief Minister: Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu
- Capital: Shimla (Summer), Dharamshala (Winter)
- National Park: Great Himalayan National Park, Pin Valley National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Bandli Sanctuary, Daranghati Wildlife Sanctuary, Chail Wildlife Sanctuary

### Penguin Random House CEO Markus Dohle resigns

- The **Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** of Penguin Random House, the world's largest trade publisher, **Markus Dohle** stepped down from his role.
- It comes just weeks after a federal judge blocked the company's attempt to buy rival **Simon & Schuster**.
- Dohle, who will remain with the company in an **advisory capacity**, had been working under a **5-year contract** set to **expire in December 2025**.
- Dohle will be **succeeded**, on an interim basis, by **Nihar Malaviya**, 48, currently president and COO of Penguin Random House.
- He was the **chief executive officer** of Penguin Random House from July 2013 to December 2022.

### About Penguin Random House:

- Founded: 1 July 2013
- Headquarters: New York City, United States

### Indian-origin Nihar Malaviya named interim CEO of publishing group Penguin Random House

- An **Indian-origin publishing executive**, **Nihar Malaviya**, has been named **interim Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** of the International publishing group Penguin Random House.
- The appointment comes after the current **CEO Markus Dohle**, who is **stepping down**.
- He will take over as Interim CEO beginning **January 1, 2023**.

### Roles & Responsibilities:

- Malaviya will 'lead the creation of new competitive advantages that position the global company for future growth.
- Malaviya will join **Bertelsmann's Group Management Committee (GMC)** and continue to be a **member** of the **Penguin Random House Global Executive Committee**.

### About Nihar Malaviya:

- He has been **President** and **Chief Operating Officer (COO)** of the publisher's **American division Penguin Random House US** since 2019.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- He is a **two-time recipient** of the **Bertelsmann Entrepreneur Award for Strategy Execution** and serves on the **Bertelsmann Technology and Data Advisory Board**.
- He is also a member of the board of **Yale University Press**.

### **PT Usha elected as the first woman president of the Indian Olympic Association**

- The **legendary former athlete Pilavullakandi Thekkeraparambil Usha (PT Usha)** has been formally elected as the **first woman president of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA)**.
- Usha is the **first sportsperson to have represented** the country and also become IOA chief since **Maharaja Yadavindra Singh**, who played a Test match in 1934.
- **Ajay H Patel** has been elected as **senior Vice President** and **Rajlaxmi Singh Deo** and **Gagan Narang** as **Vice Presidents** of the Indian Olympic Association.
- The elections were held under the **supervision of Supreme Court-appointed retired SC judge L Nageswara Rao**.

### **About PT Usha:**

- PT Usha was born in **Kuttali, Kozhikode, Kerala**.
- She is a **retired Indian track and field athlete**
- She is often called the **"Queen of Indian track and field"**
- Fondly known as **'Payyoli Express'**, she was **nominated to Rajya Sabha** in July 2022.
- She has been associated with Indian athletics since 1979.
- Usha is one of the most decorated Indian athletes, having won **11 medals**, including **4 gold** in the **Asian Games & 7 Silver medals**
- She also won a **phenomenal 23 medals**, including 14 gold, in the Asian Championships from 1983 to 1998, collectively in 100m, 200m, 400m hurdles, 4x100m relay, and 4x400m relay.
- She is a **member of the Board of Advisors of India's International Movement to the United Nations (I.I.M.U.N.)**.

### **Awards & Honors:**

- Usha was conferred the **Padma Shri** in **1985**.

### **About IOA:**

- Headquarters: **New Delhi, India**
- President: **P. T. Usha**
- Secretary General: **Rajeev Mehta**

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

### Ashok Leyland appoints Shenu Agarwal as MD & CEO

- Hinduja group flagship Ashok Leyland has appointed Shenu Agarwal as the company's managing director (MD) and chief executive officer (CEO) with immediate effect.
- Before Shenu Agarwal, Vipin Sondhi served as MD & CEO of the company between December 2019 and December 2021.
- Agarwal is expected to drive the technology development, growth, and future strategy for Ashok Leyland towards achieving its vision to be among the top 10 commercial vehicles (CV) players globally.

#### About Shenu Agarwal:

- Agarwal is the former president of Farm equipment manufacturer Escorts Kubota Ltd (EKL).
- He was also the company's agribusiness CEO for more than seven years.

#### About Ashok Leyland:

- Founded: 7 September 1948
- Headquarters: Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India
- Executive Chairman: Dheeraj Hinduja

### WHO appoints Dr. Jeremy Farrar as chief scientist to replace Soumya Swaminathan

- Wellcome Trust director Dr. Jeremy Farrar will become the World Health Organization's (WHO) Chief Scientist in the second quarter of 2023.
- He will be replacing Soumya Swaminathan, who departed in November 2022 ahead of a broader shakeup at the health agency.

#### Roles & Responsibilities:

- As WHO's Chief Scientist, Dr. Farrar will oversee the Science Division, bringing together the best brains in science and innovation from around the world to develop and deliver high-quality health services to the people who need them most, no matter who they are and where they live.

#### About Dr. Jeremy Farrar:

- Farrar is a Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences UK, the European Molecular Biology Organisation (EMBO), the National Academies USA, and a Fellow of The Royal Society.
- He spent 17 years as director of the clinical research unit at the Hospital for Tropical Diseases in Viet Nam.
- Currently, he is serving as the Director of Wellcome Trust, a global charitable foundation that supports science to solve urgent health challenges.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

### Other Appointments:

- Meanwhile, **Dr. Amelia LatuAfuhaamangoTuipulotu** will become **WHO's Chief Nursing Officer** at the start of 2023.

### About Dr Amelia LatuAfuhaamangoTuipulotu:

- From 2014 to 2019, she served as **Tonga's Chief Nursing Officer**.
- In 2019 Dr.Tuipulotu became the **Kingdom of Tonga's first female Minister for Health**, serving until December 2021.
- She was the **first Tongan** to receive a **Ph.D. in Nursing**.
- From May 2020 to December 2022, Dr.Tuipulotu was a **member of the WHO Executive Board**; she was elected **EB Rapporteur** in 2020.

### About WHO:

- Established: 7 April 1948
- Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland
- Director General: Dr TedrosAdhanomGhebreyesus
- The WHO is a **specialized agency** of the **United Nations** responsible for international public health.

### Bhupendra Patel takes oath as the Chief Minister of Gujarat for 2nd consecutive time

- The **Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)** leader **Shri Bhupendra Patel** takes oath as the **18th Chief Minister (CM) of Gujarat** for the **second consecutive time** at a function held at the **Helipad Ground, Gandhinagar, Gujarat**.
- Patel broke his record and once again **won** from the **Ghatlodia constituency** by a margin of **1,91,000 votes** in the 2022 election.
- BJP has won **156 seats** in the **182-member House**.
- He was sworn in as **Chief Minister of Gujarat** for the **first time in September 2021**.

### Key Highlights:

- The BJP secured its **7th straight triumph** in **Gujarat** after previous victories in 1995, 1998, 2002, 2007, 2012, and 2017.
- Besides Patel, **BJP MLAs Kanubhai Desai (Pardi), Rushikesh Patel (Visnagar), Raghavji Patel (Jamnagar Rural), and Balwantsinh Rajput (Siddhpur)** took oath as **Cabinet ministers**.
- **BJP leaders KunwarjiBavaliya, MulobhaiBera, KuberDindor, and BhanubenBabariya** also took oaths as **ministers**.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- BJP's Harsh Singh Solanki, Bachubhai Khabad, Mukesh Patel, Praful Panseriya, Bhikushinh Parmar, Kunwarji Halpati, and Jagdish Vishwakarma also took oath as cabinet ministers.

### About Gujarat:

- Governor: Acharya Devvrat
- Chief minister: Bhupendrabhai Patel
- Capital: Gandhinagar
- National Park: Gir National Park,
- Wildlife Sanctuary: Girnar Wildlife Sanctuary, Nal Sarovar Birds Sanctuary, Shoolpaneshwar Wildlife Sanctuary

### Cindy Hook was appointed as CEO of the 2032 Olympic organizing committee

- American executive Cindy Hook has been appointed as the inaugural Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the organizing committee for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Brisbane, Queensland, Australia.

### About Cindy Hook:

- Hook was the chief executive officer for Deloitte Australia from 2015 to 2018.
- She was the first female CEO of an Australian big four professional services firm.
- She was based in Singapore as CEO of Deloitte Asia Pacific until June 2022.
- She had worked for the international professional services network in the U.S. and Australia.

### About the 2032 Summer Olympics (Brisbane 2032):

- The 2032 Summer Olympics will be an international multi-sport event scheduled to take place from 23 July to 8 August 2032, in Brisbane, Queensland, Australia.
- Brisbane was confirmed as the host of the 2032 Summer Olympics at the 138th IOC Session on 21 July 2021 in Tokyo, Japan.
- Brisbane became the first host city to be selected to host the Olympics through the new bid process.
- It will be the 3rd Summer Games to be held in Australia after the 1956 Summer Olympics in Melbourne, Victoria, and the 2000 Summer Olympics in Sydney, New South Wales

### Note:

- Brisbane 2032 president: Andrew Liveris
- The 2032 organizing committee held its first board meeting in April 2022.

### Justice Dipankar Datta takes oath as Supreme Court judge

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## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- Chief Justice of Bombay High Court Justice Dipankar Datta took oath as a judge of the Supreme Court.
- Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud administered the oath to Justice Dutta
- Justice Dutta's term will end on **February 8, 2030**.
- With his appointment, the Supreme Court will have **28 judges** out of the **strength of 34 judges**.

### About Justice Dipankar Datta:

- Justice Datta was elevated to the bench of the **Calcutta High Court** as a permanent judge on **June 22, 2006**.
- He was made the **Chief Justice** of the **Bombay High Court** on **April 28, 2020**.

### Key Highlights:

- Presently, the Supreme Court's **maximum strength** is **34 judges**.
- This includes **1 chief justice** and **33 other judges**.
- The **President** appoints the judges of the Supreme Court.
- A person appointed as Supreme Court judge takes the oath **before the President** or some other person appointed by him for this purpose.

### Rajeev Kumar Vishnoi appointed as CMD of NHPC Limited

- **Rajeev Kumar Vishnoi** has assumed the additional charge as **Chairman and Managing Director (CMD)** of the **National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC)**.
- Before his appointment, **Yamuna Kumar Chaubey** NHPC's Director (Technical) was holding the additional charge of the CMD of the company.
- Currently, he is also the **CMD** of **Rishikesh-based Tehri Hydro Development Corporation India Limited (THDCIL)**.

### About NHPC Limited:

- Founded: 1975
- Headquarters: Faridabad, Haryana, India
- The NHPC Limited is an **Indian government hydropower board** under the ownership of the **Ministry of Power**, Government of India.

### About THDCIL:

- Founded: 12 July 1988
- Headquarters: Rishikesh, Uttarakhand, India
- Chairman & MD: Sh. R. K. Vishnoi

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- THDC India Limited is under the ownership of **National Thermal Power Corporation Limited**, Ministry of **Power**, Government of India.

### **MCA Secretary Manoj Govil nominated as SEBI Board Member**

- The **Centre** has nominated **Manoj Govil**, Secretary of, the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA), to the **Board of Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)**.
- The SEBI Board comprises **9 members**, including the **Chairperson Madhabhi Puri Buch**.
- There are 2 Government nominees (**DEA Secretary Ajay Seth** and now MCA Secretary **Manoj Govil**); 1 RBI nominee (**Deputy Governor M Rajeshwar Rao**); and 4 Wholetime Members (**S K Mohanty, Ananta Barua, Ashwani Bhatia, and Ananth Narayan G**) & there is also a public interest member, **V Ravi Anshuman**, a Professor from IIM-Bangalore.

### **About Manoj Govil:**

- Govil, a **1991 batch IAS officer** of the **Madhya Pradesh cadre**.
- He will serve as a **Member** of the **SEBI Board** in the place of erstwhile **MCA Secretary Rajesh Verma**, who was appointed as a **part-time Member** of the **Board on March 8, 2022**.
- Govil was appointed as **MCA Secretary** in **October 2022**

### **About Rajesh Verma:**

- Rajesh Verma, a **1987 batch IAS officer** of **Orissa Cadre**.
- He was appointed as **MCA Secretary** in **April 2020**.
- He was appointed as the **Secretary** to the **President of India Droupadi Murmu** in **August 2022**.

### **Mette Frederiksen re-elected as the PM of Denmark**

- Head of the Socio Democratic Party **Mette Frederiksen** was re-elected as the **Prime Minister (PM)** of **Denmark** for a **second term**.
- **Lykke Rasmussen** will serve as the new foreign minister.
- After the elections, the new coalition parties have a combined 89 seats in the 179-seat parliament.
- **It is the first time in the last 44 years that such a centrist government has been formed**.
- The last time Denmark was governed by a centrist coalition was in 1978 when the Social Democrats teamed up with the Liberals
- The government will have 23 ministers & there are 8 women and 15 men.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- The three party leaders - Frederiksen, Jacob Elleman-Jensen of Venstre, and Lars Løkke Rasmussen of the Moderates are scheduled to host a news briefing to outline the broad political ideas behind the next government.

### About Mette Frederiksen:

- **Mette Frederiksen** was first elected to the Folketing in the 2001 general election, representing **Copenhagen County**.
- She has been the **Prime Minister of Denmark** since **June 2019**.
- She is the second woman to hold this office, after **Helle Thorning-Schmidt (2011-2015)**.
- In **December 2021**, she became the longest-serving incumbent female head of government in the **European Union**.

### About Denmark:

- Monarch: **Margrethe II**
- Capital: **Copenhagen**
- Currency: **Danish krone**

### Indian-origin **Leo Varadkar** elected as prime minister of Ireland

- **Indian-origin Leo Varadkar**, former Irish Deputy Prime Minister ( **Tánaiste**) and leader of the **Fine Gael party**, has been elected as the **new prime minister ( Taoiseach)** of Ireland for the **second term** in **Dec 2022** for **5 years**.
- **Varadkar replaced Micheal Martin** as **Taoiseach** (premier).
- A total of **87 members** of the house voted in **favor** of his nomination as the new prime minister while **62 members** voted against it.

### List of the new cabinet members:

- Former Irish Prime Minister and leader of **Fianna Fail Micheal Martin** will become the **new deputy prime minister & minister for foreign affairs and defense**
- Former Minister for Foreign Affairs and Defence **Simon Coveney** will become **minister for enterprise, trade, and employment**.
- Former Finance Minister **Paschal Donohoe** will be the **minister for public expenditure and reform**
- Former Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform **Michael McGrath** will take Donohoe's position as the **new finance minister**.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- There are altogether **15 members** in the cabinet & all the positions held by other cabinet members have remained the same.

### About Leo Varadkar:

- Leo Varadkar was Born on 18 January 1979, in **Dublin, Ireland**.
- He served under **Taoiseach Enda Kenny** as **Minister for Social Protection** from 2016 to 2017, **Minister for Health** from 2014 to 2016, and **Minister for Transport, Tourism, and Sport** from 2011 to 2014.
- He served as **Tánaiste** and **Minister for Enterprise, Trade, and Employment** from **June 2020 to December 2022**.
- He **first** became the Irish prime minister in **June 2017**.
- He became the **country's youngest Taoiseach** at the age of 38 as well as its **first openly gay head** of government and **first of Indian heritage**.

### About Ireland:

- President: Michael D. Higgins
- Capital: Dublin
- Currency: Euro

### Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw was appointed as the first Chancellor of Gati Shakti University

- **Hon'ble Minister of Railways, Communications, Electronics & Information Technology, Govt. of India, Ashwini Vaishnaw** has been appointed as the **Chancellor of Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya, Vadodara, Gujarat** by **Hon'ble President Smt. Draupadi Murmu**.
- The President has appointed **Dr. Manoj Chaudhary** as the **first Vice Chancellor of Gati Shakti University, Vadodara, Gujarat**.
- As per the **Central University Act, 2009**, **Dr. Manoj Chaudhary** will hold the position of Vice Chancellor of Gati Shakti University for **5 years** from the date he assumes office.

### Note:

- **Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw** will be the **first Chancellor** of Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya.

### About Dr. Manoj Chaudhary:

- **Dr. Chaudhary** is currently an **invitee member** of the **6G Task Force** in the **Department of Telecom, Govt. of India**, and a **Member** of the **Management Council of the Semiconductor Laboratory** in the Ministry of Electronics and IT

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- In addition, he holds the **post of Director** of the Jodhpur DISCOM Board.

### Key Highlights:

- Gati Shakti University was granted **central status** by the Union Cabinet in July 2022.
- In **August 2022**, the Central Government introduced a bill in the **Lok Sabha** to **convert** the **National Rail and Transportation Institute**, into **Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya**, an autonomous central university.
- The Central Universities (Amendment) Bill was introduced by **Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan** which seeks to **expand** the **scope** of the university from beyond the railways to cover the **entire transport sector** to support the ambitious growth and modernization in the field.

### Dinesh Kumar Shukla appointed as Chairperson of AERB

- Senior nuclear scientist **Dinesh Kumar Shukla** has been **appointed** as the **chairperson** of the **Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB)** for 3 years.
- Shukla, who has been the **executive director** of the **AERB**, **succeeds G Nageswara Rao** to the top post.

### About Dinesh Kumar Shukla:

- Shukla joined the **Department of Atomic Energy (DAE)** in 1981 after completing the **25th batch** of the **Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) Training School**.
- He has been associated with the commissioning of the **high flux research reactor Dhruva** and later held the positions of **Reactor Superintendent of Dhruva Research Reactor** and **Head of Reactor Operations Division (ROD) at BARC**.
- He was the **chairman** of the **Advisory Committee on Occupational Health** for BARC Facilities and the **Unit Level Safety Committee** for Medical and Other Facilities.
- He was a **member** of the **Management Committee** for the **Board of Radiation and Isotope Technology (BRIT)** and also of the **Radioisotopes, Radiation Technology and Application Committee (RTAC)** of the **Board of Research in Nuclear Sciences (BRNS)**.
- He has also served as a **consultant** to the **International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)** on matters related to the safety of research reactors.

### About AERB:

- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- The AERB was constituted on 15 November 1983 by the President of India by exercising the powers conferred by Section 27 of the Atomic Energy Act, 1962 (33 of 1962) to carry out certain regulatory and safety functions under the Act.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

### Anushka Sharma appointed as brand ambassador for Puma India

- The manufacturer and designer of casual and athletic footwear, Puma India has roped in Bollywood actress and entrepreneur Anushka Sharma as its brand ambassador.
- The association is intended to "accelerate Puma's strong commitment towards the women consumer segment".
- She will endorse the brand's footwear, apparel and accessories, including select collections through myriad activities and brand campaigns, throughout the year.
- The brand's other ambassadors in India include Kareena Kapoor Khan, MC Mary Kom, Yuvraj Singh, Sunil Chhetri, and most recently Harrdy Sandhu.
- Sharma is a celebrity endorser for various brands and products, including TVS Scooty, Nivea, Elle 18 cosmetics, Bru coffee and Pantene

### Pepsico's Aquafina appoints Katrina Kaif as its brand ambassador

- Actor Katrina Kaif has been signed as a brand ambassador for Pepsico India's packaged-water brand Aquafina.
- Earlier, she was the brand ambassador for the company's fruit-flavoured sugar drink Slice for the last 16 years.
- Aquafina, is an American brand of purified bottled water that is produced by PepsiCo, consisting of both unflavored and flavored water.

### Major General Mohit Seth takes over as GOC Kilo force

- Major General Mohit Seth took charge as General Officer Commanding (GOC) of the Counter Insurgency Force Kilo.
- He took over from Major General Sanjiv Singh Slaria who has been moved to Northern Command headquarters in Udhampur

### About Major General Mohit Seth:

- Major General Mohit Seth was commissioned into the 3 MADRAS Regiment in December 1991.
- In his distinguished military career spanning over three decades, the General Officer has held various prestigious staff and command appointments in Jammu and Kashmir, the northeast, and at the Army headquarters.
- He has also served as Indian Army Liaison Officer, High Commission of India, United Kingdom.

### SBI Funds Management appoints Shamsher Singh as MD & CEO

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## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- SBI Funds Management Ltd has appointed Shamsheer Singh as the managing director (MD) and chief executive officer (CEO) of the company.
- Singh who was previously working as the deputy managing director of the State Bank of India (SBI) has replaced Vinay M Tonse consequent to his repatriation to the SBI.

### About Shamsheer Singh:

- Singh joined the public sector bank in 1990 as a probationary officer (PO).
- He has worked with SBI for over 32 years and has worked across multiple verticals of SBI in his tenure.
- He was associated with investment banking, treasury, corporate banking, and branch banking.
- Before his deputation to SBIFML, he was heading the Ahmedabad circle of SBI as chief general manager from November 2020.

### About SBI Funds Management Limited:

- Founded: 1987
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- SBIFMPL is a joint venture between the State Bank of India (SBI), an Indian public sector bank, and Amundi, a European asset management company.

### Jimmy Shergill becomes the new brand ambassador for Ezeepay

- Ezeepay, a renowned rural fintech brand, has appointed Indian Actor and film producer Jimmy Shergill as its brand ambassador.
- As the face of the brand, Jimmy Shergill will appear in multiple forthcoming campaigns to be run across India.
- During a year-long association with Mr. Shergill, the brand aims to build its hold in rural India.

### About Ezeepay:

- Founder & CEO: Shams Tabrej
- MD: Rashid Ali
- EzeePay is a reliable digital payment company that provides all banking services at one stop including easy digital money transfer, payments, and other banking facilities.

### Prasar Bharati ADG elected as vice president of Asia Pacific Broadcasting Union

- Prasar Bharati Additional Director General Sunil has been unanimously elected as the Vice President of the Asia Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU).
- Sunil has been elected for a three year term.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- Prasar Bharati hosted the **59th ABU General Assembly and Associated Meetings** in New Delhi in Nov 2022.
- Its General Assembly was attended by over **400 representatives** of broadcasting organisations from more than **57 countries**.

### About ABU:

- Founded: 1 July 1964
- Headquarters: Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- President: Satoru Masagaki
- Membership: 287 members
- The ABU is a **non-profit, professional association** of broadcasters from Asia and Pacific regions.

### PN Vasudevan to continue as MD & CEO of Equitas Small Finance Bank

- The **Board of Equitas Small Finance Bank (SFB)** has decided to **extend the term of PN Vasudevan** as the **managing director (MD)** and the **chief executive officer (CEO)** for a period of **3 years** with effect from July 23, 2023 subject to the approval of Reserve Bank of India and shareholders.
- The **current term** of Vasudevan as MD and CEO **expires on July 22, 2023**.

### About PN Vasudevan:

- Vasudevan is the **founder of Equitas** and has been associated with its journey as a **microfinance institution** dating back to **2007**.
- The entity was **converted into a bank**, under his **leadership**, in **2016**.

### About Equitas Small Finance Bank:

- Founded: 2007
- Headquarters: Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India

### Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' to be sworn in as new PM of Nepal

- **President of Nepal Bidya Devi Bhandari** appointed **Communist Party of Nepal (CPN)-Maoist Centre** chairman **Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda'** as the **new Prime Minister (PM)** of Nepal.
- He was sworn in for the **3rd time** as the PM of Nepal.
- He **succeeded Sher Bahadur Deuba** of the **Nepali Congress Party**.
- A total of 165 lawmakers in the **275-member House of Representatives**, which includes the CPN-UML with **78**, the CPN-MC with **32**, the RSP with **20**, the RPP with **14**, the JSP with **12**, Janamat with **6**, and the **Nagarik Unmukti Party** with **3**, have staked their claim in support of Prachanda's leadership.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

### About Pushpa Kamal Dahal:

- Pushpa Kamal Dahal was born on 11 December 1954 in Pokhara, Nepal.
- He is also widely known by his nom de guerre Prachanda meaning terrible or fierce.
- Previously, he held the prime ministerial post from 2008 to 2009, and again from 2016 to 2017.

### About Nepal:

- President: Bidya Devi Bhandari
- Capital: Kathmandu
- Currency: Nepalese rupee

### Centre appoints former SC Judge Hemant Gupta as chief of New Delhi International Arbitration Centre

- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of Justice Hemant Gupta as the chairperson of the New Delhi International Arbitration Centre (NDIAC).
- Along with Justice Gupta, Ganesh Chandru and Anant Vijay Palli have been appointed as part-time members of the NDIAC.

### About Justice Hemant Gupta:

- He was enrolled as an advocate in July 1980.
- He worked as an additional advocate general of Punjab from 1997 to 1999.
- He was appointed a judge of the Punjab and Haryana High Court on July 2, 2002.
- He took over as a judge of the Patna High Court on February 8, 2016, and was appointed as the acting Chief Justice of that high court on October 29, 2016.
- He was appointed as Chief Justice of the Madhya Pradesh High Court on March 18, 2017.
- He was a member of the Computer Committee of the Punjab and Haryana High Court for more than 10 years.
- He was elevated to the Supreme Court in 2018 and retired on October 16, 2022, after serving for nearly 4 years.

### About NDIAC:

- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi
- The NDIAC has been established to create an independent and autonomous regime for institutionalized arbitration.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

### Shri Anil Kumar Lahoti appointed as Chairman & Chief Executive Officer of the Railway Board

- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of Shri Anil Kumar Lahoti, Indian Railway Management Service (IRMS) as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Chairman of the Railway Board and will assume the charge from January 1, 2023.
- He will be taking over the chairmanship from Shri Vinay Kumar Tripathi who is set to retire on 31st Dec 2022.

#### Note:

- This is the first appointment of the Railway Board chief after the government notified the integrated railway service, Indian Railway Management Service (IRMS).

#### About Shri Anil Kumar Lahoti:

- Lahoti belongs to the 1984 batch of Indian Railway Service of Engineers (IRSE) officers.
- He joined the Central Railway and worked in various capacities over Nagpur, Jabalpur (Now on West Central Railway) and Bhusaval divisions and Central Railway headquarters from 1988 to 2001.
- He was appointed as the General Manager of Central Railway in July 2021.
- At present, he is serving as a member (infrastructure) of the Railway Board.

#### About Ministry of Railways:

- Union Minister: Ashwini Vaishnaw
- Minister of State: Raosaheb Danve, Darshana Jardosh
- Chairman: Anil Kumar Lahoti

### Santosh Kumar Yadav was Sworn in as NHAI chief & Subhasish Panda to be DDA's Vice Chairman

- Senior bureaucrat Santosh Kumar Yadav, was appointed as chairman of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) under the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways.

#### Other Appointments:

- Subhasish Panda, a 1997-batch IAS officer of the Himachal Pradesh cadre, has been appointed as Delhi Development Authority (DDA) vice chairman.
- Ganji Kamala V Rao has been named Chief Executive Officer of, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- Hitesh Kumar S Makwana has been named as Additional Secretary of the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- Rajneesh, a 1997-batch IAS officer of the Himachal Pradesh cadre, will be the additional secretary and development commissioner of the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

### About Santosh Kumar Yadav:

- Santosh Kumar Yadav, a 1995-batch **Indian Administrative Service (IAS)** officer of the **Uttar Pradesh cadre**.
- Currently he is an **additional secretary** in the **Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education**.

### RBI approves the re-appointment of Baskar Babu Ramachandran as MD & CEO of Suryoday SFB

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has approved the re-appointment of **Baskar Babu Ramachandran** as **Managing Director (MD) & Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** of **Suryoday Small Finance Bank (SFB)**
- He was re-appointed for **three years** with effect from **January 23, 2023**, in terms of the provisions of **Section 35B of the Banking Regulation Act, of 1949**.
- He was the MD & CEO of the **Suryoday Small Finance Bank (SFB)** since **23rd Jan 2017**.
- Before co-founding **Suryoday Micro Finance Pvt Ltd**, he held various positions with various companies including **GE Capital Transportation Financial Services Ltd**, and **HDFC Bank Ltd**.

### About Suryoday Small Finance Bank:

- Founded: **January 23rd, 2017**
- Headquarters: **Mumbai, Maharashtra, India**
- **Suryoday Small Finance Bank (Suryoday SFB)** is a **scheduled commercial bank**.

### Mr. Abdullah Abdul Samad Dashti of Kuwait was appointed as United Nations Coordinator for Black Sea Grain Initiative

- **United Nations Secretary-General Mr. António Guterres** has appointed **Mr. Abdullah Abdul Samad Dashti of Kuwait** as **United Nations Coordinator** for the **Black Sea Grain Initiative**.
- **Mr. Dashti succeeds Mr. Amir Mahmoud Abdulla of Sudan** who has served as **United Nations Coordinator** since **August 2022**.

### About Mr Abdullah Abdul Samad Dashti:

- **Mr. Dashti retired** in **2021** from the **Kuwaiti armed forces** at the rank of **Vice Admiral**.
- He has brought **40 years of experience** in the areas of **naval operations, leadership, and management**, both within **Kuwait** and **multinational deployments**.
- From **2019 to 2020**, he was the **military defence attaché of Kuwait** in **Belgium** and the **Kuwaiti Mission's representative** to the **North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)**.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- From 2015 to 2019, he was the **Commandant of the Mubarak Al-Abdullah Joint Command and Staff College of Kuwait**, overseeing and developing policy and strategy and managing personnel and infrastructure.
- He served as **Director of Studies at the College (2011-2015)** and the **principal adviser to the Commandant**.

### About Black Sea Grain Initiative:

- The Black Sea Grain Initiative was **launched by Ukraine, Türkiye, Russian Federation, and the United Nations on 22 July 2022**.

### Aim:

- To **enable the resumption of exports from Ukraine** of grain, foodstuffs, and fertilizer, including ammonia, through a safe maritime humanitarian corridor.

### About United Nations:

- Established: 1945
- Headquarters: New York, United States of America
- Secretary General: António Guterres

### Mr. Praveen Kumar Srivastava was appointed as the acting Central Vigilance Commissioner

- The government of India (GoI) has **appointed the vigilance commissioner Praveen Kumar Srivastava as the acting Central Vigilance Commissioner (CVC)**.
- He **replaced Mr. Suresh N Patel**, who completed his term as the chief of CVC.
- Besides Srivastava, former Intelligence Bureau (IB) chief **Mr. Arvind Kumar** is the other Vigilance Commissioner.

### About Mr Praveen Kumar Srivastava:

- Mr. Srivastava is a 1988-batch (retired) **Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer** of the **Assam-Meghalaya cadre**.
- During his tenure as **Special Secretary and Additional Secretary** in the **Ministry of Home Affairs**, he handled matters relating to cadre management of the Indian Police Service, personnel, and general administration of central armed police forces and Union territories.
- He assisted the government in negotiations relating to trade in services under the **World Trade Organization (WTO)** as **Director/Deputy Secretary of, the Department of Commerce**.



## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- He also served as **Chief Vigilance Officer** in RITES Ltd and as **Joint Secretary and Mission Director**, of **Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM)**.
- He retired as **Secretary (Coordination)** of, the **Cabinet Secretariat** on **January 31, 2022**.

### About CVC:

- The Vigilance Commission is **headed** by a **CVC** and can have a **maximum** of **two other Vigilance Commissioners**.
- The tenure of a CVC and vigilance commissioner is of **4 years** or till the incumbent attains the age of **65 years**.
- It was set up by the Government in February **1964** on the recommendations of the Committee on Prevention of Corruption, **headed** by **Shri K. Santhanam**, to advise and guide Central Government agencies in the field of vigilance.

### Senior journalist Mr. Ravish Kumar resigns from NDTV amid Adani acquisition

- **Senior Hindi journalist** and **anchor Mr. Ravish Kumar**, who **hosted** the widely lauded primetime show on **NDTV India** has **resigned** from the channel.
- This comes just a day after the channel's founders and promoters **Prannoy Roy** and **Radhika Roy** **resigned** from their positions as directors on the board of **RRPR Holding Private Limited (RRPRH)**.
- The senior journalist's resignation came after the news channel was acquired by the Adani Group, which holds a **29.18% stake** in the news channel.
- **Sudipta Bhattacharya**, the chief technology officer of Adani group; **Sanjay Pugalia**, senior journalist and CEO of Adani's AMG Media Network; and journalist **Senthil Sinniah Chengalvarayan** are taking over as **directors** of the board.

### About Ravish Kumar:

- Ravish Kumar has been an integral part of NDTV for more than two decades.
- He used to host several programs including Ravish ki Report, Prime Time, Hum Log, and Des Ki Baat.
- He has won the Ramnath Goenka Excellence in Journalism Award twice, as well as the Ramon Magsaysay Award in 2019.

### About NDTV:

- Founded: 1984
- Headquarters: New Delhi, India

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- President: Suparna Singh
- New Delhi Television Ltd is the **first independent news network** in the country & before that, state-run **Doordarshan** was the only TV news channel that had a large reach.

### Manasi Tata was appointed as director of Kirloskar Systems Pvt. Ltd

- Kirloskar Systems Pvt. Ltd. (KSPL) has appointed Manasi Tata, daughter of late Vikram Kirloskar, as **Director** on the board of the KSPL's joint-venture firms with immediate effect.
- These joint ventures include Toyota Industries Engine India Pvt Ltd, Kirloskar Toyota Textile Machinery Pvt Ltd (KTTM), Toyota Material Handling India Pvt Ltd (TMHIN), and Denso Kirloskar Industries Pvt Ltd (DNKI).
- She was appointed to the post after the demise of her **father Vikram S Kirloskar**.
- Vikram S Kirloskar's wife **Geetanjali Kirloskar** has already taken charge as the **new Chairman & Managing Director** at KSPL
- Manasi Tata is a **fifth-generation scion** to one of India's oldest, most established, and most reputed business families, the Kirloskars.

### About Manasi Tata:

- Manasi Tata is a graduate of the **Rhode Island School of Design** in the US, trained in Toyota manufacturing processes and the Japanese work culture.
- She is the **Executive Director** and **Chief Financial Officer (CFO)** of Kirloskar Systems Ltd., **Director** of Toyota Kirloskar Motor Private Limited, **Director** of Kirloskar Technologies Ltd., and **Director** of Toyota Tsusho Insurance Broker India Pvt. Ltd.

## IMPORTANT AWARDS & HONOURS NEWS

### Iranian movie "Nargesi" gets the ICFT-UNESCO Gandhi Medal at IFFI 53

- The ICFT-UNESCO Gandhi Medal, awarded at the 53rd International Film Festival of India for a film that best exemplifies Mahatma Gandhi's principles of nonviolence, tolerance, and peace, was awarded to the Iranian film Nargesi, directed by Payam Eskandari.
- The story of a guy with Down syndrome and the difficulties and effects it has on his life is the subject of the movie.
- In this Oscar-winning movie, **two virtues** are portrayed: **sensitivity and compassion**.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- The movie shows the challenges of a person with Down syndrome whose greatest desire is to fall in love and get married and who does everything to fulfil that ambition.
- However, it appears that the modern world does not provide a home for him and his love until a gift dramatically transforms his life.
- Young Iranian filmmaker **Payam Eskandari** is well-known for his films "Nargesi," "The Good, the Bad, the Corny" (2017), and "Mohey" (2016).
- He has also had success as a writer and performer.
- Nine movies from all across the world were chosen to compete for the ICFT-UNESCO Gandhi Medal this year.
- These movies were up for competition in this category:
  - A Tale of Two Sisters (Bangladesh | 2022)
  - Fortune (Tajikistan | 2022)
  - Mother (Bulgaria | 2022)
  - Naanu Kusuma (India | 2022)
  - Nargesi (Iran | 2021)
  - Paloma (Brazil, Portugal | 2022)
  - Saudi Vellakka (India | 2022)
  - The Kashmir Files (India | 2021)
  - White Dog (Canada | 2022)

### Lekhara, a Paralympic medalist, has been named Para Sports Person of the Year:

- **Sarkar Talwar**, a former Ranji cricketer, was honoured with the Lifetime Achievement of the Year award at the Turf 2022 and India Sports Awards of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI).
- Talwar, the Director-Sports of Manav Rachna Education Institutions, is also the winner of the President of India's Dronacharya Lifetime Award.
- **Avani Lekhara**, who won two medals at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympics, was named Para Sports Person of the Year, while **Shrey Kadyan** was named Special Sportsperson of the Year, in addition to Talwar.
- **R.B. Ramesh** was named Best Male Coach, and **Nonita Lal Qureshi** was named Best Female Coach.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- **Rakesh Rao, Deputy Editor (Sports) of The Hindu, received the Special Recognition Award from the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) at the FICCI India Sports Awards 2022 held at Federation House for his contribution to sports journalism.**

### About FICCI

- President: Sanjiv Mehta
- Founded: 1927
- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Founder: Ghanshyam Das Birla.

### Mina Sue Choi of South Korea is named Miss Earth 2022:

- During the pageant's coronation at Cove Manila, Okada Hotel, Paraaque City, South Korea's Mina Sue Choi was named Miss Earth 2022.
- Only three queens received the pageant's three element titles out of a total of 86 Eco-warriors.
- **Andrea Aguilera of Columbia is Miss Fire 2022, Nadeen Ayoub of Palestine is Miss Water 2022, and Sheridan Mortlock of Australia is Miss Air 2022.**
- Choi also won a few medals at the pre-pageant competitions.
- She won competitions for resort wear, long gowns, beach wear, and swimsuits.
- The previous monarch, Destiny Wagner, who was **the first Belizean woman** to win a significant international crown, left the title to the current monarch.
- The winner of a **virtual contest held in 2021 was Destiny Wagner.**
- The finale of the completion saw the crowning of the element's queens.
- Jenny Ramp, a Filipino-American psychology student from the province of Tarlac, who represented the Philippines, placed in the Top 20.
- She was named the **top Fauna Costume for Asia and Oceania** as well.
- The annual international competition, which Carousel Production organizes to encourage environmental protection, is in its 22nd year.
- It also looked for ambassadors to lead environmental conservation initiatives.

### NMDC bagged the Champion of Champions Award, sweeping the 16th PRCI Global Communication Conclave 2022:

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- The National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) won the Champion of Champions Award and fourteen Corporate Communication Excellence Awards at the 16th PRCI Global Communication Conclave in 2022.
- At the Global Communication Conclave, which the Public Relations Council of India (PRCI) organized in Kolkata, prizes were given out.
- The Most Resilient Company of the Year, Internal Communication Campaign, Corporate Brochure, and Best PSE Implementing CSR categories were all won by NMDC.
- It received Silver Awards for the Best Use of CSR for Childcare, Best Corporate Event, Corporate Community Impact, and Unusual HR Initiatives. Annual Report; Campaign for Arts, Culture, and Sports
- Additionally, it received Bronze Awards for Innovative Environmental Program, Website of the Year, Visionary Leadership, and Best Use of Social Media.

### SS Rajamouli received Best Director at the 2022 New York Film Critics Circle Awards:

- The Best Director Award went to director SS Rajamouli for his work on RRR at the 2022 New York Film Critics Circle.
- This group is among the first critics' organizations to comment on the awards season.
- Many people were astonished by Rajamouli's victory considering his rivals, who included Gina Prince-Blythewood, Sarah Polley, Steven Spielberg, and Darron Aronofsky.
- In "RRR," a fictional pre-independence tale, Ram Charan and Jr. NTR play Alluri Sitarama Raju and Komaram Bheem, two real-life Indian revolutionaries of the 1920s.
- The movie became one of the most successful ones at the Indian box office after grossing more than Rs 1200 crore internationally, and it garnered high praise from critics there.
- It was not chosen as India's official entry for the 2023 Oscars, nevertheless.
- The year's Best Picture award went to Todd Field's Tar, which also won Best Actress for Cate Blanchett's star turn.
- Two of Colin Farrell's performances this year, in the sci-fi drama with a future setting, earned him the Best Actor award.
- Following Yang and The Banshees of Inisherin by Martin McDonagh.
- Keke Palmer won the Best Supporting Actress award for Nope, while Ke Huy Quan got the Best Supporting Actor award for his work in Everything Everywhere All At Once.

### India's Greenhouse-in-a-Box startup Kheyti won Earth shot Prize 2022:

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## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- The Prince of Wales, Prince William, unveiled the five winners in Boston, Massachusetts, and one of them was India's Greenhouse-in-a-Box.
- A Telangana-based Indian firm named Kheyti created a sustainable solution for small-scale farmers and earned \$1,2 million for it.
- Kaushik Kappagantulu, co-founder and CEO of Kheyti, said that he has developed the remedy for at least 100 million regional smallholder farmers who are most adversely affected by climate change.
- The goal of greenhouse-in-a-box is to lower costs and boost yields, which will aid in preserving these farmers' means of subsistence.
- The second Earth shot award ceremony, often known as the "Eco Oscars," was founded by Prince William and featured several famous people who walked the green carpet.
- In the Protect and Restore Nature category, which received numerous entries from around the globe, Kheyti was awarded the prize.
- The Earth shot Prize Global Alliance, a global network of NGOs and private sector companies will offer assistance in scaling these solutions to all 15 finalists.
- Kenya, the UK, Australia, and Oman are the countries represented by the remaining five winners.

### Earthshot Prize:

- Clean air is a concern for Mukuru Clean Stoves in Kenya.
- Indian nature is being preserved and restored by Kheyti.
- The Queensland Indigenous Women Rangers Network is assisting the U.K. in reviving Australia's oceans
- Notpla's circular waste management strategy.
- In Oman, the 44.01 Project transforms CO<sub>2</sub> into rock.

### Four veteran diplomats and a US senator have been granted the "Diwali Stamp-Power of One" by the United Nations:

- Four senior diplomats and a US senator were honored here with this year's annual 'Diwali- Power of One award for their efforts toward a peaceful and safe world.
- The award, often known as the 'Oscars of Diplomacy,' is given to former top diplomats of the United Nations or a member state for their efforts to help shape a more perfect, peaceful, and secure world for all."



## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- The Diwali Foundation USA, the European Union Delegation to the United Nations, and the Permanent Missions of Chile, Georgia, India, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Morocco, Oman, and Sri Lanka to the United Nations co-organized the 2022 award event.
- The awards were canceled in 2020 and 2021 due to the Covid-19 outbreak.
- Previous recipients of the award include former UN Women Deputy Executive Director Lakshmi Puri, former UK Ambassador to the UN Matthew Rycroft, Ukraine's former UN envoy Yuriy Sergeyev, and Vietnam's former Permanent Representative to the UN Nguyen Phuong Ngai.

### 2022 Award Recipient:

- Former Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations Kaha Imnadze,
- Former Permanent Representative of Grenada to the United Nations Keisha McGuire,
- Former Permanent Representative of Bulgaria to the United Nations Georgi Velikov Panayotov,
- Former Permanent Representative of Benin to the United Nations Jean-Claude do Rego,
- Former Chairman of the US House Foreign Affairs Committee Eliot Lance Engel

### The Nadoja Award was given to C.N. Manjunath, Krishnappa G., and S. Shadakshari:

- **Author Krishnappa G., social activist S. Shadakshari,** and physician and head of the Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences and **Research C.N. Manjunath have all been chosen to receive the Nadoja Award from Kannada University in Hampi.**
- **Governor Thawarchand Gehlot,** who serves as the university's Chancellor, will present the honorees with the award.
- Dr. Manjunath is a well-known cardiologist and the director of the state-run Jayadeva Cardiology Institute, one of the top cardiology institutions in the nation.
- He is from Cholenahalli in the Channarayapatna taluk of Hassan district.
- The social services provided by Mr. Shadakshari, who hails from Talavur in the Chintamani taluk of the Chikkaballapur district, are well-known.
- For the past 16 years, His Ramanashree Prathisthan has been recognizing academics and writers who have made important contributions to the State's cultural legacy and honouring them with **Ramanashree Awards in collaboration with Akhila Bharata Sharana Sahitya Parishat.**
- In addition, Mr. Shadakshari oversees the Ramanashree Hotel and Group of Institutions.
- Mr. Krishnappa, often known as Bendre Krishnappa, hails from the nearby Bengaluru town of Cholanayakanahalli.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

### Time Magazine's 2022 Person of the Year: Volodymyr Zelensky and the "Spirit of Ukraine":

- Time magazine picked President Volodymyr Zelensky, as well as "the spirit of Ukraine," as the 2022 person of the year for the country's resistance to Russia's invasion.
- Zelensky shares the 2022 title with "the spirit of Ukraine," which Felsenthal described as "countless individuals inside and outside the country" who fought behind the scenes, including ordinary people like chefs and surgeons.
- The "spirit of Ukraine," according to Time magazine editor Edward Felsenthal, refers to Ukrainians all over the world, including many who "fought behind the scenes" against the Russian invasion.
- According to the magazine, Mr. Zelensky encouraged Ukrainians and was recognized internationally for his bravery in repelling the Russian invasion.

### Other Category winners:

- **Time Heroes of the Year:** Iranian women have been honored as Time Heroes of the Year. Iranian women have been protesting for nearly three months against the death in custody of Mahsa Amini, 22.
- She was imprisoned for not wearing a headscarf in public and died in the custody of the Iranian morality police.
- Her killing sparked a massive outcry by Iranian women against public Hijab wearing and moral policing.
- **South Korean K-pop band Blackpink** was named Time's Entertainer of the Year.
- **Aaron Judge**, an American baseball player, has been named Athlete of the Year.
- Malaysian actress **Michelle Yeoh** has been named Icon of the Year.

### The Jamnalal Bajaj Award for 2022 has been announced:

- The Jamnalal Bajaj Foundation announced the 44th Jamnalal Bajaj Award 2022 winners in December 2022.
- The Foundation bestows four awards in various categories.
- Three are presented to Indians, while one is granted to a foreigner for promoting Gandhian values outside of India.

### Catagories:

- Works of Construction
- The Use of Science and Technology in Rural Development
- Women's and Children's Development and Welfare
- Gandhian Values Promotion Award Given Outside of India

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

### Winner's list:

- **Madhya Pradesh's Nilesh Desai** has been chosen for the Jamnalal Bajaj Award for Constructive Works. He is the founder of the **Sampark Samaj Sevi Sansthan**, which aims to improve the lives of Bhil people.
- **Gujarat's Mansukhbhai Prajapati** received the **Jamnalal Bajaj Applied Science and Technology for Rural Development** award.
- **Odisha's Sophia Saik** received the **Jamnalal Bajaj Award** for the Development and Welfare of Women and Children. She is a social activist who advocates for women's empowerment and gender equality. She is a well-known advocate for women beedi workers in Odisha.
- The Jamnalal Bajaj Award for Promoting Gandhian Values Outside India was given to **Dr. Ogirat Younan** and **Dr. Walid Slyabi** of Lebanon.

### The Local Adaptation Champions Awards were presented to Swayam Shikshan Prayog:

- **Swayam Shikshan Prayog (SSP)**, a Maharashtra-based organization, has been awarded the **Global Center on Adaptation (GCA) Local Adaptation Champions Awards** at the ongoing COP27 in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt.
- It received the award in the '**Capacity and Knowledge**' category for its work in assisting women farmers in **Marathwada, Maharashtra**, where a focus on water-intensive cash crops currently exposes farmers to climate shocks such as poor and unpredictable monsoon seasons.
- "**Swayam Shikshan Prayog** encourages women to become agricultural leaders rather than labourers," stated **Ban Ki-moon**, Chair of the Global Center on Adaptation and the United Nations' eighth Secretary-General.
- They are not only able to feed their family, but they also create a marketable excess to generate income."

### J&K Received First Place in Category for Generating Ayushman Bharat Health Account ID:

- **Jammu & Kashmir** won first place in the category for creating **Ayushman Bharat health account IDs** and second place in the category for conducting **teleconsultations** in honor of **Universal Health Coverage Day** in 2022.
- Every year, a day called **Universal Health Coverage Day** is observed to honor the importance of this program, which strives to bring affordable, high-quality healthcare to all people.
- J&K is on track to establish the nation's greatest model of health delivery, according to **Secretary of Health and Medical Education Bhupinder Kumar**, as seen by the dramatic improvement in health indicators.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- He recognized the officers of the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission J&K for their contribution to the mission's successful execution in J&K after its recent inception.
- The **Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM)** seeks to create the framework required to sustain the nation's integrated digital health infrastructure.
- Through digital highways, it would close the distance between the various healthcare ecosystem stakeholders.

### Venkaiah Naidu has been conferred with the 25th Sri Chandrasekarendra Saraswathi National Eminence Award:

- Former vice president **Venkaiah Naidu** has been conferred with the **25th Sri Chandrasekarendra Saraswathi National Eminence Award (SIES)**.
- Other awardees in various categories included the Governor of Kerala **Arif Mohammed Khan**, eminent industrialist **Ratan Tata**, renowned cardiologist and Padma Vibhushan awardee **Dr. Marthanda Varma Sankaran Valianathan**, Scientific Advisor to the Government of India **Ajay Sood** and famous **Harikatha** artiste **Vishakha Hari**.
- The awards were instituted by the **South Indian Education Society** in 1998 in memory of the late **Seer of Kanchi, Sri Chandrasekharendra Saraswati**.
- Awards are given in the fields of public leadership, community leadership, science and technology, and social thinkers to those who had made outstanding contributions in the above four fields.
- Each award carries a cash prize of Rs.2.5 lakh, a citation, an ornamental lamp, and a scroll.

### Predictions for Oscar Nominations in 2023 for Best Actor, Actress, and Picture

- The **Oscar nominations for 2023** will be announced, and they will include **Best Actors, Actresses, and Films**.
- The school will also issue ten categories **before December 21st, 2022**.
- **Documentary Features, International Features, Makeup & Hairstyling, Visual Effects, and the three shorts** are the **other Oscar Nominations in the 2023 categories (Animated, Documentary, and Live action)**.
- From 1957 to 2022, India nominated various films for the Oscars; however, only two films were nominated.
- **"Salam Bombay!"** Both **"Lagaan"** by Ashutosh Gowariker in 2002 and **"Mira Nair"** by Mira Nair in 1988 received Oscar nominations.
- India has been nominated for an **Oscar nomination in 2023** for the Gujarati film **"Chhello Show,"** directed by **Pan Nalin**.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

### OVERVIEW:

<b>Event</b>	<b>95th Academy Awards 2022</b>
Dates	12th March 2023
Venue	Dolby Theatre, Hollywood, Los Angeles, California, U. S
Directed by	Glenn Weiss
Produced by	Glenn Weiss Ricky Kirshner

Rank	Best Actor Nominees	Film
1	Brendan Fraser	The Whale
2	Colin Farrell	The Banshees of Inisherin
3	Hugh Jackman	The Son
4	Austin Butler	Elvis
5	Bill Nighy	Living
6	Tom Cruise	Top Gun: Maverick
7	Diego Calva	Babylon
8	Jeremy Pope	The Inspection
9	Jonathan Majors	Devotion
10	Tom Hanks	A Man Called Otto

Ranks	Best Actresses Nominees	Film
1	Michelle Yeoh	Everything Everywhere All at Once
2	Cate Blanchett	TAR
3	Danielle Dead Wyler	Till
4	Viola Davis	The Woman King
5	Michelle Williams	The Fabelmans
6	Olivia Colman	Empire of Light
7	Zar Amir Ebrahimi	Holy Spider

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

8	Ana de Armas	Blonde
9	Emma Thompson	Good Luck to You, Leo Grande
10	Margot Robbie	Babylon

Rank	Best Director Nominees	Film
1	Baz Luhrmann	Elvis
2	Dan Kwan and Daniel Scheinert	Everything Everywhere All at Once
3	Darren Aronofsky	The Whale
4	Gina Prince-Bythewood	The Woman King
5	Sam Mendes	Empire of Light

### SS Rajamouli's "RRR" receives two Golden Globe Award nominations:

- The SS Rajamouli-directed period drama 'RRR' has been nominated for two Golden Globe Awards, which will be held in January 2023.
- The Hollywood Foreign Press Association (HFPA) has nominated 'RRR' for Best Picture: Non-English language and Best Original Song Naatu Naatu.
- 'RRR' is a pre-independence narrative set in the 1920s that revolves around two real-life Indian rebels, Alluri Sitarama Raju and Komaram Bheem.
- The film, starring Ram Charan and Jr NTR, was released in five languages globally in March.
- RRR is the only Indian film to make the final five out of a slew of others, including Gangubai Kathiawadi, Kantara, and Chhelo Show.
- There was previously a demand to submit the film to the Oscars as well, however, due to the official entry in that award function, this film was left behind.
- SS Rajamouli, the film's director, was just awarded the New York Film Critics Circle Best Director Award.
- 'RRR' is the only Indian film to be nominated for an International Award.
- RRR has been released in numerous languages, and this South picture is well-received worldwide.

### GMR Delhi Airport has named SpiceJet the 'Safety Performer of the Year.'

- SpiceJet was named 'Safety Performer of the Year' by GMR Delhi Airport Awards for being the top performer among self-handling airlines and for dramatically reducing ground safety infractions.



## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- The **SpiceJet ground handling team at Delhi Airport** accomplished this result by focusing on continuous quality improvement, innovation, and hard work. Furthermore, their assistance in reducing ground safety infractions assured compliance with safety norms and legal requirements.
- The **International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)** recently audited the airline, and its operations, safety processes, and systems were judged to be strong and in line with worldwide best practices and safety requirements.
- The airline was the only scheduled Indian airline to be audited by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the United Nations' aviation agency.
- SpiceJet's safety systems assessment "aided India in achieving" its highest-ever safety ranking in an ICAO audit.
- As many as **90 Spicejet pilots were barred from flying Boeing 737 Max aircraft earlier this year after the DGCA discovered** they were not adequately educated.
- This was followed by numerous aircraft problems.

### **Sargam Koushal wins Mrs. World 2022 title after 21 years:**

- **Sargam Koushal created history as she finally won the Mrs. World 2022 title after 21 years while competing for India in the competition.**
- The 32-year-old won the championship in **Las Vegas after defeating opponents from 63 other nations.**
- To win the championship, **Sargam Koushal defeated Mrs. Polynesia.**
- The Jammu and Kashmir-born beauty queen's ex-husband is an Indian Navy officer; she was formerly employed as a teacher in Vizag.
- **Mrs. World was lastly held by an Indian in 2001.**
- At a gala held in Las Vegas, Sargam Koushal, an Indian competitor, took home the title of Mrs. World.
- Koushal defeated rivals from 63 different countries to bring the title back to India after a 21-year absence.
- Sargam Koushal of Mumbai, currently based there, and **Mrs. World 2021 Shaylyn Ford of the US, received the title.**
- **Sargam Koushal is originally from Jammu and Kashmir.**

### **Sonakshi Sinha has been selected "Person of the Year" by PETA India for 2022:**

- **Sonakshi Sinha, a Bollywood actress, has been named PETA India's Person of the Year for 2022.**
- Sonakshi's activities helped save many animals that would have been slaughtered for fashion, but she was given the title because of her ardent support for dog and cat rights.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- She actively participates in animal welfare initiatives and frequently advocates for stricter animal protection regulations.
- The global non-profit organization for animal rights supported the film's title and praised the "Dabang" **actress** for her efforts in India to save animal lives.
- **Alia Bhatt** received the same honor the previous year.
- Previous PETA India Person of the Year winners include, among others, former Supreme Court Justice **KS Panicker Radhakrishnan**, cricketer **Virat Kohli**, comedian **Kapil Sharma**, and actresses **John Abraham**, **Anushka Sharma**, **Sunny Leone**, **R Madhavan**, **Jacqueline Fernandez**, **Hema Malini**, and **Sonam Kapoor Ahuja**.

### About PETA:

- Founded: 22 March 1980, Rockville, Maryland, United States
- Headquarters: Norfolk, Virginia, United States
- President: Ingrid Newkirk

### The National Miner NMDC receives the 2022 IEI Industry Excellence Award:

- The prestigious IEI (Institution of Engineers, India) Industry Excellence Award 2022 was presented to **National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC)** in Chennai.
- The 37th Indian Engineering Congress honored the nation's largest iron ore producer for its remarkable performance and high standard of commercial excellence.
- After examining a company's commercial operations, financial performance, environmental performance, research and development, CSR, and corporate governance practices, the Institution of Engineers (India) presented the Industry Excellence Award to NMDC.
- To maintain its domestic leadership and make strides toward becoming a global mining business, **NMDC** is undertaking transformative projects with an eco-friendly, economical, and efficient strategy.

### About NMDC

- In 1958, NDMC was established as a public company by the Indian government. It produces the most iron ore in India.
- Since its creation, the company has been conducting mineral exploration, among them for copper, rock phosphate, limestone, magnesite, diamond, tungsten, and beach sand, under the administrative supervision of the Ministry of Steel.
- Hyderabad is the headquarters.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

### India's Smart Cities Mission Wins Platinum Icon at the 2022 Digital India Awards:

- The Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs' initiative "DataSmart Cities: Empowering Cities through Data" earned the Platinum Icon award in the Smart Cities Mission category of the Digital India Awards 2022.
- The prize was presented in the area of "Data Sharing and Use for Socio-Economic Development."
- A crucial first step in developing a strong data ecosystem that supports evidence-based decision-making in cities is the **DataSmart Cities Initiative**.
- The **Digital India awards, which were established in 2009**, are unique in India because they recognize the work made by various government agencies in the digital sphere.
- These are run by the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology's **National Informatics Centre (NIC) (MeitY)**.
- In 2022, the **seventh annual Digital India Awards (DIA)** will take place.
- The Digital India Awards (DIA) offer a chance to highlight digital projects being used to reshape India into a knowledge economy and society that is enabled by technology.
- These prizes were established by the **National Portal of India to promote and recognize cutting-edge digital initiatives by all levels of government**.
- DIA 2022 intends to encourage and empower start-ups as well as government organizations to realize the goal of a Digital India.

### Jaipur Pink Panthers won the Pro Kabaddi League's ninth championship:

- **Jaipur Pink Panthers defeated a tenacious Puneri Paltan team in the Pro Kabaddi League Season 9 Final** by a score of 33-29 to claim their second PKL title.
- The only other team to have **won many championships right now, after Patna, is Jaipur Pink Panthers, the league's first-ever champions**.
- While the **playoffs were held in Mumbai, the tournament was held in Bengaluru, Pune, and Hyderabad**.
- **Sunil Kumar Malik and Sanjeev Baliyan** are now in charge of the Jaipur Pink Panthers team. **Abhishek Bachchan** is the team's owner.

### Winners List:

- Sunil Kumar was the Final's Ideal Player (Pink Panthers)
- Final Game-Changer: V Ajit Kumar (Pink Panthers)
- Ankush Rathee, Moment of the Final (Pink Panthers)
- V Ajit Kumar made the winning move (Pink Panthers)

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- Sunil Kumar's winning moment in the championship (Pink Panthers)
- WINNERS: Jaipur Pink Panthers
- RUNNERS: Puneri Paltan

### The Last Show and RRR's Naatu Naatu Reach the Oscars 2023 Shortlist:

- The official entry of India for the International Feature film category of the 2023 Academy Awards or Oscars is the Gujarati-language Chhello Show (The Last Show), which has been shortlisted.
- In the meantime, the Best Original Song Category has shortlisted the song Naatu Naatu from SS Rajamouli's RRR.
- The list of contenders in 10 categories was released by the Academy.
- On January 24, the Academy Award nominees will be revealed.
- Koozhangal, Jallikattu, Gully Boy, Village Rockstars, Newton, and Visaranani were all Indian entries for the Oscars throughout the past few years, however none of them was successful in getting on the Oscar shortlist.
- Lagaan, Mother India, and Salaam Bombay are the only Indian movies that have received Oscar nominations thus far.
- 15 songs from a total of 81 have been chosen as finalists for RRR's best song category. Other songs include "Hold My Hand" from "Top Gun: Maverick," "Nothing Is Lost" from "Avatar: The way of Water," and "Lift Me Up" from "Blank Panther: Wakanda Forever."
- The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences has released its shortlists for the 10 Oscar categories that will be presented in 2023.
- These categories include documentary and international features, as well as a documentary short subject, makeup and hairstyling, original score, original song, animated short, live-action short, sound, and visual effects.

### Unveiling of the 2022 Sahitya Akademi Awards:

- Every year, the federal government has given out an award for outstanding literary work.
- As a result, on December 22, the central government revealed the winners of the Sahitya Akademi Award for literature.
- This prize was given to Tamil Nadu author M. Rajendran for his book "Kaala Pani."
- A copper shield and a cash award of one lakh rupees will be given to the winner.
- The Kalayarkovil or Kalayarkool War is the subject of this historical "Kaala Pani" tale.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- A significant contribution to the language and literature of the genre in which it belongs must be made by the book.
- The book or literary work must have been originally published in one of the Sahitya Akademi's recognized languages during the five years immediately before the award year.
- The author and location of publication of the literary work should both be Indian.
- No translations or anthologies of works by numerous writers should be included in the book or literary work.
- When two or more books are on par in quality, the total literary contribution and reputation of the authors will be taken into account to choose the winner.

Language	Title and Genre	Name of the Author
Assamese	Bhool Satya (Short Stories)	Manoj Kumar Goswami
Bodo	Sansrini Modira (Poetry)	Rashmi Choudhury
Dogri	Chhe Roopak (Drama)	Veena Gupta
English	All The Lives We Never Lived (Novel)	Anuradha Roy
Gujarati	Gher Jatan (Autobiographical Essays)	Gulam Mohammad Shaikh
Hindi	Tumadi Ke Shabd (Poetry)	Badri Narayan
Kannada	Bahutvada Bhaarata mattu Bouddha Taatvikate (Collection of Articles)	Mudnakudu Chinnaswamy
Kashmiri	Zael Dab (Literary Criticism)	Farooq Fayaz
Konkani	Amrutvel (Novel)	Maya Anil Kharangate
Maithili	Pen-Drive Me Prithvi (Poetry)	Ajit Azad
Malayalam	Ashaante Seethayanam (Literary Criticism)	M. Thomas Mathew
Manipuri	Leironnung (Poetry)	Koijam Shantibala
Marathi	Ujavya Sondechya Bahulya (Novel)	Praveen Dashrath Bandekar
Nepali	Saino (Drama)	K.B. Nepali
Odia	Dayanadi (Poetry)	Gayatribala Panda
Punjabi	Main Aynghosh Nahi (Short Stories)	Sukhjot
Rajasthani	Alekhun Amba (Play)	Kamal Ranga
Sanskrit	Deepmanikyam (Poetry)	Janardan Prasad Pandey 'Mani'

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

Santali	Sabarnaka Balire Sanan' Panjay (Poetry)	Kajli Soren (Jagannath Soren)
Sindhi	Sindhi Sahit Jo Mukhtasar Itihas (Literary History)	Kanhaiyalal Lekhwani
Tamil	Kaala Paani (Novel)	M. Rajendran
Telugu	Manodharmaparagam (Novel)	Madhuranthakam Narendra
Urdu	Khwab Saraab (Novel)	Anis Ashfaq

### Top Green Building Award is won by the UIDAI HQ Building:

- The coveted **GRIHA Exemplary Performance Award 2022**, a top national-level Green Building Award, has been given to the **Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)**.
- In the category of currently highly rated buildings, **UIDAI HQ has been named the winner**.
- Reuse and recycling are ideas that UIDAI supports and believes in as a way to lessen its carbon footprint.
- For a percentage of its energy needs, it has been utilizing solar power.
- It has been implementing sustainable waste management techniques and recycling and reusing water.
- **UIDAI HQ building was deemed to be in second place in 2021.**
- The ongoing effort and the prize are a blatant acknowledgement of how UIDAI officials and personnel have worked hard to maintain their environmental awareness and support the nation's net zero goal.
- Staff members enjoy a pleasant working environment because of the building's eco-friendliness.
- The amount of recycled water used every day ranges from 25% to 30% on average.
- The UIDAI headquarters building recharges groundwater as well, on average at a rate of 3590 KL each year.

### The Rohini Nayar Prize for Rural Development was given to Sethrichem Sangtam:

- The **first Rohini Nayar prize was given to Sethrichem Sangtam** for his extraordinary contribution to rural development, which tripled the incomes of 1,200 marginalized farmers in Eastern Nagaland.
- **Suman Bery, vice chairman of Niti Ayog**, gave the prize given to a person who is 40 years of age or younger.
- Dr. Ashok Khosla, the creator of Development Alternatives, Dr. Rajesh Tandon, founder of PRIA, and Ms. Renana Jhabwala, national coordinator of SEWA, comprised an esteemed jury from civil society that chose the winner.



## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- Through his organization, the "**Better Life Foundation**," which focuses on rural livelihood stability, environmental sustainability, and education for change, **Mr. Sangtam works with 1,200 marginalized farmers in Eastern Nagaland.**
- Among his numerous accomplishments was persuading local farmers to switch from costly slash-and-burn crops to permanent farming.
- As a result of his actions, the farmers' average revenue tripled.
- The award was established by the family of the late Dr. Rohini Nayyar, a distinguished administrator, and scholar who devoted a large portion of her career to advancing rural development in India.
- One of India's leading experts on rural development was Dr. Nayyar, a well-known economist and former principal adviser at the old Planning Commission.
- Her death occurred in October 2021.

### **Sudeep and Shobhana were awarded the Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize for 2021–2022:**

- The **Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize** has been shared by **Shobhana Kumar and Sudeep Sen** for their collections of haibun, **A Sky Full of Bucket Lists**, and **Anthropocene: Climate Change, Contagion, and Consolation**, respectively.
- The winners, who each received \$10,000 and a Rabindranath Tagore figurine, were chosen from a shortlist of 11 at the India International Centre.
- **Sanjoy K. Roy**, the director of the **Jaipur Literature Festival**, received the **Tagore Prize for social achievement**.

### **Shortlist for the Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize in 2021–2022:**

- **A Play for the End of the World: Jai Chakrabarti** (Knopf, 2021)
- **Manual for a Decent Life: Kavita A. Jindal** (Linen Press, 2020)
- **Two and a Half Rivers: Anirudh Kala** (Niyogi, 2021)
- **A Sky Full of Bucket Lists: Shobhana Kumar** (Red River, 2021)
- **Osmosis: Debarshi Mitra** (Hawakal Publishers, 2020)
- **The Elegant Nobody: Jagari Mukherjee** (Hawakal Publishers, 2020)
- **My City is a Murder of Crows: Nikita Parik** (Hawakal Publishers, 2022)
- **I Want a Poem and Other Poem: Jerry Pinto** (Speaking Tiger Books, 2021)
- **The Earthspinner: Anuradha Roy** (Mountain Leopard Press, 2021)
- **Anthropocene: Climate Change, Contagion, Consolation: Sudeep Sen** (Pippa Rann Books&Media, 2021)

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- Love Without a Story: Arundhati Subramaniam (Bloodaxe Books, 2021)

### **PRAKASHmay: NHPC Wins India's Best Globally Competitive Power Company Award:**

- **NHPC Limited was named the 'Best Globally Competitive Power Company of India-Hydropower and Renewable Energy Sector' at the PRAKASHmay 15th EnerTia Awards 2022.**
- The award was accepted on behalf of NHPC by Shri U.S. Sahi, Executive Director (EMS/CC/CSR).
- The event was place at the **New Delhi Institute of Management in New Delhi.**
- The honor was given to NHPC in appreciation for its leadership in the hydropower industry.
- **More than 7000 MW of gross renewable energy capacity belongs to NHPC.**
- The award also acknowledges NHPC's ambitious 7000+ strategy for solar capacity expansion and its more than 5000 MW worth of ongoing projects.
- The **New Delhi Institute of Management's Chairman, Shri V.M. Bansal**, presented the prize.
- Both Shri A.K. Singh, the previous CMD of NHPC, and Shri K. Vijayanand, the Special Chief Secretary for Energy for the Government of Andhra Pradesh, presented awards at the occasion.

### **VinFuture Special Prize 2022 Awarded to Indian Scientist Prof. Thalappil Pradeep:**

- The **VinFuture Special Prize** was presented to **Professor Thalappil Pradeep** of the India Institute of Technology in Madras in Hanoi.
- For the development of a low-cost filtration device to remove heavy elements like arsenic from groundwater, **Prof. Thalappil Pradeep received an award.**
- At the **Indian Institute of Technology Madras' Department of Chemistry**, Thalappil Pradeep teaches chemistry.
- He is an **Indian scientist.**
- In 2020, he was given the **Padma Shri award** for his outstanding work in the field of science and technology.
- He was awarded the **Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize for Science and Technology in 2008**, the **World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) Prize in 2018**, and the **Nikkei Asia Prize in 2020.**
- On July 8, 1963, Thalappil Pradeep was born in Panthavoor, Kerala.
- **The \$3 million US value of the VinFuture Grand Prize** makes it one of the greatest annual awards ever given out globally.
- Women innovators, innovators from underdeveloped nations, and innovators who have made remarkable contributions to new sectors are each given one of three special prizes.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- Each of these **three prizes** is worth **US \$500,000**.
- Winners showcase their ground-breaking ideas that support post-pandemic restructuring and global recovery.
- The VinFuture Prize 2022 winners were chosen from approximately 1,000 nominations submitted in 71 different countries.
- On December 20, 2022, Hanoi hosted the VinFuture Prize 2022.

### **Awarded Best Film at KIFF was Kura Pokkhir Shunye Ura and Upon Entry:**

- The 28th Kolkata International Film Festival's Best Film Award went to the Spanish film **Upon Entry** and the Bangladeshi film **Kura Pokkhir Shunye Ura** (The Golden Wings of Watercocks).
- A couple from Barcelona who arrives in **New York with pre-approved immigration permits** are subjected to an unexpected interrogation in the Spanish movie **Upon Entry**.
- The journey of a peasant who is impacted by nature's wrath is the focus of the Bangladeshi film **Kura Pokkhir Shunye Ura**.
- The director of **Kura Pokkhir Shunye Ura, Muhammad Quayum**, was present.
- He committed the prizes to honor his nation's independent filmmakers.
- **Alejandro Rojas and Juan Sebastian Vasquez**, the directors of **Upon Entry**, essentially expressed their gratitude to the jury and audience.
- The **Golden Royal Bengal Tiger Award, which carries a cash award of 51 lakh rupees**, is given to the finest film at the international cinema festival.
- Argentina's **Virna Molina and Ernesto Ardito** received the Best Director trophy for their work on the movie **Hitler's Witch**.
- While accepting the trophy, **Virna Molina** wore the **Lionel Messi jersey** from her nation's World Cup-winning football squad.
- **Muthayya** won the **Hiralal Sen Memorial Award for Best Film in Indian Languages**.
- **Bhaskhar Maurya** is the director of the Telugu film **Muthayya**. This distinction is given to the local film industry.
- **Chhaad (the Terrace)**, **Indrani Chakraborty's** first film, won the **Special Jury prize** in the Indian Language film category.

### **The BBC Sports Personality of the Year 2022 Award was given to Beth Mead:**

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- As the player of the competition and leading scorer at Euro 2022, **Beth Mead** has been named the **BBC Sports Personality of the Year for 2022**.
- **Beth Mead** won England's first significant women's football trophy by defeating Germany in the championship game at Wembley.
- The 27-year-old was up for the **BBC Sports Personality of the Year for 2022** award along with **Ronnie O'Sullivan** and **Ben Stokes**.
- At the Wembley finals, Beth Mead's six goals and five assists helped England overcome eight-time champion Germany.
- For the first time since 1966, England won their first major prize.
- In addition, they were named team of the year, and Sarina Wiegman was named coach of the year.
- **Cricketer Ben Stokes** of England came in second, and Olympic curling champion **Eve Muirhead** took third.
- **Ronnie O'Sullivan**, a seven-time world champion in snooker, **Jessica Gadirova**, a world winner in gymnastics on the floor, and **Jake Wightman**, a world champion in the 1,500-meter run, were the other nominees for the prize.
- With **six goals and five assists**, **Beth Mead** won the player of the competition and the **Golden boot**.
- She has also been crowned the season's best player for Arsenal.

### **Swasti Singh, an Indian cyclist, receives the 30th Ekalabya Puraskar:**

- **Swasti Singh**, an Indian cyclist, has received the **esteemed 30th Ekalabya Puraskar for 2022**.
- The charitable arm of **IMFA, IMPaCT**, established the prize.
- At the **Ekalabya Puraskar ceremony in Bhubaneswar**, Swasti was given a cash prize of Rs. 5 lakhs and a citation.
- At the national level, she has won two gold and the same number of silver medals.
- This year's winner was unquestionably **Swasti, who has represented the State in several national competitions and was recognized for their exceptional brilliance from April 1, 2020, to March 31, 2022**.
- Along with Swasti, two more athletes received recognition for their outstanding efforts in competitions at the national and international levels in their respective sports.
- **Pyari Xaxa**, a promising international football player, and **Shilanand Lakra**, a rising international hockey player, were also honoured during the event.
- Each recipient also received citations and a monetary prize of Rs 50,000.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- Notably, the jury members and Trustee Baijayant Panda, Chairman of the Ekalabya Purskar Committee, attended the award event.

### **RBL Bank in partnership with BUSINESS NEXT wins IBSi Global FinTech Innovation Award:**

- One of India's biggest private sector banks, **RBL Bank**, won the **Best CRM System Implementation and Most Impactful Project IBSi Global FinTech Innovation Awards 2022**.
- The same prize also went to **BUSINESS NEXT** for its noteworthy project and finest CRM system implementation.
- **BUSINESSNEXT** is a composable suite of deep tech platforms – **CRMNEXT, CUSTOMERNEXT & DATANEXT** and pre-assembled products for the **BFSI** industry.
- RBL bank implemented the platform across Retail banking and Risk control units, deploying 140+ two-way Integration touchpoints covering 3000+ users, 400+ branches, and 10 million+ customers.

The high-impact outcome accomplished:

- ✓ 100% Auto assignments of leads across products
- ✓ 100% Auto assignments of service requests based on multiple criteria
- ✓ 90% Reduction in average service turnaround time
- ✓ 60% increase in first-touch resolution rates
- ✓ 30% of service request types enabled to STPs
- ✓ 23% reduction in avg. call handling time
- CRMNEXT enables the creation of a robust customer 360-view, a Centralized Lead Management system, a mobile application for our RMs to deliver faster service, and multiple processes to meet any regulatory changes which needed to be delivered with a go-live time of less than 3-4 weeks.
- The platform can be easily integrated with multiple systems and is super flexible to maintain.
- This transformation wouldn't have been possible without the expertise and support of BUSINESS NEXT

### **About BUSINESSNEXT**

- BUSINESSNEXT today powers 1 million+ users across 65,000 branches and call centres, managing 1 billion end customers worldwide.
- BUSINESSNEXT has its USA headquarter in Raleigh, North Carolina, and its international headquarters in Noida, India. It has a footprint across 5 continents and direct offices in 14 countries across the U.S.A, MEA, and APAC.

### **Gouri Amma Foundation award for Cuban rights activist Aleida Guevara:**

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## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- Noted Cuban social worker and human rights advocate **Aleida Guevara** has been selected for the **first award** instituted by the **K.R. Gouri Amma Foundation**.
- The jury, chaired by former Education Minister **M.A. Baby** and comprising **Binoy Viswam, MP**, and **P.C. Beenakumari**, managing trustee of the foundation, unanimously chose **Dr Guevara** for the award for her efforts to rehabilitate differently-abled children and provide debt relief to developing countries.
- **Dr. Aleida** is also an active member of the **Cuban Medical Mission** which works to improve the health profile of children in Latin America.
- The award comprising **\$3,000**, a statuette and a citation will be given away by **Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan** at a function to be held here on **January 5**.

### **IIT Madras wins Wharton-QS Reimagine Education Awards:**

- The Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT) Madras has won the **Wharton-QS Reimagine Education Awards** at the recently concluded ceremony held at the **Wharton Campus, Philadelphia, USA**.
- The institute has been awarded and its **BS in Data Science and Applications** is awarded the silver in the best online program category.
- While, the **National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning (NPTEL)**, a joint initiative of IITs and IISc, run by IIT Madras, won the gold in the **lifelong learning category**.
- NPTEL aims to enhance the quality of engineering education in India by developing an educational ecosystem and providing free online courses, and video lectures.
- **Andrew Thangaraj**, NPTEL, course coordinator, at IIT Madras, said, “NPTEL has become a pillar of the open education community.
- Its more than 4,000 certification courses enable quality and equitable access to a wide variety of learners from different social, economic, and demographic backgrounds who can benefit from these courses to up-skill and re-skill.
- The **Wharton-QS Reimagine Education Awards** recognize outstanding achievements of educators, institutions, and organizations that drive innovation and excellence in education.

### **Indian-origin science teacher wins Prime Minister's prize in Australia:**

- An Indian-origin teacher in Australia has received the **2022 Prime Minister's Prize for Excellence in Science Teaching** in secondary schools.



## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- **Melbourne-based Veena Nair**, who is **ViewBank College's Head of Technology and STEAM project leader**, has been awarded for demonstrating the practical application of STEAM to students, and how they can use their skills to make a real impact in the world.
- As a leading educator in STEAM, Nair has more than 20 years of experience in teaching science-based subjects across **India, the United Arab Emirates, and now Australia**.
- Through her work, she has increased the number of students who receive first-round offers to study engineering and technology subjects at university, especially young women and students from diverse backgrounds.

### About Veena Nair:

- Nair began her teaching career in Mumbai, where she provided computers to low socio-economic schools and taught students how to code.
- Nair's students participate in the Swinburne Youth Space Innovation Challenge -- a 10-week program that sees secondary students competing to create the best experiment to launch into space.
- The winning project is then sent to the International Space Station. She also supports the Young Persons' Plan for the Planet program, a STEM-based enterprise development program that allows students to engage with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals as changemakers at a global level.
- Via this program, she has led a team of Australian teachers to conduct STEAM workshops for teachers in low socio-economic schools in Mumbai.
- Nair is a BSc in Physics and a BEd in Science and Mathematics from the University of Mumbai and an MEd (maths education) from Deakin University.
- She won the Educator of the Year Award from the Design and Technology Teachers' Association of Australia in 2018.
- The annual awards celebrate the contributions of 12 of the country's leading scientists, innovators and science teachers.

### Prabhu Chandra Mishra was honoured with Atal Samman Award at Vigyan Bhawan New Delhi:

- **Shri Prabhu Chandra Mishra received an honourable Atal Samman Award** (Atal Anveshi Shikhar Samman) during this event for his excellence in the field of science & research.
- On the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister of the country Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, many personalities who played an important role in various fields were honoured **at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi during the 9th Atal Samman Samaroh**.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- On this occasion, famous MP and actor Manoj Tiwari, Shri Santosh Tandon former National Vice President of BJP and patron of the ceremony Shyam Jaju, MLA Ajay Mahawar, Vice Chairman of the ceremony Neeraj Gupta and many other luminaries were present.

### About His Work:

- His area of work is StemCell & Regenerative Medicine in infertility especially when IVF also fails.
- The diseases like a premature ovarian failure, thin endometrium, Asherman syndrome Etc..., have shown satisfactory results with the body's cells.
- PRP & bone marrow-derived StemCells Research has shown promising hope for these patients/ couples who are struggling for their children.
- **Shri Prabhu Mishra is the President of the International Association of StemCell & Regenerative Medicine** and an ace Regenerative Medicine scientist who travelled around the globe for his work.
- He also wrote an interesting book on stem cells, called StemCell & Regenerative Medicine in infertility.
- IASRM also conducts various training programs in Regenerative Medicine to create awareness in the community and among healthcare providers.

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

- **Neelima Kadijala, Dr. Ana Baburamani, and Dr. Indrani Mukherjee** will be honoured as **STEM superstars** in 2022.
- They are all **women of Indian descent**.
- Three Indian-origin women are **among 60 scientists, technologists, engineers, and mathematicians who have been selected as Australia's Superstars of STEM**, an initiative that aims to smash society's gender assumptions about scientists and increase the public visibility of females and non-binary people
- This effort aims to alter how society views scientists in terms of gender.
- In addition to Indians, women scientists of **Sri Lankan descent have also been chosen**.
- Every year **Science and Technology Australia (STA)**, which is the country's peak body in the sector and represents more than 105,000 scientists and technologists, supports 60 Australian experts employed in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) to become highly visible media and public role models.
- **About Neelima Kadijala:**
- Kadijala is an IT program manager at Challenger Limited with 15 years of experience working in a variety of sectors, including financial services, telecommunications, and fast-moving consumer goods.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- To obtain a Master of Business in Information Systems, she relocated to Australia in 2003 as an international student.

### About Ana Baburamani:

- Baburamani has always been fascinated by how the brain grows and works.
- He currently serves as a Scientific Adviser for the Department of Defense's Science and Technology Group.
- After earning her Ph.D. at Monash University, Baburamani worked as a postdoctoral researcher in Europe for ten years.

### About Indrani Mukherjee:

- Ms. Mukherjee is a geologist who studies what caused the biological shift.
- She works at the University of Tasmania.
- She is engaged in public outreach, geoscience communication, and diversity initiatives while working as a postdoctoral researcher in Tasmania.

## IMPORTANT DEFENCE NEWS

### India, Australia's Joint Military Exercise Austra-Hind 2022 begins In Rajasthan

- The Indian Army and Australian Armies began their joint military exercise Austra-Hind 2022 at Rajasthan's Mahajan Field Firing Ranges (MFFR) in Bikaner, Rajasthan which will end on December 11, 2022.
- The Year 2022 marks the first edition of the Austra Hind.

### Objective:

- To enhance military relations, adopt best practices, and work on interoperability for multi-domain operations in semi-desert conditions under the United Nations mandate of peace enforcement.

### Represents:

- The Indian Army will be represented by troops from the Dogra regiment.
- The Australian army contingent comprising soldiers from the 13th Brigade of the 2nd Division will take part in the exercise.

### About Austra-Hind 2022:

- The 'Austra Hind' will be a yearly event (annual exercise) that will be conducted alternatively in India and Australia.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- During the exercise, the armies of India and Australia will engage in various tasks, including joint planning, joint tactical drills, sharing basics of special arms skills, and raiding a hostile target.

### About MFFR:

- MFFR located in the **desert near the Pakistan border** is the Indian Army's oldest and largest training area

### India-Malaysia joint military exercise 'Harimau Shakti-2022' begins in Kluang, Malaysia

- India–Malaysia annual joint military exercise “Harimau Shakti 2022” commenced at Pulai, Kluang, Malaysia.
- The exercise will **culminate on 12th December 2022**.

### Participants:

- **Combat troops of the Garhwal Rifles Regiment of the Indian Army and the Royal Malay Regiment of the Malaysian Army** are taking part in the exercise.

### About Harimau Shakti 2022:

- Harimau Shakti 2022 has been conducted **since 2012**
- It will **enhance** the level of **defence cooperation** between the Indian Army and the Malaysian Army, which in turn will further **foster** the **bilateral relations** between the two nations.
- It will also **enhance interoperability** in the **planning** and **execution** of various operations in **jungle terrain**.
- The **scope** of this exercise involves a **Command Planning Exercise (CPX)** at the **Battalion level** and **Company level Field Training Exercise (FTX)** on sub-conventional operations.

### Pakistan PM Sharif and Turkiye Prez Erdogan jointly inaugurate a new warship for the Pakistani Navy

- **Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan** have jointly inaugurated a **corvette warship** built by Turkey for the **Pakistani Navy** under a **strategic cooperation project**.
- The launch of PNS Khyber represents the **deepening of defence cooperation** between the two nations.

### Key Highlights:

- PNS Khyber is the **third of the four corvette ships**.
- Under the project, Turkey was tasked to build **four corvette warships** for the **Pakistan Navy**—two in **Istanbul** and two in **Karachi**.
- The first corvette warship for the Pakistan Navy known as **PNS Babar** was launched in **Istanbul in August 2021** while the **foundation stone** for the **second ship PNS Badr** was laid in **Karachi in May 2022**.
- The warships have been built by **ASFAT inc**, a **Turkish state-owned defence contractor firm**.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- Sharif during the inauguration informed that the 4th warship would be delivered in **February 2025**

### About Pakistan:

- Prime minister: Shehbaz Sharif
- President: Arif Alvi
- Capital: Capital: Islamabad
- Currency: Pakistani rupee

### About Turkey:

- President: Recep Tayyip Erdoğan
- Capital: Ankara
- Currency: Turkish lira

### Annual Joint HADR exercise of Indian Air Force - Samanvay 2022

- Indian Air Force is conducting the Annual Joint Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Exercise “Samanvay 2022” at Air Force Station in Agra, Uttar Pradesh.

### Aim:

- To provide a unique platform for the exchange of domain knowledge, experience, and best practices with the participating Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) member countries.
- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will be the chief guest for the capability demonstration events planned during the exercise

### Strengthening the institutional mechanism:

- The exercise includes assessing the **efficacy** of institutional Disaster Management structures and contingency measures.
- To build a deep understanding of it, a **seminar on Disaster Management**, a ‘Multi-Agency Exercise’ involving static and flying displays of various HADR assets, and a ‘Tabletop Exercise’ will be held.
- The exercise will promote a synergistic approach by involving various institutions like the **Armed Forces**, **National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)**, **National Disaster Response Force (NDRF)**, **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)**, **Border Roads Organisation (BRO)**, **India Meteorological Department (IMD)** and the **Civil Administration**.

### Disaster Management in India:

- In India, **National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)** is the apex statutory body for disaster management.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- It was formally constituted on **27th September 2006**, by the **Disaster Management Act, 2005** with the **Prime Minister** as its Chairperson.
- Indian defence forces, under the aegis of **Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff (HQ IDS)**, have been carrying out HADR operations within the country as well as outside the country.

### About MoD:

- Defence Minister: **Rajnath Singh**
- Minister of State: **Ajay Bhatt**
- Defence Secretary: **Giridhar Aramane**

### Defence Minister Rajnath Singh to co-chair 4th India-France Annual Defence Dialogue with French counterpart

- Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** co-chaired the **4th India-France Annual Defence Dialogue** with French Minister of Armed Forces **Sebastien Lecornu** in **New Delhi**.
- Both leaders discussed **military-to-military cooperation** and the **strengthening of maritime cooperation**.

### Key Highlights:

- Leaders of India and France also discussed many issues, including operational **defence ties**, **counter-terrorism**, **maritime security** in the **Indo-Pacific**, and **industrial and technological partnerships**.
- They also discussed ways to enhance cooperation in the bilateral, regional, and multilateral forums, with a focus on the Indo-Pacific region.
- **Sebastien Lecornu** is on a **two-day visit** to India.
- He will also meet with **National Security Adviser Ajit Doval** and **External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar**.
- This is the **first visit** of **Mr. Sebastien Lecornu** as **French Minister of Armed Forces** to India.
- In **2022**, **India and France** conducted many defence exercises, such as **IMEX 22** in **March**, **Varuna** in **March-April**, and **Garuda** in **October-November**.
- **France** is currently **chairing** the **Indian Ocean Commission (IOC)** and the **Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS)**.
- In **February 2022**, **India and France** agreed on a **roadmap** for a **blue economy and Ocean Governance**.

### Indian Coast Guard Advanced Light Helicopter Mk-III squadron commissioned in Chennai

- An Indian Coast Guard Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) Mk-III squadron was commissioned by **D G V S Pathania** at **ICG Air Station, Chennai, Tamil Nadu (TN)** in a major **boost** to further **strengthen** the **Coast Guard Region East, 840 Sqn (CG)**.



## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- It will provide a major fillip to the abilities of the Indian Coast Guard in the **security-sensitive waters off Tamil Nadu and Andhra region.**
- Since induction, the squadron has flown over **430 hours** and conducted numerous operational missions.

### About ALH MK III :

- The ALH MK III helicopters have been **indigenously manufactured** by **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).**
- They feature **state-of-the-art equipment** including advanced **RADAR** as well as **Electro optical sensors, Shakti engines, full glass cockpit, high-intensity searchlight, advanced communication systems, automatic identification system** as well as search-and-rescue homer.
- The features enable them to undertake **maritime reconnaissance** as well as carry out SAR at extended ranges even while operating from ships during both day and night.
- The aircraft can switch roles from an offensive platform with a heavy machine gun to that of a benign one carrying a **Medical Intensive Care Unit** to facilitate the **transfer of critically ill patients.**
- A total of **16 ALH Mk-III aircraft** have been inducted into the **Indian Coast Guard** in a phased manner and **4 of these aircraft are positioned in Chennai.**

### About ICG:

- Founded: 1 February 1977
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi
- The ICG is a **maritime law enforcement and search and rescue agency of India.**

### The 12th edition of Exercise Agni Warrior 2022 concludes in Devlali, Maharashtra

- The 12th Edition of Exercise Agni Warrior (XAW) 2022, a bilateral exercise between the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) & Indian Army (IA), concluded at Field Firing Ranges, Devlali (Maharashtra).

### Aim:

- To **enhance mutual understanding of drills & procedures** and improve interoperability between the SAF & IA.
- The closing event was witnessed by **Mr. Wong Wie Kuen, High Commissioner of Singapore to India & Lieutenant General S Harimohan Iyer, Commandant, School of Artillery.**
- India was among the **first countries** to set up **diplomatic relations** after the independence of Singapore on **24 August 1965.**

### About XAW:

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## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- Exercise Agni Warrior, involved showcasing joint firepower planning, execution, and use of New Generation Equipment by the Artillery arm of both armies.
- XAW, Initiated in 2004.
- It is conducted as a part of the Army Bilateral Agreement & a testament to the long-standing defense relationship between Singapore & India.

### Other exercises between India and Singapore:

- Exercise SITMEX: It is a trilateral annual maritime exercise between India, Singapore, and Thailand
- Exercise SIMBEX: It is a bilateral naval exercise between the Indian and Singapore Navy.

### Israeli Navy tests long-range anti-cruise missile interceptor from advanced corvette

- The Israeli Navy conducted a successful test of a long-range interceptor missile against an “advanced” cruise missile, LRAD.
- The Sa’ar 6-class corvette INS Magen launched the missile after detecting a “target that resembled an advanced cruise missile” and destroyed it
- The LRAD missile, part of the Barak MX defense system, is developed by the Israeli Aerospace Industries and the Defense Ministry’s research and development division, known by the Hebrew acronym MAFAT.

### Key Highlights:

- The interceptor system, called Barak, includes advanced radar, a weapon system, and a long-range interceptor.
- The missile is capable of foiling a myriad of aerial threats including planes, UAVs, cruise missiles, unguided rockets, and coast-to-sea missiles.
- It is designed to deal with a wide range of aerial threats, including fighters, drones, cruise missiles, surface-to-surface missiles and rockets, and anti-ship missiles.

### Indian Army Trains Kites to Prey on Enemy Drones

- Indian Army troops are using trained Kites to prey on enemy drones in a first-of-its-kind usage of these birds along with dogs for military operations during the ongoing joint training exercise Yuddh Abhyas in Auli, Uttarakhand.
- The Indian Army used A kite named "Arjun".
- During the exercise, the Indian Army created a situation, in which the Indian Army used a kite and a dog to identify the location of enemy drones and destroy them.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- The 18th edition of the Indo-US joint training exercise "Yudh Abhyas 22" commenced in Uttarakhand's Auli.
- Exercise Yudh Abhyas is conducted annually between India and the United States (US) to exchange best practices, Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures between the Armies of the two nations.
- The Yudh Abhyas is a 15-day-long exercise that will focus on high altitude and extremely cold climate warfare.

### Defence Secretary Giridhar Aramane inaugurates the first Coastal Security Conference in Chennai

- Defence Secretary Giridhar Aramane inaugurated the first Coastal Security Conference organized by the Indian Coast Guard under the aegis of the Colombo Security Conclave (CSC) at Chennai.
- The 2-day conference being held under the theme: "Collaborative Efforts for Coastal Security," saw the participation of 4 member countries viz. India, Maldives, Sri Lanka, and Mauritius.
- Representatives from Bangladesh and Seychelles, observer countries of CSC, also participated.
- During the conference, many topics including Coastal Security Threats & Collaborative Response, International Maritime Law & Role of Empowered Agencies, and Technological Solutions for Coastal Security, etc. were discussed.

### About CSC:

- The CSC started as a trilateral maritime cooperation mechanism between India, Maldives, and Sri Lanka in 2011.
- The membership of the Group was enlarged with the addition of Mauritius in March 2022.
- The Secretariat of the CSC is located in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

### Defense Ministry Extends Pension Payments For SPARSH Pensioners By 3 Months

- The Ministry of Defence has approved the extension of pension payment for 3 months for banks' pensioners, who migrated to SPARSH, {System for Pension Administration (Raksha)} and whose identification was due in November 2022.
- It is reiterated that the process of Annual Identification/Life Certification is a statutory requirement for continued and timely credit of monthly pensions.

### About SPARSH:

- The System for Pension Administration (Raksha) or SPARSH is a web-based system for processing pension claims and crediting the pension directly into the bank accounts of defense pensioners without any external intermediary.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- The annual joint humanitarian assistance and disaster relief exercise, 'Samanvay 2022', will culminate at the Air Force Station, Agra.
- Also, the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) conducted the 24th National Oil Spill Disaster Contingency Plan and preparedness meeting in Chennai.

### About Ministry of Defence:

- Union Minister: Rajnath Singh
- Minister of State: Ajay Bhatt
- Defence Secretary: Giridhar Aramane

### New Design of The President's Standard and Colour & the Indian Navy Crest Unveiled

- The Hon'ble President of India has approved the introduction of a new design for the President's Standard and Colour and Indian Navy Crest for the Indian Navy, which was unveiled at Visakhapatnam on Navy Day on 04 Dec 2022.

### About The President's color and standards:

- The Indian Navy adopted a new naval ensign about three months back, and the new design of the President's Standard and President's Colour awarded to the Indian Navy incorporates this change.
- The President's Colour is given to the 'operational formation of the force' while the President's Standard is meant for the 'static formation.'
- They are given to the best-performing units of the force.
- The new design of the President's Standard and Colour comprises three main constituents;
- The national flag in the upper-left canton adjacent to the staff,
- The state emblem undescended with 'Satyamev Jayate' in golden color on the upper right canton on the fly side and,
- A Navy Blue-Gold Octagon below the golden state emblem.

### About the Indian Navy Crest:

- The Indian Navy Crest has been amended to replace the foul anchor with a Clear Anchor.
- The clear anchor depicts the steadfastness of the Indian Navy to deter any challenge in the maritime domain and represents clarity in the vision, mission, and aspirations of its sailors.
- The Clear Anchor also depicts the Indian Navy's commitment to securing the Coast and Maritime Interests of India.

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- The design comprised one **horizontal and vertical red band** intersecting at the center and the national emblem inserted at their intersection.
- The national flag was at the upper left canton adjacent to the staff, and a golden elephant was at the lower right canton on the fly side.
- This design was inspired by the erstwhile **naval ensign**.
- The Octagon has **twin golden octagonal borders**, encompassing the **golden national emblem (Lion Capital of Ashoka resting atop an anchor; and superimposed on a shield**.
- Below the shield, within the octagon, in a golden bordered ribbon, on a Navy Blue background, is inscribed the **motto** of the Indian Navy, '**Sam No Varunah**' in **golden Devnagri script**.

### Importance:

- The golden state emblem signifies '**power, courage, confidence, and pride**' whilst the navy blue-golden octagon shape draws inspiration from **Shivaji Maharaj Rajmudra or the Seal of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj**.
- It represents the **eight directions (four cardinal and four intercardinal)**, symbolizing the Indian Navy's maritime outreach.

### US & India Navy Conducts 7th edition of Special Forces Exercise In Goa

- The 7th edition of **Exercise Sangam**, a joint Naval Special Forces exercise between Indian Navy Marine Commandos (MARCOS) and United States (US) Navy Sea, Air & Land (SEALs) commenced at Goa.
- It will see personnel from **SEAL Team Five** based in San Diego, USA, and Indian Navy MARCOs from **INS Abhimanyu** together.

### Aim:

- To **exchange ideas and experiences** on various aspects of **Maritime Special Operations**.
- MARCOS was raised in the year of **1985** as the **Indian Maritime Special Force (IMSF)**.

### About the Exercise Sangam:

- The Sangam exercise is a **bilateral exercise** purely between the **United States (US) and Indian Special Forces**.
- Exercise Sangam was **first conducted** in **1994**.
- It is an **important military and diplomatic initiative** between the two nations, reflective of the trust and friendship between them.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- The exercise will be for **three weeks**, during which the personnel will be trained in **Maritime Interdiction Operations, Direct Action Missions, Combat Free Fall Jumps, Special Heliborne Operations**, and other skill drills.

### Other Exercise between India & US:

- Notably, the 18th edition of the **Indo-US joint training exercise “YUDH ABHYAS 22”** started in **Uttarakhand** in **Nov 2022**.

### About Exercise YudhAbhyas:

- Exercise YudhAbhyas is conducted **annually** between **India** and **USA** to exchange best practices, Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures between the Armies of the two nations.
- The **17th edition** of the exercise was conducted at **Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson, Alaska (USA)** in **October 2021**.
- The joint exercise also focuses on **Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR)** operations.

### About Ministry of Defence:

- Union Minister: **Rajnath Singh**
- Minister of Defence: **Ajay Bhatt**
- Defence Secretary: **GiridharAramane**

### Indian Navy's P75I submarine program in troubled waters

- The Indian navy's plan to **build 6 modern conventional submarines** that can **stay underwater** for a long time is still having trouble and delays.
- For example, foreign partners missed a deadline for submitting bids.

### Key Highlights:

- The **Rs 43,000 crore P 75I program**, which calls for an Indian shipyard and a foreign technology partner to work together to build submarines in India, is getting another extension.
- The new deadline for bids is **August 2023**.
- The original plan was for Indian shipyards to put together a **single bid** with a foreign partner in 2021.
- After several problems were brought up about liability clauses and other issues, the deadline was pushed back to **June 2022**.



## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- Indian companies shortlisted for the construction, **Mazagon Dockyards Ltd (MDL)** and **Larsen and Toubro (L&T)**, have been talking with foreign technology partners from **Germany, France, Russia, South Korea, and Spain** for the past few years to make a plan for transferring technology.
- **But only Germany and South Korea** are still in the **running** because the navy has stated that the bidder must have an AIP system that has been tested at sea.

### About Project 75 (I):

- It was approved in **2007** and is part of the **Indian Navy's 30-year Plan for indigenous submarine construction**.
- In **1999**, the **Cabinet Committee on Security** outlined a **30-year plan** for submarine manufacturing.
- The plan included designing and building **24 conventional submarines by the end of 2030**.
- Of the 24 submarines, **18 will be conventional**, while the remaining **6 will be nuclear-powered**
- Project 75 and Project-75i are two sister projects under this plan.
- Project 75 aimed to build **6 conventional diesel-electric fuelled Scorpene-class attack submarines** and was built by **Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL)**.

### Indian Navy ships Kochi, Kavaratti, and Sumedha participating in IFR-22 at Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh

- Indian Navy ships **Kochi, Kavaratti, and Sumedha** arrived in **Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh** to participate in the maiden **International Fleet Review (IFR)** being conducted by the **Bangladesh Navy (BN)**.
- The **Chief Guest for the Fleet Review** was **Smt Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of Bangladesh**.

### Key Highlights:

- In **2022**, **BN** organized **IFR-22** to commemorate the birth centenary of the **Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh MujiburRahman**, as well as the **Golden Jubilee of Bangladesh's Independence**.
- Indian Naval Ships **Kochi, Kavaratti, and Sumedha** are the latest indigenously designed and developed **Guided Missile Stealth Destroyer, Anti Submarine Corvette, and Off-shore Patrol Vessels**, respectively.
- **INS Kochi** is part of the **Western Fleet of the Indian Navy**, based in **Mumbai**, whilst **INS Kavaratti** and **INS Sumedha** are part of the **Eastern Fleet**, based in **Visakhapatnam**.
- All three ships are equipped with a **versatile array of weapons and sensors** and symbolize India's warship-building capabilities.

### The 39th edition of India-Indonesia Coordinated Patrol underway

- The **39th edition of India-Indonesia Coordinated Patrol (IND-INDO CORPAT)** between the **Indian Navy** and the **Indonesian Navy** is being conducted from **December 8 to 19, 2022**.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- The CORPAT will be executed along the **International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL)** on **December 15-16, 2022**, and will conclude with a **debrief at Port Blair, Andaman & Nicobar Islands**.

### Participants:

- **Indian Naval Ship (INS) Karmuk**, an **indigenously built missile corvette** participated in the pre-deployment briefing at **Belawan, Indonesia**.
- Apart from **INS Karmuk**, the **Indian Navy's L-58** (indigenously built Landing Craft Utility vessel) and **Dornier Maritime Patrol Aircraft** will also be taking part in the CORPAT.
- From the **Indonesian Navy**, **KRI Cut Nyak Dien**, a **Kapitan Pattimura Class Corvette**, would be participating in the bilateral naval event.

### Aim of the Exercise:

- To bolster the **maritime cooperation** between the two navies and forge **strong bonds** of friendship between India and Indonesia.
- As part of the Government of India's vision **SAGAR (Security And Growth for All in the Region)**, the Indian Navy has been proactively engaging with countries in the **Indian Ocean Region (IOR)** to **enhance maritime security** in the region.

### Note:

- The **38th India-Indonesia Coordinated Patrol (IND-INDO CORPAT)** is being conducted between the Indian Navy and Indonesian Navy from **13-24 June 22** at **Port Blair, Andaman & Nicobar Islands**.

### About The CORPAT:

- India and Indonesia have been carrying out CORPATs **twice a year since 2002**.
- CORPATs help build understanding and interoperability between navies and facilitate the institution of measures to **prevent** and suppress **Illegal Unreported Unregulated (IUU) fishing, drug trafficking, maritime terrorism, armed robbery, and piracy**.

### About Indonesia:

- President: **Joko Widodo**
- Capital: **Jakarta**
- Currency: **Indonesian Rupiah**

**MoS Defence Ajay Bhatt unveils bust of India's first CDS late Gen Bipin Rawat in New Delhi**

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- Minister of State for Defence Shri Ajay Bhatt unveiled a bust of India's first Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) late General Bipin Rawat at the United Service Institution of India (USI) in New Delhi to commemorate his first death anniversary.
- The Armed Forces and the USI have taken the initiative to institute a Chair of Excellence and a Memorial Lecture in memory of General Bipin Rawat at the Institution.
- General Bipin Rawat, who died tragically in a helicopter crash in December 2021 was India's first Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) and longest-serving general.
- During his illustrious service, India's first CDS was conferred with PVSM, UYSM, AVSM, YSM, SM, VSM, and Padma Vibhushan (posthumously).
- He was a visionary leader and a scholar soldier, known for his professionalism, principles, conviction, and decisiveness.
- He followed the Indian Army's motto of 'Service before Self' as a guiding principle throughout his Army career.

### About Ministry of Defence:

- Union Minister: Rajnath Singh
- Minister of State: Ajay Bhatt
- Defence Secretary: Giridhar Aramane

### Kalyani Rafael rolled out its 100th kit of Indo-Israeli MRSAM missiles for supply to Indian forces

- Indo-Israeli joint venture Kalyani Rafael Advanced Systems (KRAS) rolled out the 100th kit of the made-in-India Medium Range Surface to Air Missile (MRSAM) kit, for delivery to the Indian Armed Forces (IAF).
- Dr. Narayana Murthy, Director General of Missiles & Strategic Systems handed over the 100th MRSAM Missile kit to senior officers of the Indian Armed Forces.
- The ceremony took place at the KRAS facility in the Indian city of Hyderabad, Telangana.

### About MRSAM Kit:

- The MRSAM is an advanced network-centric combat Air Defence System developed jointly by Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) and Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) in collaboration with the Indian industry comprising private and public sectors including Micro Small & Medium Enterprise (MSMEs).
- In 2019, KRAS received an order for supplying mid-sections of 1000 MRSAMs, the deal was worth \$100mn.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- It is **operated** by the **Indian Army** and the **Air Force**
- The MSAM missile can take **down multiple aerial targets** such as jets, drones, helicopters, and incoming missiles, **within a 70 km range**.
- The missile kit or mid-section refers to the frontal end of the missile, which comprises the seeker and **crucial electronics**.

### India-Kazakhstan joint military exercise “KAZIND – 2022” to be held at Umroi Meghalaya

- The 6th edition of the India-Kazakhstan joint military training exercise, "KAZIND-22" is scheduled to be conducted from **December 15 to 28, 2022** at Umroi, Meghalaya.

#### Objective:

- To **build positive military-to-military relationships**, imbibe each other's best practices, and enhance the ability to work together while conducting **counter-terrorism operations** in semi-urban/jungle scenarios.
- The **5<sup>th</sup> edition** of India-Kazakhstan Joint Training Exercise KAZIND-21 was conducted from **August 30 to September 11, 2021**, in Kazakhstan.

#### About the KAZIND-22:

- Kazakhstan Army soldiers composed of **troops** from the **Regional Command**, and **South and Indian Army soldiers** from the **11 Gorkha Rifles** will be participating in the exercise.
- This joint exercise will enable both armies to train, plan, and execute a series of **joint tactical exercises** to neutralize potential threats to **UN peacekeeping operations**.
- The exercise comprises a **Command Post Exercise (CPX)** at the **Battalion level** and a **Company level Field Training Exercise (FTX)** on sub-conventional operations.
- During the training exercise, soldiers from both armies will engage in various missions ranging from **joint planning, joint tactical exercises, special weapon skills, HADR, and assault on hostile targets**.

#### About KAZIND:

- The joint annual training exercise with the Kazakhstan Army was started as “Exercise Prabal Dostyk” in **2016**.
- The exercise was later **upgraded** to a **company-level exercise** and renamed “Exercise KAZIND” in the year **2018**.
- The “Exercise KAZIND” will **raise the level of defence cooperation** between the Indian Army and Kazakhstan Army which will further boost bilateral relations between the two countries.

#### About MoD:

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## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- Union Minister: Rajnath Singh
- Minister of State: Ajay Bhatt
- Defence Secretary: Giridhar Aramane

### About Kazakhstan:

- President: Kassym-Jomart Tokayev
- Prime Minister: Älihan Smaiylov
- Capital: Astana
- Currency: Tenge

### IAF to conduct annual air exercise in the eastern sector

- The Indian Air Force (IAF) will carry out a **two-day exercise** in the **Eastern Sector** of the country on **December 15 and 16, 2022**.
- The exercise is involving almost all its **frontline fighter jets** and other assets deployed in the region
- **Fighter jets, transport aircraft, helicopters, and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs)** will participate in the exercise.

### Aim:

- To check the IAF's **overall combat capability** and **military preparedness** in the region.

### Key Highlights:

- Air bases in **Assam's Tezpur, Chhabua, Jorhat, and West Bengal's Hashimara** are likely to be **activated** in the exercise.
- Hasimara air base is home to the **Rafale fighter jets**.
- All frontline air bases and some key **Advanced Landing Grounds (ALGs)** in the Northeast are set to be involved in the exercise
- IAF's frontline fighter jets including **Sukhoi-30MKIs and Rafale jets** will be part of the exercise.
- Notably, on **December 9, 2022**, **6 Indian Army soldiers** were injured in a clash with the **Chinese People's Liberation Army** in Arunachal Pradesh.
- This is the **first reported clash** between **Indian and Chinese troops** since skirmishes in Eastern Ladakh.
- The IAF inducted the Rafale aircraft into its **101 Squadron** of the **Eastern Air Command** at the Hasimara in **July 2021**.

### About IAF:

- Headquarters: New Delhi

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- Chief of Defence Staff (CDS): General Anil Chauhan
- Chief of the Air Staff: Air Chief Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari

### 16th Edition of Indo-Nepal joint training Exercise - SURYA KIRAN-XVI begins

- The 14-day long, 16th Edition of Indo-Nepal joint training Exercise “SURYA KIRAN-XVI” between India and Nepal will be conducted at Nepal Army Battle School, Saljhandi (Nepal), from 16 - 29 December 2022.

#### About SURYA KIRAN:

- Exercise “SURYA KIRAN” is conducted annually between India and Nepal.
- It occurs alternatively between India and Nepal.

#### Aim:

- To enhance inter-operability in jungle warfare and counter-terrorism operations in mountainous terrain and Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) under UN mandate.
- Nepal Army soldiers of the Shree Bhawani Baksh Battalion and Indian Army soldiers from the 5 GR will be participating in the exercise.
- The 15th edition of Indo–Nepal Joint Military Training Exercise Surya Kiran commenced on September 20, 2021, at Pithoragarh in Uttarakhand.
- The 14th edition of the exercise took place in Saljhandi, Nepal, in 2019.

#### Key Highlights:

- The joint exercise would focus on the evolution of combined drills for planning and conduct of tactical operations at the unit level in counter-terrorism operations and disaster response mechanisms in general and the role of armed forces in the management of disasters.
- During the exercise, participants will be training together to develop inter-operability and share their experience including Counter Insurgency and Counter Terrorist operations and also on Humanitarian Relief operations.
- It will enhance the level of defence cooperation which will further foster the bilateral relations between the two nations.

#### About Ministry of Defence:

- Union Minister: Rajnath Singh
- Minister of State: Ajay Bhatt
- Defence Secretary: Giridhar Aramane



## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

### About Nepal:

- President: Bidhya Devi Bhandari
- Prime Minister: Sher Bahadur Deuba
- Capital: Kathmandu
- Currency: Nepalese rupee

### Indigenous stealth guided-missile destroyer INS Mormugao commissioned into the Indian Navy

- Indian Naval Ship (INS) Mormugao (D67), a second warship of the P15B class of stealth guided-missile destroyers, was commissioned into the Indian Navy in the presence of Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh at Naval Dockyard, Mumbai, Maharashtra, India.

### Aim:

- To make India the indigenous ship-building hub

### About INS Mormugao:

- INS Mormugao is one of the most powerful indigenously-built warships which will significantly enhance the country's maritime capabilities and secure national interests
- This is the most technologically advanced warship.
- It is the second of the four 'Visakhapatnam' class destroyers of 'Project 15B', indigenously designed by the Indian Navy's in-house organization, Warship Design Bureau, and constructed by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited, Mumbai.
- It was launched on 17 September 2016.
- It is named after the port city of Mormugao in Goa.
- Named after the historic port city of Goa, Mormugao coincidentally undertook its first sea trial on December 19, 2021, when Goa celebrated 60 years of liberation from Portuguese rule.
- The warship is packed with sophisticated state-of-the-art weapons and sensors such as surface-to-surface missiles and surface-to-air missiles.
- It is fitted with a modern surveillance radar that provides target data to the gunnery weapon systems on board.

### Features:

- Length - 163 meters
- Width - 17 meters
- Displacement - 7,400 tonnes

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- Maximum speed - 30 knots (55 kmph).

### About MoD:

- Defence Minister: Rajnath Singh
- Minister of State: Ajay Bhatt
- Defence Secretary: Giridhar Aramane

### About the Indian Navy:

- Founded: 26 January 1950
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi
- Chief of the Naval Staff: Admiral R. Hari Kumar

### INSV Tarini to participate in the 50th edition of Cape Town to Rio Race 2023

- Indian Naval Sailing Vessel (INSV) Tarini will participate in the 50th edition of the expedition to Cape Town, South Africa for participating in the Cape to Rio Race 2023.
- The ocean sailing race will be flagged off from Cape Town on January 2, 2023, and will culminate at Rio de Janeiro in Brazil.
- The expedition is being undertaken by an Indian Navy crew of 5 officers including 2 women officers

### Aim:

- To train the crew onboard, in essential seamanship skills including Navigation, Communication, Technical, Planning, etc.

### Key Highlights:

- It is one of the most prestigious Trans-Atlantic ocean races.
- During this expedition whilst transiting from Goa to Rio de Janeiro via Cape Town and back, INSV Tarini would be covering a distance of almost 17000nm (approx. 30000 km).
- The crew, over 5-6 months in this trans-oceanic voyage is expected to face extreme weather and rough sea conditions in the Indian, Atlantic, and Southern oceans.
- INSV Tarini is known for circumnavigating the globe with an all-women officer crew in the historic expedition titled 'Navika Sagar Parikrama' in 2017.
- In the present expedition, the vessel is being skippered by Capt Atool Sinha with Lt Cdr Ashutosh Sharma, Lt Cdr Dilna K, Lt Cdr Roopa A, and SLt Aviral Keshav as the crew.

### About INSV Tarini:

- INSV Tarini is the second sailboat of the Indian Navy after INSV Mhedi.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- It is a cruising sloop built at the Aquarius Shipyard in Divar, Goa.

### Indian Navy gets 5th scorpene-class submarine, Vagir

- The fifth (5th) Scorpène submarine, Vagir of Project – 75 Kalvari Class submarines has been delivered to the Indian Navy by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- Also, the Indian Navy commissioned the indigenously built guided missile destroyer INS Mormugao

### About Project – 75:

- Under Project 75, six submarines are to be constructed.
- The submarines are being constructed at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) in Mumbai in collaboration with the Naval Group of France.
- In November 2021, the Indian Navy commissioned a fourth scorpene-class submarine, INS Vela, which formed part of the Western Naval Command's submarine fleet.

### About Vagir:

- Vagir was launched on Nov 12, 2020, and commenced the sea trials on February 1, 2022.
- It has completed all major trials including the weapon and sensor trials in the shortest time in comparison to the earlier submarines.
- It can carry out multifarious missions typically undertaken by any modern submarine, which include anti-surface warfare, anti-submarine warfare, intelligence gathering, mine laying, and area surveillance.
- The construction of these submarines in an Indian yard is another step towards 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' and enhances self-confidence in this field, a notable achievement.
- This is the third submarine delivered to the Indian Navy in 24 months.

### About the Indian Navy:

- Founded: 26 January 1950
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi
- Chief of the Naval Staff: Admiral R. Hari Kumar

### Indian Navy launches the first ship of ASW SWC Project - INS Arnala

- The Indian Navy launched 'Arnala' (Y3029), the first of the eight indigenously-built anti-submarine warfare shallow watercraft (ASW-SWC), at the shipbuilding facility of Larsen & Turbo (L&T) in Chennai's Kattupalli, Tamil Nadu (TN).
- It is being built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata, West Bengal (WB).

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- Arnala was launched at the launch ceremony graced by Rasika Chaube, Financial Adviser, Ministry of Defence (MoD).
- The Arnala class of ships will replace the Abhay class ASW Ships of the Indian Navy.

### About 'Arnala':

- Arnala is the first ship of the anti-submarine warfare shallow watercraft (ASW SWC) Project.
- The ship has been named Arnala to signify the strategic maritime importance accorded to the island of Arnala located about 13 Km north of Vasai, Maharashtra by the great Maratha warrior, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.
- Defence Ministry and GRSE, Kolkata had signed a contract for building eight ASW SWC ships in April 2019.
- These are designed to undertake anti-submarine operations in coastal waters and low-intensity maritime operations (LIMO), including subsurface surveillance in littoral waters.
- The 77.6-meter-long ASW-SWC ships have a displacement of 900 tonnes with a maximum speed of 25 knots and endurance of 1800 nautical miles (NM).
- The ASW-SWC ships will have over 80% indigenous content, ensuring that large-scale defence production is executed by Indian manufacturing units thereby generating employment and capability build-up within the country.

### About ASW-SWC:

- The ASW-SWC corvettes are a class of anti-submarine warfare vessels currently being built for the Indian Navy, by Cochin Shipyard (CSL) and Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE).

### About GRSE:

- Headquarters: Kolkata, West Bengal, India
- Chairman & MD: Cmde PR Hari, IN (Retd.)
- GRSE is one of India's leading shipyards.
- It builds and repairs commercial and naval vessels.

### Govt gives nod to procure Pralay ballistic missiles for armed forces

- The Ministry of Defence (MoD) has given the nod to procure 120 "Pralay" short-range surface-to-surface ballistic missiles for the armed forces.
- These missiles will carry conventional warheads and will be deployed along the line of actual control (LAC) with China and the international border (IB) and line of control (LoC) with Pakistan.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- In **December, 2021** the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** successfully conducted the maiden flight test of the **indigenously developed Pralay** missile.

### About Pralay:

- Pralay is capable of striking and destroying targets in the **range of 150-500 km**.
- It can be used at **night to attack enemy targets**.
- The missile has a **speed of around 2,000 km per hour**, and is equipped with an **infrared or thermal scanner**.
- It would be provided to the **Air Force** and the **Navy**.
- The missile has an **accuracy of 10 metres** which means it is capable of hitting within 10 metres of the target and causing damage.
- It has been developed with the capacity to tackle interceptor missiles as well.

### About MoD:

- Defence Minister: **Rajnath Singh**
- Minister of State: **Ajay Bhatt**
- Defence Secretary: **Giridhar Aramane**

### Indian Army inaugurates first 3D-printed dwelling unit for soldiers in Ahmedabad

- The Indian Army inaugurated its **first 3-D Printed House Dwelling Unit (with Ground plus One configuration)** for **soldiers** at **Ahmedabad Cantonment, Gujarat, India**.
- The dwelling unit has been constructed by the **Military Engineering Services (MES)** in **collaboration with MiCoB Pvt Ltd** incorporating the **latest 3D Rapid Construction Technology**.

### Key Highlights:

- The Construction work of the dwelling unit measuring **71 sqm** with garage space was completed in just **12 weeks** by utilizing the **3D printed foundation**.
- The **disaster-resilient structures** comply with **Zone-3 earthquake specifications** and green building norms.
- The 3-D printed houses are **symbolic** of the **modern-day rapid construction** efforts to cater to the growing accommodation requirements of the Armed Forces personnel.
- The technique utilizes a **concrete 3D printer** that accepts a computerized three-dimensional design and fabricates a 3-D structure in a layer-by-layer manner by extruding a specialized type of concrete specifically designed for the purpose.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- Currently, these structures are being **validated** over **1 year** and can be seen being incorporated in all terrains.

### About the Indian Army:

- Chief of the Army Staff: General Manoj Pande
- Vice Chief of the Army Staff: Lieutenant General B. S. Raju

### About MoD:

- Defence Minister: Rajnath Singh
- Minister of State: Ajay Bhatt
- Defence Secretary: Giridhar Aramane

### IAF conducts trial run for emergency landing of flights on Andhra Pradesh highway

- The Indian Air Force (IAF) successfully conducted a trial run of the 4.1 km long and 33-metre-wide 'emergency landing facility (ELF)' constructed by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) on a national highway in Andhra Pradesh (AP).
- The ELF strip is located near the **Pichikala Gudipadu village** of the **Korishapadu Mandal** in the **Bapatla district** of AP.
- This ELF in Andhra Pradesh would be the **first one** to be operational in **peninsular India**.
- **Two such airstrips** are already operational in **Uttar Pradesh (UP)** and **Rajasthan**

### Key Highlights:

- The aircraft flew at a height of **100 meters** without touching the ground.
- The IAF fighter and transport aircraft carried out **practice flying including circuit, approach, and overshoot**.

### About IAF:

- Headquarters: New Delhi, India
- Chief of the Air Staff: Air Chief Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari
- Motto: Touch the sky with Glory

### Indian Army conducts exercise 'Sudarshan Prahar' in Rajasthan

- Indian Army's Sudarshan Chakra Troops carried out **Exercise Sudarshan Prahar** in the deserts of **Rajasthan**.
- The exercise was conducted by the **Shahbaaz Division** of **Sudarshan Chakra Corps**.
- The exercise was witnessed by **GOC-in-C Southern Command, Lt Gen AK Singh** along with his formation commanders.



## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- The exercise was focused on the **synergized application** of combat power through the integration of force multipliers and practicing new battle techniques and procedures.

### Additional Info:

- General Officer Commanding In Chief of the Southern Command: Lieutenant General A K Singh

### IMPORTANT SUMMITS & CONFERENCES

#### Canara Bank wins Banker's Bank of the Year Award 2022 for India at Global Banking Summit

- Canara Bank received the "Banker's Bank of the Year Award 2022" for the India segment at the Global Banking Summit held in London, United Kingdom (UK).
- The public sector lender has been adjudged as the **Best Bank in India** for 2022.
- The Canara bank's MD and CEO L V Prabhakar received the award from the organizers,

#### About the Award:

- The Bankers' Bank of the year award is considered to be like **Oscar award** for the **banking sector**.
- The winners are judged on their **ability to deliver returns, strategy, innovation, technology, and product** and services in their respective geographies in the **last 12 months**.
- The **Banker's magazine** is the **world's premier banking and finance resource** for more than 180 countries across the globe
- The Banker's magazine is from the **Financial Times (FT) group**, which is the **British-based global financial daily newspaper**.
- It was founded in **1888** and is the **leading business/financial newspaper** in the **world**.

#### About Canara Bank:

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

#### UP govt signs agreements with Singapore ahead of UP global investors' summit

- The Uttar Pradesh (UP) government has **signed several agreements with investors** in **Singapore** ahead of the **UP Global Investors Summit (UPGIS)** in **February 2023** as it sought **Singapore's support** for reaching a **USD 50 billion investment commitments target**.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- The UP Government signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Singapore Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SICCI)** to set the pace for **Singapore investors** to **participate** in the prosperity of UP.

### Key Highlights:

- The UP is set to become a **USD 1 trillion economy** in tandem with the **central government's target** to **build a USD 5 trillion national economy** in the coming years.
- To achieve such targets, the UP government needs to have around **USD 50 billion** grounded as early as possible
- **Projects worth Rs 380,000 crore**, raised from the **2018 UP Investors Summit**, are in various phases of implementation.
- Another **USD 5 billion** is **expected from UPGIS**,

### About UP:

- Governor: Anandiben Patel
- Chief Minister: Yogi Adityanath
- Capital: Lucknow

### About Singapore:

- President: Halimah Yacob
- Prime Minister: Lee Hsien Loong
- Currency: Singapore dollar

## IMPORTANT SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

### Agnikul inaugurates India's first private space vehicle launch pad & Mission Control Centre in SDSC

- Chennai-based space tech startup **AgniKul Cosmos Private Limited** has inaugurated its **first-ever launchpad** designed and operated by a private player at **Satish Dhawan Space Center (SDSC)**.
- **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Chairman S Somanath** inaugurated the Agnikul Launchpad.
- The facility, designed by **Agnikul Cosmos** and executed with the support of **ISRO** and **IN-SPACe**, has **two sections** the **Agnikul Launchpad (ALP)** and the **Agnikul Mission Control Center (AMCC)**.

### Key Highlights:

- All critical systems connecting these two sections - which are **4 km away** from each other are redundant to ensure **100% operationality** during the countdown.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- It was built to **support liquid stage controlled launches**, while also addressing the need for ISRO's range operations team to monitor key flight safety parameters during launches.
- Additionally, it can, as necessary, share data and other critical information with **ISRO's Mission Control Center**.
- The startup, incubated at the **Indian Institute of Technology-Madras**, also plans to launch its customizable **Agnibaan rocket** from the launchpad **before the end of Dec 2022**.

### About Agnibaan:

- Agnibaan is a **highly customizable two-stage launch vehicle** capable of taking up to **100 kg payload** to **orbits** around **700 km high** and enables **plug-and-play** configuration.
- The Chennai-based start-up has also developed **Agnilet**, the **world's first single-piece 3D printed engine**, which was **successfully test-fired in 2021**.

### About AgniKul Cosmos Private Limited:

- Founded: 2017
- Headquarters: Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India
- CEO: Srinath Ravichandran
- It also became the **first Indian company** to sign an agreement with ISRO in **December 2020**.

### IIT Madras' students launch India's first electric formula racing car - RF23

- The **Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras)** students have launched the **first electric formula racing car** to have come from the institute.
- The formula vehicle '**RF23**' which was entirely constructed by **45 students of Team Raftar**, is the result of a year-long process in which the team worked on the **design, manufacturing, and testing** of the vehicle.

### Key Highlights:

- The EV car can go from **0-100 km in four seconds** and touch a **maximum of 160 km**.
- The vehicle, '**RFR23**' will participate in the **Formula Bharat** event to be held in **January 2023** at the **Kari Motor Speedway in Coimbatore**.
- The students aim to take their car to the **Formula Student Germany** event to be held in **August 2023**.
- They also want to make the **first autonomous race car by 2025** to compete in the "**Driverless**" division of the **Formula Student** contests
- The EV uses the **Shakti microprocessor**, indigenously developed by **Mr. Kamakoti** and his team.
- The microprocessor controls all the parameters in the car.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- Previously, the Raftar team's car was the only Indian entrant to the Formula Student event in Germany in 2018, according to Raftar's website.

### Rolls-Royce successfully tests World's first hydrogen-powered jet engine

- Airline EasyJet and British aircraft engine maker Rolls-Royce had successfully tested a hydrogen-powered aircraft engine, the world's first modern aircraft engine for the aviation industry.
- The ground test, using a converted Rolls-Royce AE 2100-A regional aircraft engine, used green hydrogen created by wind and tidal power from the Orkney Islands in Scotland.
- Rolls & easyJet are seeking to prove that hydrogen can safely and efficiently deliver power for civil aero engines.

### Key Highlights:

- Hydrogen is one of several competing technologies that could help the aviation industry achieve its goal of becoming net zero by 2050.
- A switch to hydrogen-powered engines would require a complete redesign of airframes and infrastructure at airports.
- Other technologies backed by companies such as Rolls-Royce include electric engines, which would be initially suitable for short flights, and sustainable aviation fuel (SAF).
- Engines that are already in service can use a mixture of SAF and conventional fuels, but it is only currently produced in miniscule levels.
- Planemaker Airbus is working with French-U.S. engine maker CFM International to test hydrogen propulsion technology.
- It planned to fit a specially adapted version of a current generation engine near the back of an A380 superjumbo test plane.
- Green hydrogen is widely seen as better for the environment than jet fuel.

### About Rolls-Royce:

- Headquarters: London, England
- CEO: Warren East
- Chair: Anita Frew

### ICRISAT & ADB

- International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) scientists in collaboration with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) have developed high-resolution spatial maps that enable cropland

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

mapping for insurance claims and agriculture policy decision-making on targeting regenerative agriculture (RA).

### Key Highlights:

- The spatial maps cover the whole of South Asia, which is home to **1.9 billion people** and **230 million hectares** of the net cropped area.
- **South Asia accounts** constituting **almost 25% of the world's population**, **87% of which are smallholder farmers**.
- The maps offer a **resolution of 30 m**, which is handy to get the finer details of cropland for food and water security assessments.
- Currently, these factors are evaluated using coarse-resolution data that ranges from **250 m to 1,000 m**.
- The team developed **3 spatial maps** for South Asia for the year **2014-15 to support food and water security assessments and management**.
- The 3 distinct spatial maps would assess **irrigated versus rainfed croplands, crop types or crop dominance, and cropping intensity** i.e., the number of times a crop is grown on the same plot of land in a year.

### About ICRISAT:

- Founded: 1972
- Headquarters: Hyderabad, Telangana, India
- The ICRISAT is an **international organization** that conducts **agricultural research for rural development**.

### About ADB:

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

### Hyderabad-based IIL partners with CIFE to develop India's first vaccine for fish

- **Indian Immunologicals Limited (IIL)**, a leading vaccine manufacturer, has announced a partnership with the **Central Institute of Fisheries Education (CIFE)**, Mumbai, an **Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) Institute** for the commercial development of India's first fish vaccine.
- The vaccine will be developed to **protect freshwater fish against common bacterial diseases**.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- Currently, there are **no fish vaccines available** in India on a commercial scale to prevent aquaculture infections.

### Key Statistics:

- **Aquaculture sectors** play a vital role in meeting the rising global protein demand as the world population is expected to reach **9.8 bn by 2050**.
- **India is the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest fish producer** in the global sphere and **more than 65% of India's fish** is through **Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture**.

### About CIFE:

- CIFE, an **Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) institute**.
- It will provide technology for **two inactivated bacterial vaccines - Columnaris and Edwardsiellosis**.

### About Indian Immunologicals Limited:

- Headquarters: **Hyderabad**
- Managing Director: **Dr. K Anand Kumar**
- IIL was set up by the **National Dairy Development Board (NDDB)** in **1982**.

### Japan successfully propels steam-powered spacecraft - EQUULEUS

- **Japanese Space Agency Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA)** has **successfully used steam** to propel its **CubeSat spacecraft, EQUilibrium Lunar-Earth point 6U (EQUULEUS)** was launched on its way by **NASA's Orion spacecraft**.
- JAXA claimed that this is the **world's first successful orbit control beyond low-Earth orbit using a water propulsion system**.

### About EQUULEUS:

- The EQUULEUS spacecraft performed a maneuver that moved it toward its **planned orbital path** on the **second Earth-Moon Lagrange point (EML2)**, located beyond the Moon.
- It is expected to travel for **approximately 1.5 years** before reaching the **EML2 Lagrange point**.
- To attain EML2, it was developed to demonstrate **low-energy trajectory control technologies**.
- It also carries an instrument called **DELPHINUS (DEtection camera for Lunar impact PHenomena IN 6U Spacecraft)** for **observing Lunar impact flashes** and near-Earth asteroids from **EML2 (second Earth-Moon Lagrange point)**.
- It would measure the **plasma** in the **Earth-Moon ecosystem** and **examine** some of the effects of **electromagnetic disturbances** in the **solar wind**.



## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- To reach the ELM2, it made use of an engine called **AQUARIUS (AQUA Resistojet propulsion System)** that uses water as fuel to get to the **second Earth-Moon Lagrange point**.

### About Lagrange point:

- Lagrangian points are spots in **outer space** where **gravity** and **centrifugal force balance** each other.
- The balance of gravitational force enables spacecraft to remain in a specific place.

### Western Sydney University to Work with ICAR to Increase Research on Climate-Smart Agriculture

- **Western Sydney University, The Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR), The Indian Institute of Horticultural Research (IIHR), Bangalore and the Indian Institute for Spices Research (IISR), Calicut, and the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University** have come together to launch a **Centre in High Tech Protected Cropping Systems**.
- This will **help address** the impact of the **changing climate on crop production**.
- It will have two nodes, one each at **IIHR, Bengaluru, and IISR, Calicut**.
- The Centre will **investigate hi-tech aeroponic crop production, crop health monitoring technologies** with advanced sensors and cameras, and ways to standardize pollination as part of a pilot.

### About ICAR:

- Established: 16 July 1929
- Location: Himashu Pathak
- Chairman: Himashu Pathak
- The ICAR is an **autonomous body** responsible for **coordinating agricultural education and research in India**.

### China launches three astronauts to Tiangong space station

- **China** launched its **six-month Shenzhou 15 mission, carrying 3 astronauts to Tiangong, the country's newly completed space station**.
- The **Long March 2F rocket** lifted off from the **Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center** in the **Gobi Desert**.
- The team for the **six-month mission** is led by veteran **Fei Junlong** and two first-time astronauts **Deng Qingming and Zhang Lu**.

### About Shenzhou 15:

- Shenzhou 15 is the **final mission of 11 launches** planned to construct **Tiangong** and bring it to full operation.
- The **first mission** was the launch of the **Tianhe core module** in **April 2021, just under 18 months ago**.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

### About China:

- Capital: Beijing
- Currency: Renminbi

### IIT Madras develops Ocean Wave Energy Converter to generate electricity from sea waves

- Researchers at IIT Madras have developed and deployed an 'Ocean Wave Energy Converter' to generate electricity from sea waves.
- The device has been named **Sindhuja-I (Ocean Wave Energy Converter)** which can generate electricity from sea waves.
- The device completed its trials during the **second week of November 2022**.
- The device was deployed at a location about **6 kilometers off the coast of Tuticorin, Tamil Nadu**, at a location with a **depth of 20 meters**.

### About Sindhuja-I:

- The device targets generating **1 MW of power from ocean waves** in the next three years
- This system has a **floating buoy, a spar, and an electrical module**.
- The buoy has a **central hole** that allows a long rod called a spar to pass through it.
- This device will **help India** in undertaking **deep water missions** and creating a **Blue Economy**.
- The targeted stakeholders are the **oil and gas, defense and security installations, and communication sectors**.
- The project will help in fulfilling the objectives of the **UN Ocean decade and sustainable development goals**.
- India has set a target of **generating 500 GW of electricity by 2030 through renewable energy**.

### Center Approves Formation of Advisory Group to Bring Synergy in Bamboo Value Chain

- Agriculture Minister **Narendra Singh Tomar** has approved the **formation of an advisory group to streamline the development of the bamboo sector**.
- The group has representation from various stakeholders, including **academicians, researchers, innovators, progressive entrepreneurs, designers, farmer leaders, marketing experts, and policymakers**.
- The **Restructured National Bamboo Mission** was launched during **2018-19** as a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme**.
- It **primarily focuses** on the development of a **complete value chain** of the **bamboo sector** to connect producers to consumers.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- The selection of beneficiaries and delivery of assistance are being carried out by the State **Bamboo Mission/State Bamboo Development agency** stationed at the State/UT nodal department for implementing the National Bamboo Mission
- It is being implemented through the state **nodal department** which is nominated by the State/UT governments concerned.

### About Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare:

- Cabinet Minister: Narendra Singh Tomar
- Minister of State: Shobha Karandlaje, Kailash Choudhary
- Secretary: Sanjay Agarwal

### India's first open-source satellite 'InQube' to be launched

- India's first open-source satellite 'InQube' will be launched in Dec 2022 with the help of the Indian Space Agency- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
- InQube was developed by Onkar Batra, a 12th-standard student at BSF Senior Secondary School in Jammu.
- It was prepared under the banner of Paradox Sonic Space Research Agency and will be launched Dec 2022 with the help of ISRO.

### About 'InQube':

- It weighs 1 kilogram and has been developed with the help of nanotechnology.
- In India, the cost for its launch is Rs 20-80 lakhs, while in foreign countries this price goes into crores.
- The project has two missions- one is whether such a lightweight satellite can work in space, & the other will look at the temperature there to help researchers know what the weather conditions are like and how hard it is if they want to launch a satellite in space.

### About Onkar Batra:

- Onkar Batra created the first website when he was 7 years old and made a place in the Guinness Book of World Records by becoming World's Youngest Webmaster (male).
- At the age of 12, he became the world's youngest theoretical author by writing his book 'When The Time Stops'.
- He has created two companies, one was Batra Technologies in 2018 and the other was United India Publishing in 2019.
- He is also the Chief Executive Officer of Batra Technology,

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

### Awards & Honors:

- Onkar Batra, received the **National Ball Shakti Award** from the President of India, Ram Nath Kovind, for creating an interactive website for Covid-19.

### ISRO & In-Space announce MoU with Vyom Space to build space capsules

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) & Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Center (In-Space) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Gurugram, Haryana-based private space firm, Vyom Space Exploration and Services Private Limited, for its "human and cargo transportation capsule program".
- The MoU was facilitated by India's nodal space authorization body, In-Space

### Key Highlights:

- According to ISRO, the startup is being incubated under 'JSIIC'.
- A 'capsule' in a space mission is the module inside which any cargo is placed for being carried to space.
- In **manned missions**, the capsule is what hosts the astronauts.
- The capsules have typically been **single-use in nature**, with the exception of US-based private space firm, **Elon Musk's SpaceX's reusable human and cargo module**.
- It will be **reusable**, and therefore be an evolution of what the first prototype module of **Isro's manned mission, Gaganyaan**, will use.
- The company will be delivering the **first prototype** of its space capsule to **ISRO within the next 16 months**, subsequent to which the capsule would be tested by the space body.

### Other Key Highlights:

- On **November 18, 2022** Hyderabad-based **Skyroot Aerospace** became the **first homegrown private space company** to launch a **rocket into space**.
- On **November 26, 2022** **Pixxel** and **Dhruva Space** launched their **second round of satellites** aboard Isro's latest commercial mission.
- Earlier, **Agnikul Cosmos** launched its own rocket and **India's first orbital private rocket** from **Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh** before the end of the year.

### About Vyom Space Exploration and Services Private Limited:

- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India
- Founder & Chief Executive: Manish Kukreti

### Japanese startup launches historic Moon mission

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- A Japanese startup's spacecraft was launched to the Moon, the country's first-ever lunar mission and the first of its kind by a private company.
- The launch was carried out by Elon Musk's Space Exploration Technologies Corp (SpaceX) in Cape Canaveral in the United States (US) state of Florida after two postponements for additional pre-flight checks.
- The spacecraft, produced by Tokyo-based startup ispace, blasted off aboard a Falcon 9 rocket live footage of the launch showed.
- The ispace mission is the first of a program called Hakuto-R, which means "white rabbit" in Japanese.
- So far only the United States, Russia, and China have managed to put a robot on the lunar surface.

### Key Highlights:

- The lunar lander was expected to touch down on the visible side of the Moon in April 2023, the year of the rabbit in Japan.
- Measuring just over 2 by 2.5 meters, the spacecraft has a payload that includes a 10-kilogram rover built by the United Arab Emirates.
- Hakuto was one of five finalists in Google's Lunar XPrize competition to land a rover on the Moon before a 2018 deadline, which ended without a winner.
- The ispace craft aims to put a small NASA satellite into lunar orbit to search for water deposits before touching down in the Atlas Crater, which lies in the northeastern section of the Moon's near side and measures more than 87 km (54 miles) across and just over 2km (1.2 miles) deep.
- The Gulf country is a newcomer to the space race but recently sent a probe into Mars' orbit in 2021.
- If the rover, named Rashid, successfully lands, it will be the Arab world's first Moon mission.
- Also, the ispace lunar lander is carrying two robots produced by Japan's space agency and a disc with the song "SORATO" by Japanese rock band Sakanaction, which was originally written in support of the Google competition.

### MTAR signs MoU with IN-SPACE India for Small Satellite Launch Vehicle

- MTAR Technologies has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACE) India for the design and development of a two-stage to low earth orbit all liquid small satellite launch vehicle.
- The satellite launch vehicle will be powered by semi-cryogenic technology with a payload capacity of 500 kg.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

### Key Highlights:

- The MoU for various requirements including avionics, subsystems testing, facilitation of launch, etc., and any other requirements that might emerge during the design, development, and launch phase.
- The MoU shall remain in force for **3 years**.
- The MTAR has **7 strategically based manufacturing units** including an export-oriented unit each based in **Hyderabad, Telangana**.
- It caters to **civil nuclear power, space, defence, and clean energy sectors**.

### About MTAR Technologies Ltd:

- Established: 1970
- Headquarters: Hyderabad, Telangana
- CEO: P. Srinivas Reddy

### About IN-SPACe:

- Headquarters: Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India
- Chairman: Dr. Pawan Kumar Goenka
- IN-SPACe is a **single-window autonomous agency** under the **Department of Space (DoS)** of the Government of India (GoI).

### GODI India manufactures India's first ever 5.2 Ah 21700 Cylindrical lithium-ion Cells

- Home-grown cell manufacturer **Godi India** has produced the **country's first ever 5.2 Ah 21700 cylindrical lithium-ion cells** with an **energy density of 275 Watt-hours per kilogram (Wh/kg)** based on **silicon anode technology**

### Aim:

- To solve the never-ending demand of commuters related to **electric vehicle range anxiety**

### Key Highlights:

- GODI India **delivered 5.0Ah cells** to the **top 6 OEMs in India** and plans to deliver **5.2Ah cells** shortly.
- It has firmly planned for a **100 MWh pilot production facility** for **5.0 – 5.2 Ah cells** followed by a **GWh plant** to cater to the requirements of the **highly demanding electric 2-wheeler's needs**, which is more than **50GWh by 2030** exclusive for electric two-wheelers battery segment.
- It is also looking to export its lithium-ion cells made using its technology to key international markets like **Norway, Germany, Canada, the United Kingdom (UK), and the United States (US)**.



## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- The **electrode composition** has been indigenously developed as per the **market requirement** and with the use of silicon in the anode, an electric vehicle could achieve a greater range, up to **15-20% compared to graphite**, on a single charge due to the increased energy density
- GODI India has developed an **eco-friendly water-based electrode manufacturing process** to stabilize the silicon, which has been successfully utilized in the manufacturing of the **5.2 Ah lithium-ion cells**.

### About GODI India:

- Founder & CEO of GODI India: Mahesh Godi
- Godi India is the **first Indian company** to get **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) certification** to sell lithium-ion cells made with home-grown technology
- It is also the **first Indian company** to enter into a **public-private partnership** for large-scale advanced **lithium-ion cell** manufacturing with **CSIR-CECRI**.

### India successfully carries out night trials of the Agni-V nuclear-capable ballistic missile

- India has **successfully carried out night trials** of the **Agni V nuclear-capable ballistic missile** from **Abdul Kalam Island, off the coast of Odisha**.
- This comes days **after Indian and Chinese troops clashed** in the **Tawang district of Arunachal Pradesh**.

### Aim:

- To **boost India's nuclear deterrence against China**, which is known to have missiles like **Dongfeng-41** having ranges between **12,000-15,000 km**.
- This is the **9th flight** of the **Agni V** - a missile **first tested in 2012** - and was a routine test.
- The successful test of Agni-5 is in line with India's stated policy to have '**credible minimum deterrence**' that underpins the commitment to '**No First Use**'.

### About Agni V:

- Agni-V is a **nuclear-capable intercontinental ballistic missile** developed by the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** of India.
- It is a **surface-to-surface Nuclear Capable Ballistic missile**.
- It is a **17-meter-long missile** with a **2-meter diameter**.
- The missile is capable of striking targets at ranges up to **5,000 kilometres** with a very high degree of **accuracy**
- It can carry **both nuclear and traditional weapons**.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- It is the most advanced missile in the Agni series featuring many new technologies, including the **very high accuracy Ring Laser Gyro-based Inertial Navigation System (RINS)** and **Micro Navigation System (MINS)** which improves the accuracy of the missile.
- With the Agni-V, India joins an elite club of countries like the **US, Russia, the UK, France, and China**, which boast **Inter-Continental Ballistic Missile (ICBM)** capabilities.

### ISRO Successfully Tests 160-meter trisonic wind tunnel

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has **successfully conducted the first blowdown test** of the newly released 160m Trisonic Wind Tunnel at the **Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC)**, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.
- The tunnel can be used for testing various space vehicles in **3 flight regimes - below the speed of sound, at the speed of sound, and above the speed of sound**: hence the name Trisonic Wind Tunnel.

#### About Trisonic Wind Tunnel:

- The **aerodynamic design of rockets and re-entry spacecraft** by characterizing a scaled model by evaluating forces, moments, load distribution, unsteady pressures, acoustic levels, etc.
- The tunnel has an overall length of about **160m** and a **maximum cross-section of 5.4m**.
- The tunnel can **simulate flight conditions** from **0.2 times the speed of sound (68 m/s)** to **4 times the speed of sound (1360 m/s)**.
- A **large tube with air flowing** through it can be used to replicate the interaction between the air and an object flying through the air, such is the working principle of a wind tunnel.
- The **Indian space agency** is working on a **manned spaceflight program**, on a test vehicle (RLV-TD) that can be launched like a rocket and land like a plane, and also various **heavy-lift rockets** for future use.

#### About ISRO:

- Founded: 15 August 1969
- Headquarters: Bengaluru, Karnataka, India
- Chairman: Sreedhara Somanath
- The ISRO is the **national space agency of India** & it operates under the **Department of Space (DOS)**.

### NASA astronauts successfully install a new roll-out solar array on ISS

- **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)** astronauts **Josh Cassada** and **Frank Rubio** have **successfully installed Roll-Out Solar Array (ROSA)** on the starboard truss structure of the **International Space Station (ISS)**.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- In addition to installing an iROSA, the spacewalkers will **disconnect a cable** to allow the 1B power channel to be reactivated after it was shut down due to a power trip in its electrical system.
- Cassada will serve as **extravehicular crew member 1 (EV 1)** and will wear a suit with **red stripes**.
- Rubio will serve as **extravehicular crew member 2 (EV 2)** and will wear the **unmarked suit**.
- The spacewalk will be the **2nd for both Cassada and Rubio**.

### About NASA:

- Founded: July 29, 1958
- Headquarters: Washington, D.C, United States of America
- Administrator: Bill Nelson

### India will be the first country to hold a satellite spectrum auction

- The chairman of the **Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)**, PD Vaghela, announced that **India will be the first country in the world** to auction spectrum for **satellite communications (SatCom) spectrum**.

### Key Highlights:

- TRAI is working on a model for the auction of space spectrum – to encourage and promote investment in the sector
- TRAI will soon make recommendations to make permissions required for satellite communication from various ministries Information and Broadcasting, Space, and Telecom, seamlessly to enhance the ease of doing business in the sector.
- It is an artificial satellite that relays and amplifies radio telecommunication signals via a transponder; it creates a communication channel between a source transmitter and a receiver at different locations on Earth.
- The **GSAT (Geostationary Satellite) satellites** are India's indigenously developed communications satellites, used for digital audio, data, and video broadcasting.

### About communications satellite:

- It creates a communication channel between a source transmitter and a receiver at different locations on earth.
- **The satellites are used for television, telephone, radio, internet, and military applications.**
- There are currently 2,134 communications satellites in the earth's orbit and these comprise both private and government organizations.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- Several are in geostationary orbit 22,236 miles (35,785 km) above the equator, so that the satellite appears stationary at the same point in the sky.
- TRAI is yet to come up with a consultation paper on the spectrum auction as per the standard process meant for satellite communication.

### About TRAI:

- Founded: 20 February 1997
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India
- Chairperson: PD Vaghela
- TRAI is a regulatory body set up by the Government of India under section 3 of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997.
- It is the regulator of the telecommunications sector in India.

### India receives its final 36th Rafale jet from France

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

### About Rafale:

- The Rafale is a 4.5-generation aircraft with long-range air-to-air and air-to-ground missiles along with advanced radar and electronic warfare capabilities.
- It is a French twin-engine, canard delta wing, multi-role fighter aircraft designed and built by Dassault Aviation.
- The Rafale is referred to as an "omnirole" aircraft by Dassault
- The French firm Dassault Aviation is also involved in the maintenance of the aircraft whose serviceability is over 75%.

### Note:

- French Ambassador to India Emmanuel Lenain

**A hot test of the scramjet engine was conducted successfully**

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully tested the Hot Test of the Scramjet Engine at ISRO's Propulsion Research Complex at Mahendragiri in Tirunelveli district of Tamil Nadu (TN).
- The test lasted for 11 seconds.
- A hot test system is a 100% production test used to check all the engine operating parameters as they would function in real-time.
- With this test, the Indian Space Agency's quest to fabricate credible next-generation air-breathing scramjet engines to launch satellites in a predetermined orbit at a low cost crossed a key milestone.

### About Scramjet Engine:

- The scramjet is a more advanced version of the ramjet engine and can operate efficiently at hypersonic speeds.
- India is the 4th country to demonstrate the flight testing of a Scramjet Engine.
- This allows for supersonic combustion by taking oxygen from the atmosphere during flight.
- It is then allowed to mix with the hydrogen already stored in the vehicle to trigger the oxygen combustion and propel the satellite to its designated orbit.
- In an air-breathing scramjet engine, air from the atmosphere is rammed into the engine's combustion chamber at a supersonic speed of more than Mach two.
- In the chamber, the air mixes with the fuel to ignite supersonic combustion but the cruiser's flight will be at a hypersonic speed of Mach 6 to 7.
- So it is called supersonic combustion ramjet or Scramjet.
- Air from the atmosphere was then rammed into the scramjet engine's combustion chamber at a supersonic speed.

### About ISRO:

- Founded: 15 August 1969
- Headquarters: Bengaluru, Karnataka, Indi
- Chairman: Sreedhara Somanath
- The ISRO is the national space agency of India, & it operates under the Department of Space (DOS).

### US-France satellite SWOT launched to map the world's oceans, rivers, lakes

- A United States (US)-French satellite that will map almost all of the world's oceans, lakes, and rivers rocketed into orbit.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- The predawn launch aboard a SpaceX rocket from **Vandenberg Space Force Base in California** capped a highly successful year for NASA.
- **NASA and the French Space Agency** collaborated on the **USD 1.2 billion projects**, with Britain and Canada chipping in.
- The mission is expected to **last 3 years**.

### About the Satellite:

- The Satellite is nicknamed **SWOT** short for **Surface Water and Ocean Topography** the satellite is needed more than ever as **climate change worsens droughts, flooding, and coastal erosion**.
- The satellite will **measure the height of water on more than 90% of Earth's surface**, allowing scientists to track the flow and identify potential high-risk areas.
- It will also survey millions of lakes as well as **1.3 million miles (2.1 million kilometers)** of rivers, from headwater to mouth.
- The satellite will shoot radar pulses at Earth, with the signals bouncing back to be received by a pair of antennas, one on each end of a **33-foot (10-meter) boom**.
- It will reveal the location and **speed of rising sea levels** and the shift of coastlines, key to saving lives and property.
- It will cover the globe between the **Arctic and Antarctica** at least once every three weeks, as it orbits more than **550 miles (890 kilometers)** high.

### North Korea launches test flight for planned 2023 spy satellite

- **North Korea fired a test satellite** in an **important final-stage test** for the **development of its first spy satellite**, a key military capability coveted by its leader **Kim Jong Un** along with other high-tech weapons systems.
- The rocket carrying the test satellite was launched to assess the **satellite's photography and data transmission systems**.

### Aim:

- To **evaluate** its **satellite photography, data transmission and ground-control capabilities** had been carried out from the **Sohae Satellite Launching Ground**.

### About North Korea:

- Capital: **Pyongyang**
- Currency: **Korean People's won**



## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

### US Air Force launches 1st operational hypersonic missile - AGM-183A

- The United States Air Force (USAF) has successfully tested its first prototype hypersonic missile AGM-183A Air-launched Rapid Response Weapon (ARRW) from a B-52H bomber off California's coast.
- This test was the first launch of a full prototype operational missile.

#### Key Highlights:

- Lockheed Martin-designed the weapon based on previous test vehicles built by DARPA (opens in new tab) that have an alleged maximum speed of Mach 20, or 15,000 mph (24,000 kph).
- Due to the extremely high speeds of Hypersonic missiles, no defense system currently in wide use can successfully intercept them.
- Hypersonic missiles are capable of being steered to deliver nuclear weapons
- Following the ARRW's separation from the aircraft, it reached hypersonic speeds greater than five times the speed of sound, completed its flight path and detonated in the terminal area.
- ARRW is designed to enable the U.S. to hold fixed, high-value, time-sensitive targets at risk in contested environments.
- In 2021, China carried out a test of a hypersonic missile, and Russia used hypersonic weapons during its war in Ukraine & North Korea claims to have conducted test flights as well.

### IN-SPACe signs MoU with QNu Labs to develop indigenous satellite quantum key distribution products

- The Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Bangalore-based deep tech startup QNu Labs to develop indigenous Satellite QKD (quantum key distribution) products.
- The collaboration shall ensure India leads the future of global quantum communication networks that will involve a combination of the quantum-satellite constellation, providing intercontinental connectivity.
- With the support of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), Indian Start-up Qnu Labs aims to demonstrate unlimited distance Satellite Quantum Key Distribution (QKD) based secure communications.
- This partnership will help home-grown deep tech startup QNu Labs to be the first-of-its-kind globally to demonstrate QKD network capability covering both terrestrials as well as satellite medium.

#### About QKD:

- QKD is an essential technology development that uses principles of quantum mechanics to ensure the security of sensitive information shared among different parties.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- QKD is a **secure communications method**, where the sender and recipient of a message produce a shared secret key and use it to encrypt and decrypt messages
- The applications of this technology are primarily in the government and defence sectors, where the security and confidentiality of shared information are of **paramount importance**.

### About QNu Labs:

- Founded: 2016
- Headquarters: Bengaluru, Karnataka, India
- CEO: Sunil Gupta
- QNu Labs (or QuNu Labs Private Limited) is a **cybersecurity company**.
- It is credited to be the **first firm in India to successfully develop commercial cybersecurity products using quantum physics**

### About IN-SPACE:

- Headquarters: Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India
- Chairman: Dr. Pawan Kumar Goenka
- IN-SPACE acts as a **single-window, independent, nodal autonomous agency** of the **Department of Space (DOS)** for the promotion, enabling, authorization, and supervision of various space activities of **non-governmental entities (NGEs)**.

### IICA launches ESG Impact Leader Programme

- **Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs**, an **autonomous institution** under the aegis of the **Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Government of India** has launched a program to create **Impact Leaders** in the areas of **Environmental-Social-Governance (ESG)**.
- The **Chief Guest** at the launch was **Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Govt. of India, Ms. Leena Nandan**.
- Ms. Nandan emphasized the need for creating a cadre of ESG Professionals in India.
- **IICA Certified ESG Professional: Impact Leader Programme** is the **first of its kind** in India.
- IICA has also formed a **'National Association of Impact Leaders'** which is a membership-based association exclusively for ESG professionals.
- It will provide a platform for further **professional development and engagement** to its members.
- The event was attended by **50 budding ESG Professionals** who are senior corporate officials enrolled in the program across the globe.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

### About IICA:

- Established: 2008
- IICA is an **autonomous institution** under the **aegis** of the **Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Government of India**.

### About Ministry of Corporate Affairs:

- Union Minister: Nirmala Sitharaman
- Minister of State: Rao Inderjit Singh

### ISRO's Long Duration CE-20 Engine Hot Test Successful

- The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** **successfully operated the CE-20 engine**, which is a **cryogenic rocket engine**, with a **thrust level of 22t** for a **long duration of 650 seconds** at the **Cryogenic main engine & stage test facility** at the **ISRO propulsion complex (IPRC), Mahendragiri in Tamil Nadu (TN)**.
- The **CE20 engine** has been designed and developed by **Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC)** in **Valiamala, Kerala**.

### About the CE-20 engine:

- It was operated with a **20.2t thrust level** for the **first 40 s**, followed by an operation at **20t off-nominal zones** before operating it at **22.2 t** for a **duration of 435 s**, by moving the thrust control valve.
- During the test, the engine and the facility performed normally, and the required engine performance parameters were achieved as predicted.
- The engine used for the hot test had undergone **11 hot tests** with a cumulative duration of **2720 s** earlier.
- The engine has undergone **3370 s cumulative** burn duration at different thrust and mixture ratio levels.

### About ISRO:

- Founded: 15 August 1969
- Headquarters: Bangalore, Karnataka, India
- Chairman: Sreedhara Somanath

### IIT Guwahati, IIT Bombay & European partners are building sensors to check Indian water quality

- **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Guwahati** and **IIT Bombay** in collaboration with **European universities** are working towards **building a low-cost technology** to check the **quality of potable** and other water in **India**.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- The LOTUS Indo-European project, an initiative of the Department of Science and Technology and the European Commission, is aimed at providing solutions for issues related to the quality of water supplied across Indian households.

### About the LOTUS Indo-European project:

- A core element of the LOTUS project is a **novel water quality sensor** that builds on previous work done at **Ecole Polytechnique, Paris, France**.
- The sensor was further developed during the project by researchers at **Université Gustave Eiffel** in collaboration with **IIT Guwahati** and the **SME EGM, Sophia Antipolis, France**.
- The LOTUS water quality sensor requirements were established after collecting information from **Indian water utility owners, operators, end users**, and research and development experts and therefore LOTUS sensor is expected to **satisfy Indian water industries**.
- For the commercial production of the sensor for the Indian market, **IIT Guwahati** is collaborating with **Linxens India Private Limited** and **Hydroscope Technology Private Limited, a start-up firm**.

### Components of LOTUS sensor:

- The core of the LOTUS sensor is a **chip with carbon nanotube-based sensing elements** that are capable of measuring multiple quality parameters such as **Total Dissolved Solids (TDS), Potential of Hydrogen (pH), chlorine, and arsenic**.
- The components of the sensor system include software that **enables water quality monitoring and safe water supply** in the piped water network and tanker supply systems.

### About LOTUS:

- LOTUS - **LOW cost innovative Technology for water quality monitoring and water resource management for Urban and rural water Systems in India**.
- LOTUS, funded by the **European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation program**.

### Aim:

- To **co-create, co-design and co-develop innovative low-cost technology for tackling India's water and sanitation issues**.

**Ministry of Power signs MoU with DRDO for Implementation of Early Warning System**

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- The Ministry of Power signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO), Ministry of Defence for the Implementation of an Early Warning System (EWS) for Vulnerable Hydro Projects/Power Stations.
- The MoU was signed by **Shi Alok Kumar**, Secretary, of the Ministry of Power, and **Dr. Samir V Kamat**, Secretary of, the Department of Defence (R&D) & Chairman, of DRDO.
- The Ministry of Power has already signed MoUs with the **Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) - National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI)**, **Indian Meteorological Department (IMD)**, **Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology (WIHG)** and **National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC)- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** for implementation of EWS.

### About EWS:

- EWS is an **integrated system** of hazard monitoring, forecasting and prediction, disaster risk assessment, communication, and preparedness for timely action to reduce disaster risks in advance of hazardous events.

### About the MoU:

- The Ministry of Power and DRDO will jointly work towards **developing suitable mitigation measures against avalanches, landslides, glaciers, glacial lakes**, and other geo-hazards.
- The expertise of DRDO will also be utilized in developing a **comprehensive Early Warning System** for vulnerable hydro projects/ power stations in hilly regions.
- **Separate and specific tasks** will be formulated between DRDO & respective project developer(s) in agreement with the broad understanding developed through this MoU.

### About Ministry of Power:

- Union Minister: Raj Kumar Singh
- Minister of State: Krishan Pal Gurjar

### About DRDO:

- 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 (GoI)

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

### SpaceX launches first mission for Starlink Gen2 constellation

- SpaceX launched a Falcon 9 rocket with 54 more Starlink internet satellites to low Earth orbit from Space Launch Complex 40 (SLC-40) at Cape Canaveral Space Force Station in Florida, United States (US).
- The mission marked a successful end to SpaceX's 60th launch of SpaceX in 2022, nearly doubling the 31 launches set as a SpaceX record in 2021.
- The Falcon 9 first stage on this mission made its 11th flight with this launch.
- The booster previously flew 5 Starlink missions, launched 2 U.S. GPS satellites, the Nilesat 301 commercial satellite, and carried two different private astronaut crews on the Inspiration4 and Ax-1 missions.
- Starlink is a satellite internet constellation designed and manufactured by SpaceX to provide high-speed, low-latency internet to people living in remote and rural locations around the globe.
- On Dec 1, 2022, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) approved for SpaceX to deploy 7,500 Gen2 satellites.

### About SpaceX:

- Founded: March 14, 2002
- Headquarters: Hawthorne, California, United States
- CEO & Chairman: Elon Musk

### IMPORTANT APPS & SERVICES NEWS

#### MSME launched SAMADHAAN Portal:

- The Ministry of MSME launched SAMADHAAN Portal in 2017 (<http://samadhaan.msme.gov.in/MyMSME/MSEFC/MSEFCWelcomer.aspx>) for monitoring the outstanding dues to the MSEs from the buyers of goods and services.
- The Ministry of MSME created a special sub-portal within the Samadhaan portal in 2020, after the Aatma Nirbhar Bharat announcements, for reporting the dues and monthly payments by central Ministries/Department/Public Sector Enterprises to MSMEs.
- Dues of Rs. 1,65,034.09 crore have been paid to MSME vendors by Government Ministries/Departments/CPSEs from May 2020 till 05th December 2022.



## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- The government of India has also instructed CPSEs and all companies with a turnover of Rs. 500 Crore or more to get themselves on-boarded on the Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS), an electronic platform for facilitating the discounting of trade receivables of MSMEs through multiple financiers.
- Companies that get supplies of goods or services from Micro & Small Enterprises and whose payment to Micro and Small Enterprises exceeds 45 days from the date of acceptance or the date of deemed acceptance of the goods or services, also need to submit a half-yearly return to the Ministry of Corporate Affairs stating the number of payments due and the reasons of the delay.

### Consumer Affairs Minister Goyal unveils 'right to repair' portal

- Food and Consumer Affairs Minister Piyush Goyal introduced a host of new initiatives, including a right-to-repair portal and an NTH mobile app, and opened new premises of the National Consumer Helpline centre in the national capital.
- On the 'right to repair' portal, manufacturers would share the manual of product details with customers so that they could either repair by themselves, or by third parties, rather than depend on the original manufacturers.
- Initially, mobile phones, electronics, consumer durables, automobiles, and farming equipment would be covered.
- In a short span of six months, we have doubled the disposal of pending cases.
- About 90,000 pending cases were disposed of (between July and November this year).
- About 38,000 pending cases were disposed of by consumer courts in the year-earlier period.
- Under the Consumer Protection law, **a complaint is required to be disposed of within 90 days of its filing and within 150 days** wherever expert evidence is required to be taken.

### IMPORTANT RANKING & INDEX NEWS

#### Gautam Adani tops Forbes' list of India's 100 richest people in 2022:

- The global economy may be faltering, but **India's wealthiest have become considerably wealthier this year.**
- The **Forbes 2022 list of India's 100 wealthiest** is finally here, and according to it, the combined wealth of India's 100 wealthiest has increased by \$25 billion to a whopping \$800 billion.
- The top ten wealthiest Indians are worth a total of \$385 billion.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- **Gautam Adani**, chairman of Adani Group, topped the list with a net worth of \$150 billion.
- According to Forbes, the increase was largely attributable to an unprecedented feat by an infrastructure tycoon, who shifted the top pecking order for the first time since 2008.
- **Anand Mahindra**, with a net worth of \$2.2 billion (Rs 17,768.08 crore), is one of the four returnees on the list.
- Returnees on the rich list are **Bhadresh Shah** (Rs 15,345.16 crore), **Anu Aga** (Rs 18,010.37 crore), and **Joy Alukkas** (Rs 25,036.84 crore).
- **Paytm CEO Vijay Shekhar Sharma** was a prominent drop-off, with shares of his One97 Communications plummeting during the worldwide tech collapse.
- This year's threshold for the **top 100 was \$1.9 billion**.

RANK	NAME	NET WORTH (in Rupees)
1	Gautam Adani	Rs 1,211,460.11 crore
2	Mukesh Ambani	Rs 710,723.26 crore
3	Radhakishan Damani	Rs 222,908.66 crore
4	Cyrus Poonawalla	Rs 173,642.62 crore
5	Shiv Nadar	Rs 172,834.97 crore
6	Savitri Jindal	Rs 132,452.97 crore
7	Dilip Shanghvi	Rs 125,184.21 crore
8	Hinduja Brothers	Rs 122,761.29 crore
9	Kumar Birla	Rs 121,146.01 crore
10	Bajaj Family	Rs 117,915.45 crore

### Knight Frank's Global Prime Cities Index ranks Mumbai 22<sup>nd</sup>:

- According to Knight Frank, Mumbai was ranked 22<sup>nd</sup> in a global index that analyzes the annual price appreciation of luxury residential properties.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- According to Knight Frank's research on the 'Prime Global Cities Index Q3 (July-September) 2022,' all three Indian cities, **Mumbai, Bengaluru, and New Delhi**, saw an increase in average yearly prices in the third quarter of 2022.
- The prime global cities index is a valuation-based index that tracks the change of prime home prices in local currency in 45+ cities around the world.
- **Mumbai rose to 22nd place in the third quarter of 2022, from 39th place the previous year.**
- **Bengaluru's rank increased to 27th from 41st, while New Delhi's position climbed to 36th from 38th.**
- According to the consultant, the price increase is due to strong market sentiment, appropriate affordability, still low lending rates in comparison to 2019, and a lot more stable economic and business environment in comparison to many developed economies.
- According to the survey, **Dubai had the fastest gain in prime prices, with an 88.8 per cent increase over 12 months (Q3 2021-Q3 2022)**, while Wellington had the worst performance, with an 18 per cent fall.
- During the third quarter of 2022, some European cities experienced strong performance in prime prices.
- Despite a decline in sentiment and a slowdown in the **Eurozone's economy**, **Zurich (10.7%), Edinburgh (9.9%), Berlin (9.4%), Dublin (8.6%), and Madrid (5.6%)** have all increased in the ranks in the last year.

### Global Aviation Safety Rankings 2022 placed India at position 48:

- **India, according to DGCA officials, has moved up to position 48 in the International Civil Aviation Organization's (ICAO) evaluation of the world's aviation safety.**
- The nation held the 102nd place ranking four years ago.
- According to the officials, **Singapore is at the top of the list, followed by the UAE and South Korea in second and third place, respectively.**
- China is in position 49.
- An **ICAO Coordinated Validation Mission (ICVM)** was carried out from November 9 to November 16 as part of its Continuous Monitoring Approach for its **Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme (USOAP)**.
- According to the officials, the nation now has an **effective implementation score of 85.49 percent for critical safety components.**
- The audit, according to the **Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)**, was done in the areas of law, administration, individual licensing, operations, airworthiness, and aerodromes.
- Initial indications indicate that the mission was a great success.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- India has performed incredibly well, and as a result, we will see a significant increase in our scores, joining the ranks of countries with the highest safety standards and control mechanisms.

### About International Civil Aviation Organization

- Headquarters: Montreal, Canada
- Founded: 7 December 1944
- President: Salvatore Sciacchitano
- Secretary General: Juan Carlos Salazar Gómez

### India is listed eighth on a list of nations at risk of mass murder:

- India is ranked eighth among the nations with the highest danger of mass murder in 2022 and 2023, according to a new analysis by the US think tank Early Warning Project.
- India's ranking has decreased from second place in the previous year.
- The improvement in men's freedom of movement, which was one of the variables utilized in the analysis, is primarily responsible for India's drop in position from second to ninth.
- A fresh mass murder is predicted to occur in Pakistan in 2022 or 2023 with a probability of one in six, according to the report.
- While Pakistan topped the list this year, the 2022–23 study revealed that out of the 162 nations, Yemen came in at number two, Myanmar at number three, Ethiopia at number five, Nigeria at number six, and Afghanistan at number seven.
- India's ranking is lower than that of Sudan (ninth), Somalia (tenth), Syria (eleventh), Iraq (12th), and Zimbabwe (14th rank).
- Within the top 15 countries with the highest risk over the previous five years, India was ranked second, according to the 2021–2022 report.

### WMO Announces the Global Water Resources Report 2021:

- The first edition of the World Meteorological Organization's State of Global Water Resources Report 2021 has been published.
- In a time of rising demand and constrained supplies, the purpose of this yearly report is to enable the monitoring and management of the world's freshwater resources.
- A summary of river flow, significant floods, and droughts is provided in the report. It sheds light on areas where freshwater storage could shift and emphasizes the critical function and susceptibility of the cryosphere (snow and ice).

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- The paper demonstrates how significant regions of the world had drier-than-average conditions in 2021, a year in which climate change and a La Nia event affected precipitation patterns.
- In comparison to the 30-year hydrological average, the region with below-average streamflow was around two times greater than the region with above-average streamflow.

Three main areas are the report's focus:

- Streamflow is the amount of water that is constantly flowing through a river channel.
- All water on the land's surface and underneath it is referred to as terrestrial water storage or TWS.
- The cryosphere (frozen water).

**BBC Announces List of 100 Most Influential Women: Four Indian ladies on the list:**

- The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) has issued a list of the world's 100 most influential women, which includes women from politics, science, sports, entertainment, and literature.
- Four Indians are on the BBC's list of the 100 most influential women: actress Priyanka Chopra Jonas, author Geetanjali Shree, engineer and astronaut Sirisha Bandla, and social worker Sneha Jawale.
- The yearly list recognizes women's achievements worldwide, from grassroots volunteers to global leaders, and is used by the BBC to focus on women's experiences around the world through a dedicated series of interviews, documentaries, and features.
- For the first time this year, the BBC asked past '100 Women' to recommend women they believe should be included on the 2022 list.

**BBC 100 most influential women's lists:**

- European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, Ursula von der Leyen, the head of the European Commission, Mia Mottle, the prime minister of Barbados, Olena Zelenska, Billie Eilish, Selma Blair, an actress and disability rights activist, and Iranian climber Elnaz Rekab, who recently made headlines in Iran for competing in South Korea without a headscarf.
- Elnaz Rekab, an Iranian climber, recently made headlines in her nation for competing in South Korea without a headscarf.
- The first Arab or African woman to compete in a Grand Slam final during the Open era was Tunisian tennis player Ons Jabeur.

**India will rank as the eighth-largest advertising market in 2023:**

- India is anticipated to surpass Brazil and take over as the eighth-largest advertising market in 2023, according to GroupM's worldwide end-of-year prediction.

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## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- India is recognized as the ninth-largest advertising market in the world by GroupM in "This Year, the Next Year 2022."
- The report claims that by 2022, India's total advertising income will have increased by 15.8% to \$14.9 billion, driven mostly by growth in pure-play digital advertising.
- It is anticipated to rise by 16.8% in 2023.
- In contrast, it is anticipated that Brazil's advertising market will increase by 9% to \$15.4 billion in 2022.
- It is anticipated to rise by 3.8% in 2023.
- According to the report, digital advertising in India makes up the largest portion of the country's overall advertising market in 2022 (40.8%) and is predicted to keep growing above pre-pandemic levels.
- Retail media, a segment of digital advertising, is predicted to reach \$551 million in 2022 and nearly quadruple by 2027, according to the report.
- In addition, it stated that TV advertising, which accounts for 36% of all advertising, is anticipated to expand by 10.8% this year and keep increasing at a double-digit rate moving forward.

### In 2022, the Indian Premier League remains the most searched query on Google in India:

- Google has published its "Year in Search 2022" report, which highlights the topics that sparked the most interest and were the most often searched on the website this year.
- According to the list, which is issued annually for various countries, India's search trends have altered substantially since last year.
- The Indian Premier League (IPL), the most searched sporting tournament in the country, topped all 2022 trending search results in India.
- IPL was followed by CoWIN, a government website gateway that facilitates COVID-19 vaccine registration and appointment scheduling and delivers digital immunization certificates.
- The FIFA World Cup, which began on November 20 in Qatar, was the third most searched-for topic in India. Sports contests, the Asia Cup and the ICC Men's T20 World Cup, came in fourth and fifth place, respectively.
- Brahmastra: Part One - Shiva, a Bollywood blockbuster, was ranked sixth, while KGF: Chapter 2 was ranked ninth.
- Nupur Sharma, a BJP spokesman who has since been suspended, was one of the top-searched people in India in 2022.



## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- **Droupadi Murmu, India's president**, was followed by Rishi Sunak, the United Kingdom's new prime minister, and Lalit Modi.
- Google headlined that the deaths of **Lata Mangeshkar, Sidhu Moose Wala, Queen Elizabeth, and Shane Warne** were the most searched subjects in terms of news events.
- People were also interested in the Russia-Ukraine conflict, the UP elections, and the **Har Ghar Tiranga** campaign.

### **Gautam Adani and two other Indian billionaires have been named Forbes Asia Heroes of Philanthropy:**

- **Gautam Adani, Shiv Nadar of HCL Technologies, and Ashok Soota of Happiest Minds Technologies** are the three Indians chosen for the 16th edition of the yearly list.
- The list honors the region's most prominent donors who have shown a strong personal dedication to causes such as education and the environment.
- **Malaysian-Indian Brahmaj Vasudevan, founder and CEO of Kuala Lumpur-based private equity firm Creador**, and his lawyer wife, **Shanthi Kandiah**, help Malaysian and Indian communities through the Creador Foundation, a non-profit they co-founded in 2018.
- They pledged 50 million Malaysian Ringgit (USD 11 million) in May this year to assist develop a teaching hospital at the Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman (UTAR) Kampar campus in Perak state.
- **Gautam Adani, chairman of Adani Group**, was noted as having contributed Rs 60,000 crores (\$7.7 billion) when he turned 60 in June this year, making him one of India's most generous benefactors.
- The funds will be directed toward healthcare, education, and skill development through the **Adani Foundation**, which was established in 1996.
- **Shiv Nadar, a self-made billionaire, and philanthropist** are one of India's most generous donors, having donated nearly \$1 billion of his fortune to various social causes through his eponymous Shiv Nadar Foundation over several decades.

### **Nirmala Sitharaman and Falguni Nayar are listed among the "World's 100 Most Powerful Women."**

- **Six Indians made it onto Forbes' annual list of "The World's 100 Most Powerful Women,"** including Finance Minister Smt Nirmala Sitharaman, Biocon Executive Chairman Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, and Nykaa Founder Falguni Nayar.
- **Nirmala Sitharaman, who is ranked number 36**, has appeared on the list four times running.
- The 63-year-old minister was rated 37th on the list in 2021; in 2020 and 2019, she held the 41st and 34th positions, respectively.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- The list includes **39 CEOs, 10 heads of state, and 11 billionaires** worth a total of \$115 billion, including HCLTech Chairperson Roshni Nadar Malhotra (rank: 53), Securities And Exchange Board Of India (SEBI) Chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch (rank: 54), and Steel Authority Of India Chairperson Soma Mondal (rank: 67).
- **European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen** tops the 19th annual Forbes list of the World's 100 Most Powerful Women for her leadership throughout the Ukraine war and her handling of the Covid-19 outbreak.
- While **European Central Bank President Christine Lagarde** is ranked second, **US Vice President Kamala Harris** is ranked third.
- Iran's Jina "Mahsa" Amini, ranked 100, has made the influential list posthumously.
- Her death in September ignited an unprecedented women-led revolution in the Islamic nation demanding their rights.

### India was placed 87th in the world's top passport list for 2022:

- The **Passport Index 2022**, produced by Arton Capital, assessed the world's strongest and weakest passports.
- A passport is a travel document issued by a country's government to its inhabitants that certifies the holder's identity and nationality for international travel.
- **India was placed 87th in the world's strongest passport list.**
- **The UAE boasts the world's most powerful passport.**
- This passport allows holders to travel to 180 countries visa-free or with a "visa on arrival."
- According to the ranking, visitors with a **UAE passport can access 180 countries without difficulty**, which is seven more than **European countries such as Germany and Sweden** and nine more than Japan.
- In the list of the world's strongest passports, **India was rated 87th.**
- **Afghanistan (38) Syria (39) Iraq (40), and Pakistan have the weakest passports (44).**
- The European Union issues nine of the top ten most powerful passports.
- **Germany, Sweden, Finland, Luxembourg, Spain, and France** all rank in the top ten.

### India was placed fifth among the 500 most valuable firms in the Hurun Global 500 rankings:

- India has risen to fifth place among nations that are home to the top 500 corporations in the globe, boasting 20 of the most valuable companies in the world.
- It had eight enterprises and placed tenth the previous year.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- The Hurun Global 500 list for 2022 shows that the US remained at the top of the list.
- The Hurun Research Institute has compiled a list of the 500 most valuable privately held businesses in the world.
- Enterprises were ranked based on valuations for non-listed companies and market capitalization for listed companies.
- This year's list of 20 Indian businesses includes **11 companies with headquarters in Mumbai, four in Ahmedabad, and one each in Noida, New Delhi, Bengaluru, and Kolkata.**
- **Reliance Industries (RIL), the highest-valued Indian company, came in at \$202 billion, placing it 34th globally.**
- **Tata Consultancy Services (\$139 billion) and HDFC Bank (\$97 billion) came in second and third, respectively.**
- The list also included four businesses led by billionaire Gautam Adani, with a combined valuation of \$173 billion: **Adani Transmission, Adani Green Energy, Adani Enterprises, and Adani Total Gas.**
- ITC (\$52 billion), Avenue Supermarts (\$33 billion), Axis Bank (\$33 billion), Bajaj Finserv (\$32 billion), and Larson & Toubro (\$32 billion) are the other new arrivals from India on the list.
- With a market price of \$2.4 trillion, **Apple held its top spot as the most valuable business in the world, followed by Microsoft (\$1.8 trillion), and Alphabet, the parent company of Google, who replaced Amazon to claim the third spot.**
- Following **Japan (28) and the UK (26) was China, which came in second with 35 businesses (21).**
- With eight new additions and three new additions, respectively, **India and Canada surpassed France and Germany to take fifth and sixth place with 20 firms each.**

### WHO has launched the 2022 edition of its annual World Malaria Report:

- The World Health Organization (WHO) has launched the 2022 edition of its annual World Malaria Report, emphasizing the cumulative impacts the prolonged pandemic continued to weigh on the economies and health systems of malaria-endemic countries across the globe.
- As per the report, **there were an estimated 247 million malaria cases recorded in 2021 in 84 malaria-endemic countries.**
- The report states that the case incidence remained largely similar in 2020 and 2021.
- The **WHO African Region continued to account for the largest burden globally**, with 4 nations in the region responsible for over half of all malaria deaths.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- Over the past 2 decades, the WHO South-East Asia Region displayed a reducing trend in both malaria cases and associated deaths-cases reduced by 76 percent, from 22.8 million in 2000 to about 5.4 million in 2021.
- As per the report, the WHO South-East Asia Region accounted for about 2 percent of the burden of malaria cases globally, out of which, **India was responsible for 79 percent of cases.**
- The death associated with malaria remained largely similar over the past 3 years, with India accounting for 82.4 percent of all malaria deaths in the WHO South-East Asia Region in 2021.
- Positively, **India is among the 5 HBHI nations to showcase a decline in deaths, although their contributions to the malaria burden within HBHI countries are still substantial.**
- The WHO report mentioned the remarkable progress toward malaria elimination; in 2021 there were 84 malaria-endemic countries compared to 108 in 2000.
- The report continued to highlight the stark difference between WHO estimates of India's malaria burden – approximately 4.3 million – and officially reported figures as per government data – approximately 160,000.
- Africa is the hardest hit region by malaria.
- Africa has 95 % of cases and 96 % of deaths globally in 2021.
- WHO Global technical strategy for malaria 2016–2030 aims to reduce malaria cases and mortality rates by at least 40 % by 2020, at least 75 % by 2025, and at least 90 % by 2030 against 2015 as a base.
- Estimating the true disease burden is one of the most fundamental steps that need to be taken to fulfil **our nation's ambitious goal and achieve our Honorable Prime Minister's vision of a malaria-free country by 2030.**

### About WHO:

- The World Health Organization is a specialized agency of the United Nations responsible for international public health.
- Founded: 7 April 1948,
- Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland,
- Head: Tedros Adhanom; (Director-General).

**UIDAI topped the Grievance Redressal Index for the fourth time in a row:**

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- For the fourth month in a row, the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) topped the grievance redressal index among all group A ministries, departments, and autonomous bodies for the resolution of public concerns in November.
- The Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances Department (DARPG) issued the report.
- According to the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, UIDAI has moved toward a centralized grievance-handling procedure via its Open-Source customer relationship management system.
- The new open-source CRM (customer relationship management) system from UIDAI has improved user experience and service delivery to citizens.
- Aadhaar Mitra, UIDAI's Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning-based Chatbots are also gaining popularity, and the number of daily interactions will soon exceed 50,000.

### The UN ranks the 'Namami Gange' Project as one of the top ten initiatives in the world:

- The Namami Gange program to revitalize India's sacred River Ganga has been named one of the top ten World Restoration Flagships to revitalize the natural world by the United Nations.
- G Ashok Kumar, Director General of Namami Gange, accepted the prize at the 15th Conference of the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) in Montreal, Canada.
- Namami Gange was chosen from among over 150 similar programs from 70 countries around the world.
- They were chosen as part of the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, a global initiative coordinated by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).
- The significance of this is that it is intended to prevent and reverse the destruction of natural spaces around the world.
- The recognized initiatives, including Namami Gange, will now be eligible for UN assistance, financing, or technical assistance.

### About Namami Gange:

- The Central Government designated Namami Gange as a "Flagship Program" in June 2014.
- It was established to achieve two goals: effective pollution abatement and protection and revitalization of the national river Ganga.
- It is administered by the Ministries of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, and Jal Shakti.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- The National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) and its State Initiative Management Groups are in charge of carrying out the program (SPMGs).

### List of best universities and tuition costs, most expensive cities (New York, Singapore):

- The most costly cities in the world are **New York and Singapore, according to the Economist Intelligence Unit's (EIU) Worldwide Cost of Living Index** for this year.
- Some Indian students want to pursue higher education in these cities.
- Here is a list of some of the prestigious colleges and universities in these expensive cities.
- **Higher education in New York** has long been a goal for many students.
- While attending school in the Big Apple, students will be exposed to its rich culture and way of life, which will increase their job possibilities.
- **Cornell University and Columbia University, two Ivy League schools,** are located in New York.
- The top four universities in New York, according to the **QS World University Rankings 2023:**

### Cornell University

- This is one of the eight elite IVY League private universities in the USA. Founded in 1865, Cornell University is based in Ithaca, New York. It has been ranked 20 by the QS World University Rankings 2023. Some of the most popular courses at Cornell University are Computer and Information Sciences, Management, Business, Marketing, Engineering, Biological and Biomedical Sciences, and many others.
- For an undergraduate student, the tuition fee is \$62,457 per year. For professional degrees, the fees for international students are between \$20,000 to \$37,000 per year.

### Columbia University

- This is the oldest university in New York City and the fifth oldest in the USA.
- This Ivy League university was established in 1754 as King's College. Columbia University has been ranked 22 by the QS World University Rankings 2023.
- Some popular courses at Columbia University are Medicine, Nursing, Business, Engineering, Brand Management, Marketing, and many others.

### New York University

- NYU is a prestigious private university that was founded in 1831.
- It is located in Greenwich Village, Manhattan. NYU has been ranked 39 by QS World University Rankings 2023. Some popular courses at New York University include Visual and Performing Arts, Business



## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

Management, Liberal Arts, Social Sciences, Computer and Information Sciences, Psychology, and many more.

### Yeshiva University

- Founded in 1886, Yeshiva University is a Jewish private university in New York City. Yeshiva University is divided into three undergraduate colleges: Yeshiva College, the Stern College for Women, and the Sy Syms School of Business.
- The university has been ranked 246 by QS World University Rankings 2022.
- Some popular courses at the university are business administration, Psychology, Political Science and Government, English Language and Literature, Jewish/Judaic Studies, Economics, and many others.

### India ranks 3rd internationally in the publication of scientific papers:

- According to a survey by **America's National Science Foundation**, India has risen from seventh to third in **global scientific publications and academic output**, according to Union Minister for Science and Technology Jitendra Singh.
- **India is third in the world in terms of the number of PhDs produced annually.**
- In a similar rising trend, the number of patents awarded by the India Patents Office to Indian scientists has more than doubled in just the last four years.
- India's scholarly production climbed from 60,555 papers in 2010 to 1, 49,213 papers in 2020.
- **China tops the world in the publication of the highest number of scientific articles followed by The United States of America.**

### Report on the Global Food Security Index (GFSI) for 2022:

- The British weekly **The Economist** published the 2022 Global Food Security Index (GFSI) study.
- The 11th Global Food Security Index demonstrates that the global food environment has deteriorated for the third year in a row, jeopardizing food security.
- According to this report, **South Africa has surpassed Tunisia to become Africa's most food-secure country.**
- The global food ecosystem is worsening, exposing it to shocks.
- Significant progress was made in global food security from 2012 to 2015, with the aggregate GFSI score increasing by 6 percent.
- **India is ranked 68th, like Algeria, with an overall score of 58.9. China is ranked 25th, with a score of 74.2.**

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- India was ranked at 71st position in the Global Food Security (GFS) Index 2021 among 113 countries with an overall score of 57.2 points on the GFS Index 2021.
- In 2022, Europe will have eight of the top ten performing countries, with Finland topping the list with a score of 83.7.
- Ireland (with a score of 81.7) and Norway are next (scoring 80.5).
- These countries achieved high scores on all four GFSI pillars.
- **Japan and Canada are the only non-European countries in the top ten.**
- Since 2019, the gap between top-performing countries and lower-ranking countries has widened, highlighting injustice in the global food system.
- Africa's Most Food-Secure Country: **South Africa, ranked 59th, was named Africa's most food-secure country. It jumped from 70th to first place in 2021.**
- This is despite the country's agriculture sector facing numerous worldwide issues such as climate change, the fertilizer shortage caused by the Ukraine war, inflation, and so on.
- **This is the first time that a country in Sub-Saharan Africa has been named the continent's best performer.**
- **Tunisia is Africa's second-best performing country, ranking 62nd.**

### SPI (Social Progress Index) for States and Districts to be Published:

- The Economic Advisory Council-Prime Minister received and published the Social Progress Index (SPI) for States and Districts created by the Institute for Competitiveness and Social Progress Imperative.
- States and districts have been **categorized into six stages of social advancement based on their SPI scores.**
- Tiers 1 and 2 represent extremely high social progress, Tiers 3 and 4 lower middle social progress, Tiers 5 and 6 very low social progress, and Tiers 1 very high social progress.
- Due to its outstanding performance in areas like Personal Freedom and Choice, Shelter, and Water and Sanitation, **Puducherry has the highest SPI score of 65.99 in the entire nation.**
- **Goa and Lakshadweep** are closely behind it, scoring 65.89 and 65.53, respectively.
- **Bihar and Jharkhand** both had the lowest scores, 44.47 and 43.95, respectively.
- **Goa, Puducherry, Lakshadweep, and Chandigarh are the top four states with the best performance in Water and Sanitation and Shelter** when compared to the other states and union territories for the dimension of Basic Human Needs.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- Additionally, **Goa** has the highest component score for the categories of water and sanitation, followed by **Kerala**, which has the top component scores for the categories of nutrition and basic medical care.
- **Chandigarh** and **Nagaland** have emerged as the front-runners in shelter and personal safety categories, respectively.
- In terms of the **Foundations of Wellbeing**, **Mizoram**, **Himachal Pradesh**, **Ladakh**, and **Goa** have been shown to be the top-performing states.
- **Punjab** has the greatest component score in the dimension for the Access to Basic Knowledge component, with a score of 62.92, while **Delhi** has the highest component score in the dimension for **Access to Information and Communication**, with a score of 71.30.
- **Rajasthan** has the highest component score for health and wellness (73.74).
- **Mizoram**, **Nagaland**, and **Meghalaya** are the northeast's top three states for environmental quality.
- Last but not least, **Tamil Nadu** received the component score of 72.00 for the **Opportunity** dimension, which is the highest.
- **Andaman & Nicobar Islands** and **Sikkim** have the highest component scores for **Personal Rights** and **Inclusiveness**, respectively, within this dimension.
- It is excellent to see **Puducherry** achieve the highest marks in terms of **Personal Freedom and Choice** and **Access to Advanced Education**, two factors in this dimension.

### The Sun Temple and Vadnagar town Rock cut sculpture have been added to the list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites:

- Three new Indian cultural sites have been tentatively added to the list of **UNESCO** world heritage sites, including the well-known **Sun Temple** at **Modhera**, the medieval town of **Vadnagar** in **Gujarat**, and the **Unakoti rock-cut relief sculptures** in **Tripura**.
- A tentative list is an "inventory of those properties which each State Party plans to consider for nomination," according to the **UNESCO** website.
  - ✓ **Sun Temple, Modhera, Gujarat**
  - ✓ **Vadnagar – A multi-layered Historic town, Gujarat**
  - ✓ **Rock-cut Sculptures and Reliefs of the Unakoti, Tripura**
- **Temples in Bishnupur, West Bengal, Mattanchery Palace in Kerala, Wild Ass Sanctuary, and Little Rann of Kutch in Gujarat** are also among the 52 "Sites on the Tentative List," as defined by **UNESCO**.
- Currently on the provisional list for **2022** are **six Indian locations**.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- India is home to 40 locations that are UNESCO World Heritage Sites.
- 32 of these are "cultural sites," including the Taj Mahal, the Red Fort complex in Delhi, the Elephanta Caves in Maharashtra, the Elephanta Fort in Agra, the Taj Mahal in Uttar Pradesh, the Agra Fort in Uttar Pradesh, the Taj Mahal in Uttar Pradesh, the Mahabodhi Temple complex in Bodh Gaya, Bihar, and the Harappan era site at Dholavira in Gujarat.

### Shah Rukh Khan was listed among the top 50 actors of all time in a British magazine:

- Bollywood superstar **Shah Rukh Khan** is the only actor from India to be included in a prestigious British magazine's list of the 50 greatest performers in history.
- The 57-year-old actor is listed alongside Hollywood heavyweights like **Denzel Washington, Tom Hanks, Anthony Marlon Brando, Meryl Streep, Jack Nicholson, and many others** on Empire magazine's list.
- The article drew attention to four films from Khan's lengthy filmography: *Swades*, directed by Ashutosh Gowariker, *My Name Is Khan*, and *Kuch Kuch Hota Hai*, as well as the Sanjay Leela Bhansali-helmed *Devdas*.
- In the 2012 film *Jab Tak Hai Jaan*, he says, "Zindagi toh har Roz jaan leti hai..." "Everyday life kills us a little bit, bomb toh Sirf Ek Baar lega"
- It has been acknowledged as the "iconic line" of his career: "A bomb will kill you only once."
- On January 25, 2023, the action movie *Pathaan*, which stars the actor, will be released in theatres everywhere.
- John Abraham and Deepika Padukone also appear in the Siddharth Anand-directed film.

### Badminton star PV Sindhu among top 25 highest-paid female athletes in Forbes' annual list:

- India's badminton star **PV Sindhu** is the only player in the top 25 in Forbes' annual list of the highest-paid female athletes in the world.
- Sindhu, the 2016 Tokyo Olympics silver medallist, occupies the 12th spot in the list.
- Japanese tennis star **Naomi Osaka** tops the list.
- The 27-year-old made 7 million US Dollars of her earnings, having won a singles gold and doubles silver at the Commonwealth Games earlier this year in Birmingham.
- For the third straight year, **Osaka tops Forbes' annual list of the World's highest-paid female athletes.**
- The list is dominated by tennis players once again.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- The list's Top 10, includes Serena Williams, Emma Raducanu, Iga Swiatek, Venus Williams, Coco Gauff and Jessica Pegula. For the record, Osaka and Serena are the only two women who are placed in the Top 50 of Forbes' list of the world's highest-paid athletes.

### India's cuisine is ranked fifth among the world's top cuisines:

- According to Taste Atlas, India is ranked fifth on the world's top cuisines list for 2022.
- Votes from the audience for ingredients, dishes, and beverages are used to determine the ranking.
- The food of Italy came in first, followed by that of Greece and Spain.
- According to the assessment, the greatest meals in India are "garam masala, malai, ghee, butter garlic naan, keema," which obtained a score of 4.54.
- The list contains 460 things in total.
- The list also includes 450 additional restaurants, such as Shree Thaker Bhojanalay (Mumbai), Karavalli (Bengaluru), Bukhara (New Delhi), Dum Pukht (New Delhi), and Comorin (Gurugram) as the top places to try Indian food.
- Among the top 10 nations with the best cuisines were Japan, the United States of America, Turkey, France, and Peru.
- However, the most popular cuisine in the world is Chinese, which came in at number eleven.

### Top 10 global cuisines

- |           |                         |
|-----------|-------------------------|
| 1. Italy  | 6. Mexico               |
| 2. Greece | 7. Turkiye              |
| 3. Spain  | 8. United States France |
| 4. Japan  | 9. Peru                 |
| 5. India  |                         |

### Top 5 "Best Traditional Dishes" in the world

- Kare (Japan), Picanha (Brazil), Ameijoas a Bulhao Pato (Portugal), Tangbao (China), and Guotie (China).

### India Ranks 8th Among Countries at Highest Risk for Mass Killing: US Research Org's Report

- India is ranked eighth among the countries that are at the highest risk for mass killing in 2022 and 2023, a US-based research organization.
- India has seen a drop in rank from the second position in the earlier year.
- There is a 7.4% – or approximately one in 14 – chance of a new mass killing beginning in India in 2022-2023," the Early Warning Project, that identifies countries at risk of mass violence.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- The Project is a joint initiative of the **Simon-Skjodt Center for the Prevention of Genocide at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum** and the Dickey Center for International Understanding at Dartmouth College.
- “This assessment identifies the risk – the possibility – that a mass killing may take place,” the report states as its objective
- A mass killing, as per the report, is 1,000 or more civilians deliberately killed by armed forces (whether government or non-state), over a year or less, because of their membership in a particular group.
- Virtually all cases of genocide include mass killings, if they match this definition, the report said.
- While **Pakistan topped the list this year, Yemen ranked second, Myanmar third, Ethiopia fifth, Nigeria sixth, and Afghanistan seventh, among all 162 countries, the 2022-23 report.**

### **HAL, BEL ride government orders, find a place in SIPRI's list of top 100 global arms companies:**

- **Two Indian defence PSUs, Hindustan Aeronautics (HAL) and Bharat Electronics (BEL), figure in the list of the top 100 arms-producing companies released by Swedish think-tank Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)**
- The government’s Make-in-India push in indigenous defense production seems to be bearing positive results as the **two Indian Defence Public Sector Undertakings, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), have improved upon their previous rankings among the arms-producing companies of the world.**
- **HAL ranked 42nd and BEL bagged 63rd place with a total evaluation of \$5.1 Billion in 2021.**
- The two companies saw an increase of 1.9 per cent in their total arms sales for 2021. Individually, HAL’s sales increased by 6.7 per cent while BEL’s 20 per cent.
- **They were ranked 43 and 69 in 2020.**
- **The think tank attributed this raise in their rankings due to major orders placed by the Indian armed forces in the recent year.**
- **The Ordnance Factory Board which had made the list in 2020, could not get a place this time because of restructuring in its organization.**
- This is the **seventh consecutive year of rising global arms sales.**
- However, while the rate of growth in 2020–21 was higher than in 2019–20 (1.1 per cent), it was still below the average for the four years leading up to the Covid-19 pandemic (3.7 per cent).



## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- According to the report, sales of arms and military services by the 100 largest companies in the industry reached \$592 billion in 2021, a 1.9 percent increase compared with 2020 in real terms.
- **China, for the second successive year, has been placed in the second spot behind the US** in making arms, weapons, and military equipment.
- The combined arms sales of the eight Chinese companies included in the ranking amounted to \$109 billion, a 6.3 percent increase over last year.

### **ADB ranks WAPCOS amongst the Top Consulting Services Firms in Water and other Infrastructure Sectors:**

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has named Water and Power Consultancy Services India Limited (WAPCOS) as the best Consulting Services Firm in the Water and Other Infrastructure Sectors in its annual Procurement Report 2022.
- WAPCOS was named one of the top three Indian consultants involved in Consulting Services Contracts under ADB Loan, Grant, and Technical Assistance Projects in the Energy, Transportation, Water, and other Urban Infrastructure Sectors in another report on its Members' Fact Sheet - 2022 released by the ADB.
- WAPCOS is the only Indian public sector organization represented in the aforementioned categories.

### **About ADB:**

- Asian Development Bank, headquartered in Manila, Philippines, is a regional development bank serving Asia and the Asia-Pacific area.
- It has 68 member countries and is led by Masatsugu Asakawa.
- It also publishes the Asian Development Outlook report.

### **About WAPCOS:**

- It was founded in 1969 by the Indian government under the auspices of the Ministry of Water Resources to utilize India's knowledge and competence in the field of water resources by sharing and exporting technology to friendly developing nations.
- Water and Power Development Consultancy Services (India) Limited was renamed "Water and Power Consultancy Services (India) Limited" in 1979.
- Apart from India, the Company has completed/is currently doing consultant engagements in over 51 countries across Asia, Africa, the CIS, the Pacific Islands, and South America.
- Rajni Kant Aggrawal, Chairman and Managing Director
- The headquarters are in New Delhi.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

### IMPORTANT BOOKS & AUTHORS

#### Shekhar Pathak's work on the Chipko Movement wins the Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay NIF Prize 2022:

- The Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay NIF Book Prize 2022 has been awarded to a book by historian and activist **Shekhar Pathak** about the well-known Chipko Movement for forest conservation.
- The **Chipko Movement: A People's History**, which **Manisha Chaudhry** translated from Hindi, was chosen from a diverse shortlist of five books that covered a broad range of modern Indian history and included many issues and viewpoints.
- A judging team of six people, led by political scientist **Niraja Gopal Jayal**, chose the prize.
- Entrepreneur **Manish Sabharwal**, historians **Srinath Raghavan** and **Nayanjot Lahiri**, ex-diplomat **Navtej Sarna**, and lawyer **Rahul Matthan** made up the other members of the jury.
- **A People's History of Modern India** by **Suchitra Vijayan**, **Born a Muslim: Some Truths about Islam in India** by **Ghazala Wahab**, **Whole Numbers and Half-Truths: What Data Can and Cannot Tell Us About Modern India** by **Rukmini S**, and **Accidental Feminism: Gender Parity and Selective Mobility Among India's Professional Elite** by **Swetha S Ballakrishnen** were the other books that made the shortlist.

#### The UK nonfiction book prize is won by a biography of English poet John Donne:

- The "**Super-Infinite: The Transformations of John Donne**" biography by British author **Katherine Rundell** was awarded the 50,000 pounds (\$59,000) **Baillie Gifford Prize** at a ceremony in London.
- Out of the 362 novels that were submitted for the award, **Rundell's book was selected by all six judges without dissent.**
- According to the book, **Donne is "a writer perhaps as outstanding as Shakespeare**, and a writer we should all study for his writing on love, sex, and death."
- He is best remembered today, four centuries after his death, **for a poem that begins "No man is an island.**
- " **The book "Empire of Pain: The Secret History of the Sackler Dynasty,"** by **Patrick Radden Keefe**, which is a portrait of the family responsible for the US opioid epidemic, won the award the previous year.

#### Regarding the Baillie Gifford Award:

- The English-language books in the categories of current affairs, history, politics, science, sports, travel, biography, autobiography, and the arts are recognized with the Baillie Gifford Prize.
- "**Legacy of Violence: A History of the British Empire**," written by **Caroline Elkins**, was among the other contenders.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- My Fourth Time, We Drowned: Seeking Refuge on the World's Deadliest Migratory Route by Sally Hayden; The Escape Artist: The Man Who Broke Out of Auschwitz to Warn the World by Jonathan Freedland; The "Restless Republic: Britain Without a Crown" by Anna Keay and "A Fortunate Woman: A Country Doctor's Story" by Polly Morland.

### 'Brave Hearts of Bharat, Vignettes from Indian History,' a book by Vikram Sampath:

- A book by Vikram Sampath called "Brave Hearts of Bharat, Vignettes from Indian History," an anthology of 15 tales of men and women and their unyielding spirit of freedom and bravery, was released in Delhi.
- The book is released by the Penguin publishing house.
- The book tells the heroic and tenacious tales of a select group of people, many of whose tales were long forgotten and untold.

#### About the book:

- The bravery of fifteen Indians who never capitulated to invader challenges. Somehow Forgotten and Lost in the Records of History.
- This is the account of these courageous people who fought to defend their freedom, faith, and rights.
- The victor has always had history on his side.
- The history of the hunt would always glorify the hunter until the lions get their storytellers, predicted Chinua Achebe.
- This book sheds light on the contribution of the soldiers who, in addition to donning armor and charging into combat, kept the torch of hope alive under trying conditions by examining the lives, times, and works of fifteen long-forgotten and mostly ignored unsung heroes and heroines of our history.

### The book "Miracles of Face Yoga" by author Mansi Gulati was published:

- The president of India, Droupadi Murmu, has praised Mansi Gulati, the founder of Manasvani, for her book, "Miracles of Face Yoga."
- Mansi Gulati, a well-known author, thought leader, and international yogi, committed herself to learning as much as she could about the theory and practices of yoga.
- She has used a variety of resources to further her knowledge and abilities during her educational journey.
- Mansi has over 25 years of yoga expertise as well as numerous national and international certifications.
- She has penned numerous books and articles on the concept of yoga and how a variety of Asanas may be beneficial for diverse body types.

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- This book presents the idea of "face yoga," a facial workout that is done naturally in addition to other yoga poses.
- Additionally, facial yoga helps relieve stress and revitalize your body.
- Stress and tension are released from the face and neck through face yoga poses.
- Additionally, they will heighten our awareness of our face muscles, enabling us to instantly relax them and thereby indirectly contribute to the tightening of our skin.
- Yoga also teaches how to achieve a quiet mind, which helps to channel energy throughout the body.
- The comprehensive work "Face yoga" on face exercises is written in clear, basic language that anybody can understand, from a novice to an accomplished practitioner.

### A book written by Michelle Obama called "The Light We Carry: Overcoming In Uncertain Times":

- **Michelle Obama wrote a nonfiction book titled The Light We Carry: Overcoming in Uncertain Times, which was released by Crown Publishing.**
- The Light We Carry will encourage readers to reflect on their own lives, find their joys, and form meaningful connections in a chaotic world.
- The author "shares the contents of her 'personal toolbox' - the routines and techniques, attitudes and convictions, and even tangible items that she uses to fight her feelings of fear, powerlessness, and self-doubt."
- In general, book critics have given her biography, The Light We Carry: Overcoming in Uncertain Times, favorable reviews.
- In The Light We Carry, the former First Lady offers her sage advice and effective tactics for being optimistic and in tune in the world of today, which is rife with uncertainty.
- As a mother, daughter, wife, and friend, she also shares original stories, thoughtful comments on the change, and the acquired wisdom that aids in her ongoing "becoming."
- She also examines racial, gendered, and visibility-related concerns with her signature wit, candor, and compassion, inspiring readers to face their fears, find support in their neighbors, and live bravely.

### Retired Air Marshal PV Iyer published his book, "Fit At Any Age."

- **In New Delhi's India International Centre, Air Marshal PV Iyer (retired) has published his book, "Fit At Any Age."**
- In the book, he chronicled his quest for health and used personal anecdotes to explain how he found the will to exercise every day.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- He also discusses the value of exercise and the need for early beginnings on the road to fitness in **the book, which was released by Bloomsbury India.**
- In this book, the benefits of maintaining a healthy lifestyle are discussed.
- The heart and blood arteries are cleaned and strengthened by exercise.
- Fit at Any Age blends personal experiences, science-based reasoning, and straightforward advice to create an educational and funny work.
- Inspiring and motivating, it will demonstrate that no matter your age, anything is possible.
- With enough time for leisure, **92-year-old runner Air Marshal P.V. Iyer** explains how we may incorporate fitness into our daily lives at any age.
- When the Indian Air Force's new strategy was explained to **Air Marshal Iyer at the age of 47.**

### The authors of "The Indian Navy@75," Commodore Ranjit Rai (r) and Aritra Banerjee:

- The "Indian Navy@75 Reminiscing the Voyage", a book written by defence writer Aritra Banerjee and Commodore Ranjit B Rai (Retd).
- The book describes how British historians who were unable to comprehend the **Royal Indian Navy's (RIN) mutiny in 1946 left out the exploits and sacrifices of the RIN during the Second World War.**
- To correct this, the IN created its records and archives.
- A journalist with Indian Aerospace & Defence, Aritra Banerjee is also co-author of the book "**The Indian Navy @75: Reminiscing the Voyage**" and a co-founder of **Mission Victory India (MVI)**, a think tank promoting modern military reforms.
- He has written defence and strategic affairs columns for national and international print and digital outlets.

### A New Book Titled "Forks in the Road: My Days at RBI and Beyond," Authored by C. Rangarajan:

- "Forks in the Road: My Days at RBI and Beyond" was authored by C Rangarajan.
- It was released by Penguin Business (Penguin Group).
- Dr C. Rangarajan is an Indian economist, former Member of Parliament, and the **19th Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).**
- It examines India's transition from post-independence planning to the present.
- The book is broken into three sections.
- Part 1- 'RBI and Planning Commission', Part 2-'Governor of RBI' and Part 3- 'Beyond RBI'.

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- In this book, the renowned economist and policymaker tells the story of his career life, beginning with his entirely accidental entry into the RBI in 1982.
- Rangarajan, recognized as one of the most towering personalities in the history of India's economic reforms, shares critical insights into his role as a member of the team that launched far-reaching reforms in India's economy in the early 1990s
- During his tenure as governor of the RBI, he implemented ground-breaking reforms such as the deregulation of interest rates, strengthening of the banking system through gradual tightening of prudential norms, creation and nurturing of financial markets, giving them depth and vibrancy, shifting to market-determined exchange rates, making the rupee convertible on the current account, and ending automatic monetization of the budget deficit.

### IMPORTANT SPORTS NEWS

#### Man of the Match Award Winners for the FIFA World Cup 2022:

- The FIFA World Cup Man of the Match award has been given out following each game since 2002.
- The Golden Ball and Golden Boot are just two of the additional honours granted at the FIFA World Cup.
- The main distinction between these honours and the FIFA World Cup Man of the Match award is that the former is granted after the tournament, while the latter is presented following each World Cup game.

#### Most Man of the Match Awards in a World Cup:

World Cup Match	Man of the match	Number of wins
South Korea/Japan World Cup 2002	Rivaldo	3 wins
Germany World Cup 2006	Andra Pirlo	3 wins
South Africa World Cup 2010	Wesley Snijder	4 wins
Brazil World Cup 2014	Lionel Messi	4 wins
Russia World Cup 2018	Antonie Griezmann	3 wins

#### Stephanie Frappart will be the first woman referee at the FIFA World Cup in 2022:

- Stephanie Frappart of France will be the first woman to referee a men's World Cup match, according to FIFA.



## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- She will officiate the **Group E match between Germany and Costa Rica on December 2, 2022.**
- Frappart is one of three female referees chosen from a field of 36 for the tournament in Qatar, joining Rwandan official **Salima Mukansanga** and Japanese official **Yoshimi Yamashita**.
- Three other female officials have been assigned as assistant referees during the World Cup.
- Refereeing her men's World Cup match is the next stage in **the 38-year-old Frappart's fast journey to the top level in Europe.**
- In 2019, she became the first female referee in France's Ligue 1, the same year she presided over the women's World Cup final in her native nation.
- Frappart also refereed the 2019 Uefa Super Cup final between Liverpool and Chelsea before moving on to the 2020 Champions League and the French Cup final last season.

### **NADA India will hold the first-ever Inclusion Conclave to focus on athletes with impairments:**

- The **National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA India)** is hosting an **Inclusion Conclave for the first time to put a greater emphasis on anti-doping processes** and education for athletes with impairments.
- In addition to **WADA Asia-Oceania Regional Office Manager Kenny Lee** and **UN Resident Coordinator Shombi Sharp**, **Secretary Department of Sports Smt. Sujata Chaturvedi** will also speak at the summit.
- Following the conclave, there will be a two-hour inclusive anti-doping education workshop for athletes with disabilities with a focus on the Therapeutic Use Exemption, the Doping Control Process, Anti-Doping Rule Violations, as well as the rights and obligations of athletes with disabilities and support personnel.
- For athletes with impairments, **NADA India has already created extensive UDL (Universal Design of Learning)** courses on anti-doping education and awareness. UDL is a multi-modal framework that uses sign language visual representation, subtitles that have been translated, and content audio to enhance and optimize teaching and learning for all people.
- Previously solely available in print, certain content is now also available in Braille and audio forms.
- Additionally, **NADA India has improved the DCO kit for athletes** with impairments and conducted sensitization training for **Dope Control Officers (DCO)** who collect samples from them.

### **About National Anti-Doping Agency**

- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Founded: 24 November 2005
- DG: Ritu Sain

### **India will host the third edition of the T20 World Cup for Blind Cricket:**

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- India will host the third T20 World Cup Cricket Tournament for the Blind from December 5–17, 2022.
- Australia, Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan, South Africa, Sri Lanka, and India will all compete in the 2022 World Cup.
- The competition will feature about 150 players from all over the world, and there will be a total of 24 matches spread among nine Indian cities.
- The tournament is being held to coincide with World Disability Day events around. the **World Cup's opening ceremony on December 5 at Gurugram's Tau Devi Lal Indoor Stadium.**
- Yuvraj Singh, a former Indian batter, is the competition's brand ambassador.
- Since 2012, the World Cup has been run by the **Cricket Association for the Blind in India (CABI)** in collaboration with the disability organization **Samarthanam Trust.**
- The Samarthanam Trust has arranged more than 30,000 visually impaired matches since its establishment.

### Saurashtra defeated Maharashtra in the Vijay Hazare Trophy final by five wickets:

- At the **Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, Saurashtra defeated Maharashtra** by five wickets to win the **Vijay Hazare Trophy.**
- As captain **Ruturaj Gaikwad reached a century**, hitting 108 off 131 balls after a sluggish start, they contained Maharashtra at 248/9 in 50 overs.
- Bowler Chirag Jani of Saurashtra claimed a hat-trick in the game.
- At the moment, Sheldon Jackson is the man.
- With a 249-run goal to reach, Saurashtra got off to a cautious start until the openers struck a 125-run partnership. As wickets shattered all around him, batter Sheldon Jackson clutched one end.
- In 46.3 overs and with five wickets still over, he helped Saurashtra chase down the goal with a match-winning 133 off 136 balls.
- It was the second title victory for Saurashtra in history.

### Winners List:

- Player of the match in the final: Sheldon Jackson
- Player of the tournament: Ruturaj Gaikwad
- Most Runs: N Jagadeesan
- Highest Score: N Jagadeesan (TN)
- Most Fours: N Jagadeesan

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- Most Sixes: Ruturaj Gaikwad
- Most Wickets: Vasuki Koushik (Karnataka)

### Rudranksh Patil, a shooter, wins the ISSF President's Cup in Egypt:

- The International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) President's Cup was won by Indian shooter Rudranksh Patil in Cairo, Egypt.
- In the 10-meter rifle play-off, he outscored Italy's Danilo Sollazzo 16-8.
- Participants in this competition, which began on November 28, come from 42 different countries and 43 ISSF Member Federations across all continents.
- Rudranksh Patil, 18, won gold in the men's 10 m air rifle event at the ISSF Rifle/Pistol World Championships 2022 in Cairo, Egypt, which came to an end in October.
- He is now only the sixth Indian shooting world champion, joining gold medalists Abhinav Bindra, Tejaswini Sawant, Manavjit Singh Sandhu, Om Prakash Mitherval, and Ankur Mittal.
- India won five medals in the ISSF President's Cup in 2021 : gold, silver, and bronze. Among the medal winners were Olympians Manu Bhaker, Rahi Sarnobat, Saurabh Chaudhary, and Abhishek Verma.

### Indian captain Rohit Sharma has become the country's sixth-highest ODI run scorer:

- Indian captain Rohit Sharma has surpassed former batsman Mohammed Azharuddin to become his country's sixth-highest ODI run-scorer.
- This feat was done by the batter during India's maiden One-Day International (ODI) against Bangladesh in Dhaka.
- His ODI record now stands at 234 matches and 9,403 runs in 227 innings at an average of 48.46.
- In his ODI career, he has 29 tons and 45 fifties, with the top individual score of 264, which is also the highest score ever in ODIs.
- Azharuddin, who dropped to seventh place, had scored 9,378 runs in 334 matches in 308 innings for an average of 36.92, including seven tons, 58 fifties, and a top score of 153.
- Other Indian ODI run scorers include Sachin Tendulkar (18,426), Virat Kohli (12,353), Saurav Ganguly (11,221), Rahul Dravid (10,768), and MS Dhoni (10,599).

S.No	Player	Matches	Innings	Runs
01	Sachin Tendulkar (IND)	463	452	18426
02	Kumar Sangakkara (SL)	404	380	14234
03	Ricky Ponting (AUS)	375	365	13704

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04	Sanath Jayasuriya (SL)	445	433	13430
05	Mahela Jayawardene (SL)	448	418	12650
06	Virat Kohli (IND)	263	254	12353
07	Inzamam-UI-Haq (PAK)	378	350	11739
08	Jacques Kallis (SA)	328	314	11579
09	Sourav Ganguly (IND)	311	300	11363
10	Rahul Dravid (IND)	344	318	10889

### Cristiano Ronaldo has agreed to terms with Saudi club Al-Nassr on a contract worth 200 million euros:

- Cristiano Ronaldo has joined Saudi Arabian club Al-Nassr on a two-and-a-half-year contract worth 200 million euros each season.
- The story was published by renowned Spanish source Marca before the Portugal captain's FIFA World Cup 2022 Round of 16 matches against Switzerland, which is slated for at Qatar's Lusail Stadium.
- Earlier, Ronaldo's agent, Jorge Mendes, had met with several clubs, including European powerhouses such as Bayern Munich, Chelsea, and Atletico Madrid, but no one expressed serious interest in the 37-year-old forward.
- Al Nassr Football Club is a Riyadh-based Saudi Arabian football club.
- The club, founded in 1955, plays its home games at Mrsool Park.
- Yellow and blue are their primary colors.
- Al Nassr is one of the most successful clubs in Saudi Arabia, with 27 championships at the highest level of all tournaments.
- The team has won nine Premier League titles, six King's Cups, three Crown Prince's Cups, three Federation Cups, and two Saudi Super Cups at the domestic level.
- At the international level, they have won two GCC Champions Leagues and achieved the historic feat of winning both the Asian Cup Winners' Cup and the Asian Super Cup in 1998.

### FIFA World Cup 2022 trophy will be unveiled by Deepika Padukone:

- According to speculations, Deepika Padukone will showcase the FIFA World Cup trophy in Qatar later this month.
- The trophy will be unveiled on December 18, the day before the World Cup final.
- Deepika will be the first actress to be honored in this manner in the world's most-watched sporting event.
- Deepika Padukone is set to unveil the World Cup trophy at the Lusail Iconic Stadium on December 18.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- Deepika Padukone is an Indian cinema actress who primarily appears in Hindi films.
- She is one of India's highest-paid actresses, with three Filmfare Awards to her name.
- She appears on lists of the country's most popular individuals; **Time named her one of the world's 100 most important people in 2018 and awarded her the TIME100 Impact Award in 2022.**
- **Padukone is the creator of the Live Love Laugh Foundation**, which raises mental health awareness in India.
- She speaks out on subjects such as feminism and depression, and she also performs in stage shows, writes columns for a newspaper, designs her line of women's apparel, and is a notable celebrity ambassador for businesses and goods.

### **Sukant Kadam, world No. 3, wins gold at the Peru Para Badminton International:**

- **Sukant Kadam, world No. 3, smashed his way to gold** at the recently ended Peru Para-Badminton International, defeating Singapore's Chee Hiong Ang.
- India received **14 medals in total (6 gold, 1 silver, and 7 bronze).**
- Sukant dominated the finals from the start.
- He **defeated Chee Hiong Ang** in straight sets, 21-14 and 21-15.
- The game lasted 32 minutes.
- The ace shuttler didn't miss a beat in the final.
- **Nithya Sre Sumathy Sivan and Mandeep Kaur** won the **SH6 and SL3 singles titles in the women's division.**
- Mandeep defeated Ukraine's Oksana Kozyna 21-11, 21-11, while Nithya defeated Peru's Giuliana Poveda Flores 21-6, 21-13.
- Indian men's doubles pair Nehal and Breno Johann (SL3-SL4) and women's doubles pair Parul Parmar and Vaishali Nilesh Patel (SL3-SU5) both won gold medals.
- The Indian pairing of Nehal and Breno defeated Peru's Renzo Diquez Bances Morales and Pedro Pablo De Vinatea 21-16 21-13, while Parul and Vaishali defeated Peru's Kelly Edith Ari Escalante and Mandeep 21-17 21-19.

### **Saikhom Mirabai Chanu wins silver in the World Weightlifting Championships in Colombia.**

- **Mirabai Chanu of 49kg**, an Olympic silver medalist, **earned silver** in the 2022 World Weightlifting Championships in Colombia.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- She defeated China's Olympic champion, Hou Zihua. Jiang Huihua of China won gold with a combined weight of 206 kg.
- Mirabai hoisted a total of 200 kg, whereas Zihua only lifted 198 kg.
- Mirabai's second World Championships medal, having previously won gold in 2017 with a lift of 194 kg.
- **Mirabai Chanu**, participating in her first international meet since winning the Commonwealth Games 2022 in August, struggled with her left wrist in clean and jerk.
- The Indian weightlifter failed her first effort, lifted 111kg on her second attempt, and matched eventual gold medalist Jiang Huihua's 113kg on her third attempt to place third.
- **Mirabai of Manipur had previously won gold at the World Weightlifting Championships in 2017.**
- She won a gold medal at the 2022 Commonwealth Games.

### 1000 Khelo India Centers Are Scheduled to Open Across the Nation By August 15:

- **Mr. Anurag Thakur**, the minister of youth affairs and sports, stated that **1,000 Khelo India centers will be operational nationwide by August 15th, 2023.**
- He continued by saying that 733 of these 1,000 centers have already received approval.
- Mr. Thakur claimed that India has performed better than in the past at both the Olympics and the Paralympics in Tokyo.
- He claimed that **India had also done well at the Deaf Olympics.**
- The Minister mentioned Khelo India and the efforts made by the government to alter public perceptions of sports.
- He claimed that the **Khelo India games have provided amateur athletes a stage on which to perform in front of the entire country.**
- According to the minister, **the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports' budget has climbed from Rs 1,219 crore in 2014 to Rs 3,062 crore for the upcoming fiscal year 2022–23**, or nearly three times as much.
- Thakur highlighted some of India's greatest sporting victories that have occurred since the 2014 election of the Modi administration.

### McLaughlin-Levrone and Mondo Duplantis were named the 2022 World Athletes of the Year:

- The **World Athlete of the Year** honors went to Swedish pole vaulter Mondo Duplantis and American world champion hurdler Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone.
- **McLaughlin-Levrone** twice broke the women's 400-meter hurdles world mark, and Duplantis accomplished three new world records this year.



## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- Duplantis, a **Swede of American descent**, won the prize for the second time in three years in 2022 after setting three world records, winning the men's world indoor title in March and taking home the **world outdoor gold** in July.
- **Adriana Vilago of Serbia and Erriyon Knighton of America** were chosen winners of the **World Athletics' Rising Star of the Year** award.
- Vilago placed in the top three of 15 javelin tournaments in 2022.
- She earned gold at the Mediterranean Games and the World U20 Championships in addition to silver at the Munich multisport European Championships.

### **Amar Singh Devanda from Air Warrior Corp places sixth in Taiwan's 24-hour ultramarathon**

- The **Chinese Taipei Association's 24-hour ultramarathon** saw **Air Warrior Cpl Amar Singh Devandar** finish in **sixth place** after running **204.47 kilometers**.
- In 510 laps (400 meters each), he completed the stadium in 24 hours.
- At **Soochow University in Taiwan**, the Chinese Taipei Association of Ultrarunners organized the **24-Hour Ultramarathon for the year 2022**.
- India was represented at the competition by **Cpl Amar Singh Devanda**. **31 runners in total, 21 men and 10 women**, from 5 different countries, took part in the race.
- During the **Asia-Oceania 24 Hrs Championship 2022** in Bengaluru, Cpl Amar set a new national record by traveling **257.618 kilometers** on July 3, 2022.
- He was the captain of the **Indian squad that won the championship**.

### **FIFA World Cup 2022 trophy will be unveiled by Deepika Padukone:**

- The **FIFA World Cup trophy** will reportedly be unveiled by **Deepika Padukone** in **Qatar** later this month.
- On **December 18, before the World Cup final**, the trophy will be unveiled.
- At the most watched sporting event in the world, **Deepika will be the first actor to receive such a distinction**.
- The World Cup trophy is scheduled to be unveiled at the **Lusail Iconic Stadium** by **Deepika Padukone** on **December 18**.
- Indian actress **Deepika Padukone** performs in **Hindi-language movies**.
- She is one of India's highest-paid actresses and has won three **Filmfare Awards**.
- She is listed among the country's most well-known public figures; **Time** named her one of the world's **100 most important people** in 2018 and gave her the **TIME100 Impact Award** in 2022.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- The Live Love Laugh Foundation, which raises awareness of mental health in India, was founded by Padukone.
- She is outspoken on topics like feminism and depression, performs on stage, has written newspaper articles, created her line of women's clothes, and is a well-known celebrity ambassador for goods and brands.

### **Legendary PT Usha was chosen as the first female president of the Indian Olympic Association:**

- The legendary athlete Pilavullakandi Thekkeraparambil Usha, also known as PT Usha, was chosen to lead the Indian Olympic Association as its first female president.
- The 58-year-old Ms. Usha, who won three gold medals at the Asian Games and finished fourth in the 400-meter hurdles final at the 1984 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles, was proclaimed elected without opposition to the position of president. L Nageswara Rao, a retired SC judge appointed by the Supreme Court, oversaw the elections.
- Usha, who was nominated to the Rajya Sabha by the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party in July, eventually became the only candidate for the top position.
- **Ajay Patel of the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) was also chosen without opposition to the position of senior vice president with Usha.**
- **Gagan Narang, an Olympic medallist in shooting, and Rajlaxmi Singh Deo, the head of the Rowing Federation of India, have been chosen without opposition as vice presidents.**
- **Sahdev Yadav, president of the Indian Weightlifting Federation (IWF), has been chosen to serve as treasurer.**
- **Kalyan Chaubey, the president of the All India Football Federation (AIFF) and a former goalkeeper, won the joint secretary position without opposition (male).**
- After winning a three-way contest, Alaknanda Ashok of the Badminton Association of India (BAI) was chosen as joint secretary (female).
- Suman Kaushik and Shalini Thakur Chawla also participated in the fight.

### **Sidra Ameen and Jos Buttler have been announced as the ICC Player of the Month honorees for November 2022:**

- **Jos Buttler, the captain of England that won the T20 World Cup, received the ICC men's Player of the Month award for the first time for his outstanding performance in November.**

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- Sidra Ameen of Pakistan won the women's Player of the Month title for the nation for the second time in a row as a result of her outstanding performance in the ODI series victory against Ireland.
- The ICC Player of the Month award went to Buttler, one of the most potent batters in white-ball cricket, who defeated Adil Rashid and Shaheen Shah Afridi for his outstanding performance in the crucial semifinal match against India and helped England win the T20 World Cup for the first time since 2010.
- The opening batsman for England scored 73 runs off of 47 balls against New Zealand and then 80 runs off of 49, stitched an unbroken 170-run partnership with Alex Hales during England's victory over India in the semifinal, and then scored a crucial 26 against Pakistan in the World T20 final to lead his team to victory.
- Sidra Ameen won the ICC Women's Player of the Month award for her impressive performance against Ireland in the ODI series, amassing 277 runs in three home matches while defeating Gaby Lewis of Ireland and Natthakan Chantam of Thailand.
- She was the second cricketer from Pakistan to receive this award after Mohammad Rizwan (September).

### About ICC

- Founded: 15 June 1909
- Chairman: Greg Barclay
- CEO: Geoff Allardice
- Headquarters: Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

### Ishan Kishan becomes the fourth Indian to score a double century in ODI:

- Ishan Kishan becomes the fourth Indian to score a double century in one-day international cricket.
- He has also become the ninth batter to score a double century in one-day international cricket.
- Ishan Kishan made 210 runs in just 131 balls with 24 boundaries and 10 sixes in an ODI match against Bangladesh in Chittagong.
- He has also become the youngest and the fastest cricketer to score an ODI double-century.
- Rohit Sharma has scored three double-centuries.
- Virender Sehwag and Sachin Tendulkar have also scored double centuries in the ODIs.

### About ICC:

- Headquarters: Dubai, United Arab Emirates
- Founded: 15 June 1909
- Chairman: Greg Barclay

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

### Divya TS won gold in the women's air pistol National Shooting Championship 2022:

- Divya T.S of Karnataka won her maiden women's 10m air pistol national title in the 65th National Shooting Championship Competitions in Pistol events in Bhopal.
- In the gold medal match, she defeated Sanskriti Bana of Uttar Pradesh 16-14, and Rhythm Sangwan of Haryana took the bronze.
- Divya, 27, won the second stage with 254.2 points, beating out a slew of great shooters including Rhythm Sangwan, Esha Singh, and Manu Bhaker. Manu Bhaker, an Olympian, won the junior women's air pistol after defeating Esha Singh (Telangana).
- In the Youth division, Rhythm Sangwan won the gold medal.

### Women: 10m air pistol

1. Divya TS
2. Sanskriti Bana
3. Rhythm Sangwan
4. Esha Singh

### 25m center fire pistol: Men

1. Vijay Kumar
2. Anish Bhanwala
3. Gurpreet Singh

### The Hyderabad Strikers have won the Tennis Premier League 2022:

- Hyderabad Strikers have won the 4th Tennis Premier League (TPL) 2022.
- The fourth TPL final was placed in Pune, Maharashtra.
- Hyderabad Strikers defeated Mumbai Leon Army (41-32) to win the event for the second year in a row.
- The title was won by Hyderabad's S. Balaji and Nikki Poonacha, who defeated Mumbai's R. Ramanathan and J. Nedunchezhiyan 14-6. Mumbai Leon Army won the TPL Plus, the Tennis Premier League's grassroots league that provides a platform for young tennis athletes to learn from foreign and Indian stars.
- The winning team received ten lakh rupees, while the runner-up received five lakh rupees.
- Conny Perrin was named "player of the match" in the final, while Sriram Balaji and Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan received the honour in the semifinals.

### England's Joe Root joins the ranks of those who have 10000+ test runs and 50+ wickets:

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## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- Former England captain Joe Root became the third cricketer in history to achieve 10,000 runs and take 50 Test wickets.
- He accomplished this during the **current second Test against Pakistan in Multan**.
- Root accomplished the milestone in the 70th over of Pakistan's second innings at the **Multan Cricket Stadium**, when he bowled Faheem Ashraf.
- Faheem attempted to push at the off-thrown-up spinner's ball.
- The ball spun very little to take the batter's edge and presented Zak Crawley with a routine catch at slips.
- In the longest format, Root joins South African star Jacques Kallis and former Australian captain Steve Waugh in reaching 10,000 runs and taking 50 wickets.
- Root has 10629 Test runs and 50 Test wickets to his name.
- Waugh has scored 10927 runs and taken 92 wickets, whereas Kallis has scored 13289 runs and taken 292 wickets.

### Chahat Arora Breaks National Record in 100m Breaststroke at FINA World Swimming Championships 2022:

- In Swimming, Indian swimmer Chahat Arora achieved a national record in the women's 100-meter breaststroke at the FINA World Swimming Championships 2022 in Melbourne, Australia.
- The 16th edition of the FINA World Swimming Championships (25m) 2022 will finish on **December 18**.
- FINA stands for the International Swimming Federation.
- **Chahat Arora finished the 100-meter breaststroke competition in 1 minute, 13.13 seconds.**
- **Ruta Meilutyte of Lithuania won the overall heats in 1 minute, 3.81 seconds, 9.32 seconds faster than Chahat Arora.**
- **Lara Van Niekerk, 19, of South Africa, finished second in 1 minute 3.93 seconds.**
- **Lilly King of the United States finished third in 1 minute and 3.94 seconds.**
- Chahat will compete in the women's 50m breaststroke.
- **Siva Sridhar will take part in the 100m individual medley.**

### About FINA:

- FINA is the international federation recognized by the International Olympic Committee for administering international competitions in water sports.
- It is one of several international federations which administer a given sport or discipline for both the IOC and the international community.
- Headquarters: Lausanne, Switzerland

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- Founded: 19 July 1908, London, United Kingdom
- President: Husain Al-Musallam

### Rehan Ahmed makes his Test Cricket debut, becoming the youngest player for England:

- **Rehan Ahmed makes his Test debut for England** in the final match between Pakistan and England.
- When the match begins, **Rehan Ahmed will be 18 years and 126 days old**.
- Brian Close, who was 18 years and 149 days old at the time, was the youngest player in England during the 1949 New Zealand vs. England match.
- **Ben Stokes confirmed Rehan Ahmed's debut** in the final match between England and Pakistan.
- Rehan Ahmed surpasses Brian Close as the youngest England Test cricketer to make his debut.
- Stokes also confirmed two changes from the second test, which England won by 26 runs in Multan.
- Rehan Ahmed will take over for spinner Will Jacks, while wicketkeeper Ben Foakes will replace James Anderson.
- England is visiting Pakistan for the first time since 2005.
- Rehan Ahmed has played three first-class games and is a wrist spinner who is a high point for England, according to Ben Stokes.

### Tata Steel has been an official partner of the FIH Men's World Cup 2023:

- **Tata Steel Limited signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Hockey India** to become an **Official Partner of the FIH Odisha Hockey Men's World Cup 2023 Bhubaneswar - Rourkela**.
- The FIH Men's World Cup is the highest level of men's hockey competition.
- The **15th edition of the prestigious event will take place from January 13 to January 29, 2023, in Bhubaneswar and Rourkela**.
- Tata Steel has aided in the development of India's national sport by providing top-tier high-performance residential hockey training facilities, foreign coaches, nutritionists, and mental and physical trainers.
- This adventure began with the **Naval Tata Hockey Academy**, which was established in 2017 as a cutting-edge institution to help burgeoning field hockey talent at the grassroots level in Jamshedpur, Jharkhand.
- Currently, there are 65+ grassroots program centres with 3000+ cadets **administered by Collectives for Integrated Livelihood Initiatives in the interiors of three Jharkhand districts**.
- In addition, the **Tata Steel Foundation operates 9 centres** in the interiors of other districts in the state, with 300+ cadets.

### Neeraj Chopra becomes the most written-about athlete in 2022, according to World Athletics:

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## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- According to World Athletics, India's Tokyo Olympics gold medallist javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra was the most written-about track and field athlete in 2022, edging out Jamaican legend Usain Bolt.
- The data compiled by media monitoring company Unicepta was mentioned by World Athletics, the global governing body for athletics.
- **Neeraj Chopra**, the men's javelin champion at the Tokyo Olympics, led the way with 812 articles, followed by the Jamaican women's sprint trio of Olympic champion **Elaine Thompson-Herah** (751 articles), 100m world champion **Shelley-Ann Fraser-Pryce** (698 articles), and 200m world champion **Shericka Jackson** (679 articles).
- Usain Bolt, the world record holder in the 100m and 200m men's sprint, comes in fourth in the list with 574 references.
- For years, the Jamaican, who is now retired, led the annual list of most written-about athletes.

### The Indian women's hockey team won the FIH Nations Cup 2022:

- The Indian women's Hockey team led by Captain Savita Punia beat Spain 1-0 in the final to win the inaugural FIH Nations Cup staged at Valencia, Spain.
- **Gurjit Kaur of India** scored the game-winning goal.
- The first FIH Nations Cup was contested in Valencia, Spain, from December 11 to 17, 2022.
- India and Spain competed in the FIH women's hockey Pro League 2021-22 season as substitute teams after Australia and New Zealand withdrew due to COVID-19 concerns.
- The outcome also means that the Janneke Schopman-coached squad has been promoted to the FIH Pro League 2023-24.
- Hockey India has set a monetary award of Rs 2 lakh for each member of the squad and Rs 1 lakh for each support staff member.
- India finished the tournament undefeated, having won all five matches.
- The Indian squad defeated **Chile (3-1)**, **Japan (2-1)**, and **South Africa (2-0)** in the group round before defeating Ireland 2-1 in a penalty shootout in the semifinal.

### Argentina defeats France in the tournament's final match on penalties:

- FIFA World Cup 2022: **Messi's Argentina** won the ultimate prize in men's football in the Lusail Stadium in Lusail, Qatar, defeating France 4-2 on penalties (3-3 after extra time) to win their third World Cup championship from six final appearances in history.
- It had two victories under Diego Maradona in 1978 and 1986.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- Lionel Messi nearly won in 2014, but La Albiceleste fell to Germany in the championship game 0-1 instead.
- The sole connection to Messi's Qatari campaign in 2014 was his Golden Ball victory as Tournament Player of the Year.
- He became the **first player to take home two Golden Balls at the World Cup**.
- The 22nd World Cup just concluded, and it will be another 4 years before the next one.
- Additionally, the 2026 World Cup will be split among Mexico, Canada, and the United States.

### The 2022 FIFA World Cup

- The top 4 team rankings for the 2022 FIFA World Cup are Argentina (winner), France (second), Croatia (third), and Morocco (4th)
- Kylian Mbappe (France) received the Golden Boot Award (8 Goals)
- Lionel Messi of Argentina received the Golden Ball; (7 goals and registering 3 assists)
- Emiliano Martinez received a golden glove (Argentina)
- Enzo Fernandez received the FIFA Young Player Award.
- FIFA Award for Fair Play: England
- Lionel Messi won the Silver Boot Award.
- Olivier Giroud receives the bronze boot (France)
- Kylian Mbappe received the Silver Ball.
- Luka Modric receives the bronze ball (Croatia)

### Karim Benzema of France has declared his retirement from international football:

- **Karim Benzema, a football player for France, has declared his retirement from international competition.**
- Despite having scored 37 goals in 97 games for France, Benzema's tenure with the team hasn't exactly been smooth since his debut 15 years ago.
- In March 2007, **Benzema scored in his first game as a substitute for France against Austria.**
- He was selected for **France's Euro 2008 team**, however, his performance was criticized **after the team was eliminated early.**
- Despite regularly competing in the qualification process, **Benzema was not included in France's World Cup roster for 2010.**
- He was once again a **member of the France squad for Euro 2020.**

### Rafael Nadal and Iga Swiatek have been crowned ITF World Champions 2022:

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## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- **Rafael Nadal of Spain has been awarded the Men's International Tennis Federation (ITF) World Champion 2022 for the fifth time** following a successful 2022 season.
- He previously won the men's ITF World Championship in 2008, 2010, 2017, and 2019.
- **Iga Witek of Poland has been named Women's ITF World Champion 2022** for her achievements in 2022, which included **two Grand Slam titles and eight titles**.
- The winners will be recognized at the annual ITF World Champions Awards ceremony, **which will take place on July 8, 2023, at the Victoria & Albert Museum in London, United Kingdom (UK)**.
- Typically, the event is hosted in Paris, France.
- Barbora Krejckova and Katerina Siniakova have won the ITF Women's Doubles World Championship for the second year in a row and for the third time overall, having previously won the championship in 2018 and 2021.
- For the first time, **Rajeev Ram and Joe Salisbury have been crowned ITF Men's Doubles World Champions**.
- Shingo Kunieda of Japan and Diede de Groot of the Netherlands were honored in the men's and women's wheelchair categories, respectively.
- At the junior level, Gilles Arnaud Bailly of Belgium was rewarded for a season of solid performances, while Roland Garros girls' singles champion Lucie Havlickova of the Czech Republic was crowned ITF Girls World Champion.

### About International Tennis Federation (ITF)

- President- David Haggerty
- Headquarters- London, United Kingdom (UK)
- Establishment- 1913

### Rehan Ahmed of England becomes the country's youngest five-fer on Test debut:

- **Rehan Ahmed, England's leg-spinner, became the youngest men's Test cricketer to capture a five-wicket haul on debut during the third match versus Pakistan now underway at the National Bank Cricket Arena.**
- **Rehan captured three wickets in six overs on his way to 5-48 in the second innings** after making his Test debut at the age of 18 years and 126 days, playing a significant role in bowling out Pakistan for 216 in 74.5 overs on day three of the match.
- Rehan's superb performance enabled England set a 167-run target to win the series 3-0.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- **Rehan eclipsed the mark set by now-Australian captain Pat Cummins**, who was 18 years and 193 days old when he took 6-79 against South Africa in 2011.
- Rehan was introduced into Pakistan's bowling attack after 41 overs of the second innings and had an instant impact by breaking the partnership between Babar Azam and Saud Shakeel, which had put the hosts in control.

### India defeated Bangladesh by 120 runs in the Blind T20 World Cup of 2022:

- The **national blind cricket team of India has won the T20 World Cup for the Blind** three times in a row.
- By a dominant score of 120 runs, **India defeated Bangladesh at Bengaluru's M Chinnaswamy Stadium**.
- **Ajay Kumar Reddy**, the captain of India, chose to bat after winning the toss, and his team finally set Bangladesh a difficult target of 277 runs.
- Only 157 runs for three were scored in response by the Bangladeshi team.
- **Sunil Ramesh received the championship's Man of the Match award**.
- Additionally, he received the Man of the Series honours for the B3 category.
- India, the winning and unbeaten team in the competition, received Rs. 3 lakhs in prize money, while Bangladesh came in second and received Rs. 1.5 lakh.
- In the B2 division, **Ajay was named Man of the Series**.
- In the B1 category, **Mohammed Mahmud Rashid of Bangladesh was named Man of the Series**.
  - ✓ Sunil Ramesh was named Final's Man of the Match (IND)
  - ✓ Sunil Ramesh was named the B3 division's Man of the Match (IND)
  - ✓ Ajay Kumar Reddy was named the B2 Category's Man of the Match (IND)
  - ✓ Mohammed Mahmud Rashid was named the B1 division's player of the match (BAN).

### Goa will host India's first World Table Tennis (WTT) Series event:

- **Goa will host India's first World Table Tennis (WTT) series event from February 27 to March 5**.
- The **top-tier WTT Star Contender Goa 2023 will be held in the Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Indoor Stadium on the Goa University Campus**.
- The competition will be hosted by **Stupa Analytics**, an indigenous sports analytics organization, **with significant assistance from the Goa government**.
- The **World Table Tennis Series (WTT Series) is the official professional table tennis series of events**, featuring the world's greatest players competing in various category tournaments throughout the year, with the four Grand Smashes being the ultimate prize to win.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- The six Star Contender events include 48 men and women in their singles main draws, with the top 30 world rankings allowed to compete, four of whom must be in the world's top 20.
- A 16-team doubles main draw and an eight-team mixed doubles main draw are also available at Star Contender events.
- Eight qualifiers in singles and four in doubles compete against the best, while host countries receive enough wild-card spots in both singles and doubles.

### Morocco has been chosen by FIFA to host the Club World Cup in February 2023:

- The hosting rights for the 2025 Club World Cup, which will include 32 teams, were granted to Morocco by FIFA in February 2023.
- The most recent competition was held in the UAE in February 2022, and Chelsea, an English football team, took first place.
- From February 1 through 11, the usual seven-team competition will feature Real Madrid, the European champion, Flamengo, the South American champion, and Seattle Sounders, the first American team to win the CONCACAF Champions League.
- The competition will continue in its current format, with the top team from the host country competing against the winners of the six continental federations.
- One of the final seven-team editions for continental champions will take place in 2025 when an enlarged, month-long competition will begin.
- The Club World Cup was first staged in Morocco in 2013 and then again in 2014.
- The most recent tournament, which Chelsea won, was held in the United Arab Emirates in February.

### Sam Curran sets new records at the IPL Auction and becomes the most expensive cricketer:

- Sam Curran shatters all records and is now the most expensive cricket player ever acquired by an IPL franchise (IPL).
- Sam Curran, a 24-year-old English cricketer, was purchased by Punjab Kings for \$18.5 crores on the opening day of the IPL auction.
- Kerala is the location of the IPL auctions for the 2023 season.
- Sam Curran has surpassed Ishan Kishan, who was purchased by the Mumbai Indians for \$15.25 crore.
- The same Curran, according to Punjab Kings Director Ness Wadia, is one of the top all-around players in the world and will help our team remain balanced.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- In addition to Sam Curran, Chennai Super Kings paid 16.25 crore for Ben Stokes, and Mumbai Indians paid 17.50 crore for Cameron Green.
- Joshua Little and Shivam Mavi were purchased by Gujarat Titans for 4.4 and 6 crores respectively.
- Will Jacks was purchased by Royal Challengers Bangalore for 3.2 crores.
- For 1.8 crores, Sunrises Hyderabad purchased Mayank Dagar.
- The IPL auctions took place on December 23, 2023.

### **Geto Sora wins Junior International Badminton Championship title in Malaysia:**

- Budding badminton sensation Geto Sora once again made Arunachal proud by winning the Top Arena Junior International Badminton Championship title in the below 9 years category, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- He won the championship title after beating Malaysia's second seed Jaryl Teh in straight sets 21-5, 21-16.
- This is Sora's second international badminton title in two months.
- In November, the 7-year-old Sora won the multinational BTY-Yonex-Singha Championship, which was held at the Banthongyord Badminton School in Bangkok, Thailand.

### **Anurag Thakur inaugurates Sports Science Centre in Karnataka's Udupi:**

- Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports, Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur inaugurated Sports Science Centre in Udupi, Karnataka.
- He also assured the establishment of an FM Station at Brahmavara.
- Every help will be provided to Karnataka Government to promote games Anurag Thakur assured.
- It is not only the effort of the government even parents have equal responsibility to encourage their children to become sports persons.
- Responding to the demand to start an FM station honourable minister said that he will assure that the demand for FM Station will be fulfilled as soon as possible that too in the next four months, in the same financial year.
- Also regarding the establishment of a Science Research Center across the State, Honorable Minister assured that the Central Govt. will support it in all respects.
- Karnataka minister for youth empowerment said these types of Sports and science centres should be started in Northern Karnataka.
- Udupi MLA Raghupathi Bhat Udupi DC Koorma Rao and others were present.

### **Cricket Australia renames Test Player of the Year award in honour of Shane Warne:**

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## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- In memory of the late spin legend Shane Warne, Cricket Australia has renamed its top yearly award for finest performance in Test cricket.
- The **Allan Border Medal**, given to the best performer of the year across all forms, will be the most prestigious award for men, followed by the **Shane Warne Men's Test Player of the Year** award, which will be handed yearly at the Australian Cricket Awards.
- When honours were given to the legendary leg-spinner who passed away on March 4, 2022, while on vacation at the island of Ko Samui, the trophy was renamed, the first day of the annual Boxing Day Test at the Melbourne Cricket Ground against South Africa.
- As one of Australia's all-time greats, it is fitting we acknowledge Shane's extraordinary contribution to test cricket by naming this award in his honour in perpetuity.
- The announcement comes just ahead of **Cricket Austria's awards, including the Allan Border Medal for men and Belinda Clark Women's award**, which will be presented on January 30, 2023.
- **Warne played 145 tests between 1992-2007** and his 708 wickets were the record until he was passed by Sri Lankan off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan.
- The Australian Cricket Awards are held on an annual basis to celebrate the performances of Australian players across national and domestic cricket.

### South Africa's Farhaan Behardien announces retirement:

- **South African batter Farhaan Behardien** announced retirement, concluding an 18-year international cricketing career.
- The **39-year-old** has represented the Proteas in 59 ODIs and has 1074 runs and 14 wickets under his belt.
- Behardien took to his official Twitter handle to announce his retirement.
- Behardien also has 38 T20I caps for South Africa and has amassed 518 runs at an average of 32.37.
- He also led the Proteas in the three-match T20I series against Sri Lanka in January 2017.
- His last international game came way back in 2018, in South Africa's 21-run win over Australia in a T20I at the Carrara stadium.
- The batter remained not out for three off two deliveries.

### Aditya Mittal becomes India's 77th GM:

- **Sixteen-year-old Aditya Mittal** has become India's 77th chess Grandmaster during an ongoing tournament in Spain.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- The Mumbai player, who had secured three GM norms, crossed the 2,500 ELO points mark during the sixth round of the ongoing Ellobregat Open tournament in Spain.
- He drew the game against Spain's No.1 Francisco Vallejo Pons to achieve the feat.
- To become a GM, a player has to secure three GM norms and cross the live rating of 2,500 ELO points.

### About Mittal:

- Mittal earned his maiden GM norm at Serbia Masters 2021.
- Subsequently, he obtained his second GM norm at Ellobregat Open 2021.
- The teenager secured his third GM norm at Serbia Masters 2022.
- He is among the five players sharing the lead with five points at the ongoing Ellobregat Open.
- Mittal is also the fifth Indian to achieve the GM title in 2022 after Bharath Subramaniam, Rahul Srivatshav, V Pranav V, and Pranav Anand.

### IMPORTANT OBITUARIES NEWS

#### 'Yanam,' the first science documentary filmed in Sanskrit, was shown at the 53rd IFFI:

- 'Yaanam,' a non-feature film, was shown in the Indian Panorama section of the 53rd International Film Festival in Goa.
- It is based on former space chairman Padma Bhushan Dr. K. Radhakrishnan's autobiographical book "My Odyssey: Memoirs of the Man Behind the Mangalyaan Mission."
- The film 'Yaanam' depicts India's long-awaited Mars Orbiter Mission (Mangalyaan).
- The 45-minute documentary is entirely in Sanskrit, with the full screenplay and dialogues written in the ancient language.
- AV Anoop produced the film under the company AVA Productions with the full backing of ISRO.
- The film debuted in Chennai on August 21, 2022.
- It is the first science documentary in the history of world cinema to be made in Sanskrit.
- It demonstrates the capability and expertise of the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO), the outstanding contributions of space scientists, and the significance of the Sanskrit language in demonstrating how India overcame an arduous interplanetary journey to achieve a historic victory in the first attempt.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

### Toyota Kirloskar Motor Vice Chairman Vikram Kirloskar passes away

- The vice chairman of Toyota Kirloskar Motor Pvt Ltd, Vikram S Kirloskar has passed away at the age of 64.

#### About Vikram S Kirloskar:

- Vikram S Kirloskar is Known in the industry as a "Passionate Engineer"
- He became the vice chairman of Toyota Kirloskar in 1998.
- He was also the president of Bangalore's Central Manufacturing Institute.
- He has also served as president of the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers from 2013-15.
- He also served as the President of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) for 2019-20.
- He was also responsible for establishing the auto manufacturing industry in Karnataka.

#### Awards & Honors:

- He was awarded the "Suvarna Karnataka" award by the Karnataka government.
- He was conferred with the Indian Institute of Metals (IIM) JRD Tata Award 2020 for his excellence in corporate leadership in Metallurgical Industries.

#### About Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM):

- Founded: 6 October 1997
- Headquarters: Bengaluru, Karnataka, India
- MD: Masakazu Yoshimura
- Toyota Kirloskar Motor Private Limited (TKM) is an Indian joint venture between Toyota Motor Corporation (89%) and Kirloskar Group (11%), for the manufacture and sales of Toyota cars in India.

### Former Chinese President Jiang Zemin Passes away

- Former President of China Jiang Zemin, who supported economic reforms leading to years of growth in the country, Passed away at the age of 96.

#### About Jiang Zemin:

- Jiang Zemin was born in the city of Yangzhou, Jiangsu, on 17 August 1926.
- Leading a divided Communist Party after the 1989 Tiananmen crackdown, Jiang Zemin saw China through history-making changes.
- He was the Communist Party general secretary for 13 years.
- He helped pull in foreign investment after China joined the WTO.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- He served as **general secretary** of the **Chinese Communist Party (CCP)** from 1989 to 2002, as chairman of the **Central Military Commission** from 1989 to 2004, and as **president of China** from 1993 to 2003.
- Jiang represented the "**core of the third generation**" of CCP leaders since 1989.

### Veteran Odia actress Jharana Das passes away

- **Veteran Odia film actress Jharana Das** Passed away at the age of 77 in Cuttack, Odisha.

#### About Jharana Das:

- Jharana Das Born in 1945, Das started her acting career in the **1960s**.
- She had worked as a **child artist** and **announcer with the All India Radio (AIR), Cuttack**.
- She had worked as an **assistant station director of Doordarshan** in Cuttack.
- She also directed a **biographical documentary** on former Odisha chief minister **Harekrushna Mahtab**.
- She has won several accolades for her brilliant performance in landmark films like **Shree Jagannath, Nari, Adinamegha, Hisabnikas, Pujafula, Amadabata, Abhinetri, Malajanha, and Heera Nella**.

#### Awards & Honors:

- Das was awarded the **prestigious Jayadev Puraskar** by the State Government for her contribution to the **Odia film industry**.

### Oscar-winning documentarian Julia Reichert passes away

- **Veteran documentarian, Julia Reichert**, who won an **Oscar** in 2020 for her feature 'American Factory', has passed away at the age of 76.

#### About Julia Reichert:

- Julia Bell Reichert was an **American Academy Award-winning documentary filmmaker, activist, and feminist**.
- She was a **co-founder of New Day Films**.
- Her documentaries, including the **Oscar-nominated "Union Maids," "Seeing Red: Stories of American Communists,"** and **"The Last Truck: Closing of a GM Plant,"** addressed issues of gender, class, race, and the world economy.
- She spent 28 years teaching film production at **Wright State University** in addition to being a filmmaker

#### Awards & Honors:

- Reichert was a **four-time Academy Award-nominated director**, for **Union Maids (1977), Seeing Red: Stories of American Communists (1984), The Last Truck: Closing of a GM Plant (2010), and American Factory (2020, which won the Oscar)**.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- She was a **two-time winner** of the Primetime Emmy, a two-time nominee for the Peabody Award, and a **director of a film** on the National Film Registry.
- She was the **recipient** of the award for **Distinguished Service to Labor and Working-Class History** from the **Labor and Working-Class History Association (LAWCHA)**.
- She has been honored with **lifetime achievement awards** from the **International Documentary Association**, the **Full Frame Documentary Film Festival**, and the **Hot Docs Film Festival**.

### Economist and ex-Union minister Yoginder K Alagh passes away

- **Renowned economist, academic and former Union minister Yoginder K. Alagh** passed away at the age of 83 in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.

#### About Yoginder K. Alagh:

- Alagh was born at Chakwal in Punjab, now in **Pakistan**
- He was a noted **agricultural economist** and former Union Minister.
- He is known for his “**inclusive approach to development**”.
- During the 1980s, he **headed the Agricultural Prices Commission (APC)** as well the **Bureau of Industrial Costs & Prices (BICP)**.
- He re-organised Indian planning on an **agro-climatic basis** as the **Chairman of the Agricultural Prices Commission during 1982-1983**.
- He was **elected to Rajya Sabha from Gujarat** in 1996 and remained a member of the Upper House till 2000.
- He served as the **Vice-Chancellor of the JawaharLal Nehru University** from 1992 to 1996.
- He served as the **Union minister of state for Planning and Programme Implementation, Science and Technology and Power** during 1996-98.
- He also served as the **chairman of the Institute of Rural Management Anand (IRMA)** from 2006 to 2012.
- He has been the **chairman of the Agricultural Prices Commission of India**, adviser to the Planning Commission of India and the chairman of the Economic Group of the Indian Institute of Management, Calcutta.

### City of Joy author Dominique Lapierre passes away

- **Dominique Lapierre**, the **French author** and well-known in India for his ode to the city of Kolkata titled 'The City of Joy', passed away at the age of 91.

#### About Dominique Lapierre:

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- Dominique Lapierre was born on July 30, 1931, in Chatelaillon, Charente-Maritime, France
- Mr Lapierre's well-known books are:
- 'Is Paris Burning?',
- 'Freedom at Midnight',
- 'O Jerusalem',
- Five Past Midnight in Bhopal: The Epic Story of the World's Deadliest Industrial Disaster, and 'The Fifth Horseman'
- His 1985 novel "City of Joy" was about the hardships of a rickshaw puller in Kolkata.
- He contributed his earnings for patients suffering from tuberculosis and leprosy.

### Awards & Honors:

- Lapierre was awarded the **Padma Bhushan**, India's third highest civilian award in the 2008 Republic Day honours list.

### Artist, writer, and Padma Shri awardee ManoharDevadoss passes away

- Renowned Indian artist, writer, and Shri awardee ManoharDevadoss passed away at the age of 86 in Chennai, Tamil Nadu (TN).

### About ManoharDevadoss:

- Devadoss was born on 10 September 1936, in Madurai, Tamil Nadu.
- He was well-known for his paintings of traditional buildings.
- In his 30s, he was diagnosed with retinitis pigmentosa (a progressive, incurable degenerative eye disease) which leads to total blindness.
- He authored many books such as - A poem to courage, Multiple facets of my Madurai, Mahe, and Mano: Challenges, Green Well Years, etc.

### Awards & Honors:

- He was awarded the **Padma Shri (2020)**, India's fourth-highest civilian award, for his inspirational work in Art and Charity.

### Olympian & Asian Games medallist Kenneth Powell passes away

- Olympic sprinter & a member of the 1970 Asian Games bronze medal-winning 4x100m relay team Kenneth Powell, passed away at the age of 82 in Bengaluru, Karnataka.

### About Kenneth Lawrence Powell:

- Powell was born on 20 April 1940 in Kolar, in present-day Karnataka, India.



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- He was an **Indian track and field athlete** from the state of Karnataka.
- He was popularly known as "**the Gentleman Sprinter**"
- Powell was one of India's top athletes in the **1960s**.
- He represented India in the **100m, 200m, and 4x100m relay events at Tokyo 1964**
- He represented **Karnataka** in the **National Handball Championship** in 1970.
- He also won the **silver medal** for the **40–44 age group** in the **100m event** at the **Asia Masters Athletics Championships** in **Singapore** in 1981.
- He also represented India in the **45-49 age group** at **World Masters Championships** in **Melbourne**.

### Awards & Honors:

- He was a recipient of the **Government of India's Arjuna Award** in **1965** & he was the **first sportsperson from Karnataka** to win the award.
- He was a recipient of the **Government of Karnataka's Rajyotsava Award** in **2018**

### Marathi Actress & Lavani Singer Sulochana Chavan Passes Away

- **Renowned Lavani singer and Marathi actress Sulochana Kadam-Chavan** passed away at the age of **92** in **Mumbai, Maharashtra**.

### About Sulochana Chavan:

- Sulochana Kadam was born on **13 March 1933** in **Mumbai, Maharashtra**.
- She is better known as **Sulochana Chavan**.
- At the age of **6**, she took part in local dramas as **Krishna** in garbas.
- She used to act in local drama, theatre, and **Garba groups**, followed by **Gujarati** stage acts, working in **Urdu and Hindi** plays and also performing roles in **Punjabi and Tamil** films.

### Awards & Honors:

- She was honoured with the **Lata Mangeshkar Award** for the year **2010** instituted by the **Government of Maharashtra**.
- In **2012**, **Sangeet Natak Akademi Award** was conferred on her.
- She has also been conferred the title of "**Lavanisamradhni**" (**Queen of Lavani**) by the notable Marathi litterateur **Pralhad Keshav Atre** for her singing contribution to the art genre.
- Chavan has been awarded the **Padma Shri** in **March 2022**.

### About Lavani:

- Lavani is a genre of **music popular** in **Maharashtra, India**.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- The word Lavani is derived from the word 'Lavanya' which means 'beauty'

### The last Hawaiian princess Abigail Kinoiki Kekaulike Kawānanakoa Passes away

- Hawaiian royalty Abigail Kinoiki Kekaulike Kawānanakoa, known as the "last Hawaiian princess" or the "last American princess Passed away at the age of 96 in Honolulu, Hawaii.

#### About Abigail Kinoiki Kekaulike Kawānanakoa:

- Abigail Kinoiki Kekaulike Kawānanakoa was born on April 23, 1926, in Honolulu, Oahu, Territory of Hawaii.
- She was a member of the House of Kawānanakoa.
- Kawānanakoa was a noted philanthropist, having amassed a fortune of \$215 million mainly inheritance from her great-grandfather, James Campbell.
- She funded various Native Hawaiian causes and contributed to the maintenance of the Iolani Palace, America's only royal residence that is now a museum.

### 1971 Indo-Pak war hero, Bhairon Singh Rathore, passes away

- A Border Security Force (BSF) veteran and hero of the 1971 India-Pakistan War, Bhairon Singh Rathore has passed away at the age of 81 in Jodhpur, Rajasthan.

#### About Lance Naik Rathore:

- Lance Naik Rathore served in the **14th BSF unit** during the war and retired from service in 1987.
- The BSF veteran's bravery at Rajasthan's Longewala post during the war was portrayed by actor **Suniel Shetty** in the **Bollywood movie 'Border'**.
- Rathore was deployed at the Longewala post in the Thar desert, commanding a small BSF unit that was accompanied by a company of the **Army's 23 Punjab regiment**.
- It was the **bravery** of these men that decimated an **assaulting Pakistani brigade and tank regiment** at this location on **December 5, 1971**.

#### Awards & Honors:

- In recognition of his bravery, Rathore was awarded the **Sena Medal** in 1972.

### Gamaka exponent & Padma Shri awardee H R Keshava Murthy passes away

- A senior gamaka exponent and Padma Shri awardee H R Keshava Murthy passed away in the Shivamogga district of Karnataka.

#### About H R Keshava Murthy:

- Murthy was born on 22 February 1934 in a family of gamaka artists.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – December 2022

- He had his initial **training** from his **father Ramaswamy Shastry**.
- Under the **guidance of Venkateshaiah**, he continued his studies.
- Over the decades he had presented hundreds of programs and trained many students.
- Through his performances, he publicised noted **Kannada epics**.

### Awards & Honors:

- Murthy was awarded the **Shantala Natya Sri Award** in **1998** for his **contribution to classical dance** by the **Government of Karnataka**.
- In **2002**, he was awarded the **Rajyotsava Prashasti** and the **Karnataka Ratna award** by the **Government of Karnataka**.
- In **2022**, the **Government of India** conferred him with the **country's fourth highest civilian award Padma Shri**, in the **field of arts**.

### What is Gamaka?

- Gamaka, also known as **kavya vaachana**, is a form of storytelling by singing that originated in **Karnataka, India**.

### Veteran Telugu Actor Kaikala Satyanarayana Passes away

- **Veteran Telugu actor Kaikala Satyanarayana**, known for his villain and other character roles, passed away at the age of 87 in **Hyderabad, Telangana**.

### About Kaikala Satyanarayana:

- Kaikala Satyanarayana was born on **25 July 1935** in **Andhra Pradesh**.
- He appeared in over **750 films** and served as the **Member of Parliament** in the **11th Lok Sabha** representing the **Machilipatnam constituency** from the **Telugu Desam Party**.
- He also became a politician for a while and turned producer for many films such as **Kodama Simham, Bangaru Kutumbam, and Muddula Mogudu**.

### Awards & Honors:

- He was the recipient of the **2011 Raghupathi Venkaiah Award** and the **2017 Filmfare Award** for **lifetime achievement** in **Telugu cinema**.

### Eminent scholar, Padma Shri awardee Sribhashyam Vijayasarithi passed away

- **Veteran Sanskrit scholar, Sribhashyam Vijayasarithi**, who is known for his poetry, has **passed away** at the age of 86 in **Telangana**.

### About Sribhashyam Vijayasarithi:

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- Sribhashyam Vijayasarithi was born on March 10, 1936, in Chegurthi village in Karimnagar district, Telangana.
- He was an Indian author, Sanskrit grammarian, Philosopher, and critic.
- He began composing poetry at the age of 7.
- He was also the founder of Sri Yagna Varaha Swamy Kshetram (temple complex).
- He has written over 100 books in Sanskrit and Telugu.
- He introduced 'seesam', a Telugu poetic form and he is the first man who introduced the epistolary form in Sanskrit.

### Awards & Honors:

- In 2020, he was honoured with India's highly prestigious award Padma Shri for his excellent work in the field of Literature and Education.

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