

Current Affairs MONTHLY



NOVEMBER 2022

**By
CivilsTap Himachal**



**For HPAS & Other
Competitive
Exam in
Himachal Pradesh**

Prelims

+91 7814622609

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NATIONAL NEWS.....	11
1.1. AFSPA to remain imposed for 6 more months in Nagaland, Arunachal.....	11
1.2. Operation Chakra: CBI cracks down on cybercrime.....	11
1.3. Adani Green commissions largest 600 MW wind-solar plant in Rajasthan.....	11
1.4. The Quality Council of India is set to celebrate its Silver Jubilee at the Ambedkar International Centre in New Delhi.....	12
1.5. Govt to organise PM-National Apprenticeship Melas on Oct 10.....	12
1.6. NADA & NDTL organizing 3-day long WADA Athlete Biological Passport ABP Symposium-2022 from Oct 12 in New Delhi.	12
1.7. CSIR-NAL in Bengaluru successfully conducts Drone-based magnetic survey near Magnetic Hill and Puga Chumthang region of Leh-Ladakh.....	13
1.8. Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw inaugurates India's First Aluminum Freight Rake at Bhubaneswar Railway Station.....	13
1.9. PM Modi to inaugurate PM Kisan Samman Sammelan 2022 in New Delhi.	13
1.10. PM Modi to review site work progress of Maritime Heritage Complex at Lothal in Gujarat.....	14
1.11. Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri dedicates Asia's largest Compressed Biogas Plant CBG to people of Punjab. 14	14
1.12. PM to inaugurate 'Indian Urban Housing Conclave-2022' in Gujarat on October 19.	14
1.13. SAIL signs agreement with AAI to facilitate commercial operations at Rourkela airport under UDAN scheme. 15	15
1.14. CSIR- Advanced Materials and Processes Research Institute (AMPRI) has recently converted red mud into X-ray shielding tiles.....	15
INTERNATIONAL NEWS.....	16
1.15. Burkina Faso witnesses second coup of the year.	16
1.16. India, Maldives ink \$100-mn line of credit agreement.....	16
1.17. UN peacekeeping chief Jean-Pierre Lacroix to visit India.	16
1.18. India to host diplomats of UNSC along with other member states for key meeting of Counter-Terrorism Committee on October 28-29, 2022.	17
1.19. Japan space agency rocket carrying 8 satellites fails.	17
1.20. Indo-US Vaccine Action Programme Joint Statement extended till 2027.	17
1.21. JSW Steel Joins United Nations Global Compact Initiative.	18
1.22. India to host 90th General Assembly of INTERPOL.....	18
1.23. NATO begins annual nuclear exercises in north western Europe.....	18
1.24. Nigeria: More than 600 people killed in worst flood in a decade.	19
1.25. UK Prime Minister Liz Truss resigns after less than seven weeks in Downing Street.....	19
1.26. HAWK air defence equipment.....	19

1.27. Lebanon delivers signed sea border deal to US mediator.....	20
1.28. New Zealand's Plain Language Act.....	20
DAY REMEMBER.....	21
1.29. PFRDA to observe National Pension System Diwas on October 1.....	21
1.30. October 1 is observed as the International Day of Older Persons across the globe.	21
1.31. The United Nations observes the first Monday of October as World Habitat Day.	21
1.32. World Teachers' Day or International Teachers' Day	21
1.33. World Cotton Day 2022.....	22
1.34. World Migratory Bird Day 2022 celebrates on 8th October.....	22
1.35. IREDA celebrates "Cyber Jaagrukta Diwas"	23
1.36. International Girl Child Day is celebrated on October 11.....	23
1.37. The first World Sloth Bear Day was observed on October 12.	23
1.38. International E-Waste Day 2022 observed on 14 October.....	24
1.39. Global Handwashing Day 2022: this year's theme is Unite for Universal Hand Hygiene	24
1.40. International Day for "Eradication of Poverty."	25
1.41. World Statistics Day 2022 celebrates on 20 October.	25
1.42. Infantry Day is commemorated on 27 October every year.	25
PERSON NEWS.....	26
1.43. PM Modi pays tribute to Shyamji Krishna Varma on his birth anniversary.....	26
1.44. Actor Pankaj Tripathi declared 'National Icon' by Election Commission of India.....	26
1.45. President Droupadi Murmu appoints Dr. Justice DY Chandrachud as new Chief Justice of India.	26
1.46. Dr Bimal Jalan authored a book titled "From dependence to Self-Reliance"	26
1.47. Shefali Juneja elected as chairperson of UN's Air Transport Committee.....	27
ART & CULTURE.....	28
1.48. Dubai's new Hindu temple all set to open ahead of Dussehra.....	28
1.49. 66th Dhammachakra Pravartan Day being celebrated at DeekshaBhoomi in Nagpur.	28
1.50. Ujjain: PM Modi to inaugurate first phase of Shri Mahakaleshwar Temple Extension project.	28
1.51. Union Education Ministry to organise 'Kashi Tamil Sangamam' month-long programme from November 16,2022.	29
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY.....	30
1.52. Govt plans to set up 100 labs for 5G technology across India, says Telecom Minister Ashwini Vaishnav.....	30
1.53. China's Zhurong rover has peered under the surface of Mars and has found evidence of two huge floods that shaped the landscape.....	30
1.54. The Indian space economy is set to reach \$13 billion by 2025, according to a joint report prepared by EY and the Indian Space Association (ISpA).....	30

1.55. Union Minister Nitin Gadkari launches Toyota’s first of its kind pilot project on Flexi-Fuel Strong Hybrid Electric Vehicles in India.....	30
1.56. NMDC signs MoU with RailTel for ICT and digital solutions.	31
1.57. President Droupadi Murmu inaugurates ‘PARAM KAMRUPA’ Supercomputer facility at IIT Guwahati. 31	
1.58. Education and Skill Development Minister Dharmendra Pradhan inaugurates IInvenTiv at IIT Delhi..	31
1.59. CERT-In and Power-CSIRTs jointly conduct Cyber Security Exercise “PowerEX-2022”.	32
1.60. ISRO to boost NavIC, widen user base of location system.	32
1.61. ISRO carries out key test of its heaviest rocket's engine.	32
ECONOMY	34
1.62. Output growth in India’s eight core infrastructure sectors slowed to 3.3% in August 2022 from 4.5% in the previous month.	34
1.63. RBI hikes repo rate by 50 basis points to 5.9%, fourth hike in a row.	34
1.64. Union Minister Dr. Jitendra: India's geospatial economy is expected to cross Rs. 63100 crore rupees by 2025 at a growth rate of 12.8%.	34
1.65. SBI warns against freebies; Says they have huge fiscal costs.	35
1.66. Mudra loans log a record 30% growth in H1 FY23.....	35
1.67. OPEC & its Russia-led allies decide to cut oil production by two million barrels per day.	35
1.68. Credit guarantee scheme for startups notified: DPIIT	36
1.69. RBI to soon commence pilot launch of E-Rupee for specific use cases; Issues concept note.....	36
1.70. India gets 4th set of Swiss bank account details.....	37
1.71. IMF cuts global GDP growth projection; IMF expects inflation in India to come down to 4 percent next year. 38	
1.72. Retail inflation rises to 7.41 per cent in September.	38
1.73. PM Gati Shakti-National Master Plan aims to cut down logistic cost by 4-5 pc.....	38
1.74. India stands third in the world in terms of fish production: MoS Dr. L Murugan.	39
1.75. CCI imposes fine of over Rs 1,337 cr on Google for abusing its dominant position in multiple markets. 39	
1.76. Bank of Baroda launches eight Digital Bank Units.	40
1.77. BSE Launched Electronic Gold Receipts.	40
DEFENCE	41
1.78. Indigenously-developed Light Combat Helicopter, "Prachanda", inducted into Indian Air Force at Jodhpur in Rajasthan.....	41
1.79. India, South Korea hold naval exercise.	41
1.80. India signed an agreement with Armenia to export missiles, rockets & ammunition.	41
1.81. Govt announces creation of Weapon System Branch and unveils new combat uniform for air force personnel.	42

1.82. NSG holding multinational joint anti-terror drill.....	42
1.83. INS Tarkash reaches South Africa to participate in 7th edition of IBSAMAR.....	43
1.84. Indian Navy Conducts Offshore Security Exercise, 'Prasthan'	43
1.85. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh launches 'Maa Bharati Ke Sapoot' website for contribution to Armed Forces Battle Casualties Welfare Fund.	43
1.86. DefExpo 2022: India-Africa Defence Dialogue to be held in Gandhinagar.....	43
1.87. Defence Minister hosts Indian Ocean Region plus Defence Ministers' Conclave on the sidelines of DefExpo 2022.....	44
1.88. The Indo-Russian joint venture at Korwa in Uttar Pradesh will start manufacturing AK-203 assault rifles by 2022 end.....	44
1.89. Army to procure 750 hi-tech drones for precision strikes along LoC, LAC.	45
1.90. PM to lay foundation stone of C-295MW transport aircraft manufacturing project for IAF at Vadodara on Oct 30, 2022.....	45
1.91. India, France participate in Garuda VII exercise.	46
1.92. The fourth edition of the Goa Maritime Symposium (GMS) is being conducted by the Naval War College (NWC) at Goa from 31 October to 01 November 2022.	46
INDEX AND REPORTS	47
1.93. Russia-Ukraine conflict forces over 4 million children into poverty: UNICEF.....	47
1.94. Internet Freedom in India improves after 4 years of decline: Freedom House.	47
1.95. IIT Bombay best in employability, IIT Delhi ranks second in QS Rankings.....	47
1.96. OAG report: Delhi's IGI airport is now world's 10th busiest airport.	48
SUMMITS.....	49
1.97. India participates at 3rd G20 Sherpa meeting in Indonesia.	49
1.98. Ministerial dialogue of US-India Strategic Clean Energy Partnership to be held on 7th Oct 2022.	49
1.99. Fifth Assembly of International Solar Alliance to be held from Oct 17; solar & mini-grids answer to universal access of energy, says Power Minister.....	49
1.100. ASI organises a two-day National Conference on Project Mausam - Jaladhipurayatra: Exploring Cross-Cultural Linkages along the Indian Ocean Rim Countries.....	50
1.101. Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) hosts Conference on B20 Indonesia Global Dialogue.....	50
1.102. India hosts 6th meeting of India-Norway Joint Working Group on Higher Education in New Delhi. ...	50
1.103. The Second United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress.....	51
1.104. India participates at 6th East Asia Summit Education Minister's Meeting.....	51
1.105. Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA).....	51
1.106. New Delhi: 5th Assembly of International Solar Alliance to begin under India's presidentship.	52
1.107. Bangladesh: Youth from 70 countries to take part in Global Youth Climate Summit.	52
1.108. Fiji to host World Hindi conference next year.	52

1.109. First conference on Akash Tatva - Akash for Life to be held in Dehradun.....	53
1.110. IIT-Madras and NASA researchers study microbes on space station.	53
1.111. UN Security Council’s Counter-Terrorism Committee meet to be held in Mumbai & Delhi on October 28 and 29.	53
1.112. COP27: 27th annual UN meeting on climate to take place in Sharm-el-Sheikh, Egypt from November 6 to 18.	54
1.113. Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya addresses second G20 Health Ministers Meet.	54
1.114. UN Security Council’s Counter Terrorism Committee Meeting adopts Delhi Declaration; calls for zero tolerance towards terrorism.....	54
POLICY AND PROGRAMME	56
1.115. PM launches YUVA 2.0 scheme for mentoring young authors:.....	56
1.116. Over 69% houses constructed under PMAY in rural India are owned by women, says government... ..	56
1.117. Centre approves amendments in FM Radio Phase-III policy.	56
1.118. Electoral reforms: Election Commission proposes to allow candidate to contest from one seat only.	57
1.119. Women, Child Development Ministry to organize National Conference on Skilling in Non-Traditional Livelihood for Girls - Betiyan Bane Kushal	58
1.120. Centre extends ethanol subsidy scheme till March 2023.....	58
1.121. Multi-State Cooperative Societies (Amendment) Bill, 2022 gets Cabinet approval.....	58
1.122. Cabinet approves Rs 6,600 crore scheme 'PM-DevINE' for North-Eastern states.....	59
1.123. Indian Railways set to operate freight versions of Vande Bharat trains.	60
1.124. The government has decided to set up language centres to prepare study material and courses for each of the 22 languages in the eighth schedule of the Constitution.....	60
1.125. Union Minister Narendra Singh Tomar announces creating fund of Rs 500 crore as accelerator program for Startups working in agriculture sector.	60
1.126. Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla to address National Conference on Tourist Police Scheme in New Delhi.	61
1.127. India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) and Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH) Collaborate for innovations in Financial Product and Services.	61
1.128. Union Home and Cooperation Minister recently said that National Investigation Agency (NIA) agency to have offices in all states by 2024.....	62
1.129. Centre extends ban on sugar exports for another year.....	62
ENRONOMENT.....	64
1.130. Stockholm Convention to take final call on 5 Persistent Organic Pollutants.	64
1.131. The Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR & Adjoining Areas (CAQM).	65
1.132. India's first ever sanctuary for the endangered Slender Loris will be set up in Karur & Dindigul districts of Tamil Nadu.....	65
1.133. CAQM reiterates to Central/State Govts to strictly implement actions under GRAP in view of air quality index.....	65

1.134. Global CO2 emissions to grow less than 1 pc this year, thanks to renewables: International Energy Agency. 66	
1.135. Extreme heat caused \$159 bn income loss last year: Climate Transparency Report 2022.....	66
1. Tim Cook calls on Apple suppliers to decarbonise by 2030.....	67
1.136. Two more Indian Beaches enter the coveted list of Blue Beaches.....	67
1.137. Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) recently approved commercial cultivation of genetically modified mustard variety DMH (Dhara Mustard Hybrid)-11.....	68
1.138. Two more Indian Beaches enter the coveted list of Blue Beaches.....	69
1.139. Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) recently approved commercial cultivation of genetically modified mustard variety DMH (Dhara Mustard Hybrid)-11.....	69
GEOGRAPHY.....	71
1.140. Agriculture Ministry, NAFED signed MoU to boost the initiative to promote millets towards the celebration of the international year of millets 2023.	71
1.141. India emerges as largest producer of sugar in world.....	71
1.142. Japan seeks Geographical Indication tag for nihonshu, an alcoholic beverage.	71
1.143. Ozone hole continues shrinking in 2022, says NASA.	72
1.144. Indian Agriculture Research Institute has successfully tested two new dwarf varieties in Uttar Pradesh that give double the yield of traditional variety of Kalanamak rice.	72
HEALTH	74
1.145. Lumpy Skin Disease: A virus from the family Poxviridae, genus Capripoxvirus.....	74
1.146. CDSCO takes up urgent investigation after WHO issues alert on India-made cough & cold syrups used for paediatric groups.....	74
1.147. India registers decline in female Infant Mortality Rate (IMR).	75
1.148. Mental health day: 24x7 helpline launched for counselling services.....	75
1.149. Govt forms expert committee to probe WHO report on deaths of children in Gambia.	76
1.150. Scientists develop 3D-printed wearable ring to repel mosquitoes.	76
1.151. Hyderabad-based CCMB part of world’s largest genomic study.	76
1.152. China rolls out world’s first oral Covid vaccine.	77
1.153. Centre deploys High-Level team to Kerala to take stock of Avian Influenza Outbreak.....	77
1.154. Kerala confirms African Swine Flu at pig farm in Kottayam district.	78
1.155. AIIMS New Delhi launches dashboard to provide real-time emergency beds availability data.....	78
SPORTS	79
1.156. Saudi Arabia to host 2029 Asian Winter Games.	79
1.157. 36th National Games, Pooja Patel becomes first athelete to win Gold in Yogasana.	79
1.158. Pankaj Advani wins gold medal at IBSF World Billiards Championship in Kuala Lumpur.....	79
1.159. 36th National Games comes to a close at ceremony in Surat; Goa to host 37th National Games in October next year.	79

1.160. Indian grandmaster Arjun defeats five-time world Chess champion Magnus Carlsen.	80
1.161. Fifth Khelo India Youth Games-2022 to be held in Madhya Pradesh.	80
1.162. India among 10 potential hosts for future Olympic Games.	80
1.163. Aman Sehrawat becomes first Indian wrestler to win Gold medal at U-23 World Wrestling Championships in Spain.	81
AWARDS	82
1.164. J&K felicitated for excellence in achieving UN SDGs in last couple of years.	82
1.165. Swedish geneticist Svante Paabo wins 2022 Nobel prize.	82
1.166. Indian-origin, Dr. Vivek Lall receives Lifetime Achievement Award by US President.	82
1.167. Three get Nobel Prize in physics for work on quantum science.	83
1.168. The SASTRA Ramanujan Prize for 2022 will be awarded to Yunqing Tang.	83
1.169. Carolyn Bertozzi, Morten Meldal, Barry Sharpless awarded Nobel Prize in Chemistry.	83
1.170. French writer Annie Ernaux wins 2022 Nobel Prize in Literature.	84
1.171. Nobel Peace Prize Awarded to Human Rights Advocates from Ukraine, Russia and Belarus.	84
1.172. Nobel Economic Prize: US Trio awarded for research on Banks, Financial Crises.	85
1.173. Booker Prize 2022 awarded to Sri Lankan author Shehan Karunatilaka for his novel 'The Seven Moons of Maali Almeida'	85
1.174. HPCL conferred with 'Dushyant Samman' for pioneering work in the field of Hindi Language.	85
1.175. Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella receives Padma Bhushan in US.	86
1.176. Ukrainian people wins EU's 2022 Sakharov freedom prize.	86
STATE NEWS.....	87
1.177. India Post starts dedicated Road Network Transport service between Jammu & Srinagar.	87
1.178. J&K achieves milestone of being first to establish at least 75 Amrit Sarovars in each of its districts. ...	87
1.179. PM Modi declares Modhera in Gujarat as India's first 24x7 solar-powered village.	87
1.180. Chhattisgarh: Scheme to ensure hot cooked meals for pregnant moms.	88
1.181. CIL to set up 1190 MW solar power plant in Rajasthan.	88
1.182. Gujarati new year 'Bestu Varsh' celebrated.	88
1.183. Gujarat achieves 100 percent household tap connections under Jal Jeevan Mission.	89
1.184. Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik launches Safal common credit portal for farmers.	89
1.185. Miyawaki forest and Maze garden to be new attractions at Statue of Unity.	89
HIMACHAL PRADESH NEWS	91
1.186. PM Modi to lay stone of medical devices park in Nalagarh, Solan.	91
1.187. Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam to invest Rs 1.5 lakh cr over 8 years.	91
1.188. Water sports facility inaugurated in Gobind Sagar lake.	91
1.189. Himachal Pradesh tops in drinking water quality: Survey	91
1.190. 25% villages have no road link in Himachal Pradesh.	92

1.191. Cleanliness: Solan civic body gets top rank in Himachal Pradesh.....	92
1.192. PM Modi inaugurates All India Institute of Medical Sciences Bilaspur in Himachal Pradesh.	93
1.193. Census of musk deer, blue sheep at Kullu after Dusshera.....	93
1.194. HPAU signs MoU with Hyderabad institute.	93
1.195. Modi first PM to attend 400-yr-old Kullu Dussehra.....	94
1.196. Stop making anaesthetic that killed 5, Himachal Pradesh firm told.....	94
1.197. 'Hero of Kangchenjunga' Colonel Prem Chand dies in Kullu.	94
1.198. Solan mountaineer scales Mt Manaslu.....	95
1.199. Shimla to get 24X7 water supply by 2025.....	95
1.200. Union Minister Anurag Thakur inaugurates Water Sports Center in Himachal Pradesh.	95
1.201. World's first giant swing backed by AI to be launched in Himachal's Manali.	96
1.202. Himachal Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar releases poetry collection.....	96
1.203. Retail store of natural farm products opens in Shimla.	97
1.204. PM Modi to flag off Amb-New Delhi Vande Bharat train.	97
1.205. Himachal Pradesh to get 4 hydroelectric projects.....	97
1.206. Drugs from Himachal units fail quality test: CDSKO report.	97
1.207. Shoolini University top private institute.	98
1.208. World's highest village gets metalled road.....	98
1.209. Himachal Pradesh starts new scheme to help farmers.	98
1.210. Justice CB Barowalia appointed Himachal Pradesh Lokayukta.....	98
1.211. Shimla water supply project row reaches World Bank.....	99
1.212. It's illegal: NGT sets aside Shimla Development Plan.	99
1.213. Turbulent times of Punjab discussed at Kasauli Literary Festival.	100
1.214. Diplomat: UK govt funding project in Shimla.....	100
1.215. Warehouse for EVMs being built at Kullu.....	101
1.216. Finally, eco-friendly market becomes functional at Marhi.....	101
1.217. Specially abled girl of Kangra to get writing award.	102
1.218. Feature film of Shimla lad to be premiered at Estonia fest.....	102
1.219. SJVN signs MoU to develop 1,000 MW floating solar projects.....	102
1.220. 57th Foundation Day of the Indian Institute of Advanced Study (IIAS).....	103
1.221. 19% of 68 sitting MLAs facing criminal cases.....	103
1.222. Kullu girl Ishani proves her mettle in mountaineering once again.....	104
1.223. Shimla: Annual 'Pathron Ka Mela' held at Dhami village.....	104
1.224. Commissioning of power project commences.....	104
1.225. Kufri redevelopment plan hits a roadblock.....	104

1.226. Renuka Ji fair to begin on Nov 3..... 105

1.227. Plan to link Palampur varsity tea gardens with tourism..... 105

1.228. The central government decision to bring the Hatti community under the Scheduled Tribes list in Himachal Pradesh’s Sirmaur district is spreading resentment among some sections..... 106

1.229. Nalagarh school adjudged best for third time in row..... 106

1.230. Exiled Tibetans register as voters in Dharamsala..... 106

1.231. Locals rue lack of job opportunities in BBN area..... 106

OTHER IMPORTANT ONE LINERS.....108

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NATIONAL NEWS

1.1. AFSPA TO REMAIN IMPOSED FOR 6 MORE MONTHS IN NAGALAND, ARUNACHAL.

- The Centre has extended for another six months the application of the “disturbed area” under the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act - AFSPA in 12 districts of Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh and some parts of five other districts of the two states to facilitate anti-insurgency operations.
- In a notification issued by Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), it is said that the AFSPA will be extended for six months beginning October 1 in nine districts -- Dimapur, Niuland, Chumoukedima, Mon, Kiphire, Noklak, Phek, Peren and Zunheboto -- and 16 police stations in four other districts -- Kohima, Mokochung, Longleng and Wokha -- of Nagaland.
- In another notification, the MHA said the application of the "disturbed area" under the AFSPA will continue for six more months from Saturday in Tirap, Changlang and Longding districts and the areas falling within the jurisdiction of Namsai and Mahadevpur police stations in Namsai district of Arunachal Pradesh, bordering Assam.
- While Nagaland has a total 16 districts, Arunachal Pradesh has 26.
- The AFSPA-1958 empowers security forces to conduct operations and arrest anyone without any prior warrant besides giving immunity from arrest and prosecution to the security forces if they shoot someone dead.
- The reduction of jurisdiction of AFSPA came in April this year following the recommendation of a high-level committee constituted to examine the possibility of lifting of the AFSPA after the killing of 14 civilians by the Army in Nagaland’s Mon district in December 2021 in a case of “mistaken identity”.

1.2. OPERATION CHAKRA: CBI CRACKS DOWN ON CYBERCRIME.

- After busting two call centres in Pune and Ahmedabad, which targeted unsuspecting American citizens, the CBI has launched ‘Operation Chakra’ in coordination with Interpol, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Royal Canadian Mounted Police and Australian Federal Police. It has raided 115 locations across the country with local police forces in multiple states, officials said.
- A senior CBI official said, “During the searches so far, cash amounting to Rs 1.8 crore (approx) and 1.5 kg gold (approx) were seized. Bank accounts with an amount of around Rs 1.89 crore have been frozen in Karnataka.”
- He went on to add that digital proofs including mobile phones, laptops and hard disks were seized.
- The official said the searches were conducted at 115 locations. Of these, 87 in 16 states were raided by the CBI in connection with 11 cases. The local police of states and Union Territories covered 28 places. He said the searches were part of an ongoing crackdown against cybercriminals.
- “Among the states and UTs, Assam Police raided two places, Andaman and Nicobar Islands police at four places, Chandigarh Police searched three places in the city, Delhi Police covered five locations, Karnataka Police raided 12 locations and Punjab Police covered two locations,” the official said.

1.3. ADANI GREEN COMMISSIONS LARGEST 600 MW WIND-SOLAR PLANT IN RAJASTHAN

- Adani Green Energy Ltd (AGEL) has commissioned the world’s largest wind-solar power plant of 600 MW capacity in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan.
- The plant has a power purchase agreement with Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) at Rs 2.69/kWh for 25 years.

Key Points:

- The project consists of 600 MW solar-wind plants.
- In May 2022, AGEL operationalized India’s first hybrid power plant with a capacity of 390 MW in Jaisalmer.
- The commencement of the 600 MW plant AGEL has a total operational generation capacity of 6.7 GW.
- This includes an operational hydropower generation capacity of 1 GW, the largest in the world.
- AGEL’s total renewable portfolio goes up to 20.4 GW to reach its vision of 45 GW capacity by 2030.

About Adani Green Energy

- Adani Green Energy Limited (AGEL) is an Indian renewable energy company headquartered in Ahmedabad, Gujarat. It is owned by Indian conglomerate Adani Group. The company operates the Kamuthi Solar Power Project which is one of the largest solar photovoltaic plants in the world.

1.4. THE QUALITY COUNCIL OF INDIA IS SET TO CELEBRATE ITS SILVER JUBILEE AT THE AMBEDKAR INTERNATIONAL CENTRE IN NEW DELHI

About:

- Quality Council of India was set up in 1997, jointly by the Government of India and the Indian Industry represented by the three premier industry associations i.e. Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM), Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), with **Mr Ratan Tata as its first Chairman**.
- QCI was established as a National body for Accreditation. It is a **non-profit organization registered under the Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860**.
QCI has launched a **marquee campaign—Gunvatta Se Atmanirbharta**: India's quality movement. The campaign aims to celebrate India's quality hubs, create awareness about India's landmark achievements and inform people about the many initiatives that India is embracing with an aim to enhance the quality of lives of all our citizens.

1.5. GOVT TO ORGANISE PM-NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP MELAS ON OCT 10.

- Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship is organizing Pradhan Mantri National Apprenticeship Melas across 280 locations in 28 states and Union Territories.
- Several local businesses have been invited to be part of the Mela to provide local youth with the opportunity to shape their careers through apprenticeship training. Participating companies will have the chance to meet potential apprentices on a single platform and choose applicants on the spot.
- **Apprenticeship Melas** are **held on the second Monday of each month** to increase the employability of India's youth. Following the completion of the programmes, the company which is providing the training is likely to hire the student as an employee.
- Individuals can register for the Mela by visiting www.apprenticeshipindia.gov.in and to find the Mela's nearest location.
- To be eligible to apply, the students must have a 5th to 12th-grade pass certificate, a skill training certificate, an ITI Diploma or a graduate degree to participate. Those who have already enrolled have been requested to reach the venue with all the relevant documents.
- Secretary, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Atul Kumar Tiwari said that, Apprenticeship Melas have a significant impact on the expanding numbers of apprenticeships and their successful execution across the country.
- He said, upgrading the **Apprenticeship Act 1961** not only ensured that the programmes provide additional job opportunities for talented individuals, but also there is a smooth transition from school to work life for young adults, who join the workforce.
- The government is striving to train one million youth per annum through apprenticeship training and to fulfill this mission, Pradhan Mantri National Apprenticeship Mela is being used as a platform to increase the participation of establishments and students.

1.6. NADA & NDTL ORGANIZING 3-DAY LONG WADA ATHLETE BIOLOGICAL PASSPORT ABP SYMPOSIUM-2022 FROM OCT 12 IN NEW DELHI.

- The National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) and National Dope Testing Laboratory (NDTL) are organizing 3-day long WADA Athlete Biological Passport ABP Symposium- 2022 from Oct 12, 2022 in New Delhi.
- The first WADA ABP Symposium was hosted by the Anti-Doping Lab Qatar ADLQ in November 2015, in Doha, Qatar.

- The second WADA ABP Symposium was organized by the Italian Federation of Sports Medicine FMSI in 2018, in Rome, Italy.
- This is the third WADA ABP Symposium and is being hosted in India for the first time.
- Two hundred plus participants from 56 Countries, WADA Officials, representatives and Experts from different National Anti-Doping Organizations, Athlete Passport Management Units APMUs and WADA Accredited Laboratories are participating in this Symposium.
- The main topic of discussion in this symposium will be recent trends, successes and challenges with the ABP, Managing confounding Factor affecting the steroidal Module, Evolving strategic testing for the ABP etc and will help WADA to work towards the detection and eradication doping in sports through APMUs.
- Since NDTL is in the process of setting up an APMU in India, this Symposium would help to create the necessary expertise in the country and will help the Indian Sports by strengthening the Anti-doping programme of India and also enable us to become a regional leader in anti-doping.

1.7. CSIR-NAL IN BENGALURU SUCCESSFULLY CONDUCTS DRONE-BASED MAGNETIC SURVEY NEAR MAGNETIC HILL AND PUGA CHUMTHANG REGION OF LEH-LADAKH.

- The CSIR National Aerospace Laboratories in Bengaluru has successfully conducted the Drone based magnetic survey near Magnetic Hill and Puga Chumthang region of Leh-Ladakh.
- The survey was conducted last month along with the Hyderabad based CSIR National Geophysical Research Institute.
- NAL deployed its OCTA-Copter drone which has a payload capability of 20 kgs at sea level.
- The Director of NAL Dr.Abhay A Pashilkar has issued a statement that its OCTA-Copter drone performed as per the design at the high altitudes of over 3600 meters, withstanding harsh flying conditions of strong and gusty winds.
- The Magnetometer integrated with the drone acquired magnetic data and is being analysed by the National Geophysical Research Institute scientists.
- Dr. Pashilkar said that the data will help to plan developmental activities in Ladakh region.

1.8. RAILWAY MINISTER ASHWINI VAISHNAW INAUGURATES INDIA'S FIRST ALUMINUM FREIGHT RAKE AT BHUBANESWAR RAILWAY STATION.

- Union Minister for Railways Ashwini Vaishnaw inaugurated India's First Aluminum Freight Rake at Bhubaneswar Railway Station in Odisha.
- The indigenously built rake will reduce carbon footprint due to lower consumption of fuel.
- A single rake can reduce 14,500 tonnes Carbon dioxide emissions during its lifetime, said the Minister.
- Union Minister MR Vaishnaw who is also the minister for Communications and Electronics & Information has said that high-speed 5G internet service will be rolled out in a few cities of Odisha by March 2023.
- In the first phase of rollout, 200 cities of India will be connected with the 5G network.
- In this phase, all big cities of Odisha will also receive a 5G network by the end of March 2023.
- By the end of 2023, under phase II, around 80 percent of the State will be covered under the high-speed internet service, the minister revealed.
- All the big cities will be covered in phase -1 and the service will be subsequently extended to semi-urban areas and then, rural areas.

1.9. PM MODI TO INAUGURATE PM KISAN SAMMAN SAMMELAN 2022 IN NEW DELHI.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the PM Kisan Samman Sammelan 2022 at Indian Agricultural Research Institute in New Delhi.
- More than 13 thousand farmers from across the country and around one thousand five hundred Agri Startups will participate in the conference.
- More than one crore farmers, from various institutions are also expected to attend the event virtually. The conference will also witness participation of researchers, policy makers and other stakeholders.

- The Prime Minister will also release the 12th installment amount of 16 thousand crore rupees under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi through Direct Benefit Transfer.
- Under the scheme, eligible farmer families are provided a benefit of six thousand rupees per year in three equal installments of two thousand rupees each. So far, eligible farmer families have received benefits of more than two lakh crore rupees under PM-KISAN.
- Prime Minister will also inaugurate the Agri Startup Conclave and Exhibition. About three hundred startups will showcase their innovation related to Precision Farming, Post-Harvest and Value Add Solutions, Allied Agriculture and Supply Chain Management among others.
- Prime Minister will inaugurate six hundred Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samruddhi Kendras. Under it the fertilizer retail shops in the country will be converted into Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samruddhi Kendras in a phased manner.
- The Kendras will cater to a wide variety of needs of the farmers and provide agri-inputs, testing facilities for soil, seeds, fertilizers and generate awareness among farmers. More than three lakh 30 thousand retail fertilizer shops are planned to be converted into Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samruddhi Kendras.
- During the event, Mr Modi will also launch Bharat Urea Bags, India's biggest move in fertilizers-One Nation One Fertilizer Scheme for Farmers.
- The government is making it mandatory for fertilizer companies to market their goods under the brand name Bharat to standardize fertilizer brands across the nation.

1.10. PM MODI TO REVIEW SITE WORK PROGRESS OF MARITIME HERITAGE COMPLEX AT LOTHAL IN GUJARAT.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will review the site work progress of the National Maritime Heritage Complex at Lothal in Gujarat. This will be followed by his address on the occasion.
- Lothal was one of the prominent cities of the Harappan civilization and is known for the discovery of the oldest man-made dockyard. A maritime heritage complex in Lothal is fitting tribute to the city's historical legacy and heritage.
- The complex, whose construction started in March this year, is being developed at a cost of around three thousand 500 crore rupees.
- It is being developed as a one-of-its-kind project to not only display India's rich and diverse maritime heritage and also help Lothal to emerge as a world class international tourist destination.

1.11. UNION MINISTER HARDEEP SINGH PURI DEDICATES ASIA'S LARGEST COMPRESSED BIOGAS PLANT CBG TO PEOPLE OF PUNJAB.

- Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri dedicated a Asia's largest Compressed Biogas Plant CBG to the people of Punjab. The plant set up in 20 acres has been commissioned with a Foreign Direct Investment of 220 crore rupees by Verbio AG one of the Germany's leading bioenergy company.
- Mr Puri said that this plant in Sangrur district is just the beginning of India's master plan for a CBG based rural economy.
- Talking about the benefits of Sangrur CBG plant for rural economy he said that this plant will consume 100,000 tons of paddy straw which will be procured from 6 to 8 satellite locations within 10 kilometre radius of the plant. Mr Puri said, there will be daily production of about 600-650 tons of Fermented Organic Manure which can be used for organic farming.
- The plant shall also provide direct employment to 390 and indirect employment to 585 people.

1.12. PM TO INAUGURATE 'INDIAN URBAN HOUSING CONCLAVE-2022' IN GUJARAT ON OCTOBER 19.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate 'Indian Urban Housing Conclave-2022', IUHC2022, a three-day event being organised by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs from tomorrow at Rajkot, Gujarat.

- This Conclave will provide a platform to all stakeholders to demonstrate their technologies and they will deliberate upon various options of technologies, materials and processes for large scale adoption and mainstreaming in different type of housing construction suitable for different Geo-climatic regions of the country.
- It will help devise strategies, action plan and roadmap for achieving the vision of “Future Ready Urban India.”
- The Conclave will also help in widening the horizon and bringing technology transition in the construction sector for sustainable development.
- It will bring together all global and indigenous innovative technologies, materials and process, including those developed subsequently by various stakeholders across the world.

1.13. SAIL SIGNS AGREEMENT WITH AAI TO FACILITATE COMMERCIAL OPERATIONS AT ROURKELA AIRPORT UNDER UDAN SCHEME.

- The Steel Authority of India Limited, SAIL and the Airport Authority of India, AAI signed an Operation and Management agreement in New Delhi to facilitate commercial operations from Rourkela in Odisha.
- SAIL, in 2018, had signed a MOU for the use of its own airport, under the UDAN scheme, for the operation of commercial flights. Now, SAIL has signed the Operation and Management contract with AAI, through its Rourkela Steel Plant, to facilitate the commencement of commercial flights from Rourkela.
- The Ministry of Civil Aviation has provided financial support for the up-gradation of this airport. The government of Odisha will provide the security, fire, and ambulance services, besides helping with other local clearances. AAI, on behalf of SAIL-Rourkela Steel Plant, will operate and manage the airport.
- The airport will provide relief to all air travellers from the industrial town of Rourkela and the surrounding areas.
- The commencement of air services is also important in view of the forthcoming Hockey World Cup, where 20 out of the total 44 matches are being held at Rourkela in January 2023.

1.14. CSIR- ADVANCED MATERIALS AND PROCESSES RESEARCH INSTITUTE (AMPRI) HAS RECENTLY CONVERTED RED MUD INTO X-RAY SHIELDING TILES.

About:

- It has converted red mud into X-ray shielding tiles in a green and economically viable manner through a ceramic route by adding a certain weight percentage of high Z material and binder with it.
- These tiles can be used to build radiation shielding structures in diagnostic X-rays, CT scanner rooms, Cath labs, bone mineral density, dental X-rays, etc., instead of the toxic lead sheet to protect the public from radiation hazards.

Red Mud:

- Red Mud is the waste generated in the Bayer process of alumina production from bauxite.
- It is also known as bauxite residue.
- Red Mud is defined as a “High Volume Low Effect Waste”.
- Nearly 1 to 1.5 tonnes of RM is being generated while producing one tonne of alumina from the bauxite ore through the Bayer process.
- It is considered to be toxic due to its extreme alkalinity and heavy element leaching.
- Annually about 175 million tonnes of red mud have been generated globally and stored in a specially designed clay-lined pond.
- Among that India is producing nearly 9 million tonnes of red mud every year.
- The clay-lined ponds often broke out and pollute soil, groundwater, and air and become fatal for both humans and wildlife.
- Red mud is one of the underutilized industrial wastes and getting accumulated over the years due to an increase in alumina production as well as inadequate technologies for its large-scale utilization.
- The red mud contains 30 – 55% of Fe_2O_3 , which is suitable for attenuating high-energy ionizing radiations like X- and gamma rays.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

1.15. BURKINA FASO WITNESSES SECOND COUP OF THE YEAR.

About:

- Burkina Faso is a landlocked country in West Africa, bordered by Mali to the northwest, Niger to the northeast, Benin to the southeast, Togo and Ghana to the south, and the Ivory Coast to the southwest.
- It was previously called Republic of Upper Volta.
- Its capital and largest city is Ouagadougou.
- The country owes its former name of Upper Volta to three rivers which cross it: the Black Volta (or Mouhoun), the White Volta (Nakambé) and the Red Volta (Nazinon).
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1.16. INDIA, MALDIVES INK \$100-MN LINE OF CREDIT AGREEMENT.

- Foreign Secretary Vinay Mohan Kwatra, who is on an official visit to the Maldives, on Sunday witnessed the exchange of a \$100 million Line of Credit agreement and handing over of a speed launch to the Maldives Correctional Services, under Indian grant assistance.
- Kwatra called on President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih and assured him of the firm commitment to the growth of India-Maldives ties.
- Kwatra also met his Maldivian counterpart, Ahmed Latheef.
- The Maldives President welcomed the Foreign Secretary and noted that this was his first visit to the Maldives. At the meeting, Kwatra stated that the Maldives is one of the most important regional partners, and that India would continue to support numerous development projects in the Maldives, stated a Maldives government release.
- Recently, Maldives had signed an agreement with an Indian company to develop Hanimaadhoo International Airport. The project worth \$136.6 million was contracted to JMC Projects Limited and will be financed by India's Exim Bank.

1.17. UN PEACEKEEPING CHIEF JEAN-PIERRE LACROIX TO VISIT INDIA.

- The United Nations peacekeeping chief is undertaking a visit to India, among the largest troop contributing countries for its operations.
- Under Secretary-General for Peace Operations Jean-Pierre Lacroix will visit India, the United Arab Emirates, Pakistan and Japan. The multi-nation trip starts on Thursday and will continue until October 15.
- Stéphane Dujarric, spokesman for UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, told reporters on Wednesday that in New Delhi, Lacroix will participate in a two-day meeting organised by the Challenges Forum, which brings together leading policymakers, practitioners and academics on key issues linked to peace operations.
- The head of the UN peacekeeping will then travel to Abu Dhabi, Islamabad and Tokyo.
- Dujarric said the purpose of Lacroix's visit is to thank the countries for their contributions and support to UN peacekeeping as well as to update on progress enhancing the effectiveness of peacekeeping.
- According to information on the website of Challenges Forum, the event Challenges Annual Forum (CAF22) will "gather partners and key stakeholders" on October 6-7 to "discuss how future peace operations can remain relevant in a world of growing geopolitical friction".
- The CAF22 will be co-hosted by the organisation's Indian partner the United Service Institution of India (USI).
- Under the overarching theme "Future of Peace Operations", the three sub-themes for the forum are "Place for Preventive Deployment in Diplomacy", "Protection of Civilians in Peace Operation" and "Protecting the Protectors".
- India is one of the largest troop and police contributing countries to UN peacekeeping missions and more than 5,700 Indian peacekeepers are deployed in nine out of 12 UN peacekeeping missions at present.

- Since 1950s, India has cumulatively deployed more than 260,000 troops to the missions. Through the years, 177 Indian peacekeepers have made the supreme sacrifice, the highest from any troop-contributing country.

1.18. INDIA TO HOST DIPLOMATS OF UNSC ALONG WITH OTHER MEMBER STATES FOR KEY MEETING OF COUNTER-TERRORISM COMMITTEE ON OCTOBER 28-29, 2022.

- **India will host** diplomats of the **UN Security Council** along with other member states for a key meeting of Counter-Terrorism Committee in **Mumbai and New Delhi** on October 28-29. The Special Meeting will specifically focus on new and emerging technologies.
- **India is currently the Chair of the UN Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee for the year 2022.**
- India's Permanent Representative to the UN, Ruchira Kamboj in her capacity as Chair of the Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee, told reporters that this meeting will be a tribute and statement to the horrific 26/11 terror attacks.
- Members of the United Nations Security Council will place a wreath in memory of the victims of the attack. 2008 Mumbai terror attacks were carried out by Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba that killed more than 160 people.
- Ms. Kamboj said, an outcome document is expected after the special meeting of the Counter-Terrorism Committee.
- India's two-year tenure as an elected non-permanent member of the 15-nation UN Security Council will end in December this year.
- India will also preside as President of the powerful UN organ in December.
- Current members of the Security Council are Albania, Brazil, Gabon, Ghana, India, Ireland, Kenya, Mexico, Norway and UAE, along with five permanent members China, France, Russia, the U.K. and the U.S.

1.19. JAPAN SPACE AGENCY ROCKET CARRYING 8 SATELLITES FAILS.

- The Japanese space agency said a rocket carrying eight satellites failed just after lift off and had to be aborted by a self-destruction command, in the country's first failed rocket launch in nearly 20 years.
- The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency said its Epsilon-6 rocket experienced an unidentified "abnormality" and its flight had to be aborted less than seven minutes after take-off from the Uchinoura Space Center in the southern Japanese prefecture of Kagoshima.
- JAXA officials said the agency sent a self-destruction signal after deciding that the rocket was not able to fly safely and enter a planned orbit. They said the rocket was believed to have fallen into the sea with the payloads.
- The cause of the failure was still being investigated, the agency said.
- The Epsilon rocket was carrying eight payloads, including two developed by a private company based in Fukuoka, another southern prefecture. It was the first time an Epsilon rocket carried commercially developed payloads.
- The 26-meter (85-foot) -long, 95.6-ton and solid-fuel Epsilon-6 rocket is the final version before JAXA plans to develop another variation, Epsilon-S. After five upgrades since the early 2010s, the Epsilon-6 is designed for a compact launch as JAXA aims to develop a commercial satellite launch business.
- This failure ended success records for the Epsilon series since its first launch of the original version in 2013. It was also a first for JAXA since its H2A rocket failed in 2003.

1.20. INDO-US VACCINE ACTION PROGRAMME JOINT STATEMENT EXTENDED TILL 2027.

- The Department of Biotechnology (DBT) is implementing a focused bilateral collaborative programme known as the Indo-US Vaccine Action Programme (VAP), jointly with the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), National Institutes of Health (NIH), USA, since July 1987.
- The current five-year VAP Joint Statement has been extended till 2027.
- Dr. Rajesh S. Gokhale, the Secretary, DBT along with the Indian delegation comprising senior officials from DBT is visiting the USA for the 34th Meeting of the Joint Working Group (JWG) of VAP and other scientific consultations.

- The JWG provides oversight to VAP and comprises of Experts and the policy makers from India and US.
- The meeting held at the NIH campus in Bethesda, Maryland in US. During the meeting, the Joint statement of Indo-US VAP has been signed by Dr. Rajesh S. Gokhale and Dr. Anthony Fauci, Director, NIAID considering the five year extension accorded to the programme till 2027.

1.21. JSW STEEL JOINS UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL COMPACT INITIATIVE.

- JSW Steel has joined the United Nations Global Impact (UNGC) initiative.
- The UNGC encourages companies to conduct business responsibly by aligning their operations and strategies with the UN's 10 principles.
- JSW Foundation, the social arm of the JSW Group, is a member of UNGC and part of the India local network of UNGC.

Key Points:

- A majority of JSW's strategic focus areas and organizational goals have been formulated to align with the UN SDGs.
- The formal membership with JSW and UNGC will continue executing operations and practices sustainably.
- The initiative also commits companies to take actions to advance broader social benefits through the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- The UNGC holds members from over 160 countries of more than 20,000 companies and over 69 local networks.

What are United Nations Global Compact (UNGC)?

- The United Nations Global Compact is a non-binding United Nations pact to encourage businesses and firms worldwide to adopt sustainable and socially responsible policies and to report on their implementation.
- The UN Global Compact is a principle-based framework for business, starting with ten principles in the areas of human rights, labor, environment, and anti-corruption.

1.22. INDIA TO HOST 90TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF INTERPOL.

- India is hosting the 90th General Assembly of the International Criminal Police Organization, INTERPOL from 18th to 21st of October in New Delhi.
- The General Assembly is INTERPOL's supreme governing body, comprising representatives from each of 195 member countries. It meets once a year.
- India is one of the oldest members of Interpol and joined the organization in 1949.
- All member countries of INTERPOL have agreed to ensure and promote the widest possible assistance between all criminal police authorities in the prevention and suppression of ordinary law crimes.
- The role of INTERPOL is to enable police around the world to work together to make the world a safer place

1.23. NATO BEGINS ANNUAL NUCLEAR EXERCISES IN NORTH WESTERN EUROPE.

- NATO began its long-planned annual nuclear exercises in northwestern Europe as tensions simmer over military action in Ukraine and Russian President Vladimir Putin's threat to use any means to defend Russian territory.
- Fourteen of NATO's 30 member countries were due to take part in the exercises. The military alliance said around 60 aircraft including fighter jets and surveillance and refuelling planes will take part in the event. The bulk of the war games will be held at least 1,000 kilometres from Russia's borders.
- US long-range B-52 bombers will also take part in the maneuvers, dubbed Steadfast Noon, which will run until October 30. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization is not permitting any media access.
- NATO said that training flights will take place over Belgium, which is hosting Steadfast Noon this year, as well as over the North Sea and the United Kingdom. The exercises involve fighter jets capable of carrying nuclear warheads but do not involve any live bombs.
- The exercises were planned before President Putin ordered Russian military action in Ukraine in February.

1.24. NIGERIA: MORE THAN 600 PEOPLE KILLED IN WORST FLOOD IN A DECADE.

- In Nigeria, more than 600 people have died so far in the worst flooding that the country has seen in a decade.
- Nigerian Humanitarian Affairs Minister Sadiya Umar Farouq said that around 82 thousand houses and over 100 thousand hectares of farmland had been submerged and destroyed due to the worst flooding.
- Nigeria's ministry for Humanitarian Affairs last week reported that around 1.4 million people had been displaced from their homes.
- President Muhammadu Buhari last week ordered to release of 12 thousand metric tonnes of food items from the strategic reserves for communities affected by catastrophic flooding.
- According to Nigeria's Meteorological Agency, the flooding is expected to continue until the end of November. Nigeria is used to seasonal flooding, but this year has been significantly worse than usual. The devastation of farmland comes at a time Nigeria faces heightened food insecurity because of the high prices of food items.

1.25. UK PRIME MINISTER LIZ TRUSS RESIGNS AFTER LESS THAN SEVEN WEEKS IN DOWNING STREET.

- UK Prime Minister Liz Truss resigned from the post just six weeks after her appointment. Speaking outside the door of her Number 10 Downing Street office today, Truss accepted that she could not deliver the promises she made when she was running for Conservative leader, having lost the faith of her party. She said there will be a Conservative leadership election to be completed within the next week. Earlier in the day, Conservative Party officials had gathered at Downing Street while a growing number of her own lawmakers called on her to quit.
- Ms Truss becomes the shortest-serving prime minister in British history, just for 45 days. George Canning previously held the record, serving 119 days in 1827 when he died.
- Appointed on the 6th of last month, forty-seven-year-old Truss was forced to sack her Finance Minister and closest political ally, Kwasi Kwarteng, and abandon almost all her economic programme after their plans for vast unfunded tax cuts crashed the pound and British bonds. Truss's premiership came under renewed pressure after the Home Secretary resigned and a chaotic vote on fracking. There was fury yesterday around the vote and the methods used to get MPs to vote with the government.
- Meanwhile, Liz Her former leadership rival Rishi Sunak is the bookmakers' favourite to take over in No 10, followed by Penny Mordaunt and Defence Secretary Ben Wallace.
- Chancellor Jeremy Hunt has confirmed he will not stand to be the next Conservative leader and UK Prime Minister

1.26. HAWK AIR DEFENCE EQUIPMENT.

- The United States is considering retrieving older HAWK air defence equipment from storage to send to Ukraine which is facing a heavy barrage of Russian drone-fired and cruise missiles,
- The HAWK interceptor missiles would be an upgrade to the Stinger missile system, which is a smaller, shorter-range air defence system.
- The US sent the shoulder-fired anti-aircraft Stingers to Ukraine early on in the war, and then placed orders for more stocks of the missiles with Raytheon Technologies Corp. after they demonstrated great success in stopping Russian air assaults.
- The US would likely initially send interceptor missiles for the HAWK system to Ukraine because it was unclear if enough US launchers — in storage for decades — were in good repair.

About HAWK:

- HAWK, short for 'Homing All the Way Killer', entered service with the US Army in 1959, during the Vietnam war.
- It underwent upgrades over the decades that followed, including a major one in 1971 that produced the so-called I-HAWK (or improved HAWK), with a kill probability of 85%.
- The HAWK system was the predecessor to the PATRIOT missile defence system that Raytheon built in the 1990s. US forces largely stopped using HAWK from the early years of the new century.

1.27. LEBANON DELIVERS SIGNED SEA BORDER DEAL TO US MEDIATOR.

- Lebanon signed and delivered its copy of a US-mediated sea border deal with Israel to a US mediator, hoping to soon start exploring gas in its southern maritime blocs to bring economic stability to the crisis-ridden country.
- The agreement to demarcate the maritime border comes after months of indirect talks mediated by Amos Hochstein, the US envoy for energy affairs, and would mark a major breakthrough in relations between the two nations, which have formally been at war since Israel's creation in 1948.
- Lebanon and Israel both claim around 860 square kilometres (330 square miles) of the Mediterranean Sea that are home to offshore gas fields.
- Lebanon hopes that demarcating maritime borders will pave the way for gas exploration to help lift it out of its crippling economic crisis, which has plunged three-quarters of its population into poverty.
- Israel hopes that the deal will reduce the risk of war with Lebanon's Iran-backed militant group Hezbollah.

1.28. NEW ZEALAND'S PLAIN LANGUAGE ACT.

- Recently, New Zealand has passed the Plain Language Bill, which requires bureaucrats to use simple, easily understood language while communicating with the public.

About:

- With the law, which banishes jargon and complicated English words, New Zealand is aiming to become a more inclusive democracy and help people who speak English as their second language, those with disabilities, and the less educated.
- According to the Bill, plain language is defined as “appropriate to the intended audience” and “clear, concise, and well organised”.
- Though the Plain Language Act does not specify which language constitutes a “plain language”, the Act is intended for the use of “plain English”.

Implementation and challenges:

- Under the Plain Language Act, a public service agency must annually report its compliance with the plain language use requirement to the Commissioner.
- The Commissioner, in turn, must annually report the compliance of agencies to the Minister of Public Service.
- The Act further instructs the Minister of Public Service to present a copy of the report to the House of Representatives within 20 business days of receiving it.
- Although the Act is legally binding once it receives royal assent, the Plain Language Act does not confer a legal right or impose a legal obligation that is enforceable in a court of law, on any person.

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DAY REMEMBER

1.29. PFRDA TO OBSERVE NATIONAL PENSION SYSTEM DIWAS ON OCTOBER 1.

- Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority, PFRDA will observe 1st of October as the National Pension System Diwas (NPS Diwas) to promote pension and retirement planning among the citizens. PFRDA is organising this campaign under 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'.
- The pension regulator aims to encourage every citizen, whether working professionals or self-employed professionals, to plan towards creating a pension corpus to ensure a financially sound future after retirement.
- NPS subscribers will enjoy the benefits of tax deduction on contribution, power of compounding and reap the benefits of regular income after retirement.

About Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority, PFRDA

- It is the **statutory Authority established by an enactment of the Parliament**, to regulate, promote and ensure orderly growth of the National Pension System (NPS).
- It works **under the Department of Financial Services** under the Ministry of Finance.

Functions:

- It performs the **function of appointing various intermediate agencies** like Pension Fund Managers, Central Record Keeping Agency (CRA) etc.
- It develops, promotes and regulates the pension industry under the NPS and also administers the APY.

1.30. OCTOBER 1 IS OBSERVED AS THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF OLDER PERSONS ACROSS THE GLOBE.

- This year, the theme for the International Day of Older Persons is "Resilience of Older Persons in a Changing World"
- The day was introduced by the United Nations General Assembly with an aim of honouring the contribution of older persons and looking into the problems that they face.
- The United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution on December 14, 1990, to establish October 1 as the International Day of Older Persons.
- The day came into being after the Vienna International Plan of Action on Ageing initiative, which was adopted by the World Assembly on Ageing in 1982.
- The UN General Assembly in 1991 approved the United Nations Principles for Older Persons. Later in 2002, the Second World Assembly on Ageing embraced the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing.
- It was done to address and understand the opportunities and challenges faced by the older generation in the 21st century and to promote the development of a society for all ages.

1.31. THE UNITED NATIONS OBSERVES THE FIRST MONDAY OF OCTOBER AS WORLD HABITAT DAY.

About:

- This year, World Habitat Day will be observed on October 3.
- Theme: "Mind the Gap. Leave No One and Place Behind".
- It seeks to draw attention to the growing inequalities and vulnerabilities in cities and human settlements that have been exacerbated by the triple 'C' crises — COVID-19, climate and conflict.

History:

- The day came into existence with a resolution by the UN General Assembly in 1985.
- World Habitat Day was first celebrated in 1986 in Nairobi, Kenya, with the theme 'Shelter is my right'.

1.32. WORLD TEACHERS' DAY OR INTERNATIONAL TEACHERS' DAY

- World Teachers' Day or International Teachers' Day is observed every year on October 5. This is a day to celebrate, thank and honour teachers for their contributions to their students. On this day, many also come together and organise meetings, conferences and such to identify problems being faced by teachers of the country as well as globally and find solutions to those issues.

World Teachers' Day 2022: Theme

- This year marks the 28th anniversary of World Teachers' Day and the theme is "The Transformation of Education Begins with Teachers".

History:

- Set up in 1994 after the UNESCO Recommendation concerning teachers, the day celebrates the marking of "teaching in freedom" in 1996. October 5 was proclaimed as World Teachers' Day by UNESCO in 1994, with the aim of honouring the adoption of UNESCO/ILO Recommendation. After the adoption of this recommendation, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) declared October 5 to be World Teachers' Day.
- This was a part of the intergovernmental conference convened by UNESCO in Paris that recognised the status of teachers in cooperation with the International Labour Organization (ILO).
- World Teachers' Day acknowledges the anniversary of the adoption of the 1966 International Labour Organization (ILO)/United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) recommendation concerning the status of teachers. The recommendation concerning the status of higher education teaching personnel was adopted in 1997 to complement the 1966 recommendation

1.33. WORLD COTTON DAY 2022.

- **World Cotton Day 2022:** Cotton is grown in more than 75 countries across five continents and is traded worldwide. It is one of the most widely used plant products globally is cotton, specifically cotton fiber and cottonseed.
- To highlight the importance of this global commodity in generating jobs and maintaining economic stability in less developed countries, the United Nations General Assembly declared **October 7 as World Cotton Day** in 2021. The international event will be celebrated in 2022 for the third time.

World Cotton Day 2022 theme

- The World Cotton Day theme 2022 is '**Weaving a better future for Cotton**'.
- The theme of World Cotton Day looks at the sustainable farming of cotton to help in improving the lives of the cotton workers, such as smallholders, laborers as well as their families.

History

- The first World Cotton Day was proposed by the World Trade Organization on October 7, 2019, by the Cotton Four, four sub-Saharan African cotton producers Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, and Mali, collectively known as the Cotton Four (WTO).
- The Cotton-4 countries' initiative to organize World Cotton Day was welcomed by the WTO on October 7, 2019.
- Together with the secretariats of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the International Cotton Advisory Committee, and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the WTO Secretariat organized the event (UNCTAD).

1.34. WORLD MIGRATORY BIRD DAY 2022 CELEBRATES ON 8TH OCTOBER.

- Since its creation in 2006, **World Migratory Bird Day** has been commemorated twice a year. It is supposed to be celebrated on the **second Saturday of May and the second Saturday of October**.
- This year, it was previously celebrated on **14 May** and for the second time, the world marks this day again on **8 October**. At least 4,000 different bird species travel long distances, making up about 40% of the world's bird population.

- The purpose of World Migratory Bird Day is to increase public awareness on the issues migrating birds encounter, their ecological importance, and the need for global cooperation to safeguard them. They migrate in search of food. Twice a year, these birds spend the winter in warmer regions before coming home to reproduce.

History of World Migratory Bird Day:

- World Migratory Bird Day was established as a result of the United Nations Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds.
- However, the concept of World Migratory Bird Day was born in the US in 1993 when a number of organisations and agencies began commemorating the day. The United Nations (UN) chose to promote awareness of migratory birds' linkages to various geographic areas around the world in 2006. Since then, 118 nations have engaged in and attended the event.
- On the second Saturday in October, people all around Central and South America, Mexico, and the Caribbean commemorate World Migratory Bird Day. In the United States and Canada, the day is marked on the second Saturday in May.

1.35. IREDA CELEBRATES "CYBER JAAGRUKTA DIWAS"

- To create cybersecurity awareness among all employees, Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. (IREDA) observed the "Cyber Jaagrukta Diwas".
- It is observed on first Wednesday of every month.
- Shri Pradip Kumar Das, Chairman & Managing Director (CMD), IREDA, inaugurated the event.
- Cyber Jaagrukta Diwas is an initiative launched by the Ministry of Home Affairs that requires all government organizations to spread cybersecurity awareness.
- The purpose is to create awareness and sensitize the Internet users on safeguarding against cyber frauds and cybercrimes.

1.36. INTERNATIONAL GIRL CHILD DAY IS CELEBRATED ON OCTOBER 11.**About:**

- The International Day of the Girl Child aims to raise awareness about the importance and potential girls hold as the future of our society.
- It focuses attention on the need to address the challenges girls face and to promote girls' empowerment and the fulfilment of their human rights.
- 2022 marks the 10th anniversary of International Day of the Girl Child.

Theme:

- This year's theme is "Our time is now—our rights, our future".

History:

- First time in history, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in 1995, proposed an action plan to advance the rights of girls.
- In 2011, the United Nations General Assembly passed resolution 66/170 and adopted October 11 as the International Day of the Girl Child.
- It was an annual day commemorated to honour girls. Every year, a new theme is to be picked to focus on the most prevalent issue of the year.
- International Day of the Girl Child was first observed in 2012.

1.37. THE FIRST WORLD SLOTH BEAR DAY WAS OBSERVED ON OCTOBER 12.

- It aims to spread awareness about protection and conservation of sloth bears.
- A proposal for observing the World Sloth Bear Day was mooted by Wildlife SOS India, an organisation involved in sloth bear conservation and protection for over two decades and the IUCN-Species Survival Commission sloth bear expert team accepted the proposal and declared the day to be celebrated worldwide.

Sloth bears (Melursus ursinus):

- Sloth bears are endemic to the Indian sub-continent with small populations in Nepal and Srilanka and 90% of the species population is found in India.
- They are classified as 'Vulnerable' on the IUCN Red List.
- They are identified by their very distinct long, shaggy dark brown or black fur, distinct white V-shaped chest patch and four-inch long ivory-coloured curved claws used for digging out termites and ants from rock-hard mounds. Listed under Schedule I of the (Wildlife Protection) Act of India, 1972 the species has the same level of protection as tigers, rhinos and elephants.
- They are found in all parts of the country except Jammu and Kashmir and north-eastern States.

1.38. INTERNATIONAL E-WASTE DAY 2022 OBSERVED ON 14 OCTOBER.

- Each year, International E-Waste Day is held on 14 October, an opportunity to reflect on the impacts of e-waste and the necessary actions to enhance circularity for e-products.
- International E-Waste Day was developed in 2018 by the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment recycling (WEEE) Forum to raise the public profile of waste electrical and electronic equipment recycling and encourage consumers to recycle. 2022 is the fifth edition of International E-Waste Day.
- This year, the main focus of International E-Waste Day will be those small electrical devices that we no longer use but keep in drawers and cupboards or often toss in the general waste bin. This is why International E-Waste Day (#ewasteday) 2022 will be focusing on small items of e-waste, under the slogan "Recycle it all, no matter how small!". #ewasteday will take place on 14 October 2022.

About E-Waste:

- According to the United Nations, in 2021 each person on the planet will produce on average 7.6 kg of e-waste, meaning that a massive 57.4 million tons will be generated worldwide.
- Only 17.4% of this electronic waste, containing a mixture of harmful substances and precious materials, will be recorded as being properly collected, treated and recycled. Many initiatives are undertaken to tackle this growing concern, but none of them can be fully effective without the active role and correct education of consumers.
- The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) also indicates that e-waste is one of the largest and most complex waste streams in the world. According to the Global E-waste Monitor 2020, the world generated 53.6 Mt of e-waste in 2019, only 9.3 Mt (17%) of which was recorded as being collected and recycled.
- E-waste contains valuable materials, as well as hazardous toxins, which make the efficient material recovery and safe recycling of e-waste extremely important for economic value as well as environmental and human health.

1.39. GLOBAL HANDWASHING DAY 2022: THIS YEAR'S THEME IS UNITE FOR UNIVERSAL HAND HYGIENE

- **October 15 is marked as Global Handwashing Day**, with the aim of increasing awareness and understanding about the importance of handwashing with soap as an effective and affordable way to prevent diseases and save lives. The world has leveraged the lessons from the last two years since the coronavirus outbreak took a toll on everyone.
- As the world moves beyond COVID-19 to a new normal, it is time to accelerate hand hygiene progress to prevent any kind of infection, and it requires a collective effort to enact real change.
- Additionally, the day is an opportunity to encourage people to maintain personal hygiene, including washing their hands, using hand sanitizers, and other appropriate toiletries. The day also observes government efforts in designing and replicating the hygiene message among its citizens.
- The day was founded by the Global Handwashing Partnership, a coalition of international stakeholders who work explicitly to promote handwashing with soap. The first Global Handwashing Day was held in 2008, when over 120 million children around the world washed their hands with soap in more than 70 countries. Since then, Global Handwashing Day has continued to grow.
- This year's theme, "**Unite for Universal Hand Hygiene**", calls on all of society to work together to scale up hand hygiene.

1.40. INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR "ERADICATION OF POVERTY."

- The International Day for the Eradication of Poverty is observed on 17th October and the theme for this year is "Dignity for All in Practice".
- The history of observation of this day can be traced back to 17th October 1987. On that day, over a hundred thousand people gathered at the Trocadéro in Paris and proclaimed that poverty is a violation of human rights and to ensure that these rights are respected.
- Since then, every year people gather on the 17th of October to renew their commitment and show their solidarity with the poor. It was recognized by the UN General Assembly on 22 December 1992.
- To alleviate poverty, as a part of sustainable development goals, the Government of India have introduced many schemes in the last few years.
- Launched in 2014, Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana aims the unbanked poor. Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana, launched in 2015, facilitates insurance policies for society's underprivileged sections.
- Through Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana, the government aims to distribute LPG connections to women below the poverty line. Likewise, there are schemes like Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana, Solar Charkha Mission, Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-Dhan, and many others for the welfare of the poor.
- The central government's Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act was lauded by the world bank as a 'stellar example of rural development.

1.41. WORLD STATISTICS DAY 2022 CELEBRATES ON 20 OCTOBER.

- World Statistics Day 2022 is celebrated annually on October 20th to recognize the importance of statistics in our daily lives.
- The United Nations Statistical Commission has been at the forefront of advocating for the use of statistics to track progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Good data and statistics are essential for effective planning, monitoring and evaluation of progress towards the SDGs.
- The theme of Statistics Day, 2022 is "**Data for Sustainable Development**".

History of World Statistics Day:

- The **United Nations Statistical Commission** proposed celebrating **20 October 2010 as World Statistics Day**. The General Assembly adopted on 3 June 2010 resolution 64/267, which officially designated **20 October 2010** as the first-ever World Statistics Day under the general theme "Celebrating the many achievements of official statistics.
- In 2015, with resolution 96/282, the General Assembly decided to designate 20 October 2015 as the second World Statistics Day under the general theme "Better data, better lives," as well as to celebrate World Statistics Day every five years on 20 October.

1.42. INFANTRY DAY IS COMMEMORATED ON 27 OCTOBER EVERY YEAR.

- It aims to acknowledge the contributions of Infantry, the largest fighting arm of the Indian Army.
- This day is commemorated to honour the brave soldiers of the infantry who fought and laid down their lives during the **India-Pakistan war in 1947**.
- The operation was started on October 27, 1947; to protect the people of Kashmir from the Pakistani invaders after Maharaja Hari Singh of Kashmir had signed the Instrument of Accession of Kashmir to India.
- The Indian Air force carried out the task of flying the troops of 1st Sikh Regiment into Srinagar on this day.

PERSON NEWS

1.43. PM MODI PAYS TRIBUTE TO SHYAMJI KRISHNA VARMA ON HIS BIRTH ANNIVERSARY.

- Prime Minister Modi paid tributes to the brave Shyamji Krishna Varma on his birth anniversary on October 4.

About Shyamji Krishna Varma:

- Shyamji Krishna Varma (1857 – 1930) was an Indian freedom fighter, lawyer and journalist.
- Indian Home Rule Society (IHR): It was an Indian organisation founded in London in 1905 that sought to promote the cause of self-rule in British India. The organisation was founded by Shyamji Krishna Varma, with support from Bhikaji Cama, Dadabhai Naoroji and S.R. Rana.
- India House: He founded India House in London. It was a student residence that existed between 1905 and 1910 which was opened to promote nationalist views among Indian students in Britain.
- Indian Sociologist: He founded Indian Sociologist in London. The monthly Indian Sociologist became an outlet for nationalist ideas.

1.44. ACTOR PANKAJ TRIPATHI DECLARED 'NATIONAL ICON' BY ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA.

- **Election Commission of India (ECI)** in creating awareness amongst voters, Actor Pankaj Tripathi has been declared as the '**National Icon**' of ECI.
- The actor was chosen for the honour by Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) **Rajiv Kumar** for keeping in view his commitment to the cause and wide appeal across the country.
- An event on the 'Voter Awareness Program', CEC Rajiv Kumar complimented ECI state icon, Pankaj Tripathi, for his association with ECI in creating voting awareness across citizens, and henceforth declared him as the National Icon for ECI.

1.45. PRESIDENT DROUPADI MURMU APPOINTS DR. JUSTICE DY CHANDRACHUD AS NEW CHIEF JUSTICE OF INDIA.

- President Droupadi Murmu has appointed Dr. Justice DY Chandrachud as the new Chief Justice of India.
- Union Law Minister Kiren Rijiju said, Justice Chandrachud's appointment will come into effect from 9th of next month. He will succeed present Chief Justice of India Justice Uday Umesh Lalit.
- Justice DY Chandrachud would be the 50th Chief Justice of India. Born in 1959, Justice Chandrachud was appointed Judge of the Supreme Court of India on 13th May 2016. Earlier, he served as Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court.
- He had completed his LLB from Campus Law Centre from Delhi University and obtained LLM degree and a Doctorate in Juridical Sciences from Harvard Law School in USA.

1.46. DR BIMAL JALAN AUTHORED A BOOK TITLED "FROM DEPENDENCE TO SELF-RELIANCE".

- Economist **Dr Bimal Jalan** authored the book "**From dependence to SelfReliance: Mapping India's Rise as a Global Superpower**", a stocktaking of India's growth trajectory, benefits from Bimal Jalan's deep insights. The book is written lucidly, with the general reader in mind.
- Bimal Jalan breaks his book into 3 parts: 4 chapters on the economy, and 3 each on governance and politics. The primary focus shared by Bimal Jalan is to promote India's national interests, irrespective of any party's political agenda announced during elections.

From dependence to SelfReliance: Essence of the book

- With a single-party majority in Parliament, the political profile of the government has undergone a major change. The government, elected with a full majority, is now in a position to launch political reforms on its own without relying on the discretionary powers of members belonging to other parties.

- From Dependence to Self-Reliance sheds light on some of the priorities that the government can implement at present, as well as in the future, in light of past experience.
- Written by the former governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), this book is based on extensive research and data, and provides a way forward to developing India as an economic stronghold.
- From Dependence to Self-Reliance is divided into three sections: Economy, Governance and Politics. It covers a gamut of changes that have taken place since India gained independence and how these changes have had a ground-breaking impact on the development of the nation. It is a must-read to gain an in-depth understanding of India's rise to power in the realm of economy, politics and technology.

From dependence to SelfReliance: Author of the book

- Dr Bimal Jalan is the former governor of the RBI. He has previously held several positions in the government, including those of finance secretary and chairman of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister.
- A nominated Member of Parliament from 2003 to 2009 and the chairman of the Expenditure Management Commission from 2014 to 2016, he also represented India on the boards of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.
- In 2019, he was the chairman of the Economic Capital Framework, set up by the RBI in association with the government.

1.47. SHEFALI JUNEJA ELECTED AS CHAIRPERSON OF UN'S AIR TRANSPORT COMMITTEE.

- Shefali Juneja, India's representative to the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), has been elected as the chairperson of United Nations' specialized aviation agency's Air Transport Committee (ATC). Juneja, a 1992 batch officer of the Indian Revenue Service (Income Tax cadre), served as a Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) before joining the ICAO.
- India secured this position in ICAO after 28 years when Juneja was unanimously elected to the post. She is the first woman to represent India in the ICAO. ATC is a standing committee of the ICAO created by the Chicago Convention in 1944.
- "It is the most important committee (of ICAO), as it decides on standards in air transport policies," India in ICAO, tweeted, adding "India wins the coveted position in ICAO to become – Chairperson of Air Transport Committee, after 28 years. Representative of India, Dr Shefali Juneja gets unanimously elected in Council.
- MoCA officials said that India will be chairing the important committee after 28 years and has had the opportunity of chairing the ATC only twice so far.
- "This committee handles a big component of ICAO work relating to air transport as nine technical panels report to it. It is therefore a tremendous opportunity to steer issues in the policy arena and deal with new emerging challenges to carve out a better future for international air transport," Dr Juneja said.
- According to Article 54 d) of the Chicago Convention, the Council appoints and defines the duties of an ATC, which is chosen from among the representatives of the members of the Council.
- India is set to emerge as the third largest aviation market globally by 2025. The country's representative has held this position twice in the 78 years of ICAO's existence, in 1987 and 1994.
- In September last year, Juneja was elected as the chairperson of the ICAO'S Aviation Security Committee (ASC) and made an Indian taking charge of the position after a gap of 12 years.
- Juneja has been serving as India's representative in the council of the ICAO since 2019.

ART & CULTURE

1.48. DUBAI'S NEW HINDU TEMPLE ALL SET TO OPEN AHEAD OF DUSSEHRA.

- A new Hindu temple constructed in Jebel Ali in Dubai is set to open on 4th October 2022, one day ahead of the Dussehra festival.
- The temple is an extension of the Sindhi Guru Darbar Temple, one of the oldest Hindu temples in the UAE.
- The temple's foundation was laid in February 2020 and the inauguration fulfils a decades-long Indian dream of having a place of worship in the area.
- The temple, which will be officially open to the public from October 5 — the day of the Dussehra festival, welcomes people of all faiths and has allowed entry to worshippers and other visitors to view the 16 deities and other interior works.
- Welcoming people from all faiths, the temple has already had its soft opening on September 1, 2022, where thousands of visitors were allowed to get a glimpse of the interiors of the temple built with white marble.
- It has ornate pillars, Arabic and Hindu geometric designs on the facade, and bells on the ceiling.
- The temple management activated the QR-code-based appointment booking system via its website on its soft opening.
- From day one, the temple has received many visitors, especially over the weekends. The restricted entry has been regulated through QR-coded appointments for crowd management and to ensure social distancing, the report said.
- Most of the deities are installed in the main prayer hall with a large 3D-printed pink lotus unfurling across the central dome.
- According to the official temple website, Dubai's new Hindu temple will be open from 6:30 am to 8 pm.
- Visitors who have booked their appointments to visit the temple from Dubai's official website for October 5, will be allowed entry without being subject to the hourly number restrictions which are currently in place.
- Moreover, the temple in Dubai has a whooping capacity to easily accommodate around 1000 to 1200 worshippers on a daily basis.
- Located in what is described as the 'Worship Village' in Jebel Ali which houses several churches and the Guru Nanak Darbar Gurudwara, the temple has also installed the Guru Granth Sahib, the Holy Book of the Sikhs, in August.

1.49. 66TH DHAMMACHAKRA PRAVARTAN DAY BEING CELEBRATED AT DEEKSHABHOOMI IN NAGPUR.

- In Maharashtra, the 66th Dhammachakra Pravartan Day is being celebrated with full zeal and fervor at DeekshaBhoomi in Nagpur.
- Architect of the Indian Constitution Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar embraced Buddhism on the day of Vijaydashmi on 14th October 1956 with lakhs of his followers at Dikshabhoomi in Nagpur.
- From that date, the day is celebrated as DhammaChakra pravartan day. To pay their respects to the Central memorial of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, on the occasion of DhammaChakra pravartan day, millions of followers have reached Deekshabhoomi from all corners of the country and state.

1.50. UJJAIN: PM MODI TO INAUGURATE FIRST PHASE OF SHRI MAHAKALESHWAR TEMPLE EXTENSION PROJECT.

- Prime Minister will inaugurate the first phase of Shri Mahakaleshwar Temple Extension project at Ujjain in Madhya Pradesh on October 11.
- Mahakaleshwar Jyotirling in Ujjain is one of the twelve Jyotirlingas located in the country.
- The Mahakal temple complex expansion project was planned in the year 2017.
- The 800 crore Rs works of this expansion project are being conducted in two phases.
- In the first phase, works worth Rs 351 crore have been completed. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate these works of the first phase on October 11.

- The second Phase will be completed in 2023-24. Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan requested people to witness this moment.
- The corridor built in the Mahakal temple complex has been named Shri Mahakal Lok. In the first phase, Mahakal Plaza, Mahakal Corridor, and Mahakal Theme Park have been developed and constructed.
- A 200-meter-long walkway has been made for walking in the Mahakal corridor. It has a mural wall 25 feet high and 500 meters long.
- The 108 Shiva pillars with different postures of Shiva are also the center of attraction for the devotees.

1.51. UNION EDUCATION MINISTRY TO ORGANISE 'KASHI TAMIL SANGAMAM' MONTH-LONG PROGRAMME FROM NOVEMBER 16,2022.

- Union Education Ministry will organise 'Kashi Tamil Sangamam' - a month-long programme from 16th November 2022- to rediscover the centuries-old bond of knowledge and ancient civilisational linkage between Varanasi and Tamilnadu.
- Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan informed that over 2400 tamil people in 12 groups from diverse sections of society, including academics, spiritualism, philosophy, trade and commerce, agriculture, entrepreneurship, arts and artisanship will visit Kashi for eight days to get familiarised with the ancient knowledge shared by these two ancient cities.
- On this occasion, Mr Pradhan also launched a website for the registration process for this month-long event.
- The programme will be organised under the framework of 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' envisaged by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- IIT-Madras and Banaras Hindu University will be the hosting partners of this mega event.



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SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

1.52. GOVT PLANS TO SET UP 100 LABS FOR 5G TECHNOLOGY ACROSS INDIA, SAYS TELECOM MINISTER ASHWINI VAISHNAW.

- Telecom Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw has said that the government plans to set up 100 labs for 5G technology across India and at least 12 of them will be used to train students and conduct experiments.
- The minister also asked companies participating in the Indian Mobile Congress to provide their input for the new telecom bill through which the government aims to simplify licensing regime.
- Mr. Vaishnaw said the government is working significantly towards simplifying the licensing regime for all telecom players. Telecom Minister said he is really happy to see the energy of startups and MSMEs, who are going to rural areas to benefit people.
- Indigenous telecom gear maker HFCL announced the launch of 5G Lab-as-a-Service to accelerate the rollout of 5G solutions and services. It will provide an automated test environment for the private sector, academia, and government to work together on product innovations from concept to reality.
- Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said that the launch of 5G is going to be a defining moment for not only India but for the world. He said, we are now indigenously designing, developing, and manufacturing goods and showing the world the scale and speed with which we will take 5G through the length and breadth of India.

1.53. CHINA'S ZHURONG ROVER HAS PEERED UNDER THE SURFACE OF MARS AND HAS FOUND EVIDENCE OF TWO HUGE FLOODS THAT SHAPED THE LANDSCAPE.

- Since May 2021, Zhurong has been exploring Utopia Planitia, in Mars's northern hemisphere.
- Images from the rover's ground-penetrating radar found layered patterns under the surface, which are made of sedimentary rocks carried in by two major floods around 1.6 billion years ago.
- China's Zhurong rover landed in the Utopia Planitia, a 2,000-miles-wide (3,300 kilometers) basin in the Northern Hemisphere of Mars, in May 2021.
- Since then, the rover has been studying local geology, chemical composition of rocks, and local weather conditions using its six scientific instruments.
- Zhurong has already completed its primary mission of 90 sols. But the rover is continuing its way to the south of its landing site, collecting data as it goes.

1.54. THE INDIAN SPACE ECONOMY IS SET TO REACH \$13 BILLION BY 2025, ACCORDING TO A JOINT REPORT PREPARED BY EY AND THE INDIAN SPACE ASSOCIATION (ISPA).

- According to the report, the space-launch segment would grow at a CAGR of 13%, spurred by growing private participation, latest technology adoption and low cost of launch services.
- The satellite services and application segment would form the largest share of the space economy accounting for 36% of the ecosystem by 2025.
- On the country's satellite-manufacturing opportunity, EY and ISpA said that in 2020, it was \$2.1 billion. This would reach \$3.2 billion by the year 2025.

Indian Space Association (ISpA)

- Indian Space Association (ISpA), established in December 2020, is the premier industry association of space and satellite companies. Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the ISpA on October 11, 2021.
- The industry association will act as an independent and "single-window" agency for enabling the opening up of the space sector to start-ups and the private sector, according to the government agenda.

1.55. UNION MINISTER NITIN GADKARI LAUNCHES TOYOTA'S FIRST OF ITS KIND PILOT PROJECT ON FLEXI-FUEL STRONG HYBRID ELECTRIC VEHICLES IN INDIA.

- Union minister Nitin Gadkari launched Japanese car maker Toyota's first-of-its-kind pilot project on flex fuel-strong hybrid electric vehicle (FFV-SHEV) that can run on 100 per cent ethanol.
- During the launch, the Toyota Corolla Altis FFV-SHEV, which has been imported from Toyota Brazil for the pilot project, was unveiled.
- In Brazil, flex fuel-strong hybrid electric vehicle technology has been introduced by Toyota Brazil.
- An FFV SHEV has a flex-fuel engine and an electric powertrain, thus providing dual benefit of higher ethanol use and greater fuel efficiency, as it can run for a significant time period on its EV mode, wherein the engine is shut off.
- Flex-fuel compatible cars can run on more than one type of fuel and also a mixture. Typically, a blend of petrol and ethanol or methanol is used.
- FFVs provide an opportunity of greater substitution of petrol by ethanol as it is capable of using any of the higher blends of ethanol mix from 20 per cent up to 100 per cent.
- Flex-fuel vehicles are available in Brazil, the USA and Canada.
- Ethanol is a major alternate fuel used globally and Brazil has the highest average blending of 48 per cent.

1.56. NMDC SIGNS MoU WITH RAILTEL FOR ICT AND DIGITAL SOLUTIONS.

- Mining major National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) and RailTel Corporation of India signed an agreement covering ICT and Digital Transformation Services of NMDC, both at its Corporate Offices and Mining Complexes.
- Sundaram Prabhu, GM (C&IT), NMDC, and Manohar Raja, Executive Director, RailTel signed a (Memorandum of Understanding) MoU in the presence of Sumit Deb, CMD, NMDC at NMDC's headquarters in Hyderabad.
- This partnership will focus on optimal utilization of resources and build mineral accountability, paving the way for a robust digital transformation in the mining sector.
- This MoU builds on the partnership that NMDC already has with the National Railway Telecom which has been providing MPLS VPN at 11 of NMDC's locations, Internet Leased Lines (ILL) at 7 locations, and High-Definition Video Conferencing solutions for 7 years.

1.57. PRESIDENT DROUPADI MURMU INAUGURATES 'PARAM KAMRUPA' SUPERCOMPUTER FACILITY AT IIT GUWAHATI.

- President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu, inaugurated 'PARAM KAMRUPA' Supercomputer facility and a high-power active and passive component laboratory of SAMEER at Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati on the first day of her visit to the State.
- The Param Kamrupa, one of its kind supercomputers in the North East region, installed under the National Supercomputing Mission.
- The Super Computer Param Kamrupa will provide advance computing, healthcare techniques along with solutions for many issues to this region. Many components of this super computer developed indigenously.

1.58. EDUCATION AND SKILL DEVELOPMENT MINISTER DHARMENDRA PRADHAN INAUGURATES IINVENTIV AT IIT DELHI.

- Education and Skill Development Minister Dharmendra Pradhan inaugurated IInvenTiv - the first-ever all-IITs Research and Development, R&D, Showcase at the Indian Institute of Technology in New Delhi.
- This event is being organized in line with the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav initiative.
- The first leg of this two-day event has brought over 300 representatives from industry, including start-ups along with government and embassy officials, and global IIT-alumni.
- Mr Pradhan said, that this event bears testimony to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's mantra of 'Jai Anusandhan' to build an Aatmanirbhar Bharat.
- He said, IITs have become instruments of transformation and a bridge to the future.
- Mr Pradhan stated that in the Amrit Kaal, the Anusandhan-led Bharat would be propelled by innovations at the grass roots level and it would seek the participation of all, especially the rural sector.

- He said, InvenTiv shall be the start of such a revolution and emerge as a key forum which will provide solutions to complex global challenges.
- A total of 75 projects by the 23 IITs are being exhibited at this event.

1.59. CERT-IN AND POWER-CSIRTS JOINTLY CONDUCT CYBER SECURITY EXERCISE "POWEREX-2022".

About:

- Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) in collaboration with Power-CSIRTS (Computer Security Incident Response Teams in Power sector), successfully designed & conducted the Cyber Security Exercise "PowerEX".
- The theme of the exercise was "Defending Cyber induced disruption in IT & OT infrastructure".
- The Objective of the exercise was to "Recognize, Analyse & Respond to Cyber Incident in IT & OT Systems".

CERT-In:

- The Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) is an office within the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.
- It is the nodal agency to deal with cyber security in India and strengthen security-related defence of the Indian internet domain.

1.60. ISRO TO BOOST NAVIC, WIDEN USER BASE OF LOCATION SYSTEM.

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is working on a series of improvements to the NavIC, or India's equivalent of the Global Positioning System (GPS), so that more people are motivated to install it and use it. Plans are also afoot to make its reach global rather than circumscribe it to India and a limited territory around it, said S. Somanath, Chairman, ISRO on the sidelines of the India Space Congress.
- NavIC (Navigation with Indian Constellation), or the Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS), is a constellation of seven satellites that is akin to the American GPS, the European Galileo and the Russian GLONASS, and can be used to track location. The first of these satellites (IRNSS-1A) were launched in 2013 and the latest in 2018.
- Though available for use in mainland India as well as a range of 1,500 km around it, it isn't in wide regular use in India primarily because mobile phones haven't been made compatible to process its signals. The Indian government has been pressing manufacturers to add compatibility and has set a deadline of January 2023 but media reports suggest this is unlikely before 2025.
- According to Mr. Somanath, a major forthcoming change, is to add the L1 band into NavIC. This bandwidth is part of the GPS and is the most used for civilian navigational use. "Currently NavIC is only compatible with the L5 and S bands and hasn't easily penetrated into the civilian sector. We are therefore getting ready with L1 band satellites now.
- The other major step would be to increase the "safety" of the signals. "There's Long Code and Short Code. Currently (NavIC) only provides short code. This has to become Long Code for the use of the strategic sector. This prevents the signal from being breached. This had been part of the original scheme for NavIC but less work has gone into it so far. We are now asking the government to allow us to do all this," he added. "Unless we do this, the user base will not widen."
- There are five more satellites in the offing to replace defunct NavIC satellites that would be launched in the coming months. However, to make NavIC truly "global" like GPS, more satellites would need to be placed in an orbit closer to earth than the current constellation, said Mr. Somanath. "Right now, NavIC's reach is only 1,500 km beyond Indian territory. But for our ships and airplanes travelling beyond that we'd need satellites in Medium Earth Orbit. To make this global at some point, we can keep adding MEO satellites."
- Currently, NavIC satellites orbit earth in a geostationary or geosynchronous (GEO) orbit, or about 36,000 km from earth. MEO orbits occupy a space between GEO and Low Earth Orbit (LEO), or about 250-2,000 km from earth.

1.61. ISRO CARRIES OUT KEY TEST OF ITS HEAVIEST ROCKET'S ENGINE.

- The flight acceptance hot test of a CE-20 engine is successfully carried out for a duration of 25 s in the High Altitude Test facility of ISRO Propulsion Complex at Mahendragiri on October 28, 2022. This engine is earmarked for the LVM3-M3 mission identified for the launch of the next set of 36 numbers of OneWeb India-1 satellites.
- The cryogenic upper stage of the LVM3 vehicle (C25 stage) is powered by a CE-20 engine working with the LOX-LH2 propellants combination. This engine develops a nominal thrust of 186.36 kN in vacuum.
- The **major objectives** of the flight acceptance test were to confirm the integrity of the hardware, assessment of subsystems' performance and tune the engine for meeting the mission requirements parameters for engine tuning for flight operation. Analysis of test data confirmed the satisfactory performance of the engine systems. This engine will be assembled to the C25 flight stage being integrated for the LVM3 M3 vehicle.
- These satellites of OneWeb, the London-based satellite communications company, are expected to be launched by the NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), the ISRO's commercial arm, aboard LVM3 early next year.
- This flight acceptance test comes within days of the launch of the first set of 36 OneWeb satellites by the NSIL from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC- SHAR) **in Sriharikota on October 23.**
- According to OneWeb, its partnership with NSIL and ISRO demonstrated its commitment to provide connectivity across the length and breadth of India by 2023.
- From Ladakh to Kanyakumari and Gujarat to Arunachal Pradesh, OneWeb will bring secured solutions not only to enterprises but also to towns, villages, municipalities and schools, including the hardest-to-reach areas across the country, it said.
- "OneWeb's commitment to enhance connectivity in India is backed by Bharti Global, its largest investor", the company said.
- NSIL, a central public sector enterprise under the Department of Space, had earlier signed two launch service contracts with the Network Access Associated Limited (OneWeb) for launching a total of 72 OneWeb LEO (low earth orbit) satellites on-board ISRO's LVM3.
- LVM3, ISRO's heaviest rocket, is capable of launching a four ton class of satellite to Geosynchronous Transfer orbit.
- LVM3 (Launch Vehicle Mark 3) is a three-stage vehicle with two solid motor strap-ons, a liquid propellant core stage and a cryogenic stage.

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ECONOMY

1.62. OUTPUT GROWTH IN INDIA'S EIGHT CORE INFRASTRUCTURE SECTORS SLOWED TO 3.3% IN AUGUST 2022 FROM 4.5% IN THE PREVIOUS MONTH.

About:

- This is the slowest pace seen since November 2021, with crude oil and natural gas continuing to report contractions while electricity and steel production clocked sharply lower expansions than in the previous month.
- Overall output levels in the eight sectors were 1.5% lower than in July 2022, marking the third successive month of sequential contraction.

Core Industries

- The core sector is an aggregate of 8 core sectors that are fundamental to the Indian economy.
- These are Coal, Crude oil, Natural gas, Refinery products, Fertilisers, Steel, Cement and Electricity.
- These 8 sectors constituting the core sector are important because they account for nearly 40.27% of the overall IIP and hence have long term repercussions for corporate profit growth as well as for the overall GDP growth.
- The growth of the country's eight core sectors is a lead indicator of the monthly industrial performance.
- The Office of Economic Adviser, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) in the Commerce and Industry Ministry releases the Index of Eight Core Industries.

1.63. RBI HIKES REPO RATE BY 50 BASIS POINTS TO 5.9%, FOURTH HIKE IN A ROW.

- The Reserve Bank of India's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) recently raised the policy repo rate by 50 basis points (bps) to 5.9%.
- It raised the repo rate (or the rate at which it lends money to the banking system) by 50 basis points (or 0.5 percentage points).
- It has cut India's GDP growth rate for the current financial year (2022-23) from 7.2% to 7%.
- The MPC retained the retail inflation projection for the current fiscal year at 6.7%.

Monetary Policy Committee

- The Monetary Policy Committee of India is responsible for fixing the policy interest rate, to achieve the objectives of monetary policy.

Composition:

- Three officials of the Reserve Bank of India, with Governor of RBI as Chairperson, ex officio
- Three external members appointed by the Government of India
- The external members hold office for a period of four years.
- Decisions of the MPC are taken on the basis of majority, with Governor having the casting vote in case of a tie.
- The MPC meets least 4 times a year and it publishes its decisions after each such meeting.

1.64. UNION MINISTER DR. JITENDRA: INDIA'S GEOSPATIAL ECONOMY IS EXPECTED TO CROSS RS. 63100 CRORE RUPEES BY 2025 AT A GROWTH RATE OF 12.8%.

- Science and Technology Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh said that India's geospatial economy is expected to cross Rs. 63100 crore rupees by 2025 at a growth rate of 12.8 percent.
- He said, geospatial technology has become one of the key enablers in socio-economic development by enhancing productivity, ensuring sustainable infrastructure planning, effective administration, and aiding the farm sector.
- The government is consistently playing an enabler's role in expanding the scope of geospatial applications in multiple spheres to benefit every section of the society. He said, the government has been digitizing and mapping the entire rural sector to ensure better planning and implementation of the developmental schemes.

- The Second United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress is scheduled to held in Hyderabad from 10th to 14th October this year.
- The conference will be attended by over two thousand delegates including 700 plus international delegates and participants from about 120 countries.

1.65. SBI WARNS AGAINST FREEBIES; SAYS THEY HAVE HUGE FISCAL COSTS.

- State Bank of India has warned against freebies, saying they have large fiscal costs and cause inefficiencies by distorting prices and misallocating resources.
- Citing an example of just three states, SBI's chief economic adviser Soumya Kanti Ghosh said the annual pension liabilities of Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, and Rajasthan are estimated at 3 lakh crore rupees.
- In its economic report, SBI suggested that the Supreme Court-led panel cap such welfare schemes at 1 percent of the state's GDP or 1 percent of its own tax collection.
- The report said, in relation to these states' own tax revenues, pension liabilities of Jharkhand are 217 percent, Rajasthan 190 percent, and Chhattisgarh 207 percent.
- The SBI report also flagged the off-budget borrowings of states, which are loans raised by state-owned entities and guaranteed by the states, to have reached around 4.5 percent of GDP in 2022.
- The report further said if we include the contingent liabilities along with freebies, then they come to around 10 percent of the GSDP for all the states combined. We must find a solution to this all-encompassing problem of fiscal hara-kiri.

1.66. MUDRA LOANS LOG A RECORD 30% GROWTH IN H1 FY23.

- The disbursement of small business loans under Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) logged a record 30 per cent growth in the first half of the current financial year ended September compared to the same period last year.
- As on September 2022, banks and other institutions disbursed over ₹1,37,785 crore under PMMY, while in the year-ago period, the same was at about ₹1.06 lakh crore.
- The disbursement in the first half of the current fiscal is the highest growth in the last three years and indicates not only complete normalisation of economic activity but also a higher appetite for small business loans.
- The data on the performance of PMMY showed a decline in total disbursements to ₹3.11 lakh crore in 2020-21 (from ₹3.29 lakh crore) largely due to the impact of Covid-19. However, the growth returned back during 2021-22 with total disbursements reaching ₹3.31 lakh crore. The bankers are expecting to close the current fiscal with disbursements higher than the previous year given the current run rate.

About Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY):

- It is a flagship scheme of the Ministry of Finance, Government of India, launched on 8th April, 2015.
- It is a Financial Inclusion (FI) programme in the country based on three pillars - Banking the Unbanked, Securing the Unsecured and Funding the Unfunded.

Types of loans:

- Shishu - Covering loans up to Rs 50,000;
- Kishor - Covering loans above Rs 50,000 and up to Rs 5 lakh;
- Tarun - Covering loans above Rs 5 lakh and up to Rs 10 lakh.

Eligibility:

- Any Indian Citizen who has a business plan for a non-farm sector income generating activities such as manufacturing, processing, trading or service sector.
- They can avail from all Public Sector Banks, Regional Rural Banks and Cooperative Banks, Private Sector Banks, Foreign Banks, Micro Finance Institutions (MFI) and Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFC) up to Rs 10 lakhs Micro Units Development & Refinance Agency Ltd. (MUDRA) loans under PMMY.

1.67. OPEC & ITS RUSSIA-LED ALLIES DECIDE TO CUT OIL PRODUCTION BY TWO MILLION BARRELS PER DAY.

- Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and its Russia-led allies have agreed to cut oil production by two million barrels a day at a Vienna meeting. It is the deepest cuts to oil production since the 2020 COVID pandemic.
- The cut could spur a recovery in oil prices that have dropped to about 90 dollars from 120 dollars three months ago on fears of a global economic recession, rising US interest rates, and a stronger dollar.
- However, the cut in real terms might be less than the headline figure, with multiple OPEC members currently producing less than their assigned quota.
- US President Joe Biden has expressed disappointment over the OPEC cartel's decision to slash oil production output. US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan and top economic advisor Brian Deese said the president is disappointed by the shortsighted decision.
- They said the supply cut will hit countries already reeling from high prices while the global economy is dealing with the continued negative impact of Russia's attack on Ukraine.
- They said President Biden is ordering another dip into the country's Strategic Petroleum Reserve, with 10 million barrels set to be put on the market next month in an attempt to dampen price rises.

1.68. CREDIT GUARANTEE SCHEME FOR STARTUPS NOTIFIED: DPIIT

- The Government has notified the credit guarantee scheme for startups to provide them collateral-free loans up to a specified limit.
- In a notification, the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) said that loan/debt facilities sanctioned to an eligible borrower on or after October 6, would be eligible for coverage under the scheme.
- The Central Government has approved the 'Credit Guarantee Scheme for Startups (CGSS) for the purpose of providing credit guarantees to loans extended by member institutions (MIs) to finance eligible borrowers being startups.
- This scheme would help provide the much needed collateral-free debt funding to startups.
- MIs include financial intermediaries (banks, financial institutions, NBFCs, AIFs) engaged in lending/investing and conforming to the eligibility criteria approved under the Scheme.
- Recognised startups that have reached the stage of stable revenue stream, as assessed from audited monthly statements over a 12 month period, amenable to debt financing; and startups that are not in default to any lending/investing institution and not classified as non-performing asset as per RBI guidelines, are eligible to avail benefits of this scheme.
- Maximum guarantee cover per borrower shall not exceed Rs 10 crore. The credit facility being covered here should not have been covered under any other guarantee scheme.
- For the purpose of this scheme, a trust or fund would be set up by the government of India with the purpose of guaranteeing payment against default in loans or debt extended to eligible borrowers, managed by the Board of National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Ltd as the Trustee of the Fund.
- It also said that lending institutions will have to evaluate credit applications by using prudent banking judgement and shall use their business discretion/due diligence in selecting commercially viable proposals and conduct the accounts of the borrowers with normal banking prudence.
- These institutions should also have to closely monitor the borrower account.
- Further there will be a Management Committee constituted by the DPIIT to oversee the affairs of the trust.
- The committee will be responsible for reviewing, supervising and monitoring the' functioning of the trust and shall provide necessary guidance to the trust on broad policy matters related to the scheme.

1.69. RBI TO SOON COMMENCE PILOT LAUNCH OF E-RUPEE FOR SPECIFIC USE CASES; ISSUES CONCEPT NOTE.

- Reserve Bank of India has released a Concept Note on Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) to create awareness about the Digital Rupee. It explains the objectives, choices, benefits, and risks of issuing a digital currency in India.

- The concept note also discusses issues such as technology and design choices, possible uses of the Digital Rupee, issuance mechanisms, and role of RBI in introduction of the CDBT.
- It also examines the implications of the introduction of digital currency on the banking system, monetary policy, financial stability, and privacy.
- According to the release, RBI will soon commence the launch of the Digital Rupee on a pilot basis for specific use.

1.70. INDIA GETS 4TH SET OF SWISS BANK ACCOUNT DETAILS.

- India has received the fourth set of Swiss bank account details of its nationals and organisations as part of an annual information exchange, under which Switzerland has shared particulars of nearly 34 lakh financial accounts with 101 countries.

Significance of India receiving information from Switzerland

- This is the fourth tranche of information that India has received from Switzerland since the two countries entered into an Automatic Exchange of Information (AEOI) agreement in January 2018. The first such exchange with India took place in 2019.
- In an effort to bring in transparency and restrict money laundering, the Swiss Federal Office has given a detailed account of the massive AEOI 2022 exchange exercise: the country has just concluded its exchange of information with 101 countries; with details of around 3.4 million financial accounts.
- Some countries which have been added to the Swiss AEOI list for the first time are Turkey, Peru and Nigeria. The Swiss Federal Tax Administration office has also informed that with 74 of these 101 countries, the information exchange was reciprocal.

What is the volume, nature of data?

- In 2019, prior to India receiving its first batch of banking information via the AEOI, India would be among 73 countries that would be receiving the data and in their (India's) case "several dispatches" would be required, giving an indication of the large volume of account holders.
- This time, the Federal Tax Administration has informed that the nature of the financial information includes the name, address, country of residence, tax identification number, information concerning the reporting financial institution, and account balance and capital information, giving an insight into the exact nature of the transmitted data.

Guidelines for exchange of such sensitive banking information

- The guidelines and parameters for the AEOI are set by the Paris-based international body, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). The annual exercise of AEOI exchange, such as the current Swiss bonanza of banking details, is strictly meant for "tax only" purposes and in India, kept in the custody of and for action by the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT).
- Under the OECD's guidelines, no details of the quantum of funds or the names of account holders are to be publicised. In 2014, the OECD developed the Common Reporting Standard (CRS) which allows every country to obtain data from Financial Institutions (FIs) and "automatically" exchange it with countries with which AEOI agreements are in order every year.

What is the scope of India's AEOI network?

- Under the OECD umbrella of AEOI, India presently shares bulk financial and banking information with 78 countries and receives the same from 107 countries, with Switzerland known to be sharing some of the most voluminous data.
- Due primarily to the large volume of FI data coming in from now 100 countries, the CBDT last year set up a network of Foreign Asset Investigation Units (FAIUs) in 14 of its investigation wings, to which the information of that region which has reached India via the AEOI route is transmitted in a secure manner.
- It is the FAIUs that do the follow-up probe of the FI data, and to begin with, investigate whether the taxpayer has declared the foreign bank account/s in tax returns or not.

1.71. IMF CUTS GLOBAL GDP GROWTH PROJECTION; IMF EXPECTS INFLATION IN INDIA TO COME DOWN TO 4 PERCENT NEXT YEAR.

- International Monetary Fund has projected that global growth will slow from 6 percent in 2021 to 3.2 percent in 2022 and 2.7 percent in 2023.
- Projecting the growth, IMF said that this will be the weakest growth since 2001, except for the global financial crisis and the acute phase of the pandemic. It said that the world's largest economies US, China, and the Euro area will continue to stall.
- In the World Economic Outlook 2022 report, IMF said that India will be the fastest-growing large economy in the world. Cutting India's GDP growth forecast to 6.8 percent for Financial Year 2023, the IMF predicted that India will continue to remain on track to become one of the fastest-growing economies in the world.
- IMF expects that inflation in India will come down to 4 percent range next year. It said that global inflation will likely peak at 9.5 percent this year before slowing to 4.1 percent by 2024.
- IMF also warned that a major economic slump is yet to come, and 2023 will feel like a recession to many people.

1.72. RETAIL INFLATION RISES TO 7.41 PER CENT IN SEPTEMBER.

- Retail inflation, based on the consumer price index (CPI), rose to 7.41 per cent in September this year compared to seven per cent in preceding month.
- As per the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation data released today, inflation climbed mainly due to modest rise in prices of Food & Beverages, Clothing & footwear and Fuel & light segments.
- In September, inflation in the food basket stood at 8.41 per cent, compared to 7.57 per cent in August this year. During September 2022 inflation in clothing & footwear stood at 10.17 percent while fuel & light witnessed 10.39 percent inflation.
- The government has mandated the central bank to maintain retail inflation at four per cent with a margin of two per cent on either side.

1.73. PM GATI SHAKTI-NATIONAL MASTER PLAN AIMS TO CUT DOWN LOGISTIC COST BY 4-5 PC.

- India will save Rs 10 lakh crore annually if the country is able to bring down the logistic costs by 4-5 percent through PM Gati Shakti-National Master Plan for Multi-modal connectivity, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal.
- In India logistic cost is around 13-14 percent.
- Our effort is to bring down the logistic cost by 4-5 percent in the coming years. It will help India save around Rs 10 lakh crore annually.
- India is improving last mile connectivity through PM Gati Shakti, filling the infrastructure gaps, completing infrastructure projects within a short period of time through PM Gati Shakti, and if we bring down logistics costs from 13-14 percent to single digit or 4-5 percent down, it will save Rs 10 lakh crore annually.
- "Going forward, as our target is to make the country's economy \$30 trillion by 2047, we need to reduce the logistics cost.
- Earlier in the programme, Goyal released LEADS (Logistics Ease Across Different States) 2022 report on the ranking of states. According to the report, Andhra Pradesh, Assam and Gujarat are among the 15 states and UTs categorised as achievers in the **logistics index chart 2022**. The index is an indicator of the efficiency of logistical services necessary for promoting exports and economic growth. Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Puducherry, Sikkim and Tripura are the other states categorised as fast movers in the ranking.
- The 15 states and UTs ranked in the aspirer's category include Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Goa and Mizoram.
- The report ranks the states on the basis of their logistics ecosystem, highlights the key logistics-related challenges faced by the stakeholders and includes suggestive recommendations, according to the fourth LEADS (Logistics Ease Across Different States) 2022 report unveiled by Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal.

- The index aims at enhancing the focus on improving logistics performance across states which is essential for improving the country's trade and reducing transaction costs.
- The first logistics report was released in 2018. No ranking was released last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Gujarat was in the first position in both the 2018 and 2019 ranking lists.

1.74. INDIA STANDS THIRD IN THE WORLD IN TERMS OF FISH PRODUCTION: MoS DR. L MURUGAN.

- Union Minister of State for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Dr. L Murugan has said that the ministry has taken several steps to improve fish production, export and infrastructure development in the last eight years.
- Speaking at the valedictory of Inland Fisheries Summit in Bengaluru, he said, India stands third in the world in terms of fish production.
- Making specific reference to Karnataka, the Union Minister said that 734.77 crore rupees was allocated to the state under the flagship scheme of Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) from 2020-21 till date for the development of infrastructure facilities.
- Under PMMSY, over 53 crore rupees was given to complete phase three expansion of Mangalore fishing harbour, phase two of Gangolli fishing harbour, Alvekodi and Thenginagundi fish landing centres.
- In principle, approval is given for the development of state of an art fishing harbour at Majali in Uttara Kannada district at a total cost of 250 crore rupees.
- Under PMMSY, approval is given to acquire 114 new deep-sea fishing vessels at a total cost of 136 crore rupees for traditional fishermen in the state.
- A total of 1000 communication and tracking devices and 781 safety kits were also distributed to traditional and motorized fishing vessels at a total cost of 11.31 crore rupees.
- Under PMMSY, 62 new Ice plants or cold storage facilities, 799 fish transport vehicles, one fish retail market, 84 fish kiosks and three value-added enterprises were supported with an investment of 133.15 crore rupees.
- The minister informed the fish production in Karnataka has increased from 6.80 lakh tonnes in 2019-20 to 10.74 lakh tonnes during 2021-22 which is about 76 percent growth.
- PMMSY has helped create 1.4 lakh direct and indirect job opportunities in this sector in the state.

Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY):

- The vision is to bring about Blue Revolution through sustainable and responsible development of fisheries sector.
- The main motto of PMMSY is 'Reform, Perform and Transform' in the fisheries sector.
- **Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying** is the implementing agency.
- The PMMSY is an umbrella scheme with two separate components – **Central Sector Scheme and Centrally Sponsored Scheme.**

1.75. CCI IMPOSES FINE OF OVER RS 1,337 CR ON GOOGLE FOR ABUSING ITS DOMINANT POSITION IN MULTIPLE MARKETS.

- The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has imposed a penalty of over one thousand 337 crore rupees on Google for abusing its dominant position in multiple markets. The Commission has also directed Google to modify its conduct within a defined timeline.
- In its order, the CCI said, Google has perpetuated its dominant position in the online search market resulting in denial of market access for competing search apps.
- Google has leveraged its dominant position in the app store market for Android Operating System to protect its position in online general search.

About Competition Commission of India (CCI)

- The Competition Act, 2002, as amended by the Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007, follows the philosophy of modern competition laws.

- The Act prohibits anti-competitive agreements, abuse of dominant position by enterprises and regulates combinations (acquisition, acquiring of control and M&A), which causes or likely to cause an appreciable adverse effect on competition within India.

1.76. BANK OF BARODA LAUNCHES EIGHT DIGITAL BANK UNITS.

- Prime Minister inaugurated 75 Digital Banking Units (DBU) in 75 Districts on 16th October with the aim of financial inclusion. In line with this Bank of Baroda (Bank), a public sector bank opened 8 DBUs to sync with the Government's initiative.
- The Bank of Baroda's 8 DBUs have been opened in Indore, Kanpur Dehat, Karauli, Kota, Leh, Silvassa, Vadodara, and Varanasi.
- Previously, on the day of the inauguration, IDFC had launched DBUs at Kendujhar in Odisha and Dimapur in Nagaland.
- These DBUs will offer digital and paperless services with full security. Two modes i.e. self-service and digital assistance zone will be used to cater the needs and preferences of a vast cross-section.
- "In line with the Government of India's vision for a Digital India, the Digital Banking Units being launched today will help more people access digital banking products and services conveniently & securely and will play a key role in promoting financial literacy and financial inclusion in a digital manner.
- At Bank of Baroda, we have been on a digital transformation journey. This far-reaching initiative will ensure that the benefits of digital banking reach citizens across the length and breadth of our country," Sanjiv Chadha, Managing Director & CEO, Bank of Baroda said.

What is Digital Banking Unit (DBU)?

- DBUs are specialized branches for delivering digital banking products. It will be totally paperless and will also act as a digital financial literacy center. There will be hassle-free bank account opening opportunities for the citizens through e-KYC/Video KYC. People will be able to withdraw and deposit their money 24*7.
- The DBUs will provide a comprehensive range of digital products and services on the liability and the asset side, including the opening of savings accounts, fund transfers, end-to-end digital processing of loans, internet banking, digital grievance redressal, ATMs, and services related to government-sponsored schemes.

1.77. BSE LAUNCHED ELECTRONIC GOLD RECEIPTS.

- **BSE, or the Bombay Stock Exchange, launched Electronic Gold Receipt (EGR)** on its platform on 24 October 2022. It introduced two new products of 995 and 999 purity during the Muhurat trading on Diwali.

How The Trading Will Happen:

- **Trading will be in multiples of 1 gram and deliveries in multiples of 10 gram and 100 gram.** The EGR market will remain open from 9:00 am to 9.30 pm. It will have T+1 settlement. **EGR allows efficient price discovery and standardization of gold**, transparency in gold transactions, promotion of India Good Delivery Standard and settlement guarantee to the Investors.

India & The Gold:

- **India is the second largest consumer of gold globally, with annual gold demand of approximately 800-900 tones**, and holds an important position in the global markets.
- **Despite being second only to China, in consumption of gold**, India has remained only as a price-taker in the global markets. To address the issue, Government of India have authorized the introduction of a gold exchange where the metal will be traded in Electronic Gold Receipts (EGR) form on Indian exchanges (BSE, NSE etc.).

How The BSE Functions:

- **BSE (formerly Bombay Stock Exchange) is India's leading exchange group.** BSE provides an efficient and transparent market for trading in equity, debt instruments, equity derivatives, currency derivatives, commodity derivatives, interest rate derivatives, mutual funds and stock lending and borrowing.

DEFENCE

1.78. INDIGENOUSLY-DEVELOPED LIGHT COMBAT HELICOPTER, "PRACHANDA", INDUCTED INTO INDIAN AIR FORCE AT JODHPUR IN RAJASTHAN.

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh formally inducted the indigenously-developed Light Combat Helicopters (LCH) in the Indian Air Force at a ceremony held at Air Force Station, Jodhpur in Rajasthan. LCH would be inducted into the 143 Helicopter Unit. LCH has been named as 'Prachanda'.
- LCH has been developed by Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL). It is a state-of-the-art modern combat helicopter, primarily designed for deployment in high-altitude regions. LCH is the only attack helicopter in the world which can land and take-off at an altitude of 5,000 m with a considerable load of weapons and fuel.
- This helicopter is powered by two Shakti engines and is equipped with stealth features, all-weather combat capability, armour protection, night attack capability, and crash-worthy landing gear. The narrow fuselage with tandem cockpit configuration makes LCH extremely maneuverable and agile. Stealth features like low radar cross section and minimal infrared signature allow it to go behind enemy lines undetected and attack with precision.
- LCH has a range of 550 km and an operational ceiling of 6500 m. It is armed with air-to-air and air-to-ground missiles, 70 mm rockets and a 20 mm gun. It boasts of a full glass cockpit, Electronic Warfare suite and helmet-mounted display for the flying crew.
- LCH can perform a range of roles, including combat search and rescue, destruction of enemy air defence and counter-insurgency operations in the jungle and urban environments. The Cabinet Committee on Security approved the purchase of 15 indigenous LCH helicopters in March this year.
- The induction of LCH in the Indian Air Force is expected to provide further impetus to Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan.
- Under the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan, the government is encouraging indigenous design, development and manufacture of defence equipment in the country to reduce their import.

1.79. INDIA, SOUTH KOREA HOLD NAVAL EXERCISE.

- Navies of India and South Korea participated in a maritime partnership exercise in the Bay of Bengal.
- Indian warship INS Sumedha participated in the exercise with Republic of Korea navy ships Hansando and Dae Cheong on October 1.
- The exercise included helicopter operations, communication drills and tactical manoeuvres. The interaction was aimed at strengthening maritime cooperation and inter-operability between the two navies. The Korean Navy's cruise training task group consisting of the two naval ships had arrived in Chennai on September 28.
- Professional interactions and sports activities are scheduled between the personnel of the two navies.

1.80. INDIA SIGNED AN AGREEMENT WITH ARMENIA TO EXPORT MISSILES, ROCKETS & AMMUNITION.

- India will export missiles, rockets, and ammunition to Armenia after the recent clashes between Armenia and Azerbaijan.
- The missiles will also include Indigenous Pinaka Multi-Barrel Rocket Launcher. India has signed this deal with Armenia to help them to depend on the country against their neighbouring country Azerbaijan.
- India signed an order for arms export through a government-to-Government route through which the two nations inked contracts.
- The government has not revealed the exact value of the contract; however, it is estimated that India will supply weapons worth more than Rs 2,000 crore.
- India will also export Indigenous Pinaka Multi-Barrel Rocket Launcher.

- Pinaka has been developed by the Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) and manufactured by indigenous private sector firms.
- India will also provide anti-tank rockets as well as a wide range of ammunition to Armenia under the bundled deal.
- The center has also set a target to sell weapon systems worth Rs 35,000 crore abroad by 2025.

1.81. GOVT ANNOUNCES CREATION OF WEAPON SYSTEM BRANCH AND UNVEILS NEW COMBAT UNIFORM FOR AIR FORCE PERSONNEL.

- On Indian Air Force raising day, the Government has approved the creation of a new Weapon Systems branch in the Indian Air Force.
- The Chief of Air Staff said, the branch will enhance the war-fighting capability of the Force.
- The Ministry of Defence said the branch would encompass operators in four specialised streams of Surface-to-Surface missiles, Surface-to-Air missiles, Remotely Piloted Aircraft, and Weapon System Operators in twin-multi-crew aircraft.
- Terming this a historic step for the IAF, the Ministry said, creation of Weapon System branch would entail the unification of all weapon system operators under one entity.
- The IAF Chief of Air Staff also unveiled the new combat uniform for air force personnel.
- The new combat uniform is believed to borrow features that were unveiled earlier this year by the Army.
- This news uniform's versatility also means it can be worn in different terrains - from the mountainous terrain of Kashmir to the vast coast of the peninsula.
- From the jungles of the northeast to the deserts of Rajasthan. With this, all three arms of the Indian military have upgraded to disruptive digital patterns for camouflage uniforms.

1.82. NSG HOLDING MULTINATIONAL JOINT ANTI-TERROR DRILL.

- The National Security Guard (NSG) is holding a multinational joint anti-terror exercise (JATE) at its campus at Manesar in Gurugram under the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) framework.
- The JATE "**Manesar Anti-Terror 2022**" is aimed at exchanging expertise and best practices and building synergy between the Counter Terrorism Forces of the SCO RATS member countries to enhance capabilities for conducting anti-terrorist operations and countering other security threats collectively, the NSG said in a statement.
- Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) is one of the permanent organs of the SCO and is Headquartered in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.
- The objective of SCO RATS is to facilitate cooperation and coordination against Terrorism, Extremism and Separatism. India assumed the chairmanship of the Council of SCO RATS in Oct 2021. JATE is an annual Counter Terrorist Exercise held within the framework of the SCO RATS.
- The Stage 1 of the Exercise was conducted from July 27 to August 1 by the National Counter Terrorist Forces of SCO member countries in their respective territories.
- The Stage 2 of the Exercise is being conducted from October 8 to October 13, at NSG Manesar Garrison, in which eight representatives from National Counter Terrorism Forces of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Uzbekistan, Russian Federation and NSG of India are participating.
- During the exercise, nuances of planning, preparation and conduct of Counter Terrorist Operations will be discussed and deliberated upon. The Exercise will be witnessed by four "observers" from the Executive Committee of RATS, SCO and one observer from the State Committee for National Security of Tajikistan.
- The Exercise will provide a platform to the participating member countries to enhance their operational capabilities and exchange experience in combating terrorism, separatism and extremism, which are common regional security challenges.
- The Exercise will culminate in a closing ceremony which will be attended by high-level delegations from EC RATS SCO including Permanent Representatives, delegates from SCO member countries, representatives of

the diplomatic missions of the SCO member countries in India, representatives of International organisations collaborating with RATS SCO and national delegates from India.

- During the Closing Ceremony, besides presenting the outcome of Stage-1 and Stage-2 by all SCO Member Countries, tactical demonstrations highlighting the operational capabilities of NSG to mitigate the terrorist threats will be showcased.

1.83. INS TARKASH REACHES SOUTH AFRICA TO PARTICIPATE IN 7TH EDITION OF IBSAMAR.

- INS Tarkash reached Port Grequhrea, also known as Port Elizabeth in South Africa to participate in the seventh edition of IBSAMAR, a joint multinational maritime exercise among Indian, Brazilian and South African Navies.
- The harbour phase of IBSAMAR VII includes professional exchanges such as damage control and fire-fighting drills, and interaction among special forces.
- The Indian Navy is represented by the Teg class guided missile frigate, INS Tarkash, a Chetak helicopter and the personnel from the Marine Commando Force (MARCOS).
- The Joint Maritime Exercise will strengthen maritime security, joint operational training, sharing of best practices and building interoperability to address common maritime threats.
- The previous edition of IBSAMAR (IBSAMAR VI) was conducted off Simons Town, in South Africa in October 2018.

1.84. INDIAN NAVY CONDUCTS OFFSHORE SECURITY EXERCISE, 'PRASTHAN'.

- The Offshore Security Exercise, 'Prasthan' in the Offshore Development Area (ODA) off Kakinada was conducted by Eastern Naval Command.
- The Half Yearly Exercise was conducted in the KG basin to validate SOPs, address various contingencies and strengthen the command & control organisation towards Maritime Security.
- The exercise is coordinated by the Indian Navy and involves all stakeholders in the maritime domain, including oil and gas operators, the State Marine Police, Dept of Fisheries and the Indian Coast Guard, etc.

1.85. DEFENCE MINISTER RAJNATH SINGH LAUNCHES 'MAA BHARATI KE SAPOOT' WEBSITE FOR CONTRIBUTION TO ARMED FORCES BATTLE CASUALTIES WELFARE FUND.

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh launched 'Maa Bharati Ke Sapoot' website for contribution to the Armed Forces Battle Casualties Welfare Fund at a function organised at the National War Memorial Complex in New Delhi.
- This Tri-Service fund, which is utilised for grant of immediate financial assistance to the families of armed personnel of three forces who laid down their lives or get grievously injured in active military operations.
- The amount donated in this fund will provide financial assistance to the families of martyrs and soldiers of all three services.
- Speaking after launching the website, Mr Rajnath Singh said that security is paramount for any society and all sections of the society have an important responsibility towards the welfare of the brave soldiers and their families.
- He also appealed to the countrymen to be associated to this initiative and make contribution for the welfare of the bravehearts.
- On this occasion, the Minister also felicitated the next of kin of fallen heroes and disabled soldiers.
- Bollywood actor Amitabh Bachchan is the 'Goodwill Ambassador' of the initiative, expressed his gratitude towards the families of the fallen heroes and exhorted people to come forward and contribute to the fund.
- Anyone or any organisation can make financial assistance.

1.86. DEFEXPO 2022: INDIA-AFRICA DEFENCE DIALOGUE TO BE HELD IN GANDHINAGAR.

- India-Africa Defence Dialogue will be held on the sidelines of DefExpo 2022 in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

- The dialogue will explore new areas of convergence for mutual engagement, including in areas like capacity building, training, cyber security, maritime security and counter-terrorism.
- The broad theme of the dialogue is India-Africa: Adopting Strategy for Synergising and Strengthening Defence and Security Cooperation. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will host the Defence Ministers of African Nations.
- India and Africa share close and historical ties. India's approach towards Africa is guided by the Kampala Principles enunciated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2018.
- The first-ever India-Africa Defence Ministers Conclave was held in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh in conjunction with DefExpo in 2020.

1.87. DEFENCE MINISTER HOSTS INDIAN OCEAN REGION PLUS DEFENCE MINISTERS' CONCLAVE ON THE SIDELINES OF DEFEXPO 2022.

- Indian Ocean Region plus (IOR) Defence Ministers' Conclave was hosted by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh at the sidelines of DefExpo 2022 in Gandhinagar.
- The conclave was attended by representatives of 40 countries. The conclave aims to promote strategic and commercial partnerships within the IOR countries, in line with Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR).
- The theme of the conclave was 'Challenges Opportunities and Collaborations in the Indian Ocean.
- Delivering the keynote address, Mr. Rajnath Singh described the Prime Minister's vision of SAGAR as the theme of New Delhi's Indian Ocean Policy. Giving the example of adverse impact on the energy and food security for the most vulnerable countries due to the recent Ukrainian conflict, Mr. Singh called for collective efforts towards addressing the present and emerging threats to security & stability in the IOR.
- Mr. Singh urged the IOR countries to leverage the R&D ecosystem created by the Government in India for the mutual benefit for all. He said, with the right policies and framework, India is poised to be a global R&D hub. He also held bilateral meetings with delegation leaders from Bangladesh, Angola, South Africa, Democratic Republic of Congo and Paraguay.
- Also, the second edition of India-Africa Defence Dialogue (IADD) was held on the sidelines of DefExpo 2022. The dialogue saw the participation of representatives from 50 African countries. Gandhinagar declaration was adopted as an outcome of IADD.
- The India-Africa Security fellowship programme was also launched to provide an opportunity to African scholars to pursue research on defence and security issues in India.

1.88. THE INDO-RUSSIAN JOINT VENTURE AT KORWA IN UTTAR PRADESH WILL START MANUFACTURING AK-203 ASSAULT RIFLES BY 2022 END.

- Under an over ₹5,000 crore contract, over 6.1 lakh AK-203 assault rifles will be manufactured in India with technology transfer from Russia.
- The Indo-Russia Rifles Private Limited was set up in 2019 to produce the Russian-origin Kalashnikov assault rifles in Korwa Ordnance Factory in Amethi district.
- AK203 is the advanced version of the Kalashnikov assault rifle family, the first of which was the AK-47.
- The AK-203 assault rifles will replace the INSAS rifles that have been in service for over three decades.
- The weapon fires 7.62×39 cartridges and weighs 3.8 kg without ammo.
- The modern version of the Russian-origin rifle has an effective range of 300 metres or more than three football fields, is lightweight and robust.

India-Russia Defence cooperation:

- As per a report by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, India figures amongst the key arms importing destination globally.
- India has for decades been Russia's largest arms importer, with Russian weapons accounting for nearly 70% of India's military arsenal.
- The two nations have earlier collaborated to manufacture the BrahMos missiles, which are a key component of India's missile defence systems.

- Furthermore, the defence trade between India and Russia has crossed \$15 billion since 2018, in the backdrop of some big deals including the \$5.43 billion S-400 long range air defence systems.

1.89. ARMY TO PROCURE 750 HI-TECH DRONES FOR PRECISION STRIKES ALONG LoC, LAC.

- The Indian Army's special forces — the ones mandated to operate behind enemy lines — are looking for specialised drones that can provide 3D imagery of the terrain to launch operations.
- The Ministry of Defence came out with the request for proposal (RFP) for such UAVs which will be processed as per the fast-track procurement procedure under the "emergency procurement".
- The RFP is part of the tendering process seeking commercial and technical bids from suppliers. Some 750 such drones are needed. "The current volatile situation along the northern borders warrants expeditious procurement of operational equipment," the RFP document said.
- The Army is looking for UAVs that can provide round-the-clock surveillance with ability to scan the target area and provide a processed 3D scanned image of the target to execute special missions. The MoD wants to keep out any Chinese parts and has asked the vendor to provide NATO stock number (NSN) for each item provided by a foreign maker.
- This equipment will be deployed for situational awareness and short-range surveillance that will enable the special forces to execute pin-point precision strikes during direct action tasks.
- The Army wants the UAV to be about 2 kg in weight and be operable by one person. The UAV needs to have an endurance of 30 minutes and be able to operate indoors and in GPS-denied area.

About Drones:

- Drones or Unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) are aircraft with no on-board crew.
- The 'drones' can range from remotely piloted to fully automated, which means that **it relies on a system of sensors and LIDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) detectors to calculate its movement.** It can fly at a controlled level of height and speed for a long period of time.

New Drone Rules, 2021

- The Central Government on 25th August 2021 has promulgated liberalised '**The Drone Rules, 2021**' replacing the erstwhile **Unmanned Aircraft System Rules 2021 ("Prior Rules")**, to regulate the use and operation of Drones or Unmanned Aerial System ("UAS") in India.
- The Rules are **based on the principles of "trust, self-certification and non-intrusive monitoring"** by reducing the extent of regulatory control.
- The strict requirements under the Prior Rules like certificate of conformation, certificate of maintenance, operator permits, import clearance, authorization of R&D etc., have been abolished under the Rules.

1.90. PM TO LAY FOUNDATION STONE OF C-295MW TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT MANUFACTURING PROJECT FOR IAF AT VADODARA ON OCT 30, 2022.

- Prime Minister will lay the foundation stone of a C-295MW transport aircraft manufacturing project for the Indian Air Force (IAF) at Vadodara in Gujarat on the 30th of this month.
- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Minister of Civil Aviation Jyotiraditya Scindia and Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendrabhai Patel and other dignitaries will attend the function.
- Defence Secretary Dr Ajay Kumar said, this transport aircraft manufacturing project will create an entirely new ecosystem for the aviation sector in the country.
- He said, this facility will enhance India's overall position in transport aircraft manufacturing. Terming this a big step towards ease of doing business to promote Make in India, he said, several steps have been taken in the direction of self-reliance in the defence sector.
- He said, this state-of-the-art transport aircraft of 5 to 10 tons capacity is going to be manufactured for the first time in the country.
- This is the first project of its kind in which a military aircraft will be manufactured in India by a private company. The aircraft will strengthen the logistic capabilities of the IAF.

- 16 aircraft will be delivered in flyaway condition and 40 will be manufactured in India by the Indian Aircraft Contractor, TATA Consortium of Tata Advanced Systems Limited and Tata Consultancy Services.
- In September 2021, Cabinet Committee on Security had approved the procurement of 56 C-295MW transport aircraft from Airbus Defence and Space S.A. The first 16 fly-away aircraft are scheduled to be received between September 2023 and August 2025.
- The first Made in India aircraft is expected in September 2026. The total cost of the project will be 21 thousand 935 crore rupees. The aircraft can be used for civilian purposes also.
- All 56 aircraft will be fitted with an Electronic Warfare suite supplied by Bharat Electronics Limited and Bharat Dynamics Limited,
- The transport facility will generate several skilled and indirect jobs.
- It is estimated that 600 highly skilled jobs and more than three thousand indirect jobs will be generated with this initiative. Nearly 240 engineers will be trained at the Airbus facility in Spain.

1.91. INDIA, FRANCE PARTICIPATE IN GARUDA VII EXERCISE.

- Frontline fighter jets of India and France are participating in the nearly fortnight long bilateral exercise Garuda 'Garuda VII,' at Air Force Station, Jodhpur commencing October 26 and ending November 12.
- French Air and Space Force (FASF) has deployed four Rafale fighter aircraft, one A330 Multi Role Tanker Transport (MRTT) aircraft and a contingent of 220 personnel.
- The IAF is participating with Su-30 MKI, Rafale, Tejas light combat aircraft(LCA) and Jaguar fighter aircraft, as well as the Light Combat Helicopter (LCH) and Mi-17 helicopters, IAF officials said here on Friday.
- The IAF contingent also includes combat enabling assets like Flight Refuelling Aircraft, AWACS and AEW&C.
- This joint exercise will provide a platform for both the countries to enhance operational capability and interoperability, while also sharing best practices. This is the seventh edition of the bilateral exercise.
- The first, third and fifth editions were conducted in India in 2003, 2006 and 2014 at Air Force Stations Gwalior, Kalaikunda and Jodhpur, respectively.
- The second, fourth and sixth editions were conducted in France in 2005, 2010 and 2019

1.92. THE FOURTH EDITION OF THE GOA MARITIME SYMPOSIUM (GMS) IS BEING CONDUCTED BY THE NAVAL WAR COLLEGE (NWC) AT GOA FROM 31 OCTOBER TO 01 NOVEMBER 2022.

About:

- **The theme of GMS-2022** is “Maritime Security Challenges in the Indian Ocean Region: Converting Common Maritime Priorities into Collaborative Mitigation Frameworks”.
- The theme is underpinned by the idea of ‘**Security and Growth for All in the Region’ (SAGAR)** and five principles of Maritime Security enunciated by the Hon’ble Prime Minister of India.
- The participants of the Symposium comprise Captains/ Commanders and equivalent-rank officers from Navies/ Maritime forces from friendly foreign countries viz., **Bangladesh, Comoros, Indonesia, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Myanmar, Seychelles, Singapore, Sri Lanka, and Thailand, besides India.**

Goa Maritime Symposium (GMS):

- It was conceptualised and instituted by the **Indian Navy in 2016.**
- It is a forum for fostering collaborative thinking, cooperation and mutual understanding between India and key maritime nations of the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).
- The symposium is conducted biennially by the **Naval War College (NWC), Goa**, and three editions of the event have been organised thus far.

INDEX AND REPORTS

1.93. RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT FORCES OVER 4 MILLION CHILDREN INTO POVERTY: UNICEF

- UNICEF has said that economic crisis due to Russia-Ukraine conflict has thrown more than 4 million children into poverty across eastern Europe and Central Asia.
- It said on Monday that Russian and Ukrainian children have been most affected since the conflict started in February. UNICEF drew its conclusions from a study of data from 22 countries.
- On other hand, the World Food Program estimated that nearly 19 million Afghans are facing food insecurity.
- On World Food Day, which was observed on Sunday, the World Food Programme in Afghanistan said that a survey conducted in February and March indicated that nearly 19 million people are facing food insecurity.

1.94. INTERNET FREEDOM IN INDIA IMPROVES AFTER 4 YEARS OF DECLINE: FREEDOM HOUSE.

- India's internet freedom score improved by two points to 51 in the global ranking following efforts to bridge the digital divide in the country, according to the US government-funded NGO Freedom House.
- The improvement in the score is also based on reduced frequency and intensity of internet shutdowns in the country.
- Internet freedom in India marginally improved over the last year, following four years of decline, as efforts to bridge the country's digital divides expanded access to the internet. While the government continues to impose internet shutdowns, they have reduced in their frequency and intensity," Freedom on The Net 2022 said.
- India's score was 49 in Internet Freedom in 2021.
- According to report, legal challenges to laws enabling the government to censor online content, including against the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021, have seen limits imposed on some powers.
- However, the state continues to block online content, and Indian internet users risk arrest for posts critical of the government. Misinformation and disinformation are frequently shared online, and journalists, nongovernmental organizations, and members of marginalized groups remain at risk of facing hate speech and online harassment," the report said.
- The US government-funded NGO found that global internet freedom declined for the 12th consecutive year with sharpest downgrades were documented in Russia, Myanmar, Sudan, and Libya.
- The report claimed that China was the world's worst environment for internet freedom for the eighth consecutive year and internet freedom in the United States improved marginally for the first time in six years.
- There were fewer reported cases of targeted surveillance and online harassment during protests compared with the previous year, and the country now ranks ninth globally, tied with Australia and France.
- The United States still lacks a comprehensive federal privacy law, and policymakers made little progress on the passage of other legislation related to internet freedom," the report said referring to the internet freedom status in US.

1.95. IIT BOMBAY BEST IN EMPLOYABILITY, IIT DELHI RANKS SECOND IN QS RANKINGS.

- IIT Bombay is the best educational institute in India, as per the 'QS World University Rankings: Sustainability 2023'.
- In the rankings, released in London recently, IIT Bombay was evaluated as India's top higher education institute for its excellence in employability, social concern, and environment.
- IIT Bombay was featured in the 281-300 rank range, followed by IIT Delhi (321-340 rank) and Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) at the third rank (361-380).
- Apart from this, IIT Bombay was also included in the world's top 100 institutes based on the employability of its graduates.

- IIT Delhi was ranked for its employability and environment while Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) was ranked for gender equality and removing other inequalities.
- In terms of competition and academic freedom, Delhi University ranked fourth in India.
- Globally, the University of California was declared the top university, followed by the University of Toronto and the University of British Columbia in second and third ranks, respectively.
- The US dominates the rankings with 135 ranked universities (19.2 per cent of the total). Of these, 30 universities are included in the top 100.
- Similarly, the UK was ranked second with 67 British universities being included in the rankings.
- After the US and the UK, Australia and Germany are at the forefront of this ranking.
- The students and teachers of JNU are excited by the university's performance in the rankings.

1.96. OAG REPORT: DELHI'S IGI AIRPORT IS NOW WORLD'S 10TH BUSIEST AIRPORT.

- According to **Official Airline Guide (OAG) report**, the **Indira Gandhi International Airport** in Delhi is the **10th busiest airport** in the world in terms of seat capacity and frequency of domestic and international flights as of October 2022.
- According to OAG, there were 34,13,855 seats at the Delhi airport, popularly known as the **Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA)**.
- In its research, aviation analytics company OAG said the Delhi airport improved from its 14th position in October 2019, before the pandemic struck.
- The Indian aviation sector is recovering after being significantly impacted by the coronavirus pandemic that also saw scheduled international flight services remaining suspended for more than two years starting from March 2020.

Key points in the reports:

- The busiest airport in the world as of October 2022 is **Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport** having serviced **47,47,367 seats**.
- **Dubai International** is second with 41,27,704 seats, followed by **Tokyo International Airport** with 38,77,164 seats and **Dallas Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport** with 37,53,858 seats.
- In fifth place is the **Denver airport** with 37,09,394 seats, followed by **London Heathrow Airport, Chicago O'Hare International Airport** at the 7th spot and **Los Angeles International Airport** at the 9th position, the OAG report said.

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SUMMITS

1.97. INDIA PARTICIPATES AT 3RD G20 SHERPA MEETING IN INDONESIA.

- India's G20 Sherpa Amitabh Kant led an official delegation to the third G20 Sherpa meeting held in Yogyakarta, Indonesia from 26th to 29th of September.
- During the deliberations, Mr Kant reaffirmed India's commitment and active support to Indonesian Presidency's efforts to finalize meaningful outcomes for the forthcoming G20 Bali Summit in November.
- He also emphasized the need for G20 to bring enhanced global focus on and strengthen international cooperation and efforts in key priority areas such as sustainable growth, accelerated progress on SDGs, and addressing climate change.
- On the sidelines of the G20 Sherpa meeting, Mr. Amitabh Kant also held bilateral interactions with his visiting Sherpa counterparts from Brazil, France, Germany, Japan, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Spain, UK and US.

1.98. MINISTERIAL DIALOGUE OF US-INDIA STRATEGIC CLEAN ENERGY PARTNERSHIP TO BE HELD ON 7TH OCT 2022.

- The Ministerial dialogue of US-India Strategic Clean Energy Partnership (USISCEP) will be held on 7th Oct 2022.
- Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri will lead business delegation to Washington DC and Houston, USA.
- Mr Puri will also interact with World Bank Officials on Climate Resilient Urban Infrastructure.
- The revamped USISCEP was launched in accordance with U.S -India Climate and Clean Energy Agenda 2030 Partnership announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Joe Biden in April last year.
- The partnership continues to advance energy security and innovation and deploying technical solutions through five pillars.
- These are Responsible Oil and Gas Pillar, Power and Energy Efficiency, Renewable Energy, Sustainable Growth and Emerging Fuels and technologies.

1.99. FIFTH ASSEMBLY OF INTERNATIONAL SOLAR ALLIANCE TO BE HELD FROM OCT 17; SOLAR & MINI-GRIDS ANSWER TO UNIVERSAL ACCESS OF ENERGY, SAYS POWER MINISTER

- International Solar Alliance's Fifth Assembly will be held in New Delhi from 17th to 20th October. Power and New and Renewable Energy Minister R.K Singh will preside over the Assembly.
- He unveiled the curtain raiser to the Fifth Assembly of the International Solar Alliance yesterday, October 6. He said India's pace of Energy Transition is the fastest in the world and International Solar Alliance is absolutely essential for the planet's goal of Energy Transition.
- The Minister said that solar energy is the cheapest source of energy. He added that solar and mini-grids are the answer to universal access of energy in the world. The Minister said, ISA is the essential vehicle to fulfill the international pledges on Energy Transition.
- The Assembly is the apex decision-making body of ISA, in which each Member country is represented. It meets annually at the ministerial level and assesses the aggregate effect of the programmes and other activities in terms of deployment of solar energy and performance among others.
- India holds the office of the President of the ISA Assembly. Ministers, missions, and delegates from 109 Member and Signatory Countries will participate in this meeting.

About International Solar Alliance:

- The ISA was conceived as a joint effort by India and France to mobilise efforts against climate change through the deployment of solar energy solutions.
- It was presented by the leaders of the two countries at the 21st Conference of Parties (COP21) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) held in Paris in 2015.

- ISA is a coalition of solar resource rich countries lying fully or partially between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn to specifically address energy needs by harnessing solar energy.
- The Paris Declaration establishes ISA as an alliance dedicated to the promotion of solar energy among its member countries.
- ISA brings together countries with rich solar potential to aggregate global demand, thereby reducing prices through bulk purchase.
- It facilitates the deployment of existing solar technologies at scale, and promotes collaborative solar R&D and capacity building.

1.100. ASI ORGANISES A TWO-DAY NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON PROJECT MAUSAM - JALADHIPURAYATRA: EXPLORING CROSS- CULTURAL LINKAGES ALONG THE INDIAN OCEAN RIM COUNTRIES.

- In an attempt to understand the Monsoon Winds and other climatic factors and the ways in which these natural elements impacted, at different periods of history, the interactions between different countries in the Indian Ocean region, 'Project Mausam' was launched by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India at UNESCO's 38th World Heritage Committee Meeting held at Doha, Qatar, in 2014. Currently, the Project is being administered by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).
- With the objective of promoting further research and broadening our understanding of this subject, the ASI organized a two-day National Conference at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi on 7th and 8th October, 2022.
- Christened "Jaladhipurayatra": Exploring Cross- Cultural Linkages along the Indian Ocean Rim Countries", the Conference incorporated manifold aspects of maritime exchanges and interactions.
- The Conference consists of a Plenary Session followed by six Academic Sessions, each dealing with a particular aspect of India's maritime interactions.

1.101. DEPARTMENT FOR PROMOTION OF INDUSTRY AND INTERNAL TRADE (DPIIT) HOSTS CONFERENCE ON B20 INDONESIA GLOBAL DIALOGUE.

- Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) hosted Conference on B20 Indonesia Global Dialogue in partnership with Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in New Delhi, with the aim of aligning the perspectives of Indian industry with the policy recommendations of B20 Indonesia.
- This conference would set tone for the deliberations to ensure that the Indian perspectives are well represented in the policy recommendation of B20 Indonesia.
- **Business 20 (B20), formed in 2010**, is the official G20 dialogue forum with the global business community.
- B20 aims to deliver **concrete actionable policy recommendations on the priorities** by each rotating presidency to spur economic growth and development.
- After Opening Plenary and introductory remarks, Dialogues were held on (i) Trade & Investment (ii) Energy, Sustainability & Climate (iii) Digitisation and (iv) Finance and Infrastructure wherein perspectives from B20 Indonesia was followed by perspectives from Indian Industry and Government of India.
- G 20 is a group of **19 Countries + EU**, together representing around **85% of global GDP, 75% of global trade, and 60% of the world's population**.
- The members of the G20 are: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States, and the European Union. Indonesia is currently holding the Presidency of G20.
- The dialogue will pave the way to the B20 final summit that will take place on 13-14 November 2022 at Indonesia.

1.102. INDIA HOSTS 6TH MEETING OF INDIA-NORWAY JOINT WORKING GROUP ON HIGHER EDUCATION IN NEW DELHI.

- India hosted the 6th meeting of the India-Norway Joint Working Group on Higher Education in New Delhi.

- The meeting was chaired by Ms. Neeta Prasad, Joint Secretary, International Cooperation, Ministry of Education from the Indian side and by Ms. Anne Line Wold, Director General, Ministry of Education and Research from the Norwegian side.
- The Ambassador of Norway to India also participated in the meeting.
- The Joint Working Group was established to monitor and oversee the implementation of the MoU on Cooperation in the field of Higher Education signed between India and Norway on 25th April, 2022.
- The two sides reviewed the progress made under the Indo-Norwegian Cooperation Programme developed under the ambit of the previous India-Norway MoU signed in 2014 and deliberated upon overall higher education policy and priorities, student/faculty mobility and cooperation in the field of skill development

1.103. THE SECOND UNITED NATIONS WORLD GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION CONGRESS.

- PM has recently addressed 2nd UN World Geospatial Information Congress.
- It is being held in Hyderabad.
- About:
- The goal of this year's UNWGIC is to promote a broad dialogue on global geospatial information management with all relevant governments, non-governmental organisations, academia, and the private sector.
- **The theme of UNWGIC 2022 is 'Geo-Enabling the Global Village: No one should be left behind'.**
- It was hosted by the ministry of science and technology of the government of India.

United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress (UNWGIC)

- The United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) convened the conference on UNWGIC 2022 and was organised by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs.
- It is conducted every four years with the objectives of enhancing international collaboration among the Member States and relevant stakeholders in Geospatial information management and capacities.
- The first UNWGIC was organized by China in October 2018.

1.104. INDIA PARTICIPATES AT 6TH EAST ASIA SUMMIT EDUCATION MINISTER'S MEETING.

- India participated at the 6th East Asia Summit Education Minister's Meeting held in Hanoi, Vietnam.
- Joint Secretary (International Cooperation) Ministry of Education Ms. Neeta Prasad virtually addressed the gathering and informed about the key initiatives of National Education Policy 2020 and India's collaborative efforts in education and research with partner countries.
- Addressing the meeting, Ms. Neeta Prasad said that NEP - 2020 encourages a holistic, flexible and multidisciplinary approach to education as envisioned by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- She said, it is based on foundational pillars of access, equality, quality, affordability and accountability, and is aligned with SDG 2030 goals.
- Ms Prasad underlined that NEP-2020 focuses on the internationalization of education and building collaborations with other countries.
- She added that India greatly values educational cooperation with partner countries.
- Ms Prasad emphasised India's commitment to working with EAS member countries

1.105. CONFERENCE ON INTERACTION AND CONFIDENCE BUILDING MEASURES IN ASIA (CICA).

- Minister of State for External Affairs Meenakshi Lekhi recently rejected the Pakistan PM Sharif's statement on the Kashmir issue at the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) held in Astana.

About:

- The Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) is a multi-national forum for strengthening cooperation towards promoting peace, security and stability in Asia.
- It was founded by the first President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Elbasy Nursultan Nazarbayev, on 5 October 1992, at the 47th Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

- India is one of the founding members of Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA).
- To be a member of CICA, a state must have at least a part of its territory in Asia.
- The CICA Summit is convened every four years. The Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs is required to be held every two years.
- The CICA Secretariat - administrative body of CICA - is located in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan.

1.106. NEW DELHI: 5TH ASSEMBLY OF INTERNATIONAL SOLAR ALLIANCE TO BEGIN UNDER INDIA'S PRESIDENCY.

- The 5th Assembly of International Solar Alliance (ISA) will begin in New Delhi under India's presidency.
- Participants from 109 countries will be sharing their experiences towards a low-carbon economy through promotion of solar energy at the 4-day event.
- The Assembly is the apex decision-making body of International Solar Alliance makes decisions concerning the implementation of the ISA's Framework Agreement.
- The Assembly meets annually at the ministerial level at the ISA's seat.
- Talking to AIR, ISA Director General Ajay Mathur outlined the priorities and focus areas of the global meet.
- He said one of the key focus areas of the meeting is streamlining the solar sector investments in the countries where investments are not flowing at present.
- He said the assembly will also deliberate on creating a Risk Mitigation Facility for solar projects with a Payment Guarantee Mechanism.
- Dr Ajay Mathur spoke about the ramifications of One Sun One World One Grid initiative. He also highlighted the benefits of solar mini-grids.

1.107. BANGLADESH: YOUTH FROM 70 COUNTRIES TO TAKE PART IN GLOBAL YOUTH CLIMATE SUMMIT.

- Youth from 70 countries will participate in a Global Youth Climate Summit to be inaugurated in Khulna, Bangladesh. The three day summit between October 20-22 will bring together 650 youth in a hybrid format with 150 youth participating in person and 500 online. The youth will explore how they can lead the fight against climate change.
- Elaborating the purpose of the summit, Ejaj Ahmad, the CEO of the Global Youth Leadership Centre (GYLC) which is organising the programme, said that the GYLC is being launched as a global organisation to mobilise youth especially from the Global South to tackle the climate crisis. The mission of GYLC is to expand youth's knowledge about climate science, equip them with leadership skills to take individual and collective action, and enable them to launch businesses that contribute to climate mitigation or adaptation.
- Ejaj Ahmad said that Khulna has been chosen as the inaugural venue of the GYLC as it is one of Bangladesh's most climate vulnerable regions. The youth taking part in the summit will undertake mangrove plantation in the Coastal belt to promote locally led climate adaptation and highlight the importance of mangroves, which are critical for human beings as well as for biodiversity. He said that to empower youth to take climate action, 10 delegates at the Summit will receive a grant of USD 1,000 each to implement their climate mitigation or adaptation project.
- The Global Youth Climate Summit will bring together renowned climate scientists, policymakers, entrepreneurs, leadership experts, and youth climate activists.

1.108. FIJI TO HOST WORLD HINDI CONFERENCE NEXT YEAR.

- Fiji is set to host the World Hindi conference next year with over 1,000 delegates attending the event, Indian High Commissioner to Fiji, Palaniswamy Karthigeyan, confirmed.
- The three-day conference, which would be held in the Fijian city of Nadi and envisaged to promote Hindi globally, would see the participation of over 1,000 experts of the Indian language, including scholars, writers and laureates.

- Hindi is one of the three languages spoken in the South-Pacific nation, the other two being Fijian and English.
- Fiji Hindi is also known as 'Fijian Baat' or 'Fijian Hindustani'.
- According to the United Nations (2020), Fiji has a population of more than 896,000 and out of which over 30 per cent is of Indian-origin. Many Indians arrived in Fiji as indentured labour in the 19th century.

1.109. FIRST CONFERENCE ON AKASH TATVA - AKASH FOR LIFE TO BE HELD IN DEHRADUN.

- The first conference on Akash Tatva - Akash for Life, will be held in Dehradun.
- The thrust of the conference is to attempt to explain one tatva, Akash, the ancient wisdom associated with it and how it connects to modern science.
- This conference will present Indian thought and classical concepts of 'Akash Tatva' on the global stage from modern scientific perspective."
- The main aim of the conclave is to expose the youth of India to the wisdoms of ancient science along with modern scientific advancements.
- The conference would have themes such as: 'Earth and atmosphere: interaction of Akash, Environment' and 'Climate change: the role of Akash, Impact of modern technology, adaptation and mitigation measures.
- The campaign 'Sumangalam' is being organised across the country for finding the solutions to the environmental problems like global warming and climate With an Indian perspective.

1.110. IIT-MADRAS AND NASA RESEARCHERS STUDY MICROBES ON SPACE STATION.

- The **Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT)** and **NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory** researchers studied the interactions between microbes in the **International Space Station (ISS)**. The study aims to help devise strategies for the disinfection of space stations to minimize any potential impact of microbes on the health of astronauts.
- The collaboration was under **Dr. Karthik Raman**, Associate Professor at the Bhupat and Jyoti Mehta, School of Biosciences and a core member of the **Robert Bosch Centre of Data Science and Artificial Intelligence (RBCDSAI)**, IIT Madras, along with Dr. Kasthuri Venkateshwaran, the senior research scientist at JPL.

Key Points related to the Study of Microbes in ISS

- Studying the microbes inhabiting the space station will help to understand the risks associated with **short-term and long-term space travel** on the health of astronauts.
- The study was motivated by earlier observations of the dominance of **Klebsiella pneumonia** on the surface of the ISS.
- The pathogen has been known to cause **pneumonia** and other nosocomial infections.
- The researchers analyzed the microbial sample data taken across three space flights at **seven locations at the ISS**.
- The study found that **Klebsiella pneumonia** is a major microbe that resides on the ISS.

1.111. UN SECURITY COUNCIL'S COUNTER-TERRORISM COMMITTEE MEET TO BE HELD IN MUMBAI & DELHI ON OCTOBER 28 AND 29.

- A special meeting of the United Nations Security Council's Counter-Terrorism Committee will be hosted in Mumbai and Delhi on 28th and 29th of October.
- The theme will be 'Countering the use of new and emerging technologies for terrorist purposes'.
- The meeting will begin with a 'Soft Opening Session and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism' in Mumbai on the 28th of October through a ceremony at Hotel Taj Mahal Palace. Briefing media in New Delhi this afternoon, Secretary West Sanjay Verma said the current 15 and incoming 5 members of the UN Security Council will pay homage at the 26/11 memorial site on the occasion.
- Statements in memory of victims will be read out by Dr Jaishankar and President of the UNSC. Select victims of the Mumbai terror attacks would also be addressing the participants separately. An informal briefing of the CTC will be held on the theme of 'Combating Terrorism Financing in local and regional contexts,
- The Special meeting of the CTC in Delhi on the 29th of October will commence with a high-level Ministerial plenary session. Discussions during the day will focus on three separate sub-themes.

- These are 'Countering terrorist exploitation of Information and Communication Technologies, 'Countering terrorism financing online - threats and opportunities related to new payment technologies and fundraising methods' and 'Threats posed by terrorist use of unmanned aerial systems'.

1.112. COP27: 27TH ANNUAL UN MEETING ON CLIMATE TO TAKE PLACE IN SHARM-EL-SHEIKH, EGYPT FROM NOVEMBER 6

- The 27th annual UN meeting on climate, COP27 (Conference of Parties) will take place in Sharm-el-Sheikh, Egypt from 6th to 18th November. This will be the fifth time a Climate Conference is being hosted in Africa. Governments of more than 200 countries have been invited to participate.
- The region's governments hope the meet will draw attention to the severe impacts of climate change on the continent. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, IPCC says Africa is one of the most vulnerable regions in the world.
- COP27 will focus on three main areas, reducing emissions, helping countries to prepare and deal with climate change and securing technical support and funding for developing countries for climate activities. Some of the issues that were not fully resolved or taken up at the COP26 will also be taken up at this edition of the conference.
- The issues included providing money to help countries recover from the effects of climate change, establishing a global carbon market to price the effects of emissions into products and services globally, and strengthening the commitments to reduce coal use.
- There will also be days with specialized themes for focused talks and announcements on issues including gender, agriculture and biodiversity.

1.113. HEALTH MINISTER MANSUKH MANDAVIYA ADDRESSES SECOND G20 HEALTH MINISTERS MEET.

- Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare Dr Mansukh Mandaviya has said that the central government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership attached the topmost importance to the health sector.
- He stressed that India is committed to protecting global health and making sure to leave behind for the coming generations a better and healthier planet. This was stated by Dr Mandaviya while addressing the second G20 Health Ministers Meeting in Bali, Indonesia.
- The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the progress and way forward on priorities in the healthcare sector.
- He also elaborated on building global health resilience wherein the proposal of a Financial Intermediary Fund was discussed.
- Mr. Mandaviya highlighted the need to acknowledge existing fault lines in the Global Health Architecture and the importance of building an inclusive, agile and responsive framework for health emergency management.
- The Health Minister encouraged all G20 members to contribute their public keys to the proposed Global Federated Public Trust Directory for ensuring seamless worldwide mobility of people and goods.

1.114. UN SECURITY COUNCIL'S COUNTER TERRORISM COMMITTEE MEETING ADOPTS DELHI DECLARATION; CALLS FOR ZERO TOLERANCE TOWARDS TERRORISM.

- United Nations Security Council's Counter Terrorism Committee has adopted the Delhi Declaration on 'Countering the use of new and emerging technologies for terrorist purposes'.
- The Delhi Declaration was adopted in the special meeting of the Committee held in New Delhi .
- In the Delhi Declaration, the Committee has urged all Member States to ensure zero tolerance towards terrorism, consistent with their obligations under international laws, including human rights law, international humanitarian law and international refugees law.

- It has called for taking urgent action to prevent and counter terrorism in all its forms and manifestations through the full and effective implementation of Security Council resolutions and other relevant international instruments relating to terrorism.
- The Declaration reaffirms that terrorism should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group.
- It has also called upon Member States to fulfill their obligations enshrined in relevant international counter-terrorism conventions and protocols to which they are a party.
- It has also underscored the obligation of Member States to prevent and suppress the financing of terrorist acts and to refrain from providing any form of support, active or passive, to entities or persons involved in terrorist acts.
- In the Delhi Declaration, the committee has reaffirmed that terrorism in all forms constitutes "one of the most serious threats" to international peace and security and vowed to contribute further to enhancing the effectiveness of the overall effort to fight the scourge on a global level.

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POLICY AND PROGRAMME

1.115. PM LAUNCHES YUVA 2.0 SCHEME FOR MENTORING YOUNG AUTHORS:

- Prime Minister's Scheme for Mentoring Young Authors - YUVA 2.0 was launched on October 2, to promote reading, writing, and book culture in the country.
- In view of the significant impact of the first edition of YUVA with large-scale participation from young and budding authors in 22 different Indian languages and English, YUVA 2.0 has been launched.
- Education Ministry said, the launch of YUVA 2.0 (Young, Upcoming and Versatile Authors) is in tune with the Prime Minister's vision to encourage the youth to understand and appreciate India's democracy.
- It will help to develop a stream of writers who can write on a spectrum of subjects to promote the Indian heritage, culture, and knowledge system.
- The Ministry said, a total of 75 authors will be selected through an All-India Contest to be conducted through www.mygov.in from 2nd October - 30th November this year.
- The winners will be announced on 28 February next year. The young authors will be trained by eminent authors and mentors from 1st March to 31st August 2023.

1.116. OVER 69% HOUSES CONSTRUCTED UNDER PMAY IN RURAL INDIA ARE OWNED BY WOMEN, SAYS GOVERNMENT.

- Over 69% of houses constructed under the Prime Ministers' special housing scheme are either wholly or jointly owned by women in rural areas.
- According to the data shared by the government, as on September 29, 2022, a total of two crore houses had been constructed out of the 2.46 crore houses that were sanctioned. Of this, 69% are owned partly or completely by women.
- The Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Gramin) was launched by the Prime Minister in 2016 with the aim of constructing 2.95 crore houses.
- A senior official in the Ministry of Women and Child Development said that it had been the government's endeavour to ensure women get a fair share of government schemes under Nari Shakti initiative.
- The idea behind the initiative is to have "women-led" development instead of "development of women".
- "By providing houses under the PMAY-G, the government has fulfilled the aspirations of women of owning a pucca house and strengthened their participation in the financial decision making of the household. Living in a pucca house with basic amenities gives security, dignity and basic amenities economic power and uplifts their social inclusion," he said.
- According to the government, another initiative which has helped safeguard the health of women and children was ensuring supply of clean cooking fuel under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana.
- Over 9.4 crore LPG connections have been released under the Ujjwala Yojana. This scheme also received global recognition from International Energy Agency, which has described it as a major achievement in improving the environment and health of women, it said.
- Another scheme that has helped women gain dignity and security is the Swachh Bharat Mission under which 11.5 crore toilets were constructed in the rural areas and 70 lakh were built in the urban areas.
- The government quoted a report, "Access to toilets and the safety, convenience and self-respect of women in rural India", to claim that after the construction of toilets, 93% of women reported that they were no longer afraid of being hurt by someone or harmed by animals while defecating; 93% of women reported they are no longer afraid of contracting health infections; 92% of women said they were no longer afraid of going to the toilet in the dark of night.

1.117. CENTRE APPROVES AMENDMENTS IN FM RADIO PHASE-III POLICY.

- The Centre has approved amendments to the FM Radio Phase-III Policy, which will help the private FM radio industry to fully leverage economies of scale and pave the way for further expansion of FM radio and entertainment to Tier-III cities in the country.
- The government has approved the amendments of certain provisions contained in the Policy Guidelines on Expansion of FM Radio Broadcasting Services through Private Agencies (Phase-III) referred to as Private FM Phase-III Policy Guidelines. The decision was taken in the last Cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, said the Union Ministry of Information & Broadcasting.
- The government has decided to remove the 3-year window period for restructuring of FM radio permissions within the same management group during the license period of 15 years. The government has also accepted the long pending demand of the radio industry to remove the 15 percent national cap on channel holding, said the Ministry.
- Further with the simplification of financial eligibility norms in FM radio policy, an applicant company can now participate in bidding for 'C' and 'D' category cities with a net worth of just Rs 1 crore in place of Rs 1.5 crore earlier, said an official press communiqué.
- The Ministry said, "These three amendments together will help the private FM radio industry to fully leverage the economies of scale and pave the way for further expansion of FM radio and entertainment to Tier-III cities in the country. This will not only create new employment opportunities but also ensure that music and entertainment over the FTA (Free to Air) radio media is available to the common man in the remotest corners of the country."

1.118. ELECTORAL REFORMS: ELECTION COMMISSION PROPOSES TO ALLOW CANDIDATE TO CONTEST FROM ONE SEAT ONLY.

- The Election Commission has sent a communication to the Ministry of Law & Justice proposing that one candidate should be allowed to contest from one constituency only in a particular election.
- Sources in the poll panel said though this was not among the proposals sent to the Ministry on electoral reforms, the fresh move gained momentum after Rajiv Kumar was appointed as the Chief Election Commissioner.
- The proposal was sent to the Law Ministry and the government is in discussion with the Commission regarding the proposed electoral reforms. A meeting between senior officials of the government and the Commission is likely to take place soon on the issue, they added.
- According to the existing provisions, a candidate is permitted to contest from two different constituencies in a general election or a group of bye-elections or biennial elections. If a person is elected from more than one seat, then the person can hold on to one of the seats.
- The Commission is of the view that when a candidate contests from two seats, it is imperative that he has to vacate one of the two seats if he wins from both. This, apart from the consequent unavoidable financial burden on the public exchequer and the manpower and other resources for holding bye-election against the resultant vacancy, would be an injustice to the voters of the constituency which the candidate is quitting from, it said.
- In 1996, the Representation of the People Act was amended to restrict a person from contesting polls from more than two seats. Before the amendment, there was no bar on the number of constituencies from which a candidate could contest.
- As per the proposal, the Commission has recommended that the law must be amended to provide that a person cannot contest from more than one constituency at a time for conduct and better management of elections.
- In case the provision needs to be retained, then there is a need for an express provision in law requiring person who contests and wins election from two seats, resulting in bye-elections from one of the two constituencies, to deposit in the government account an appropriate amount of money being expenditure for holding the bye-election, the EC has proposed.

Election Commission of India

- It is a permanent constitutional body.
- **Article 324** of the constitution establishes the Election Commission of India.

- It was established on 25th January 1950.

The Chief Election Commissioner has suggested 6 key electoral reforms to the Union Law Ministry.

- Issue guidelines for the **linking of Aadhaar with voter IDs.**
- The election commission has asked the **Powers to deregister political parties.**
- Mandatory **disclosure of all donations above Rs 2,000.**
- Empowers the commission to **register associations and bodies as political parties.**
- Restrict the number of seats a candidate can contest from.

Ban on exit polls and opinion polls

1.119. WOMEN, CHILD DEVELOPMENT MINISTRY TO ORGANIZE NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SKILLING IN NON-TRADITIONAL LIVELIHOOD FOR GIRLS - BETIYAN BANE KUSHAL

- Women and Child Development Ministry will organize National Conference on Skilling in Non-Traditional Livelihood for Girls - Betiyan Bane Kushal in New Delhi.
- The conference will be organized under the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao initiative on the occasion of the International Day of the Girl Child.
- Under the Betiyan Bane Kushal initiative, emphasis will be laid on convergence between Ministries and Departments to ensure the skill development of girls.
- The conference will focus on capacity building and skill development of girls to increase their participation in the professions like science, technology, engineering and mathematics.
- During the event, MoUs will be signed between the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and Ministry of Minority Affairs for Skilling of young Girls for their increased, equal, and empowered participation in the workforce.

1.120. CENTRE EXTENDS ETHANOL SUBSIDY SCHEME TILL MARCH 2023.

- The ethanol blending programme interest subsidy scheme under which the centre disburses loans has been extended till March 2023.
- The scheme began in 2018 to help entrepreneurs to complete ethanol projects with government support.
- The Food Ministry issued a notification on October 6 stating the applicants who have submitted their applications to DFPD after the date of notification of the scheme but within the cut-off date prescribed in the notification dated 19.07.2018 and in case of whom, loans were disbursed to them prior to the in-principle approval of DFPD, will also be eligible for interest subvention under the scheme.
- The applicants have been asked to complete their projects within two and half years after receiving their first instalment.
- The centre has launched several schemes to boost ethanol production in the country. In April, the deadline for submitting applications under the scheme was extended by six months. The deadline was September 2022 earlier.
- India needs 1016 crore litres of ethanol by 2025 to achieve the 20% ethanol blending target.

1.121. MULTI-STATE COOPERATIVE SOCIETIES (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2022 GETS CABINET APPROVAL.

- The Union Cabinet has approved the Multi-State Cooperative Societies (Amendment) Bill, 2022. It seeks to amend the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 2002.
- It will improve governance, enhance transparency and accountability in the Multi State Cooperative Societies.
- Election authority will be set up to ensure fair, free and timely elections. The proposed amendments covering major areas of operation and management will go a long way in strengthening the co-operative movement in the country.

- India has more than 1500 multi-State co-operative societies serving as an important tool to promote economic and social betterment of their members.
- In order to make the governance of these multi-State Cooperative societies more democratic, transparent and accountable, provisions for setting up of the Cooperative Election Authority, Cooperative Information Officer and Cooperative Ombudsman have been proposed in the amendment.
- Provisions relating to representation of women and Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe members in the board of co-operative societies have been included to facilitate inclusiveness.
- Co-opted directors with experience in the field of banking, management, cooperative management and finance will be appointed to promote professional management.
- The amendment has also been proposed to enhance ease of doing business by reducing the period of registration with a provision for the applicants to seek additional time of two months for rectification of mistakes.
- It also provides for electronic submission and issuance of documents.

1.122. CABINET APPROVES RS 6,600 CRORE SCHEME 'PM-DEVINE' FOR NORTH-EASTERN STATES.

- Prime Minister's Development Initiative for North East Region (PM-DevINE), a Rs 6,600 crore scheme to support infrastructure, industries and other livelihood projects in the Northeastern states, was approved on Wednesday by the Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- The new scheme, to be implemented during the remaining four years of the 15th Finance Commission from 2022-23 to 2025-26, is a 100 per cent Central government-funded plan and will be administered by the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER).
- Efforts will be made to complete the PM-DevINE projects by 2025-26 so that there are no committed liabilities beyond this year and this implies front-loading of the sanctions under the scheme in 2022-23 and 2023-24 primarily.
- While expenditure would continue to be incurred during 2024-25 and 2025-26, focused attention will be given to completing the sanctioned PM-DevINE projects.
- The PM-DevINE will lead to the creation of infrastructure, support industries, social development projects and create livelihood activities for youth and women, thus leading to employment generation.
- Measures would be taken to ensure adequate operation and maintenance of the projects sanctioned under the PM-DevINE so that they are sustainable e.g to limit construction risks of time and cost overrun, falling on the government projects would be implemented on an engineering-procurement-construction (EPC) basis, to the extent possible.
- The scheme will be implemented by the DoNER ministry through the North Eastern Council (NEC) or central ministries or agencies.
- The **objectives of the PM-DevINE are to:** fund infrastructure convergently, in the spirit of PM Gati Shakti, support social development projects based on the needs of the NE region, enable livelihood activities for youth and women and fill the development gaps in various sectors.
- There are other Ministry of DoNER schemes for the development of the NE region. The average size of projects under other Ministry of DoNER schemes is about Rs 12 crore only.
- The PM-DevINE will provide support to infrastructure and social development projects which may be larger in size and will also provide an end-to-end development solution instead of isolated projects.
- It will be also ensured that there is no duplication of project support under the PM-DevINE with any of the other schemes of the DoNER ministry or those of any other ministry and department.
- The PM-DevINE is in addition to the quantum of resources available for the development of the NE region. It will not be a substitute for existing central and state schemes.
- While some of the projects to be approved for 2022-23 under the PM-DevINE are part of the budget announcement, projects with substantial socio-economic impact of sustainable livelihood opportunities for the general public (e.g. basic infrastructure in all primary health care centres, comprehensive facilities in government primary and secondary schools, etc.) may be considered in the future.

- The justification for the announcement of PM-DevINE is that the parameters of NE states in respect of Basic Minimum Services (BMS) are well below the national average and there are critical development gaps as per the District Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Index 2021-22 prepared by NITI Aayog, UNDP and the Ministry of DoNER.

1.123. INDIAN RAILWAYS SET TO OPERATE FREIGHT VERSIONS OF VANDE BHARAT TRAINS.

- Indian Railways is set to operate freight versions of Vande Bharat trains. According to the Railways Ministry, the freight trains will be operationalized to capture additional high value sensitive cargo, which is presently being transported through other modes of transport.
- The Ministry said, these services are being planned through new freight Electric Multiple Unit (EMU) rolling stock built on Vande Bharat platform. The first service is being introduced between Delhi-NCR and Mumbai region. The Railways Ministry said, other potential routes for running the freight EMUs will be identified in consultation with potential customers and other stakeholders.
- Freight EMU rakes have the potential to operate at a speed of 160 EMU rolling stock. It is designed for palletized container transportation.
- Under the Make in India initiative, a target has been set to manufacture 400 Vande Bharat trains in the coming years.
- The first Vande Bharat Express train was flagged off in February 2019 between New Delhi to Varanasi.
- The Vande Bharat train is also operating between New Delhi to Katra route. Recently the Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off an upgraded version of Vande Bharat Express train between Gandhinagar to Mumbai.
- The specialty of this new Vande Bharat Express train is that it can achieve the speed of zero to hundred kilometers per hour in just 52 seconds. This train has the capability to run at a speed of 180 kilometers per hour.

1.124. THE GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED TO SET UP LANGUAGE CENTRES TO PREPARE STUDY MATERIAL AND COURSES FOR EACH OF THE 22 LANGUAGES IN THE EIGHTH SCHEDULE OF THE CONSTITUTION.

About:

- The centres, called bhasha kendras, will be established under the Union ministry of education's Indian Knowledge System (IKS) initiative.
- These language centres will be in line with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, that emphasises on promoting regional languages.
- The centres will be given three broad responsibilities.
 - **First**, they will prepare small booklets of 100-200 pages of the IKS-related literature and manuscripts available in their designated languages.
 - The centres will also be translating these works into Sanskrit and English.
 - **Second**, these centres will be to enrich their designated Indian languages with modern science and social models.
 - They will be asked to translate 1,000 pages of material in other languages into their designated language.
- **Third**, they will develop courses at the undergraduate level.

1.125. UNION MINISTER NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR ANNOUNCES CREATING FUND OF Rs 500 CRORE AS ACCELERATOR PROGRAM FOR STARTUPS WORKING IN AGRICULTURE SECTOR.

- Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Narendra Singh Tomar has announced creating a fund of 500 crore rupees as a accelerator program for Startups working in agriculture sector for commercialisation and democratisation of their successful innovations and techniques.

- Announcing a number of initiatives at Agri Startup Conference in New Delhi, Mr Tomar said that that a network will be set up under the Agriculture Ministry to help and support the Agri Startups and for overall planning, an steering committee will be set under the Chairmanship of Agriculture Minister.
- Mr Tomar also announced that an executive committee will be set up under Secretary, Agriculture and Secretary, Department of Agriculture Research and Education to take decisions on issues related to Agri Startups. Mr Tomar said, a separate division for such startups will be created at the Ministry under the chairmanship of Joint Secretary.
- Mr Tomar said, currently there are two thousand Agri Startups in the country and the government aims to to take this number to 10 thousand.

1.126. LOK SABHA SPEAKER OM BIRLA TO ADDRESS NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON TOURIST POLICE SCHEME IN NEW DELHI.

- Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla to address the National Conference on Tourist Police Scheme in New Delhi.
- The agenda of the Conference is implementation of uniform Tourist Police Scheme at pan-India level for developing the tourist specific policing.
- It also aims to provide safer ecosystem to the foreign and domestic tourists in and around tourist destinations.
- The Ministry of Tourism in co-ordination with the Ministry of Home Affairs and Bureau of Police Research and Development is organizing the conference.
- The Ministry said, this will change the safety and security-related perception of India at global level and help in making India a must-visit destination around the globe.

Tourist Police Scheme:

- Under the scheme, a pool of trained policemen would be made available to render policing service to the tourists and would control the crimes at the places of tourist interest.
- The rules of the district police of the concerned state shall be applicable to the Tourist Police, unless the contrary appears from the content or from rules in this scheme.
- Tourist Police Station will work under the jurisdiction of district police (Superintendent of Police) for all policing purpose.

1.127. INDIA POST PAYMENTS BANK (IPPB) AND RESERVE BANK INNOVATION HUB (RBIH) COLLABORATE FOR INNOVATIONS IN FINANCIAL PRODUCT AND SERVICES.

- India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) and Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH) have come together to focus their efforts on enhancing the reach of financial solutions to large sections of society across India and enabling frictionless finance to a billion Indians. IPPB and RBIH will plan, design and execute innovative products and offerings to bridge the existing gap by bringing digitalised services at the customer's doorstep.

The collaboration between IPPB and RBIH will explore projects which shall have impact on the masses by:

- Leveraging the deep rural reach of IPPB-Department of Posts (DoP) to take Rural Finance to a billion Indians.
- Enabling access to sustainable and secure finance services to every segment of the society, through research and innovation.
- Additionally, IPPB shall be an active participant and partner with RBIH on initiatives of national importance led by RBIH.

About RBIH

- The Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH) is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) set up to promote and facilitate an environment that accelerates innovation across the financial sector.
- RBIH will provide the platform to anchor a shared vision among all financial ecosystem stakeholders and aid them in crafting forward-looking innovation strategies while addressing the most pressing issues in the Indian financial sector.
- The organisation serves as a focal point to position India as a global innovation hub for a network of financial services providers, fintech innovation hubs, policymakers, technologists, academia, and the investor community.

- The network will be empowered to ideate, incubate new capabilities, and enable access to sustainable, secure, and frictionless financial services for over a billion Indians.

About IPPB

- India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) has been established under the Department of Posts, Ministry of Communication with 100% equity owned by the Government of India. IPPB was launched by the Prime Minister on September 1, 2018.
- The bank has been set up with the vision to build the most accessible, affordable and trusted bank for the common man in India.
- The fundamental mandate of IPPB is to remove barriers for the unbanked and under-banked and reach the last mile leveraging a network comprising 160,000 post offices (145,000 in rural areas) and 400,000 postal employees.
- IPPB's reach and its operating model is built on the key pillars of India Stack - enabling Paperless, Cashless and Presence-less banking in a simple and secure manner at the customers' doorstep, through a CBS-integrated smartphone and biometric device.
- Leveraging frugal innovation and with a high focus on ease of banking for the masses, IPPB delivers simple and affordable banking solutions through intuitive interfaces available in 13 languages.
- IPPB is committed to provide a fillip to a less cash economy and contribute to the vision of Digital India. India will prosper when every citizen will have equal opportunity to become financially secure and empowered.

1.128. UNION HOME AND COOPERATION MINISTER RECENTLY SAID THAT NATIONAL INVESTIGATION AGENCY (NIA) AGENCY TO HAVE OFFICES IN ALL STATES BY 2024.

About:

- National Investigation Agency (NIA) is the Central Counter Terrorism Law Enforcement Agency of India.
- It comes under the Union Ministry of Home Affairs.
- NIA was created after the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks with the enactment of the National Investigation Agency Act 2008.
- It is headquartered in **Delhi**.
- **Branches:** Hyderabad, Guwahati, Kochi, Lucknow, Mumbai, Kolkata, Raipur, Jammu, Chandigarh, Ranchi, Chennai and Imphal.
- **Jurisdiction:**
 - The agency is empowered to deal with terror related crimes across states without special permission from the states.
 - A State Government may request the Central Government to hand over the investigation of a case to the NIA, provided the case has been registered for the offences as contained in the schedule to the NIA Act.
- **NIA special courts:**
 - Various Special Courts have been notified by the Govt. of India for trial of the cases arising out of offences committed in various states of the Union.
 - These are presided over by a judge appointed by the Central Government on the recommendation of the Chief Justice of the High Court with jurisdiction in that region.

1.129. CENTRE EXTENDS BAN ON SUGAR EXPORTS FOR ANOTHER YEAR.

- The central government has extended the restriction on the export of sugar for one more year starting from the 31st of this month to raise its availability in domestic markets and control prices.
- The Directorate General of Foreign Trade's (DGFT) order of October 28 to extend the ban on sugar exports for one more year has been followed by another order issued by the Department of Food and Public Distribution (DFPD) on the same date that has extended the deadline for implementing the export release orders (ERO) of sugar issued for the 2021-22 season for another month till November 30, 2022.
- An ERO is a kind of permit that mills are issued to export sugar based on certain parameters and criteria.

- India's sugar production in 2022-23 season is estimated to be around 41 million tonnes without accounting for 4.5 million tonnes diverted towards making ethanol which would be almost 1.8 million tonnes or 4.6 per cent more the estimated production of the current season.
- According to Indian Sugar Mills Association (ISMA), diversion of sugar for producing ethanol is estimated to be around 4.5 million tonnes in 2022-23 season, as against 3.4 million tonnes in 2021-22 season.
- After accounting for diversion towards ethanol, sugar production in the 2022-23 season is expected to be around 36.5 million tonnes, while the consumption is projected to be around 27.5 million tonnes next season.
- As per the notification, the restriction is not applicable to Sugar being exported to European Union and the USA.



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1.130. STOCKHOLM CONVENTION TO TAKE FINAL CALL ON 5 PERSISTENT ORGANIC POLLUTANTS.

- The 18th meeting of the Persistent Organic Pollutants (POP) Review Committee (POPRC-18) to the Stockholm Convention has included five more chemicals in its agenda.
- Stockholm Convention is an international environmental treaty that aims to eliminate or restrict the production and use of POPs or the substances that persist in the environment and pose risk to our health.
- The listed chemicals include a pesticide, a flame retardant and some plastic stabilising substances.
- Three of the listed chemicals — chlorpyrifos, chlorinated paraffin beyond prescribed standards and long-chain perfluoro carboxylic acids — were already nominated at the 17th meeting (POPRC-17) in January this year.
- Draft risk profiles of these chemicals are being discussed at the POPRC-18 meeting held in Rome, from 26-30 September, 2022.
- Experts will determine if these chemicals are POPs which demand global action due to their adverse effects on human health and the environment.
- Their draft risk profiles will be adopted and global action will be warranted if they fall into the hazardous chemicals category.
- These chemicals will then be elevated for the third review stage (Annex-F) or risk management evaluation.
- Socio-economic considerations associated with possible control measures are evaluated at this stage. Thereafter, they will be considered for recommendation to the Conference of the Parties to list them under the Stockholm Convention.
- Two chemicals — dechlorane plus, a flame retardant and UV-328, a stabiliser used in some personal care products — which qualified for risk management evaluation at POPRC-17 will be evaluated at this session.
- POPRC-18 aims to list each of these chemicals in Annex A (elimination), B (restriction) and/or C (unintended release) of the Stockholm Convention

India's resistance

- The UNEP's proposal to list chlorpyrifos as POP was resisted by India. Still, chlorpyrifos got nominated as Persistent organic pollutants.
- Ved Prakash Mishra, a member of POPRC, raised doubts on evidence showing adverse effects of chlorpyrifos at POPRC-17.
- "Chlorpyrifos is not a carcinogen and its concentrations are low. Some of the studies in the POPRC proposal were not peer reviewed," he said at POPRC-17. He had also demanded more research into the same.
- The Pesticides Manufacturers and Formulators Association of India (PMFAI) had obstructed listing chlorpyrifos under the Stockholm Convention.
- "Chlorpyrifos in vapour phase is carried to distant locations, is a hypothesis and needs to be proved," said KN Singh of Gharda Chemicals Ltd, on behalf of PMFAI.
- India had also opposed the decision to list flame retardant dechlorane plus. Mishra sought more information on the socio-economic implications of global action on it. He cited concerns on behalf of developing countries at POPRC-17.
- Chlorpyrifos was registered under the Insecticide Act of 1968 since 1977 and Anupam Verma Committee recommended its review for continued use in 2015.
- China and India are among the largest producers of chlorpyrifos. Nearly 48 per cent of chlorpyrifos or 24,000 tonnes was produced in India. Globally, some 50,000 tonnes of chlorpyrifos is being used annually, according to estimates by the China Crop Protection Industry Association.
- Nearly 48 per cent of chlorpyrifos, or 24,000 tonnes, was produced in India. Some 11,000 tonnes were used within the country and 12,000 tonnes were exported. Around 1,000 tonnes were kept as stockpiles, estimated PMFAI.
- Chlorpyrifos was approved for agricultural use in 2021, which includes its use as a pesticide against pests affecting Bengal gram, rice and cotton.

- It is one of the ten pesticides banned by Punjab and Haryana governments in August 2022.
- “Chlorpyrifos is approved for 18 crops in India, while it was being used for 23 crops,” claimed Pesticide Action Network, in an August report.
- India’s views against the listing of chlorpyrifos may not find much acceptance by the expert committee consisting of 31 experts — from Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean.
- The **Stockholm Convention has listed 31 chemicals as** of December 2020. This list is likely to expand further amid evidence pointing towards the health burden of hazardous chemicals and pesticides.
- Acute pesticide poisoning is an ongoing major global public health challenge, with about 385 million cases of unintentional acute pesticide poisoning and 11,000 deaths every year, according to a global study.

1.131. THE COMMISSION FOR AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT IN NCR & ADJOINING AREAS (CAQM).

- CAQM held a review meeting to take stock of the status of commissioning of gas infrastructure/ PNG/ CNG connectivity in the NCR.
- Considering the compelling necessity to fight air pollution arising out of industrial activities and vehicles, CAQM has directed expeditious commissioning of gas infrastructure in the entire NCR well before the next winter season.
- According to the CAQM, about 74 per cent of industrial areas of NCR have gas connectivity like PNG which is cleaner and emits less pollutants as compared to the conventional fuel like coal or diesel.
- The panel directed the 11 city gas distributors to ensure that the gas infrastructure covers the entire NCR.
- The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) was established under Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas Act, 2021.

1.132. INDIA'S FIRST EVER SANCTUARY FOR THE ENDANGERED SLENDER LORIS WILL BE SET UP IN KARUR & DINDIGUL DISTRICTS OF TAMIL NADU.

- The state government notified 'Kadavur slender loris sanctuary' under Section 26 (A)(1)(b) of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

About Slender Loris:

- Slender Loris is a small nocturnal mammal that spends most of its life on trees.
- They are native to India and Sri Lanka and are also amongst the world’s top 25 endangered primates.
- They are listed under endangered species as per the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN).
- They are also protected under Schedule 1 of the Indian legislation of the Wildlife (Protection) Act (WPA), 1972.
- They act as biological predators of pests that harm agricultural crops and help farmers.
- As per reports, there are 14,000 Slender Loris in the Dindigul and Karur forests in Tamil Nadu.

1.133. CAQM REITERATES TO CENTRAL/STATE GOVTS TO STRICTLY IMPLEMENT ACTIONS UNDER GRAP IN VIEW OF AIR QUALITY INDEX.

- Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region (NCR) Delhi and Adjoining Areas (CAQM) has reiterated to all implementing agencies of the Central and State Governments to strictly implement actions under Stage I of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) in view of the air quality index. GRAP is a set of emergency measures taken to reduce air pollution.
- The Commission has also urged citizens to cooperate in adherence to the Citizen Charter of the respective stages and assist in the effective implementation of the GRAP measures to improve the overall Air Quality in the region. As the air quality has reached “poor” category again, actions under Stage I of the GRAP need to be intensified by all concerned.
- The Commission is reviewing measures undertaken towards abatement of air pollution and also closely monitoring air quality parameters in NCR.

- In a statement, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change said, the Commission is reviewing measures undertaken towards abatement of air pollution and also closely monitoring air quality parameters in NCR. A 24-point action plan as per Stage 1 of GRAP is already in place in the entire National Capital Region from 5th of this month.
- The action plan includes steps such as closure of Construction and Demolition activities of projects with plot sizes equal to or more than 500 square meters which are not registered on the 'web portal' of the respective NCR State Government.
- It also includes proper implementation of guidelines on dust mitigation measures and sound environmental management of Construction and Demolition wastes.

What is the Graded Response Action Plan?

- The Graded Response Action Plan was first notified in January 2017 by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC).
- The GRAP is a set of emergency measures effected to prevent the deterioration of air quality after it reaches a certain threshold.
- It envisions a four-stage ad-hoc mechanism wherein Stage 1 of GRAP is activated when the AQI is in the 'poor' category (201 to 300), while the second, third and fourth stages are activated three days ahead of the AQI reaching the 'very poor' category (301 to 400), 'severe' category (401 to 450) and 'severe +' category (above 450) respectively.

1.134. GLOBAL CO2 EMISSIONS TO GROW LESS THAN 1 PC THIS YEAR, THANKS TO RENEWABLES: INTERNATIONAL ENERGY AGENCY.

- Global carbon dioxide emissions from burning fossil fuels are expected to rise by just under 1% this year, as the expansion of renewables and electric vehicles outweighed coal demand, the International Energy Agency (IEA) said.
- CO2 emissions are on course to increase by nearly 300 million tonnes to 33.8 billion tonnes this year, a far smaller rise than their jump of nearly 2 billion tonnes in 2021, the agency said in a report.
- The rise this year has been driven by power generation and the aviation sector as air travel rebounds from pandemic lows.
- While that increase could have been much larger at possibly 1 billion tonnes with countries' coal demand surging as gas prices soared due to the war in Ukraine, deployment of renewable energy and EVs have kept a lid on that rise.
- The global energy crisis triggered by Russia's invasion of Ukraine has prompted a scramble by many countries to use other energy sources to replace the natural gas supplies that Russia has withheld from the market," said IEA Executive Director Fatih Birol.
- "The encouraging news is that solar and wind are filling much of the gap, with the uptick in coal appearing to be relatively small and temporary," he added.

1.135. EXTREME HEAT CAUSED \$159 BN INCOME LOSS LAST YEAR: CLIMATE TRANSPARENCY REPORT 2022.

- India suffered an income loss of \$159 billion, 5.4 per cent of its gross domestic product in the service, manufacturing, agriculture, and construction sectors due to extreme heat in 2021, according to the Climate Transparency Report 2022 compiled by an international partnership of organisations.
- Climate change-induced extreme weather events are causing significant economic losses across all sectors, with agriculture being the most vulnerable, accounting for 16 per cent of Indian GDP, and providing nearly half of the employment, the report stated.
- Several areas of Hindukush Karakoram Himalaya, the main driver of the Indian monsoon and a source of 10 major Asian rivers, experienced reduced snowfall and glacial retreat.
- Heat exposure in the country led to the loss of 167 billion potential labour hours, a 39 per cent increase from the period between 1990 and 1999.

- Extreme events such as cyclones, flash floods, floods and landslides damaged crops over 36 million hectares — a \$3.75 billion loss to farmers — between 2016 and 2021.
- It is feared that the annual damage from tropical cyclones and river flooding at 3°C global warming would be 4.6 to 5.1 times than what it would be experienced at the 1.5°C level.
- Labour productivity is projected to decline by five per cent from the 1986-2006 reference period as a result of 1.5°C of global warming — 2.1 times at 2.5°C level and 2.7 times at 3°C level.
- Increased precipitation, along with change in land use with increased urbanisation, is the main cause of increase in surface run-off in India. Prolonged waterlogging may alter the soil moisture content in many places, the report stated.
- Two-thirds of Indian agriculture is rain-fed, and thus highly prone to changes in rainfall, the report pointed ominously.
- At 1.5°C level, the national maize and wheat yield is projected to decrease by three per cent and five per cent, respectively. This loss may increase by a magnitude of 2.5 times for maize and 3.2 times for wheat at 3°C of warming.
- In India, local precipitation is projected to increase by 6 per cent from the reference period of 1986-2006 at 1.5°C of warming. Under a 3°C warming scenario, precipitation will increase by 3 times the precipitation anticipated at 1.5°C of warming.
- The rainfall pattern in India has changed in the past 30 years impacting many economic activities such as agriculture, forestry and fisheries.
- Snowfall in India is expected to decrease in the 1.5°C scenario by 13 per cent when compared with the reference period's snowfall levels. At 3°C, the decrease is expected to be 2.4 times the 1.5°C scenario.

1. TIM COOK CALLS ON APPLE SUPPLIERS TO DECARBONISE BY 2030.

- Tech giant Apple called on its global supply chain to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and use a holistic approach to decarbonization.
- Apple also announced new initiatives and investments aimed at promoting climate solutions for communities and decarbonizing the global economy.
- “Fighting climate change remains one of Apple’s most urgent priorities and moments like this put action to those words,” said Apple CEO Tim Cook.
- “We’re looking forward to continued partnership with our suppliers to make Apple’s supply chain carbon neutral by 2030. Climate action at Apple doesn’t stop at our doors, and in this work, we’re determined to be a ripple in the pond that creates a bigger change,” he added.
- According to Apple, its worldwide corporate operations have been carbon neutral since 2020, and the company is laser-focused on achieving its ambitious goal of becoming carbon neutral throughout its entire global supply chain and the life cycle of every product.
- As part of Apple’s supplier engagement, the company is partnering with its worldwide supply chain to urge accelerated action to achieve carbon neutrality for their Apple-related corporate operations, it added.
- Additionally, the company encourages suppliers to address greenhouse gas emissions beyond Apple production.
- The company is also offering a suite of free e-learning resources and live training through its “Clean Energy Programme” that will help suppliers meet their commitments and go even further.
- This will also allow work closely with its suppliers and local partners to identify effective solutions for renewable energy and carbon removal.
- Moreover, customers in the US can now play a role in decreasing the carbon footprint of iPhones with Clean Energy Charging.
- Starting this month, the feature is available in the US through iOS 16 that will look at the source of electricity during expected charge times in order to optimise for cleaner energy sources such as solar or wind, according to a report.

1.136. TWO MORE INDIAN BEACHES ENTER THE COVETED LIST OF BLUE BEACHES.

- In yet another recognition of India's commitment to protect and conserve the pristine coastal and marine ecosystems through holistic management of the resources, the globally recognized and the coveted International eco-label "Blue Flag", has been accorded to two new beaches – Minicoy Thundi Beach and Kadmat Beach- both in Lakshadweep.
- This takes the number of beaches certified under the Blue Flag certification to twelve (12).
- The Thundi Beach is one of the most pristine and picturesque beaches in the Lakshadweep archipelago where white sand is lined by turquoise blue water of the lagoon. It is a paradise for swimmers and tourists alike.
- The Kadmat Beach is especially popular with cruise tourists who visit the island for water sports. It is a paradise for nature lovers with its pearl white sand, blue lagoon waters, its moderate climate and friendly locals.
- Both the beaches have designated staff for beach cleanliness and maintenance; and for safety and security of swimmers. Both the beaches comply with all the 33 criteria as mandated by the Foundation for Environment Education (FEE).
- The other Indian beaches in the blue list are Shivrajpur-Gujarat, Ghoghla-Diu, Kasarkod and Padubidri-Karnataka, Kappad-Kerala, Rushikonda- Andhra Pradesh, Golden-Odisha, Radhanagar- Andaman and Nicobar, Kovalam in Tamil Nadu and Eden in Puducherry beaches.

About Blue Flag certification:

- Foundation for Environment Education in Denmark (FEE) accords the globally recognized eco-label – Blue Flag certification. In order to qualify for this prestigious award, a series of stringent environmental, educational, safety-related and access-related criteria must be met and maintained.
- The mission of Blue Flag is to promote sustainability in the tourism sector, through environmental education, environmental protection and other sustainable development practices.

1.137. GENETIC ENGINEERING APPRAISAL COMMITTEE (GEAC) RECENTLY APPROVED COMMERCIAL CULTIVATION OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED MUSTARD VARIETY DMH (DHARA MUSTARD HYBRID)-11.

About:

- The approval will make GM mustard only the second approved transgenic crop in India after Bt cotton, and the first such food crop that can be commercially cultivated by farmers. The GEAC approval is valid for the next four years.
- Though the GEAC had cleared the proposal in 2017, the Ministry had vetoed it and suggested that the GEAC hold more studies on the GM crop. The recommendation will now again go for the approval of the Environment Ministry.

Hybrid mustard

- Hybridisation involves crossing two genetically dissimilar plant varieties that can even be from the same species. The first-generation (F1) offspring from such crosses tend to have higher yields than what either parent can individually give.
- Scientists at Delhi University's Centre for Genetic Manipulation of Crop Plants (CGMCP) have developed the hybrid mustard DMH-11 containing two alien genes isolated from a soil bacterium called *Bacillus amyloliquefaciens*.
- The CGMCP scientists have deployed the barnase-barstar GM technology to create a robust and viable hybridisation system in mustard. This system was used to develop DMH-11 by crossing a popular Indian mustard variety 'Varuna' (the barnase line) with an East European 'Early Heera-2' mutant (barstar).
- DMH-11 is claimed to have shown an average 28% yield increase over Varuna.

Significance

- The move is seen as giving a boost to cultivation of mustard and eventually reducing the country's edible oils import bills.
- India had to import edible oil worth nearly \$19 billion in 2021-22. Though mustard is cultivated in India in around seven million hectares of land, the per hectare yield of current variety is very low at 1-1.2 tonnes per hectare compared to the global average of around 2.3-3 tonnes.

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GEOGRAPHY

1.140. AGRICULTURE MINISTRY, NAFED SIGNED MoU TO BOOST THE INITIATIVE TO PROMOTE MILLETS TOWARDS THE CELEBRATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF MILLETS 2023.

About:

- The U.N. General Assembly recently adopted a resolution, sponsored by India and supported by more than 70 countries, declaring 2023 as the International Year of Millets.
- The resolution is intended to increase public awareness on the health benefits of millets and their suitability for cultivation under tough conditions marked by climate change.

What are millets?

- Millet is a cereal that belongs to the grass family.
- Majorly cultivated in the semiarid tropical regions of Africa and Asia, around 97 percent of world's overall millet production happens in these regions.
- Types of millets: Jowar (Sorghum), Ragi, Bajra (Pearl millet).

1.141. INDIA EMERGES AS LARGEST PRODUCER OF SUGAR IN WORLD.

- India has emerged as the world's largest producer and second largest exporter of sugar.
- In Sugar Season 2021-22, a record of more than five thousand lakh metric tons of sugarcane was produced in the country. Out of this, 35 lakh metric ton sugar was diverted to ethanol production and 359 lakh metric ton of sugar was produced by sugar mills.
- Consumer Affairs, Food, and Public Distribution Ministry said, the season has proven to be a watershed season for the Indian Sugar Sector. Records highest sugar exports of over 109 lakh metric tons have been registered.
- The Ministry said, supportive international prices and Central government Policy led to this feat of the Indian Sugar Industry. These exports earned foreign currency of about 40 thousand crore rupees.

1.142. JAPAN SEEKS GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATION TAG FOR NIHONSHU, AN ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE.

- The Embassy of Japan, New Delhi, has filed an application seeking Geographical Indication (GI) tag for nihonshu/**Japanese sake**, an alcoholic beverage. It is learnt that this is the first time a product from Japan has filed for a tag at the Geographical Indication Registry in Chennai.
- According to details provided in the filing, in Japan, nihonshu is regarded as a special and valuable beverage made from fermenting rice. People traditionally drink nihonshu on special occasions, such as festivals, weddings or funerals, but it is also consumed on a daily basis. Thus, it is an integral part of the lifestyle and culture in Japan. The sake market (almost all are nihonshu) is the second largest brewed liquor (such as beer) market in Japan.
- For making nihonshu three main raw materials – rice, koji-kin (a type of fungal spore) and water – are required. The production of nihonshu follows an alcoholic fermentation method called parallel multiple fermentation and involves raw material treatment, koji making, starter culture making, mash making, pressing, heat sterilisation and bottling. The rice and koji used should originate in Japan.
- The Embassy of Japan, in the filing, also mentioned that in the past, the economy of Japan was based around rice, which was used as a sort of quasi-money before the establishment of a monetary economy in the Meiji period (1869-1912). As a result, nihonshu production was thoroughly under the government's control.
- As nihonshu's production became more industrialised in the Edo period (1603-1868), those who had special licences began hiring many farmers in the agricultural off-season. They gradually won a reputation as craftsmen, which resulted in the establishment of the hierarchical Toii system (Toii is the person responsible for sake brewing), likened to an apprenticeship or guild system.

- The Toii has full authority for the production of nihonshu at breweries and leads all the workers. In addition, the Toii plays an important role in training young apprentices by imparting upon them their techniques and experience. Through this system, the techniques of making nihonshu are being passed on to the present day.
- A GI is a label that is applied to products that have a specific geographical origin and have characteristics that are related to that particular location.

1.143. OZONE HOLE CONTINUES SHRINKING IN 2022, SAYS NASA.

- The annual Antarctic ozone hole reached an average area of 23.2 million square kilometres between September 7 and October 13, 2022.
- The America's space agency, NASA said that the depleted area of the ozone layer over the South Pole was slightly smaller than last year and generally continued the overall shrinking trend of recent years.
- "Over time, steady progress is being made, and the hole is getting smaller," said Paul Newman, chief scientist for Earth sciences at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland. He said the elimination of ozone-depleting substances through the Montreal Protocol is shrinking the hole.
- The ozone layer - the portion of the stratosphere that protects our planet from the Sun's ultraviolet rays - thins to form an ozone hole above the South Pole every September.

The Montreal Protocol

- The Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer is the landmark multilateral environmental agreement that regulates the production and consumption of nearly 100 man-made chemicals referred to as ozone depleting substances (ODS).
- When released to the atmosphere, those chemicals damage the stratospheric ozone layer, Earth's protective shield that protects humans and the environment from harmful levels of ultraviolet radiation from the sun.
- Adopted on 16 September 1987, the Protocol is to date the only UN treaty ever that has been ratified every country on Earth - all 198 UN Member States.

1.144. INDIAN AGRICULTURE RESEARCH INSTITUTE HAS SUCCESSFULLY TESTED TWO NEW DWARF VARIETIES IN UTTAR PRADESH THAT GIVE DOUBLE THE YIELD OF TRADITIONAL VARIETY OF KALANAMAK RICE.

About:

- Kalanamak is a traditional variety of paddy with black husk and strong fragrance.
- It is considered a gift from Lord Buddha to the people of Sravasti when he visited the region after enlightenment.
- Grown in 11 districts of the Terai region of north-eastern Uttar Pradesh and in Nepal, the traditional variety has been prone to 'lodging', a reason for its low yield.
- Its yield is barely two to 2.5 tonnes per hectare.
 - **Lodging:**
 - Lodging is a condition in which the top of the plant becomes heavy because of grain formation, the stem becomes weak, and the plant falls on the ground.

Geographical Indication (GI) tag:

- The traditional Kalanamak rice is **protected under the Geographical Indication (GI) tag system.**
- It's recorded in the GI application that Lord Budhha gifted Kalanamak paddy to the people of Sravasti so that they remembered him by its fragrance.

New varieties:

- Addressing the problem, the Indian Agriculture Research Institute (IARI) has successfully developed two dwarf varieties of Kalanamak rice.
- They have been named
 - **Pusa Narendra Kalanamak 1638 and**
 - **Pusa Narendra Kalanamak 1652.**

- The IARI says the new name is in recognition of its association with the Acharya Narendra Dev University of Agriculture and Technology in Ayodhya, for testing the two varieties.
- The yield of the new varieties is double that of the traditional variety. The IARI and the Uttar Pradesh Council of Agriculture are working together to make the seeds available to farmers at the earliest.

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HEALTH

1.145. LUMPY SKIN DISEASE: A VIRUS FROM THE FAMILY POXVIRIDAE, GENUS CAPRIPOXVIRUS

- Lumpy skin disease (LSD) is caused by lumpy skin disease virus (LSDV), a virus from the family Poxviridae, genus Capripoxvirus. Sheeppox virus and goatpox virus are the two other virus species in this genus.
- LSDV is highly host specific and causes disease only in cattle (*Bos indicus* and *B. taurus*) and water buffalo (*Bubalus bubalis*). LSDV is not zoonotic, so humans cannot get affected by the disease
- The disease is characterized by viremia, nodules on the skin, sit-fast formation, weight loss, emaciation, and reduction in milk and meat production.
- Transmission occurs in a wide variety of biotypes, from semi-desert to temperate grasslands and irrigated land. It has the potential to extend its range further.
- The morbidity rates for LSD during outbreaks vary between 10 and 20% although it has been reported in some places to be as high as 45%, and mortality rates of 1 to 5% are considered usual.
- Successful control and eradication of LSD relies on early detection of the index case, followed by a rapid and widespread vaccination campaign. It is unlikely that total stamping-out (killing all clinically affected cattle and unaffected herd-mates) and partial stamping-out (killing only clinically affected cattle) alone, in the absence of vaccination, can eradicate LSD.
- There is no known carrier state. Once an animal has recovered, it is well protected and cannot be the source of infection for other animals. In infected animals that do not show clinical signs, the virus may remain in blood for a few weeks and eventually disappear.

1.146. CDSCO TAKES UP URGENT INVESTIGATION AFTER WHO ISSUES ALERT ON INDIA-MADE COUGH & COLD SYRUPS USED FOR PAEDIATRIC GROUPS.

- Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) has taken up an urgent investigation after the World Health Organization (WHO) issued an alert on four India-made cough and cold syrups used for paediatric groups.
- The investigation in the matter has been taken up by CDSCO with the State Regulatory Authorities immediately after receiving communication from WHO. It said, all required steps will be taken in the matter, as a robust National Regulatory Authority.
- WHO has been requested to share at the earliest with CDSCO, the report on establishment of causal relation to death with the medical products in question, photographs of Products.

About Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO)

- The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) under Directorate General of Health Services, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India is the National Regulatory Authority (NRA) of India.
- Its headquarter is located in New Delhi.
- It has six zonal offices, four sub zonal offices, thirteen Port offices and seven laboratories spread across the country.
- The Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940 and rules 1945 have entrusted various responsibilities to central & state regulators for regulation of drugs & cosmetics.
- It envisages uniform implementation of the provisions of the Act & Rules made there under for ensuring the safety, rights and wellbeing of the patients by regulating the drugs and cosmetics.
- CDSCO is constantly thriving upon to bring out transparency, accountability and uniformity in its services in order to ensure safety, efficacy and quality of the medical product manufactured, imported and distributed in the country.
- Under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, CDSCO is responsible for approval of Drugs, Conduct of Clinical Trials, laying down the standards for Drugs, control over the quality of imported Drugs in the country and

coordination of the activities of State Drug Control Organizations by providing expert advice with a view of bring about the uniformity in the enforcement of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act.

- Further CDSCO along with state regulators, is jointly responsible for grant of licenses of certain specialized categories of critical Drugs such as blood and blood products, I. V. Fluids, Vaccine and Sera.

1.147. INDIA REGISTERS DECLINE IN FEMALE INFANT MORTALITY RATE (IMR).

About:

- India has registered a decline in female infant mortality rate.
- In sixteen states, IMR remained higher for female babies than male but the gap had reduced since 2011. According to Sample Registration System Statistical Report 2020, Chhattisgarh had the highest gap in 2020, with a male infant mortality rate of 35 compared to female infant mortality rate of 41.

Infant Mortality

- Infant mortality is the death of an infant before his or her first birthday.
- **The infant mortality rate** is the number of infant deaths for every 1,000 live births.
- In addition to giving us key information about maternal and infant health, the infant mortality rate is an important marker of the overall health of a society.

Interventions for improving Infant Mortality Rate (IMR):

- **Mothers' Absolute Affection (MAA):** Early initiation and exclusive breastfeeding for first six months and appropriate Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) practices are promoted under Mothers' Absolute Affection (MAA).
- **Social Awareness and Actions to Neutralize Pneumonia Successfully (SAANS) initiative** implemented since 2019 for reduction of Childhood morbidity and mortality due to Pneumonia.
- **Universal Immunization Programme (UIP)** is implemented to provide vaccination to children against life threatening diseases such as Tuberculosis, Diphtheria, Pertussis, Polio, Tetanus, Hepatitis B, Measles, Rubella, Pneumonia and Meningitis caused by Haemophilus Influenzae B.
- **Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakaram (RBSK):** Children from 0 to 18 years of age are screened for 30 health conditions (i.e. Diseases, Deficiencies, Defects and Developmental delay) under Rashtriya Bal SwasthyaKaryakaram (RBSK) to improve child survival.

1.148. MENTAL HEALTH DAY: 24x7 HELPLINE LAUNCHED FOR COUNSELLING SERVICES.

- The **World Health Organisation** recognises World Mental Health Day on 10 October every year.
- The theme of 2022's World Mental Health Day, set by the **World Federation for Mental Health**, is 'Make mental health and wellbeing for all a global priority'.
- With the mental health treatment gap across 11 South East Asian nations, including India, estimated at 70 to 95 per cent, the government launched a toll-free, 24x7 helpline to cater to the rising demand for counselling services and guidance.
- The helpline number 14416 has been set up across the country and will allow callers to select the language of choice. The service, also accessible with 1-800-91-4416, launched at the National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS), Bengaluru, under the Tele Mental Health Assistance and Networking Across States (Tele-MANAS) initiative of the Ministry of Health.
- The launch coincided with WHO urging member states in the South-East Asia region to intensify action to ensure access for all to quality mental healthcare, in line with the recently adopted **Paris Declaration** on universal access to people-centred mental healthcare and services.
- Globally, before the Covid pandemic, around one in eight people lived with a mental health condition. Gaps in treatment were unacceptably large, especially in low- and middle-income countries.
- "In South-East Asia, an estimated one in seven people lived with a mental health condition, and in countries where data are available, the treatment gap ranged from 70–95 per cent. The Covid crisis has impacted almost all areas of health, but a few as profoundly as mental health," WHO SEARO Regional Director Poonam Khetarpal Singh said.

- She said in 2020, cases of major depressive disorder were estimated to have increased by more than 27 per cent globally, and cases of anxiety disorders by more than 25 per cent. “In many countries, this occurred alongside widespread disruptions to mental health services.
- Between November and December 2021, more than 33 per cent of WHO member states globally reported ongoing disruptions to mental, neurological and substance use services.

1.149. GOVT FORMS EXPERT COMMITTEE TO PROBE WHO REPORT ON DEATHS OF CHILDREN IN GAMBIA.

- The Centre has formed a four-member expert committee to investigate the report sent by the World Health Organisation (WHO) on the deaths of 66 children in Gambia by consumption of cough syrups from Sonipat-based company Maiden Pharmaceuticals Limited.
- The Expert committee will be chaired by Vice Chairperson of Standing National Committee on Medicines Dr YK Gupta.
- Members of the Committee are Dr Pragya Yadav of ICMR - National Institute of Virology Pune, Dr Arti Bahl of Division of epidemiology, National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) New Delhi and A K Pradhan, Joint Drugs Controller of Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation CDSCO. Official sources said, the Government is alert and has formed a committee to investigate the report sent by the WHO.
- It said, production of cough syrups by Maiden Pharmaceuticals Limited has been suspended and lab report is awaited.

1.150. SCIENTISTS DEVELOP 3D-PRINTED WEARABLE RING TO REPEL MOSQUITOES.

- Scientists have developed a new 3D-printed wearable ring designed to repel mosquitoes and other insects for a long time.
- The active ingredient is first “encapsulated” and formed into the desired shape, such as a ring, which can then be worn and releases an agent that repels insects.
- The researchers from Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg (MLU) in Germany developed their prototypes using “IR3535,” a common insect repellent.
- “Mosquito sprays containing IR3535 are very gentle on the skin and have been used all over the world for many years. That’s why we’ve been using the agent for our experiments,” said Professor Rene Androsch from the MLU.
- It is usually applied as a spray or lotion and offers several hours of protection.
- However, the team is looking for ways to release the agent over a much longer period, such as by encapsulating it in a wearable ring or bracelet.
- In the research published in International Journal of Pharmaceutics, the team used a special 3D printing technology to insert the insect repellent into a biodegradable polymer in a controlled manner and to shape the mixture of substances in various ways.
- The basic idea is that the insect repellent continuously evaporates and forms a barrier for insects,” said lead author of the study, Fanfan Du, a doctoral candidate at the MLU.
- The rate at which the insect repellent evaporates depends on many different factors, including temperature, concentration and the structure of the polymer used.
- After conducting various experiments and simulations, the team predicts that the insect repellent needs well over a week to evaporate completely at a temperature of 37 degrees Celsius which is the body temperature.
- While the researchers have proven that it is absolutely possible to develop a wearable insect repellent, the rings and other forms created for the study are only prototypes.
- Further study needs to be carried out to determine how well the rings function under actual conditions, the researchers said.
- The encapsulation material could also be further optimised.

1.151. HYDERABAD-BASED CCMB PART OF WORLD’S LARGEST GENOMIC STUDY.

- The Hyderabad-based Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) has become part of the world's largest and most diverse genomic study covering 54 lakh individuals. It identified 12 thousand 222 places in the human genome that are associated with human height.
- The study by name 'A saturated map of common genetic variants associated with human height' was published in Nature science journal recently. Researchers from across the world, including chief scientist Dr G R Chandak from CCMB, came together to form a consortium to study genetic links to human height.
- They analysed existing genetic data of over 53 individuals drawn from various parts of the world. In the course of the genomic study, the researchers identified over 1,200 spots in the human genome that literally dictate the height of humans.
- An official release stated that the study paves the way for similar investigations on the impact of genes on other human traits and diseases.
- The findings from the path-breaking study have the potential to help researchers worldwide understand how the human body grows.
- They also enable researchers to understand the increased risk of several diseases such as irregular heartbeat, varicose veins, nerve damage in arms and legs, and bone infections among taller people.
- The findings also support earlier studies which predicted that 40-50 percent of height variation among people could be explained by common genetic variants.

1.152. CHINA ROLLS OUT WORLD'S FIRST ORAL COVID VACCINE.

- The Chinese city of Shanghai started administering an inhalable Covid vaccine in what appears to be a world first.
- The vaccine, a mist that is sucked in through the mouth, is being offered for free as a booster dose for previously vaccinated individuals, according to an announcement posted on an official city social media account.
- Needle-free vaccines may persuade people who don't like getting a shot to get vaccinated, as well as help expand vaccination in poor countries because they are easier to administer.
- China doesn't have vaccine mandates but wants more people to get booster shots before it relaxes strict pandemic restrictions that are holding back the economy and increasingly out of sync with the rest of the world.
- A video posted by an online Chinese state media outlet showed people at a community health centre sticking the short nozzle of a translucent white cup into their mouths. A vaccine taken in the mouth could also fend off the virus before it reaches the rest of the respiratory system, though that would depend in part on the size of the droplets, one expert said.
- Larger droplets would train defences in parts of the mouth and throat, while smaller ones would travel further into the body, said Dr Vineeta Bal, an immunologist in India.
- Chinese regulators approved the vaccine for use as a booster in September. It was developed by Chinese biopharmaceutical company Cansino Biologics Inc. as an aerosol version of the same company's one-shot adenovirus vaccine, which uses a relatively harmless cold virus.
- Cansino has said the inhaled vaccine has completed clinical trials in China, Hungary, Pakistan, Malaysia, Argentina and Mexico.

Inhalable drug

- The vaccine, which appears to be world's first, is a mist that is sucked in through the mouth
- It is being offered for free as a booster dose for previously vaccinated individuals

1.153. CENTRE DEPLOYS HIGH-LEVEL TEAM TO KERALA TO TAKE STOCK OF AVIAN INFLUENZA OUTBREAK.

- Health and Family Welfare Ministry has decided to depute a high-level team to Kerala to take stock of the Avian Influenza outbreak in the state.
- The team will investigate the outbreak in detail and submit a report with recommendations.

- The Ministry said, a seven-member team comprises experts from the National Institute of Tuberculosis & Respiratory Diseases, National Centre for Disease Control, National Institute of Epidemiology and All India Institute of Medical Sciences.
- The team is headed by Dr. Rajesh Kedamani. The team will also assist the State Health Departments in terms of public health measures, management guidelines and protocols to manage the increasing cases of Avian Influenza.

About Institutes:

- The National Institute of Tuberculosis & Respiratory Diseases located in Delhi.
- National Centre for Disease Control located in New Delhi.
- The **National Institute of Epidemiology (NIE)** is a medical research organisation located in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

1.154. KERALA CONFIRMS AFRICAN SWINE FLU AT PIG FARM IN KOTTAYAM DISTRICT.

- In Kerala, African Swine Flu has been confirmed at a pig farm at Meenachil panchayat in Kottayam district.
- The district authorities said the virus infection was confirmed after samples taken from the farm were tested at the National Institute of High Security Animal Diseases in Bhopal.
- A one-kilometer stretch around the farm has been declared infected where 48 pigs have been culled as a preventive measure.
- A ten-kilometer radius around the farm is being closely monitored.
- The authorities have shut down shops selling pig meat and steps have been taken to ensure that no pigs are being transported from the infected zone.

1.155. AIIMS NEW DELHI LAUNCHES DASHBOARD TO PROVIDE REAL-TIME EMERGENCY BEDS AVAILABILITY DATA.

- All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) New Delhi has launched a dashboard on its website to provide real-time data on the status of the availability of emergency beds and the number of patients awaiting admission for treatment.
- The dashboard named AIIMS Main Hospital Casualty Dashboard was launched by the Director of the Institute Dr. M Srinivas.
- The new initiative will enhance transparency in the Hospital.
- Dr. Srinivas also held a meeting with Directors and Medical Superintendents of Central and Delhi government hospitals of the National capital.
- During the meeting, he stressed the need for real-time emergency bed availability in the hospitals, integrated a unified dashboard of bed status and created two-way referrals of critical and non-critical cases.
- AIIMS Medical Superintendent Dr. DK Sharma said, during the meeting, the discussion was held to create an emergency service network and develop a cross-referral system for patients in hospitals.

SPORTS

1.156. SAUDI ARABIA TO HOST 2029 ASIAN WINTER GAMES.

- Saudi Arabia was chosen to host the 2029 Asian Winter Games at a \$500 billion futuristic megacity in the desert that planners say will feature a year-round winter sports complex.
- “The deserts and mountains of Saudi Arabia will soon be a playground for winter sports,” the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) said in a statement on the decision made during its general assembly meeting in Phnom Penh.
- The Saudi bid was “unanimously approved”, the statement said, noting that the megacity known as NEOM will be the first West Asian city to host the event.
- First announced in 2017, NEOM has consistently raised eyebrows for proposed flourishes like flying taxis and robot maids, even as architects and economists have questioned its feasibility.
- In July, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman unveiled plans for a project within NEOM known as The Line, two parallel mirror-encased skyscrapers extending over 170 kilometres of mountain and desert terrain.
- The Asian Winter Games are slated to take place in Trojena, an area of NEOM “where winter temperatures drop below zero celsius and year-round temperatures are generally 10 degrees cooler than the rest of the region”, according to the project’s website.
- Set to be completed in 2026, Trojena will include year-round skiing, a manmade freshwater lake, chalets, mansions and ultra-luxury hotels, the website says.
- The Asian Winter Games include competitions for skiing, snowboarding, ice hockey and figure skating -- 47 events in all, 28 on snow and 10 on ice, the OCA said.
- Saudi Arabia has drawn criticism for alleged “sportswashing” -- hosting high-profile boxing, Formula 1 and other contests to divert attention from its human rights record.
- An Egyptian official said in September that Egypt, Greece and Saudi Arabia were in talks on a proposal to jointly host the 2030 World Cup football tournament.

1.157. 36TH NATIONAL GAMES, POOJA PATEL BECOMES FIRST ATHELETE TO WIN GOLD IN YOGASANA.

- At the 36th National Games, Pooja Patel of Gujarat has become the first athlete to win gold in Yogasana.
- Yogasana is one of the five sports to be played at the National Games this year for the first time.
- This Indian indigenous sport made its debut at the Khelo India University Games earlier this year.
- Other Indian indigenous sport is Mallakhamb is also played in the 36th National Games.
- Mallakhamba is the display of aerial yoga and wrestling grips with vertical stationary or hanging wooden pole performed by a gymnast.

1.158. PANKAJ ADVANI WINS GOLD MEDAL AT IBSF WORLD BILLIARDS CHAMPIONSHIP IN KUALA LUMPUR.

- In billiards, India's leading cueist, Pankaj Advani has claimed his 25th gold medal on the world stage, winning the 2022 IBSF World Billiards Championship in Kuala Lumpur. He outclassed compatriot Sourav Kothari 4-0 in a one-sided final to defend the title for the fifth time in a row.
- Advani's last world title came over 12 months ago in Qatar where he won the IBSF 6-Red Snooker World Cup. With 25 world titles, Advani has extended his record-breaking success as India's winner of the most gold medals in world championships across all sports.

1.159. 36TH NATIONAL GAMES COMES TO A CLOSE AT CEREMONY IN SURAT; GOA TO HOST 37TH NATIONAL GAMES IN OCTOBER NEXT YEAR.

- The 36th National Games came to a close with a glittering ceremony at Surat yesterday evening. Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar chaired the closing ceremony.

- Services topped the medal tally with a total of 128 medals including 61 Gold, 35 silver, and 32 bronze medals.
- Maharashtra secured the number 2 position with 140 medals including 39 gold and
- Haryana number 3 with 116 medals with 38 Gold. The winners were awarded on the occasion.
- Harshika Ramchandran from Karnataka won the best female player of the 36th National games and Sajan Prakash from Kerala won the Best Male player of the games.
- About 7500 players from 36 states and union territories participated in 36 types of sports competitions held in six cities of the state.
- Goa will host the 37th National Games in October next year.
- The Goa delegation received the IOA flag at the Closing Ceremony of the 36th National Games in Surat.

1.160. INDIAN GRANDMASTER ARJUN DEFEATS FIVE-TIME WORLD CHESS CHAMPION MAGNUS CARLSEN.

- On 16th October 2022, 19-year-old Indian grandmaster Arjun Erigaisi defeated the reigning five-time World Chess Champion Magnus Carlsen in round seven of the preliminaries of the Aimchess Rapid online chess tournament.
- This is the first victory of Erigaisi over Norwegian Carlsen. Erigaisi had earlier lost to Carlsen in the Julius Baer Generation Cup final in September.
- Erigaisi, who had gone down to compatriot Vidit Santosh Gujrathi to make a losing start in the event, is currently in fifth place after eight rounds.
- Another Indian D Gukesh is in sixth place with 12 points after mixed fortunes on the second day of the preliminaries.
- The other Indian players in the fray, Gujrathi, Aditya Mittal, and Harikrishna, are in the 10th, 11th, and 15th spots after eight rounds of the 15-round preliminary phase.

1.161. FIFTH KHELO INDIA YOUTH GAMES-2022 TO BE HELD IN MADHYA PRADESH.

- The Fifth Khelo India Youth Games -2022 will be held in Madhya Pradesh. The games will be held from 31st January to 11th February next year.
- This was announced by Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Anurag Singh Thakur at an event in New Delhi in presence of Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan.
- The Khelo India Youth Games will be held at eight locations. More than 8 thousand 500 athletes and sportspersons are expected to participate in the sporting event.
- Khelo India Youth Games was started in 2016 and provided a very effective platform to the youth of the country to showcase their performance and talents in sports.
- The games will be held at different places of the State including at Bhopal, Indore, Gwalior, Ujjain and Jabalpur.
- On the occasion, Madhya Pradesh Minister of Sports and Youth Welfare Yashodhara Raje Scindia and Union Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports Nisith Pramanik were also present.
- The upcoming edition of the Khelo India Youth Games will feature a total of 27 disciplines.
- Water sports being included for the first time in the history of the games.

1.162. INDIA AMONG 10 POTENTIAL HOSTS FOR FUTURE OLYMPIC GAMES.

- A top IOC official announced that the IOC is in talks with ten potential bidders to host the Summer Olympic Games.
- The 10 bid projects are "at very various phases and are building their objectives according to their own regional or national schedules," De Kepper said, without naming the possible bidders.
- The following three Olympic Games will take place in 2024 in Paris, 2028 in Los Angeles, and 2032 in Brisbane.

- “We are currently working with 10 interested NOCs and regions across four continents,” IOC director general Christophe de Kepper said at the Association of National Olympic Committees meeting in Seoul, Xinhua reports.
- Egypt, India, Indonesia, Britain, and South Korea are among the nations that have indicated interest in hosting the Olympics in 2036.

1.163. AMAN SEHRAWAT BECOMES FIRST INDIAN WRESTLER TO WIN GOLD MEDAL AT U-23 WORLD WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIPS IN SPAIN.

- In wrestling, teenager Aman Sehrawat made history as he became the first Indian wrestler to win a gold medal at the U-23 World Wrestling Championships in Pontevedra, Spain.
- The 16-year-old Aman Sehrawat beat junior European silver-medallist Ahmet Duman of Turkey 12-4 in the final to win the gold. Olympic medallists Bajrang Punia and Ravi Kumar Dahiya had made the final in their categories in previous editions but could only win the silver medal.
- Aman Sehrawat won gold at the U23 Asian championship and silver at the U20 Asian championship earlier this year. India finished with six medals - one gold, one silver, and four bronze at the U-23 World Wrestling Championships 2022.
- Sajan Bhanwala became the first Greco-Roman wrestler from India to win a medal bronze at the U23 world wrestling championships before Vikas and Nitesh followed suit.



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AWARDS

1.164. J&K FELICITATED FOR EXCELLENCE IN ACHIEVING UN SDGs IN LAST COUPLE OF YEARS.

- The Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir has received felicitation for its remarkable contribution towards achieving 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) during last couple of years.
- Secretary, Mining Department, Amit Sharma, received the honour on behalf of J&K government during a felicitation ceremony held in this regard.
- He also participated in a power-packed panel discussion, along with Secretaries of States like Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Goa and Maharashtra, on achieving carbon neutrality and sharing perspectives towards eco sensitivities in respective states and UTs for saving planet earth. Goa Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh were also felicitated on the occasion.
- Amit Sharma shared significant achievements of J&K towards the goal of Carbon Neutrality wherein Panchayat Palli has been fully powered with solar energy with a 500 KW solar plant.
- Several works are being carried out in Palli Panchayat only through power supplied by this solar plant. He said, the unique initiative was inaugurated by the Prime Minister in April this year as a follow-up of UN Climate Change Glasgow Conference.
- The Secretary also talked about public awareness and mass campaigns reaching the grassroots level in J&K in multiple sectors like Health, Jal Shakti and Urban Development through Swacch Bharat Mission.
- He further disclosed that there has been significant achievement in improving J&K ranking in UN Sustainable Development Goals over the last couple of years.
- He also mentioned that recently J&K government approved Rooftop Solar Scheme for residential households towards reducing over 5 million tonnes of carbon emission.
- He said, it reflects the administration's resolve of contributing substantially towards UN SDGs well within the target year 2030.
- The felicitation ceremony was followed by panel discussion which was led by Union Ministers, Smriti Irani and Gajendra Singh Shekhawat.
- It was inspired by NITI Aayog and organized by the Times Group vertical Economic Times who acknowledged the contribution of J&K towards obtaining success in achieving UN SDG and improving its ranking by leaps and bounds in the last couple of years.

1.165. SWEDISH GENETICIST SVANTE PAABO WINS 2022 NOBEL PRIZE.

- Swedish geneticist Svante Paabo won the 2022 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for discoveries that provide our understanding of how modern-day humans evolved from extinct ancestors.
- The award's panel said, his study also provides key insights into the immune system and human uniqueness compared with their extinct cousins.
- Paabo's key achievements include sequencing an entire Neanderthal genome to reveal the link between extinct people and modern humans.
- Sixty-seven-year-old Paabo performed his prizewinning studies in Germany at the University of Munich and at the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Leipzig. Paabo is the son of Sune Bergstrom, who won the Nobel prize in medicine in 1982.
- Last year's medicine recipients were David Julius and Ardem Patapoutian for their discoveries into how the human body perceives temperature and touch.
- The prizes carry a cash award of nearly 900,000 US dollars and will be given on December 10 this year.

1.166. INDIAN-ORIGIN, DR. VIVEK LALL RECEIVES LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD BY US PRESIDENT.

- Indian-origin, Dr. Vivek Lall has been honoured with the Lifetime Achievement Award by US President Joe Biden with the citation of 'With Grateful Recognition'.

- The citation was given to Dr. Lall by the AmeriCorps, which is a part of the US Government and aims to foster activities that bring Americans closer together to "serve communities."
- According to the official statement, the citation was personally signed by the President of the United States.
- Dr. Lall is an industry leader and Chief Executive Officer of General Atomics.
- The company is a global leader in the specialised fields of nuclear technology and has developed state-of-the-art Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) like the Predator, Reaper, and Guardian drones.

1.167. THREE GET NOBEL PRIZE IN PHYSICS FOR WORK ON QUANTUM SCIENCE.

- Three scientists jointly won this year's Nobel Prize in physics for their work on quantum information science that has significant applications, for example in the field of encryption.
- Frenchman Alain Aspect, American John F Clauser and Austrian Anton Zeilinger were cited by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences for discovering the way that particles known as photons can be linked, or "entangled," with each other even when they are separated by large distances.
- "Quantum information science is a vibrant and rapidly developing field," said Eva Olsson, a member of the Nobel committee. "It has broad and potential implications in areas such as secure information transfer, quantum computing and sensing technology."
- "Its origin can be traced to that of quantum mechanics. Its predictions have opened doors to another world, and it has also shaken the very foundations of how we interpret measurements," she said. Speaking by phone to a news conference after the announcement, Zeilinger said he was "still kind of shocked" at hearing he had received the award. "But it's a very positive shock," said Zeilinger, 77, who is based at the University of Vienna.
- Clauser, Aspect, and Zeilinger have figured in Nobel speculation for more than a decade. In 2010 they won the Wolf Prize in Israel, seen as a possible precursor to the Nobel.
- While physicists often tackle problems that appear at first glance to be far removed from everyday concerns — tiny particles and the vast mysteries of space and time — their research provides the foundations for many practical applications of science.
- The Nobel committee said Clauser, 79, developed quantum theories first put forward in the 1960s to a practical experiment. — Agencies

1.168. THE SASTRA RAMANUJAN PRIZE FOR 2022 WILL BE AWARDED TO YUNQING TANG.

About:

- Yunqing Tang is an Assistant Professor with the University of California, Berkeley, U.S.A.
- According to SASTRA Ramanujan Prize Committee Ms. Yunqing's works display a remarkable combination of sophisticated techniques, in which the arithmetic and geometry of modular curves and of Shimura varieties play a central role, and her results and methods are bound to have major impact on future research in this area.
- The award, instituted by the Shanmugha Arts, Science, Technology & Research Academy (SASTRA) in 2005 with a cash prize of \$10,000, is presented annually to individuals aged 32 and below, who made outstanding contributions in the field of mathematics, influenced by Srinivasa Ramanujan in a broad sense.

1.169. CAROLYN BERTOZZI, MORTEN MELDAL, BARRY SHARPLESS AWARDED NOBEL PRIZE IN CHEMISTRY.

- The Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2022 was awarded jointly to Carolyn R. Bertozzi, Morten Meldal and K. Barry Sharpless "for the development of click chemistry and bioorthogonal chemistry" at the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences in Stockholm.
- The three have been awarded for their work in 'click chemistry', in which molecules snap together fast and firmly, without the need for a long, complicated process and too many unwanted byproducts.
- Their work has applications in the field of medical science, including the treatment of cancer. Bertozzi is based at Stanford University in California, Sharpless with Scripps Research, California, and Meldal is at the University of Copenhagen, Denmark.

- What is click chemistry?
- Click chemistry and bioorthogonal reactions have taken chemistry into the era of functionalism. This is bringing the greatest benefit to humankind. Chemists often try to recreate complex chemical molecules found in nature, and this has applications, among other things, in the field of medicine – how to target and block pathogens in cells. However, this process can be complicated and time-consuming.

About the Carolyn R. Bertozzi:

- Carolyn R. Bertozzi, born 1966 in USA. PhD 1993 from UC Berkeley, CA, USA. Anne T. and Robert M. Bass Professor at Stanford University, CA, USA.

About the Morten Meldal:

- Morten Meldal, born 1954 in Denmark. PhD 1986 from Technical University of Denmark, Lyngby, Denmark. Professor at the University of Copenhagen, Denmark.

About the K. Barry Sharpless:

- K. Barry Sharpless, was born in 1941 in Philadelphia, PA, USA. PhD 1968 from Stanford University, CA, USA. W. M. Keck Professor at Scripps Research, La Jolla, CA, USA.

1.170. FRENCH WRITER ANNIE ERNAUX WINS 2022 NOBEL PRIZE IN LITERATURE.

- Eighty-Two-year-old French writer Annie Ernaux has been awarded the Nobel Prize in literature for the year 2022. The Swedish Academy has awarded the Nobel to the octogenarian french author for the courage and clinical acuity with which she uncovers the roots, estrangements and collective restraints of personal memory. Her literary work maintains close links with sociology.
- Last year the Nobel Prize in Literature was awarded to the Tanzanian-born British novelist Abdulrazak Gurnah for his uncompromising and compassionate penetration of the effects of colonialism and the fate of the refugee in the gulf between cultures and continents.
- Annie Ernaux is a pioneer of autofiction, a style of writing that combines two mutually inconsistent narrative forms, namely autobiography and fiction. The events in her book, she says, belong to everyone, to history, to sociology. In her works, the past is a raw material of her writings, which is transformed by rooting it in the present.
- Ernaux says “necessity, not pleasure” takes her back to her past, which she dissects like a forensics expert examining a crime scene. Her magnum opus, *Les années* (The Years) has been written in the vein of a memoir and explodes with perspective and voice. The book has been written using “one” and “we” and occasionally “she” or “they”, but never “I” *The Happening*, recounting her experience as a university student in France in 1963, is an intense account of an illegal abortion.
- The novel was also adapted into an award winning French drama thriller film in 2021 by the same name. In *Simple Passion*, Ernaux touches on her sexuality through a fictionalised account of a tumultuous affair with an Eastern European businessman. She attributes her view of her life as a woman to Simone de Beauvoir's *The Second Sex* and acknowledges the influence of Jean-Paul Sartre.

1.171. NOBEL PEACE PRIZE AWARDED TO HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCATES FROM UKRAINE, RUSSIA AND BELARUS.

- This year's Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to human rights advocate Ales Bialiatski from Belarus, the Russian human rights organisation Memorial and the Ukrainian human rights organisation Center for Civil Liberties.

About Ales Bialiatski

- Born on September 25, 1962, in Vyartsilya, Russia's Karelia, Bialiatski was a resident of Belarus at the time of the award. Bialiatski was one of the initiators of the democratic movement that emerged in Belarus in the mid-1980s.
- He has devoted his life to promoting democracy and peaceful development in his home country. He founded the organisation Viasna (Spring) in 1996. Viasna evolved into a broad-based human rights organisation that documented and protested against the authorities' use of torture against political prisoners.

- Government authorities have repeatedly sought to silence Ales Bialiatski. Since 2020, he is still detained without trial. Despite tremendous personal hardship, Mr Bialiatski has not yielded an inch in his fight for human rights and democracy in Belarus.

1.172. NOBEL ECONOMIC PRIZE: US TRIO AWARDED FOR RESEARCH ON BANKS, FINANCIAL CRISES.

- Former Federal Reserve chief Ben Bernanke along with Douglas Diamond and Philip Dybvig won the 2022 Nobel Economics Prize "for research on banks and financial crises".
- "Ben Bernanke in a paper from the 1983 showed with statistical analysis, and historical sources, that bank runs led to bank failures and this was the mechanism that turned a relatively ordinary recession into the depression in the 30s, the world's most dramatic, and, severe crisis that we have seen in the modern history," said John Hassler, member of committee for the Nobel Prize for Economics.
- The US trio joins such luminaries as Paul Krugman and Milton Friedman, previous winners of the prize.
- The majority of previous laureates have been from the US. Only two women have ever won, Elinor Ostrom in 2009 and Esther Duflo in 2019.
- The economics prize is not one of the original five awards created in the 1895 will of industrialist and dynamite inventor Alfred Nobel.

1.173. BOOKER PRIZE 2022 AWARDED TO SRI LANKAN AUTHOR SHEHAN KARUNATILAKA FOR HIS NOVEL 'THE SEVEN MOONS OF MAALI ALMEIDA'

- Sri Lankan author Shehan Karunatilaka won the 2022 Booker Prize for his second novel 'The Seven Moons of Maali Almeida'. Booker Prize is one of the most prestigious literary awards in the world.
- 47-year-old Karunatilaka, becomes the second Sri Lankan to win the prestigious 50,000 pounds literary prize at a ceremony in London on Monday night, after Michael Ondaatje who won for 'The English Patient' in 1992.
- 'The Seven Moons of Maali Almeida' tells the story of the photographer of its title, who in 1990 wakes up dead in what seems like a celestial visa office. With no idea who killed him, Maali has seven moons to contact the people he loves most and leads them to a hidden cache of photos of civil war atrocities that will rock Sri Lanka.
- Chair of the 2022 Booker judges Neil MacGregor said, the judges particularly admired and enjoyed in 'The Seven Moons of Maali Almeida' the ambition of its scope, and the hilarious audacity of its narrative techniques.
- The novel has been described by judges as a whodunnit and a race against time, full of ghosts, gags, and deep humanity.
- Shehan Karunatilaka, who was born in Galle in 1975 and grew up in Colombo, says that Sri Lankans specialise in "gallows humour" and make jokes in the face of crises as a coping mechanism. His debut novel from 2011, 'Chinaman', had won the Commonwealth Prize.
- The Booker Prize is awarded annually to a book published in English in the United Kingdom and Ireland.

1.174. HPCL CONFERRED WITH 'DUSHYANT SAMMAN' FOR PIONEERING WORK IN THE FIELD OF HINDI LANGUAGE.

- Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd., A Maharatna Oil Company, has been conferred with the prestigious 'Dushyant Samman' by Pasbaan-e-Adab for its pioneering work in the field of propagating the Hindi Language. The Award is instituted to honor one of the foremost Hindi Poets of the 20th Century, the Late Dushyant Kumar Tyagi.
- The Award was given by Padma Shri, Ashok Chakradhar noted Hindi Author & Poet; Famous Hindi Folk Singer of Kabir Bhajans, Padma Shri, Prahlad Tipaniya in the presence of Alok Dushyant, S/o Late Dushyant Kumar Tyagi and Kaiser Khalid (IPS), convenor of Pasbaan-e-Adab. The Award was received from HPCL by the Chief General Manager, Public Relations & Corporate Communications, and General Manager of Corporate Affairs & Official Language in a ceremony held in Mumbai on 16th October 2022.

- The award has been conferred to HPCL for its continuous unparalleled commitment to the cause of the promotion of Hindi throughout the Country by supporting & promoting various initiatives. HPCL has also taken giant strides in the implementation of Hindi across the organization in its day-to-day work.
- Pasbaan-e-Adab is a socio, cultural organization committed to the cause of spreading the values of the composite culture of this Country through Literature, Music & Art.
- The Award function was a part of 'Anubhooti', an excellent festival of Hindi art & literature, to felicitate and acknowledge the efforts of organizations & people who have made significant contributions towards the promotion & propagation of the Hindi language.

1.175. MICROSOFT CEO SATYA NADELLA RECEIVES PADMA BHUSHAN IN US.

- Microsoft Chairman and CEO Satya Nadella formally received the Padma Bhushan, India's third-highest civilian award from India's consul general T.V Nagendra Prasad in San Fransisco, US for his distinguished service. Nadella was named one of 17 awardees earlier this year.
- Along with Satya Nadella, IT veteran Tata Sons' CEO Natarajan Chandrasekaran, and Alphabet CEO Sundar Pichai also received the Padma Bhushan award.
- He also discussed with India's consul general T.V Nagendra Prasad on the critical role digital technology plays in empowering inclusive growth in India.
- He plans to visit India in January 2023, his first visit to the country in nearly three years.
- Nadella was appointed as Microsoft's CEO in 2014 and he is the only third CEO of Microsoft after the company's founders Bill Gates and Steve Ballmer. Earlier in 2021, he was also appointed as the company's chairman, making him responsible for setting the tone for Microsoft's future.
- He is known for revolutionizing Microsoft's cloud business, from lagging behind Amazon to bagging multi-billion dollar US Defense Department contracts.

1.176. UKRAINIAN PEOPLE WINS EU'S 2022 SAKHAROV FREEDOM PRIZE.

- The European Parliament has awarded the people of Ukraine its annual Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought to honour their fight against Russia's invasion. European Parliament President Roberta Metsola announced the 2022 laureate in the Strasbourg plenary chamber, following a decision by Parliament's Conference of Presidents (the President and political group leaders).
- The award comes with prize money of 50,000 euros (\$49,100), which will be distributed to representatives of Ukrainian civil society. The prize, named after the late Soviet dissident Andrei Sakharov, has been awarded annually since 1988 to individuals and organizations defending human rights and fundamental freedoms.
- Notably: Last year the award was given to jailed Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny for his efforts to challenge Russian President Vladimir Putin's grip on power. Other past winners include South African President Nelson Mandela, Pakistani education activist Malala Yousafzai and the democratic opposition of Belarus.

About the Sakharov Prize:

- The Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought is awarded each year by the European Parliament. It was set up in 1988 to honour individuals and organisations defending human rights and fundamental freedoms.
- It is named in honour of Soviet physicist and political dissident Andrei Sakharov and the prize money is 50 000 euros.

STATE NEWS

1.177. INDIA POST STARTS DEDICATED ROAD NETWORK TRANSPORT SERVICE BETWEEN JAMMU & SRINAGAR.

- The Department of Posts J&K Circle starts a dedicated Road Network Transport (RTN) Service on daily basis which will connect Jammu and Srinagar for transmission of Parcels/Speed Post Parcels.
- This is the first RTN service connecting Jammu City to the Kashmir Valley which will cater the long pending needs of transmission of parcel mails between these two cities of J&K and this will serve as a bridge for all businessmen, manufacturer, factory owners to transmit their items/parcels to Kashmir Valley and vice versa.
- Postmaster General, Jammu Region, Col Vinod Kumar has flagged off the well-decorated Vehicle of Postal Department carrying Parcel Mails meant for Srinagar.
- At the same time an RTN Vehicle is flagged off by Chief Postmaster General J&K Circle from Srinagar also which is carrying parcels, logistic consignments and speed post parcels meant to be delivered in Jammu city.
- Worth to mention, with this historical start of RTN service, J&K has got connected to the rest of India for the fastest transmission of all kinds of parcel items, Logistic consignments as well as Speed Post Parcels.
- The RTN vehicles are fitted with GPS devices and each moment will be tracked during their run on road.
- Customers can also track their consignments on India Post website and come to know the whereabouts of their parcels.

1.178. J&K ACHIEVES MILESTONE OF BEING FIRST TO ESTABLISH AT LEAST 75 AMRIT SAROVAR IN EACH OF ITS DISTRICTS.

- Jammu and Kashmir has achieved the milestone of being the first to establish at least 75 Amrit Sarovars in each of its districts as per the aspirations of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- Jammu and Kashmir had started implementing the scheme in a mission mode and the UT level committee under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary with the participation of departments like Forest, Culture, Revenue, Jal Shakti was constituted for apex level monitoring and implementation of the scheme.
- As per the guidelines of the Mission, the UT had to complete 300 Amrit Sarovars before 15th August this year and 1500 Amrit Sarovars by 15th August, next year.
- However, the UT completed 1490 Amrit Sarovars on 15th of August, 2022 and hoisted National Flags over them on the occasion of Independence Day. At present the UT has completed the work on 1953 Amrit Sarovars.
- The UT is endeavoring to create and beautify more Amrit Sarovars and the Finance Department has released 50 crore rupees for the rejuvenation and creation of these Amrit Sarovars.
- The Mission Amrit Sarovar was launched by Prime Minister on National Panchayati Raj Day on 24th of April this year in Palli Gram Panchayat in District Samba of J&K itself. At the national level, the UT stands at No. 2 in terms of completion of Amrit Sarovars featuring just after the much bigger State of Uttar Pradesh.

1.179. PM MODI DECLARES MODHERA IN GUJARAT AS INDIA'S FIRST 24x7 SOLAR-POWERED VILLAGE.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has declared Modhera in Gujarat's Mehsana district as India's first 24x7 solar-powered village.
- PM Modi offered prayers at Modheshwari goddess Temple at Modhera. He also witnessed the beautiful 3d projection mapping and heritage light and sound show at iconic Modhera Sun temple.
- Modhera was well known for the Sun temple, now it will also be known as solar-powered village.
- The 80 crore rupees project in Modhera is the first solar-powered village is a joint effort by the central and state governments.

- Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) has also been installed at nearby Sajjanpura village for the storage of solar power that can be utilised during night.

1.180. CHHATTISGARH: SCHEME TO ENSURE HOT COOKED MEALS FOR PREGNANT MOMS.

- The Balod district has undertaken a unique initiative to provide hot cooked meals through 'home tiffin service' to the women who are unable to visit Anganwadis.
- The initiative taken under the state government's ambitious 'Mukhyamantri Suposhan Yojana' was launched three years ago.
- In a bid to make this scheme a success, freshly prepared meals are being delivered to 650 women who are unable to visit Anganwadis at their doorstep in the Balod district.
- The move is aimed at ensuring nutritious food to pregnant and lactating mothers to keep them healthy.
- The scheme was launched on October 2, 2019, to provide healthy and nutritious meals to malnourished children under 6 years of age and to anaemic women and adolescent girls between 15 to 49 years of age.
- Since its inception till now, nearly 2.10 lakh children (50 per cent) have been freed from malnutrition in the state. In addition, about one lakh women are now anemia-free, a government communique claimed.
- A nutritious diet is extremely important for pregnant and lactating mothers. Lack of nutritious food causes anaemia and malnutrition in mothers and children.

1.181. CIL TO SET UP 1190 MW SOLAR POWER PLANT IN RAJASTHAN.

- As part of its diversification programme for clean coal energy, the Coal India Limited (CIL), signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Rajasthan Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited (RRVUNL) for developing a solar power plant of 1190 MW in the state.
- The MoU was signed in presence of Union Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Coal and Mines Pralhad Joshi and Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot here at a luxury hotel. It will come up at Poogal Tehsil of the Bikaner district.
- The MoU was signed and exchanged between Pramod Agrawal, Chairman of the CIL and Rajesh Kumar Sharma, CMD, the RRVUNL.
- The proposed project shall come up in Rajasthan state's upcoming solar park cleared under the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy's Ultra Mega Renewable Energy Power Parks. It will boost CIL's pursuit of solar power generation as part of its diversification programme for clean coal energy.
- The project will be implemented in a phased manner and is expected to be an employment generator in the state apart from providing cleaner power.
- The RVUNL has planned to develop a 2000 MW solar plant in Bikaner. The state government has allocated 4846 hectares in Poogal tehsil for the project.
- The CIL has now agreed to set up 1190 MW solar park, and the remaining 810 MW would be done by the state power agency RVUNL.

1.182. GUJARATI NEW YEAR 'BESTU VARSH' CELEBRATED.

GUJARATI NEW YEAR 2022:

- Gujarati New Year or Bestu Varas is celebrated a day after Diwali, which falls on Shukla Paksha Pratipada of the Kartik month. It is also called Varsha-Pratipada or Padwa.
- This year due to Solar Eclipse on October 25, Vikram Samvat 2079, or Gujarati New Year 2022, will start on October 26. The day is celebrated with great fervour across the state of Gujarat.

HOW IS BESTU VARAS CELEBRATED?

- On this auspicious day, businessmen and traders start their new account books after closing the old one. In Gujarati culture, it is called Chopda.
- Goddess Lakshmi is worshipped in Chopda Puja with the belief that it would help make the new year more prosperous and profitable. Devi Saraswati, the Goddess of learning, is also worshipped during the day
- During the ritual, 'Shubh' and 'Labh' are written on the new account books which mean 'auspicious' and 'benefit', respectively.

- A swastika is also made at the beginning.
- After praying to the deities for a prosperous year, devotees take part in the celebrations.

GUJARATI NEW YEAR 2022: SIGNIFICANCE AND TRADITION

- Gujarati New Year or Bestu Varas coincides with Govardhan Puja. According to legends, it is believed that Lord Krishna convinced the people of Gokul to not make abundant offerings to Lord Indra. He taught the people, who were mostly farmers and shepherds, that their true 'dharma' was towards the hills and cattle which gave them supplies and resources. The people then started praying to Govardhan Hill and the cows.
- Lord Indra did not take this well and unleashed his wrath upon the people. He flooded Gokul with incessant rains which continued for seven days and seven nights. Following this, Krishna lifted the Govardhan Parvat with his little finger to provide shelter and protection to the people and the cattle. Indra then realised his mistake and apologized. The tradition to perform Govardhan Puja is believed to have continued and is celebrated to this day.

1.183. GUJARAT ACHIEVES 100 PERCENT HOUSEHOLD TAP CONNECTIONS UNDER JAL JEEVAN MISSION.

- Gujarat has been declared as a 100 percent 'Har Ghar Jal' state. It means all households in rural areas have access to safe drinking water through taps in the state.
- As per the government data, all 91,73,378 houses in the state now have water connections.
- Gujarat is now the third big state, after Haryana and Telangana that has now declared completion of the Jal Jeevan Mission.
- Jal Jeevan Mission focuses on water service delivery and not just building water supply infrastructure.
- The motto of the Jal Jeevan Mission is 'no one is left out', thus ensuring every household irrespective of its socio-economic status, gets tap water supply.
- Under the scheme, the government plans to provide potable tap water to all the villages in the country by 2024.

1.184. ODISHA CM NAVEEN PATNAIK LAUNCHES SAFAL COMMON CREDIT PORTAL FOR FARMERS.

- **Odisha** Chief Minister, **Naveen Patnaik** has launched a common credit portal **SAFAL' (Simplified Application for Agricultural Loans)** for the welfare of farmers.
- SAFAL is an abridged application for agricultural loans that will enable farmers and agri-entrepreneurs to access over 300 term loan products from more than 40 partner banks.
- It has also been integrated with Krushak Odisha and will have access to 70-plus model project reports.
- The application can revolutionise credit provisions for farmers and agri-entrepreneurs.

About the SAFAL:

- The application is a one-stop solution for farmers and agri-entrepreneurs to avail formal sector credit from public and private sector banks, Regional Rural Banks, State Cooperative Banks, and Small Finance Banks.
- The portal will ease the loan application process benefiting both the farmers and banks significantly, the chief minister said. It will also reduce information asymmetry by sending farmers real-time notifications at every stage of their loan application.
- SAFAL will also provide the government with complete visibility of demand and disbursement of formal credit across states and ensure schemes are designed in a data-backed manner. He hoped that SAFAL would be a facilitator of credit to spur the agriculture and allied sectors in Odisha and increase the economic prowess of farmers in the long run.

1.185. MIYAWAKI FOREST AND MAZE GARDEN TO BE NEW ATTRACTIONS AT STATUE OF UNITY.

- PM Modi will dedicate two more tourist attractions - a Maze (labyrinth) Garden and Miyawaki Forest in Gujarat.

Maze (labyrinth) Garden.

- Sprawling in three acres with a pathway of 2,100 metres, this is the largest maze garden in the country and has been developed in a short span of just eight months.
- The Maze Garden at Kevadia has been built in the shape of 'Yantra' that emanates positive energy.
- The key objective for choosing this design was to bring about a symmetry while focusing on building an intricate network of pathways. Winding through the puzzling roads of this garden will be challenging for the tourists' mind, body and senses while giving them a sense of triumph over hurdles and this activity will also instil a sense of adventure.
- As many as 1,80,000 saplings have been planted near this Maze Garden. These include Orange Gemin, Madhu Kamini, Glory Bovar and Mehndi. This location was originally a dumping site for debris which has now turned into a verdant landscape.
- The rejuvenation of this barren land has not only beautified the surrounding but also helped establish a vibrant ecosystem where birds, butterflies and honeybees are thriving now.

Miyawaki Forest.

- The Miyawaki Forest will be another tourist attraction for people visiting Ekta Nagar. This forest is named after the technique developed by Japanese botanist and ecologist Dr Akira Miyawaki to plant saplings of various species are planted close to each other which develops into a dense urban forest.
- The growth of plants is ten times faster using this method and as a result the forest developed is thirty times denser.
- Through the Miyawaki method, a forest can be developed in just two to three years while it takes at least 20 to 30 years through the traditional method.
- The Miyawaki Forest will include the following divisions: Native Floral Garden; Timber Garden; Fruit Garden; Medicinal Garden; A Miyawaki section of mixed species; Digital Orientation Centre.

HPAS Prelims Test Series

Total Tests - 18

Fee - 999/-

**[10 Sectional +
4 GS + 4 CSAT]**

HPAS Prelims Crash Course

(GS + CSAT)

Fee - 7500/-

**[GS + CSAT +
Prelims Test
Series]**

CSAT Course

Fee - 3000/-

HPGK Prelims

Fee - 5000/-

**Himachal Pradesh
Economic Survey +
Budget included**

HIMACHAL PRADESH NEWS

1.186. PM MODI TO LAY STONE OF MEDICAL DEVICES PARK IN NALAGARH, SOLAN.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lay the foundation stone of a medical devices park in **Nalagarh, Solan**.
- Tilak Raj Sharma, Additional Director (Industries), said that the Union Government had approved a medical devices park for the state on February 10.
- The detailed project report of the medical devices park for Rs 349.83 crore was submitted to the Central Government, which would provide a grant-in-aid of Rs 100 crore while the state government would contribute Rs 249.83 crore.
- The Department of Industries has signed memorandums of understanding (MoU) with NIPER, Mohali, for engaging it as a knowledge partner and Center for Innovation and BioDesign (CIBioD), PGIMER, Chandigarh, as a 'technical partner'.
- "The MoUs with an investment intent of more than Rs 800 crore have been signed with investors in Chandigarh. The Department of Industries has chalked out an investment outreach programme both in India and abroad for attracting investment and technology. Consultations with industrial associations from the medical devices sector have been already initiated."

1.187. SATLUJ JAL VIDYUT NIGAM TO INVEST Rs 1.5 LAKH CR OVER 8 YEARS.

- Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam (SJVN) will invest around Rs 1.5 lakh crore over the next 7-8 years in various power projects within and outside the country. The power giant will make this investment to achieve its targeted installed capacity of 25,000 MW by 2030.
- The SJVN said the work on the Sunni Dam Hydroelectric Project, around 40 km from Shimla, will start in a month's time. The project with 382 MW capacity will cost around Rs 2,600 crore.
- All formalities have been completed and clearances received. The investment approval from the Centre is expected in the next 15 days. The work on the project will start in a month's time, and the project will be commissioned in five years," said SJVN chairman and Managing Director Nand Lal Sharma.
- The work on hydroelectric plants in the state – 210 MW Luhri Stage 1 and the 66 MW Dhaulasidh project – was on at war footing. "These projects were declared unviable but SJVN has made them viable and these will be commissioned by 2024-25.
- The SJVN would invest around Rs 1.5 lakh crore over the next 7-8 years, mainly in renewable sources like solar and wind, to achieve its revised and upscaled target of becoming a 25,000 MW company by 2030.
- The company's current installed capacity is 2,016 MW.
- SJVN has 14 projects under construction within and outside the country with a capacity of around 4,500 MW.
- SJVN has provided employment to around 15,000 people directly and indirectly.

1.188. WATER SPORTS FACILITY INAUGURATED IN GOBIND SAGAR LAKE.

- Rural Development Minister Virender Kanwar inaugurated and laid stones of development works estimated at over Rs 187 crore in Kutlehar Assembly segment. These include inauguration of a water sports facility at Androuli village on the bank of Gobind Sagar reservoir of Bhakra dam in Kutlehar Assembly segment, Una.
- It is being managed by Kutlehar Tourism Development Society, chaired by the DC. Tourists will be able to take rides in speed boat, water scooter and water ski.
- Kanwar said similar facility was being developed on the other bank of the reservoir near Lathiani village.
- The minister said that two paragliding sites had already been notified by the state government on the Solasingi dhaar mountain ranges of the segment. He said that three parks, namely Eco Park, Aqua Park and Butterfly Park, were being developed in Sohari Bhanjal village.

1.189. HIMACHAL PRADESH TOPS IN DRINKING WATER QUALITY: SURVEY

- Himachal Pradesh has again got the top ranking in the drinking water quality.
- Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat would present the award on Gandhi Jyanti and Swachh Bharat Diwas at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi.

- During a comprehensive survey of tap functionality, the state had been ranked first in the quality of drinking water service delivery.
- Last year too, the state had secured the top position in water quality and tap functionality in a similar survey.
- The Centre had made a financial provision of Rs 1,344.94 crore for the state this year and released the second instalment of Rs 336.23 crore on September 30.
- The Centre and state government had provided Rs 3,820.61 crore under the JJM.
- In view of the excellent work, the Centre had also released an incentive amount of Rs 1,028.43 crore to the state in three years.
- Water connections had been provided to all households of 15,300 villages of 2,551 panchayats in 21 blocks of four districts.

1.190. 25% VILLAGES HAVE NO ROAD LINK IN HIMACHAL PRADESH.

- About 25 per cent of 18,711 villages are not connected with roads while 20 per cent of the villages do not have all-weather road connectivity, said Om Prakash Bhuraita, Director, HP State Resource Centre, Shimla.
- He said this at a special lecture-cum-interaction on 'Rural Roads in Himachal Pradesh: Challenges and way forward'. The Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, Himachal Pradesh University, organised the event.
- Bhuraita said the road connectivity had increased from 39 per cent in 1983 to 75 per cent in 2021 with funds under the Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana'.
- However, 3,484 habitations with less than 250 population in the 2011 Census could not be covered under the scheme.
- Poor road connectivity and low quality of roads were major causes of accidents.
- Baldev Singh Negi, faculty, Rural Development at the HPU, said it was identified in the discussion that the state needs a rural link road policy, simplified forest clearance process, more funds, roads suitable for Himalayan terrain and greater focus on quality and maintenance to improve the quality of rural roads and better connectivity.

1.191. CLEANLINESS: SOLAN CIVIC BODY GETS TOP RANK IN HIMACHAL PRADESH.

- The Solan Municipal Corporation (MC) has bagged the top rank in the state Swachh Survekshan 2022 ranking while attaining the 31st rank at the zonal ranking among the northern states.
- The rankings, released last week, have added a feather in the cap of the city, which falls in the 25,000-50,000-population band.
- The MC consists of 17 wards with a population of 39,256 spread over 6.2 sq/km area.
- In a bid to attain the status, 100 per cent door-to-door garbage collection as well as segregation of solid waste has been ensured by the civic body staff. It has set up a waste-to-energy plant having two dumping sites with one material recovery facility.
- The solid waste collected from the MC area is segregated into dry and wet at the Salogra plant and then the executing company transports it to its facility at Panchkula for scientific disposal.
- The door-to-door collection has also been extended to the merged areas.
- A sewage treatment plant is also functional in the city to ensure scientific disposal of the sewage waste. The city also enjoys a triple plus open-defecation free (ODF) status.
- A loss of about 800 points was, however, suffered on account of some toilets at the bus stand failing to adhere to cleanliness standards.
- The government had also granted five stars to the MC for garbage free cities. The rating, awarded under the Swachh Bharat Mission, had taken into account the working of the solid waste management plant at Salogra. It was accorded earlier this year.
- A Central team had inspected the Salogra-based processing plant of the solid waste management and, based on its functioning, five-star rating was recommended for the MC.
- About 20 tonnes of solid waste are generated on a daily basis in the MC area.

1.192. PM MODI INAUGURATES ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES BILASPUR IN HIMACHAL PRADESH.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the fully functional All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Himachal Pradesh's Bilaspur.
- The AIIMS -- whose foundational stone was also laid by the prime minister in October 2017 has been established under the Central sector scheme Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana.
- AIIMS Bilaspur, constructed at a cost of more than one thousand four hundred seventy crore rupees is a state-of-the-art hospital with 18 specialty and 17 super specialty departments, 18 modular operation theatres and 750 beds with 64 ICU beds.
- It is spread over 247 acres, the hospital is equipped with 24 hours emergency and dialysis facilities, modern diagnostic machines like ultrasonography, CT scan, MRI etc., Amrit Pharmacy and Jan Aushadhi Kendra and also a 30-bedded AYUSH block.

1.193. CENSUS OF MUSK DEER, BLUE SHEEP AT KULLU AFTER DUSHERA.

- The Forest Department will conduct a census of musk deer, blue sheep and brown bear at the Great Himalayan National Park (GHNP) in Kullu this month.
- GHNP Divisional Forest Officer Nishant Mandotra said the counting of these rare species of wild animals in the park would be started after Dasehra from the second week of October. The officer said about 15 to 20 teams would be formed to undertake the census. Assistance would be taken from volunteers along with staff of the Forest Department. The data on these wild animals would be revealed by the end of October.
- "High-altitude areas are the habitat of these three wild animals. Blue sheep is present at about 3,500 m, musk deer at 3,000 m and brown bear is found at an altitude of about 2,500 to 2,800 m above sea level," Mandotra said.
- He said different parameters had been kept for determining the population of these species. Musk deer will be counted through the silent drive method by observing them from around their habitat, while brown bear and blue sheep would be counted by scanning method with binoculars or other equipment.
- Although the park management has carried out the exercise of counting rare species from time to time, there still isn't any concrete data on the presence of these wild animals in the park.
- About 10 to 12 musk deer habitats were found in the park, where the average number density was two per km, about two decades ago. Their density had increased to 10 to 11 per km in 2019. The present figure of musk deer would be disclosed after the census.
- The park has assisted in growth of these rare species along with the conservation of biodiversity. It is illegal to hunt any wild animal, including musk deer, in the park. About 35 trap cameras have been installed by the park management at sensitive places to keep an eye on poaching. The census of rare species of birds in the park was also carried out in April and May.
- The GHNP was constituted in 1984 and formally declared a National Park in 1999 to protect its diverse components of flora and fauna. The United Nation Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation had given it the status of World Heritage Site (WHS) in 2014.
- It is the only viable protected area of 1,171 sq km, including 265 sq km of ecozone, in the world which has unique Himalayan biological diversity and protected endangered and threatened wildlife species. The process of increasing its area to 3,120 sq km is also underway.

1.194. HPAU SIGNS MOU WITH HYDERABAD INSTITUTE.

- CSK HP Agriculture University (HPAU) and Indian Institute of Millets Research (IIMR), Hyderabad, have signed an MoU to promote scientific and academic interaction between the institutions.
- The MoU was signed by the Vice-Chancellor of HPAU, HK Chaudhary, and IIMR Director C V Rathnavati. Chaudhary said that under this MoU, work on millet research like its breeding, including germplasm exchange, crop improvement, processing and value addition, would be expedited.
- IIMR is a premier research institute of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).

1.195. MODI FIRST PM TO ATTEND 400-YR-OLD KULLU DUSSEHRA.

- Narendra Modi became the first Prime Minister to witness the historic Rath Yatra during the opening ceremony of the seven-day long International Kullu Dussehra festival.
- The idols of chief deity Lord Raghunath, Sita, Hanuman and other deities were brought to Dhalpur in a palanquin from their sanctum sanctorum in Sultanpur.
- These were then placed in a beautifully decorated wooden chariot called the Rath. Modi went to the Rath and paid obeisance to the chief deity Lord Raghunath before the Rath Yatra.
- Later, the descendants of erstwhile ruler of Rupi (Kullu) valley along with the head of family Maheshwar Singh led the Rath Yatra. The Rath was pulled by thousands of devotees from the northern end of the Dhalpur ground to the camp temple of Lord Raghunath in the middle of the ground.
- The palanquins of Gods and Goddesses with their bands accompanied Lord Raghunath in the Rath Yatra. Thousands of men, women and children in their traditional folk dresses, besides hundreds of foreign and domestic tourists, gathered to watch the spectacular event.
- The PM was served local delicacies Siddu and Patroda. He was also given metal carved idols of Lord Rama Parivaar by the Kullu Dussehra Festival Committee.
- The idols were then placed in the camp temple located in the middle of the Dhalpur ground. Traditional rituals will be carried out at the camp temple during the festivities.
- Kullu Dasehra is being celebrated since mid-seventeenth century and celebrations begin on Vijaya Dashmi, the day when the festivities end in the rest of the country.
- Deities from various parts of Kullu district are participating in the festival this year and the invitation had been sent to 332 deities.
- Unlike the past two years, this year commercial activities will be carried out in the Dhalpur ground and the cultural programmes will be held in the Kala Kendra.

1.196. STOP MAKING ANAESTHETIC THAT KILLED 5, HIMACHAL PRADESH FIRM TOLD.

- The **Drugs Control Administration (DCA)** has directed a pharmaceutical company at Kala Amb in Himachal's Sirmour district to stop manufacturing controversial injection **Propofol** following lab reports that it did not conform to the India Pharmacopoeia (IP) 2018 monograph nor met the quality standards laid down by the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO).
- The IP is an authoritative and legally enforceable book of standard of drugs manufactured and marketed in India.
- In September, five deaths were reported at the PGIMER, Chandigarh, following the administration of Propofol, an anaesthetic given to patients before surgery.
- Subsequently, Kala Amb-based **Nixi Laboratories Private Limited** that manufactures the injection came under the scanner.
- The CDSCO had taken samples from batch No. PNL-220316 and sent these for analysis to the Regional Drug Testing Laboratory, Chandigarh. As per the lab report, the drug failed in pH, Propofol dimer, free fatty acid, bacterial endotoxins and sterility. Put simply, the drug failed the quality standards prescribed by the IP, 2018. Garima Sharma, Assistant Drug Controller-cum licensing authority, Solan, has confirmed this.
- "The directions to stop manufacturing Propofol were issued on September 28 following the receipt of the CDSCO report," she said.
- Manufacture, sale and distribution of Propofol would invite action under Section 18 (C) of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.
- Navneet Marwaha, State Drugs Controller (SDC), said: "The DCA has ordered the withdrawal of all batches of Propofol. While three samples of the batch (PNL-220316) were drawn from the firm soon after the PGI incident, 18 more samples have been drawn from several batches recalled from the market. This has been done to ascertain the quality of all injections available in the market."

1.197. 'HERO OF KANGCHENJUNGA' COLONEL PREM CHAND DIES IN KULLU.

- Colonel Prem Chand (Retd) (87), who scaled the country's highest peak Kangchenjunga in May 1977, has passed away. He had been ill for some time.
- A resident of Lindur village in Lahaul and Spiti district, Colonel Prem devoted his life to adventure. He started climbing mountains from a very young age.
- He was known as the 'Hero of Kangchenjunga'. Seeing his courage and passion to scale mountains, the Army had decorated him with the name of 'Snow Tiger'.
- One of the best mountaineers, the Colonel was the founder of the Himalayan Outdoor Adventure Academy. He scaled more than 30 peaks in various places, including Bhutan, Sikkim, Nepal, Garhwal, Kashmir and eastern Karakoram.
- The Mountaineering Federation of India awarded him a Gold Medal for his excellence in mountaineering. He was also selected to lead the Indian Ski team for the 1972 Winter Olympics.

1.198. SOLAN MOUNTAINEER SCALES MT MANASLU.

- Solan resident Baljeet Kaur has become the first Indian woman to scale the summit of 8,163 metre high Mount Manaslu in Nepal without oxygen. She scaled the summit on September 30 at 7:40 AM. At the age of 26 years, she is also the youngest woman to accomplish this feat. She is a resident of Panjrol village in Solan.
- Mount Manaslu is the eighth highest peak in the world. She has also achieved the feat of being the first Indian to climb seven of the 8,000 metre and above high peaks in the world and the fastest to climb six of these in 5 months and 2 days.
- Baljeet Kaur is also the first Indian woman mountaineer to scale the 7,161 metre high Pumori peak and 8,167 meters high Mount Dhaulagiri.
- She also has the distinction of scaling three mountain peaks in seven days. These include Mount Everest (8,848.86 m), the highest mountain on the planet, Mount Lhotse (8,517 m), the fourth highest mountain on the planet, and Mt Makalu (8,485 m).

1.199. SHIMLA TO GET 24X7 WATER SUPPLY BY 2025.

- Shimla residents will get round the clock high-pressure tap water supply by 2025. The Board of Directors of Shimla Jal Prabandhan Nigam Limited (SJPNL) awarded the tender for the project to Suez India for Rs 683 crore. The company will complete the project by 2025.
- In addition, the company will also operate and maintain the water distribution system for the next 15 years," said SJPNL Independent Director Dijvijay Chauhan. It has been learnt that the government will lay the foundation stone of the project in the next couple of days.
- The round the clock water supply is one of the three components of the over Rs 1,800 crore World Bank-funded Shimla Water Supply and Sewerage Services.
- The other two components are Bulk Water Supply from the Sutlej river and strengthening and extension of sewerage services in the city and nearby areas. While the work on bulk water supply has already begun, tenders for augmentation of sewerage services will be floated shortly.
- To ensure round the clock water supply, around 70 per cent of the pipes of the current distribution network will be replaced with broader pipes. Also, around 40 storage tanks up to the capacity of 5 million litre will be built across the city to ensure regular and smooth distribution. Besides, the distribution system will be digitalised.
- Besides, the BoD also approved the construction of check dams at its silt-prone Giri Water Scheme.
- According to the SJPNL, check dams will help reduce the silt and turbidity at the pumping station. "Around Rs 30 crore has been approved for building the dams," said Chauhan.
- Meanwhile, former Deputy Mayor Tikender Panwar has shot off a letter to Chief Secretary RD Dhiman, who is also the chairman of Board of Directors of SJPNL, questioning the award of work and the cost involved.

1.200. UNION MINISTER ANURAG THAKUR INAUGURATES WATER SPORTS CENTER IN HIMACHAL PRADESH.

- Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Shri Anurag Singh Thakur has inaugurated a Water Sports Center in Koldam Barmana, Bilaspur, Himachal Pradesh.
- The centre will be dedicated to training athletes in water sports like Rowing, Canoeing and Kayaking.
- The Minister said, 40 players will be chosen who will take part in Rowing, Kayaking and Canoeing. There are state of the art equipments and boys and girls will get hostel and training facilities.
- The Water Sports Centre, the very first of its kind in Himachal Pradesh, has been jointly initiated by the Sports Authority of India (SAI) and National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC).
- The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was also exchanged between SAI and NTPC during the event.

1.201. WORLD'S FIRST GIANT SWING BACKED BY AI TO BE LAUNCHED IN HIMACHAL'S MANALI.

- Four engineer friends have claimed to have innovated a giant swing backed by Artificial Intelligence (AI) which will provide an "impeccable" security to the jumpers with more than 100 "jump styles".
- The swing was built under a startup incubated at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Mandi, and is claimed to be a first-of-its-kind in the world.
- Founded by four childhood friends who are also certified rock climbers and mountaineers, 'ManaliSwing' has completed its human jump trials and is in the process of filing patents -- five in number -- for concept and design.
- The team plans to launch the swing in Manali on coming New Year.
- One of the team's members claimed that it has already been approached by the Dubai government to launch the swing in the country and is in conversation with interested agencies in Switzerland too.
- Soni said that the swing allows one to perform 100 possible jump styles with a 70-metre-free fall secured by AI.
- The plan is to launch it in Manali on New Year. The tourists will have to pay Rs 3,000 for each jump. The cost will include transportation from a certain point and professional photography and videography service," he added.
- The startup conducted a full-scale trial of 1,000 dummy jumps followed by human jumps, all successful, under the presence of Industrial Rope Access Trade Association experts at IIT Hyderabad, the team member said.
- "The AI will also help track participants and Jump Master's performance across millions of data points and deliver optimised approvals for jumping.
- Having a really intelligent AI will be an edge for a Jump Master and his team in ensuring no injury, incident, or causality happens on the site. For example, AI will not approve the jump if there is anything wrong with the jump protocol or international standards," he said.
- The team, which has plans to launch a second swing in Goa and then take the technology to other countries, rued Indians' dwindling interest in adventure sports, despite an increase of 178 per cent in adventure activity globally in the last three years.
- India, despite being the world's youngest country with 50 per cent population below 25, stands at 96th position in global Adventure Tourism Competitive Index (ATDI) 2020. That too is consistently decreasing since the last four years. India ranks much lower than its neighbours, Bhutan (14th), and Nepal (67th).
- The project which was conceptualised five years back was commercially registered last year as a startup.

1.202. HIMACHAL GOVERNOR RAJENDRA VISHWANATH ARLEKAR RELEASES POETRY COLLECTION.

- Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar released the poetry collection 'Poh Ki Aakhri Raat' by Savita Banta at Raj Bhavan.
- The author, who is a resident of Shimla, has expressed the moods of women through different poems.
- Arlekar said timely guidance and counselling should be made available for students so that their talents could be recognised.
- Pradhan Mantri – Mentorships's Scheme for Young writers (PM-YUVA) has been launched by the Ministry of Education on 29 May 2021 for young writers up to the age of 30 years.

1.203. RETAIL STORE OF NATURAL FARM PRODUCTS OPENS IN SHIMLA.

- The first retail store of natural farming products in the state was inaugurated in Shimla by Minister for Agriculture Virender Kanwar.
- Along with the store, the minister also launched a self-certification website for the practitioners of natural farming.
- “It’s the first attempt of its kind to provide market to natural farming produce and natural farming products to the consumers,” said Kanwar, adding that similar stores would be opened in other cities and towns of the state.
- “As the produce under natural farming grows, efforts will be made to reach the local populace as well through PDS,” he said.
- Naresh Thakur, Director, Prakritik Kheti Khushal Kisan Yojana, said consumers would get all kinds of fruit, vegetables and grains at the retail store, located at old barrier in the city.

1.204. PM MODI TO FLAG OFF AMB-NEW DELHI VANDE BHARAT TRAIN.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will flag off the new Vande Bharat Express from the Una railway station on 13th October 2022.
- The train will run between Amb-Andaura in Una district and New Delhi, six days a week — except on Wednesday.

Fourth semi-high-speed train:

- The Amb-Andaura to Delhi train will be the fourth Vande Bharat Express
- During its 412 km-long journey, the train will halt at Una, Nangal, Chandigarh and Ambala

1.205. HIMACHAL PRADESH TO GET 4 HYDROELECTRIC PROJECTS.

- The state will get four more hydroelectric projects, which will produce 281 million units power annually.
- The financial assistance agreement for the construction of these projects — Sai Kothi-I (15 MW), Sai Kothi-II (18 MW), Devi Kothi (16 MW) and Hail (18 MW) in the Tissa region of Chamba – was signed in New Delhi between the Union Government and KfW Development Bank, Germany.
- The assistance will be around Rs 654 crore, along with a grant of Rs 12 crore approximately.
- These projects will help in employment generation in Chamba.
- The other benefits include the strengthening of the road, the grid network in the area and better life for people due to better infrastructure facilities.
- These projects would be executed by the HPSEBL under the ‘Hydropower in the Himalaya’ programme.
- It would help the state to emerge as the clean power state as the government was laying more emphasis on its development.

1.206. DRUGS FROM HIMACHAL UNITS FAIL QUALITY TEST: CDSCO REPORT.

- Around 45 samples of medicines were found to be of substandard quality, according to a report of the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) released last month.
- The CDSCO is the central drug authority for discharging functions assigned to the Central government under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.
- Of the failed samples, Himachal Pradesh-based manufacturing units have more than 13 samples of substandard quality.
- The samples of the most basic drug, Paracetamol, drawn from several manufacturing units in Himachal have failed the dissolution test.
- Dissolution testing is important for characterising the performance of oral solid dosage forms. Dissolution testing measures the extent and rate of solution formation from a dosage form, such as tablet, capsule, ointment, etc.
- The dissolution of a drug is important for its bioavailability and therapeutic effectiveness.

- Recently, Nixi Laboratories of Kala Amb, Himachal Pradesh, was under the scanner because one of its drugs, anaesthesia Propofol, failed the quality test.
- The samples were collected from a pharmacist at the emergency ward of the PGIMER, Chandigarh, following the death of five persons, who were administered the anaesthetic drug during a surgical procedure.
- The Himachal Pradesh firm has been asked to recall all batches of Propofol.
- In May this year, the Assistant Drugs Controller and Licensing Authority, New Delhi, had launched an inquiry against Glenmark Pharmaceuticals Limited and declared one of its drugs, Telmisartan (blood pressure medication), as “spurious” under Section 17 B (e) of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.
- Ofloxacin and Ornidazole, an antibiotic of Mohali-based manufacturing firm, has also failed the “assay test”.
- An “assay test” is an investigative procedure for assessing or measuring the presence, amount or functional activity of a drug (the analyte).
- Gentamicin injection, another antibiotic injection manufactured by a Chandigarh-based firm, has failed the bacterial endotoxins and sterility tests.

1.207. SHOOLINI UNIVERSITY TOP PRIVATE INSTITUTE.

- Himachal Pradesh-based Shoolini University has been ranked best private universities in India in the Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings for 2023.
- Terming the achievement as a matter of national pride, university Chancellor and Founder Dr PK Khosla said, “It is a collective result of the untiring efforts of our faculty in teaching and research.”
- The university has been ranked 351-400 overall and 39th in the category ‘Citations’ in the world.

1.208. WORLD'S HIGHEST VILLAGE GETS METALLED ROAD.

- Komic, the world’s highest village in Himachal, has been connected to Kaza by a metalled road.
- The Public Works Department has metalled the road at 14,400 ft for better road connectivity. Now, tourists visiting Komic village in the Spiti valley will enjoy a comfortable ride from Kaza.
- It is a 22-km distance from Kaza. The village is situated at a height of 15,027 feet.
- Komic village is Surrounded by snow-capped mountains and majestic valleys.
- The road from Kaza to Komic had been metalled at a cost of Rs 25 crore.
- This will help the residents of Komic in transporting their agricultural produce to distant markets in time and fetch better prices.

1.209. HIMACHAL PRADESH STARTS NEW SCHEME TO HELP FARMERS.

- To provide irrigation facilities to farmers of Himachal Pradesh, the state government has started a new scheme named HIMCAD.
- According to latest data, about 80% of the agricultural area of Himachal Pradesh is rain-fed.
- The scheme will provide end-to-end connectivity of farmers’ fields for better water conservation, crop diversification and integrated farming.
- Under the scheme, it is planned to provide command area development activities to 23,344 hectares of cultivable command area by March 2024, and the State Technical Advisory Committee has approved 379 minor irrigation schemes worth Rs 305.70 crore.

1.210. JUSTICE CB BAROWALIA APPOINTED HIMACHAL PRADESH LOKAYUKTA.

- The Governor has approved the appointment of a sitting judge of the High Court, Justice Chander Bhusan Barowalia, as Lokayukta of Himachal Pradesh.
- The post of Lokayukta had been lying vacant for the last about eight years after the term of Justice LS Panta, a retired Supreme Court Judge, got over during the previous Congress regime.
- As per the notification issued by the state government, Justice Barowalia will take oath of office after his resignation is accepted.
- Justice Barowalia was due to retire from the post of Judge on March 15, 2023.

- In December 2021, the HP Assembly passed an amendment to the HP Lokayukta Act, 2014, making a provision to appoint a High Court Judge as the Lokayukta. Prior to that, under the provision of the Act, only a retired Supreme Court Judge or Chief Justice of High Courts were eligible for the office of Lokayukta.

About Chander Bhusan Barowalia:

- Justice Barowalia was born on March 15, 1961. He obtained an LLB degree from Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla.
- He practised as an advocate from November 1, 1984, in the High Court and other courts in Shimla.
- Thereafter, he was appointed Additional District and Sessions Judge on January 10, 2003. Thereafter, he was designated as District & Sessions Judge on October 26, 2005, and worked as District & Sessions Judge for Kinnaur, Una, Solan and Mandi. Before his elevation as Judge, he was posted as the Registrar General in the Himachal Pradesh High Court.
- Thereafter, he was elevated as Additional Judge of the High Court of Himachal Pradesh on April 12, 2016, and then took oath as Judge of the High Court on January 8, 2018.

1.211. SHIMLA WATER SUPPLY PROJECT ROW REACHES WORLD BANK.

- Shimla Municipal Corporation's former Mayor Sanjay Chauhan and Deputy Mayor Tikender Panwar have approached World Bank's Country Head for India, alleging irregularities in the implementation of the Shimla Water Supply and Sewerage Services project. In a letter to the World Bank official, the former MC officials have urged him to intervene and cancel the recent award of tender for the continuous high pressure water supply in the city.
- Challenging the award of tender to Suez India for Rs 683 crore, the former MC officials alleged that the lowest bid, including Capex (capital expenditure) and operation and maintenance costs was nearly 33 per cent higher than the department's estimate of the project value.
- The two alleged that estimated value of the project, excluding operation and maintenance, was Rs 442 crore in a tender published by the SJPNL on July 27, 2022, but the project cost would balloon up to around Rs 786 crore after the quoted cost.
- SJPNL MD Pankaj Lalit, however, refuted their claims saying that the tender process has been done in a fair and transparent manner. "The tender floated on July 27 was only for capital expenditure to be incurred on the project, but the tender awarded to Suez India for Rs 683 crore also included operation and maintenance cost of the project for 15 years," said Lalit, explaining the gap in the estimated and quoted cost.
- The complainants, however, claim that the SJPNL's overall estimate including capital expenditure and operation and maintenance was Rs 592 crore, but the eventual cost would exceed it by around Rs 200 crore, which would be a straight loss to the exchequer.
- In another alleged irregularity, the complainants said that since the tender for the project was floated the first time, it should have been floated again as per the law as only two bids had been received. SJPNL MD, however, asserted that the tender was floated for the fourth time and hence they were not obliged to float it again.
- "The tender for the project was first floated in 2019, second time in 2020 and third time in 2022. For some reasons, the process could not be completed in earlier occasions. So, this was the fourth time and we awarded it to the lowest bidder," said Lalit.

1.212. IT'S ILLEGAL: NGT SETS ASIDE SHIMLA DEVELOPMENT PLAN.

- The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has set aside the Shimla Draft Development Plan (SDDP), 2041, approved by the state government, terming it illegal and in conflict with its earlier order of regulating haphazard construction activity in the state capital.
- The NGT, headed by Justice Adarsh Goel, in its 20-page order, dated October 14, said prima facie, the SDDP was in violation of the NGT order of November 16, 2017.
- The NGT had issued a notice to the state government after the SDDP was approved by the Cabinet and an interim injunction was granted against its implementation.
- The quashing of the SDDP has come as a major blow to the efforts of the government to placate those who had undertaken unauthorised construction in the poll-bound state.

- The NGT order is a validation of the crusade launched by environmentalists and social organisations to save the Queen of Hills from further concretisation and degradation.
- The SDDP had allowed construction not just in the core area but also in the no-construction 17 green belts where a ban had been imposed in December 2000.
- Shimla is still expanding on the basis of the 1979 Interim Development Plan (IDP) and the SDDP had taken into account the projected population of 6.25 lakh in 2041 against 2.41 lakh, to cater to the growing needs of the town.
- The Green Bench considered the contention of the petitioner, Yogendra Mohan Sengupta, against the validity of the draft development plan, including permitting construction of more floors, new constructions in the banned core and green areas and permitting development in sinking and sliding area in violation of the earlier NGT order.
- The petitioner had contended that the SDDP was contrary to the sustainable development principle.
- “The NGT has an overriding effect over any other law in force. Violating such directions is a criminal punishable offence under Section 26 of the NGT Act and the state departments concerned are liable to be prosecuted,” the NGT observed on the issue of the state questioning its jurisdictional powers. There was no jurisdiction with the state to annul or ignore the NGT, the order read.
- The NGT observed that there was an illegal and ill-conceived effort to violate its binding directions, having the force of binding court decree, subject to further orders of only the Supreme Court.
- The NGT, in its order of 2017, had imposed a complete ban on new construction in the core and green area and had restricted buildings to two and a half floors in the rest of the Shimla planning area.
- The NGT had clearly stated that no unauthorised buildings, raised in violation of the provisions of the Town and Country Planning Act, 1977, be regularised.

1.213. TURBULENT TIMES OF PUNJAB DISCUSSED AT KASAULI LITERARY FESTIVAL.

- Was Operation Blue Star avoidable? Was it a botched-up operation? All such questions came alive in a scintillating session on the concluding day of the three-day Khushwant Singh Literary Festival at Kasauli.
- The session thrashed out the entire gamut of the operation that decisively changed the course of events not just in Punjab but also in the country.
- The session on the book “Turmoil in Punjab, Before and After Blue Star” written by former Punjab Chief Secretary RI Singh was anchored by Gul Panag.
- There was an animated discussion on the turbulent times in Punjab which mainly focused around Operation Blue Star.
- RI Singh explained how the entire administrative system was handed over to the Army in the entire state and how the entire communication system was paralysed overnight to give full power to the Army.
- Singh, who was Deputy Commissioner, Amritsar, during operation, underlined that the operation should have been executed with more precision to ensure that Sikh sentiments were not hurt.
- Justifying his acceptance of the Padma Shri, he said it was bestowed on him for his administrative services and was purely a professional call.
- Senior mediaperson Kanwar Sandhu, who was a co-panellist, said that the civil administration failed to discharge its duty during the operation and abjured all its powers and responsibilities to allow the Army a free hand.
- Sandhu said it was the failure of state governance that allowed the 1978 Baisakhi Day violence in Amritsar, causing the death of 13 persons. He said it was a glaring administrative failure that no subsequent inquiry was ordered into the incident and not even into Operation Blue Star.

1.214. DIPLOMAT: UK GOVT FUNDING PROJECT IN SHIMLA.

- Caroline Rowett, British Deputy High Commissioner, Chandigarh, said that negotiations are underway for a Free Trade Agreement between the UK and Indian governments and it will be signed as soon as possible.

- She said that it would enhance trade relations between the two countries. During a special meeting with the Press Club of Kullu, she said that the UK government was funding a project in Shimla to develop infrastructure for the transport needs of the city in view of expanding population.
- The UK diplomat said that she represents the UK in the four Indian states of Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab and Uttarakhand, and the UT of Chandigarh.
- She said, "The Deputy High Commissioner fulfils a similar role to a Consul General, representing the UK government and typically responsible for consular, visa and trade activities in their city or region."
- Caroline said that she was visiting Kullu for the first time and was delighted to witness clean air and its pristine beauty.
- She said that Britain is exploring the possibility of commercial, trade and technical relations in Himachal.

1.215. WAREHOUSE FOR EVMs BEING BUILT AT KULLU.

- Electronic Voting Machines (EVM), Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) machines, Ballot Units and Control Unit Machines will be housed securely in a warehouse being built in the Mini-Secretariat complex at a cost of Rs 6.50 crore in Kullu.
- The EVM warehouse is being built on the vacant space behind the Mini-Secretariat.
- Due to the lack of an EVM warehouse, there is a problem of storing EVM and other equipment after the Lok Sabha, Vidhan Sabha, Municipal Council and Panchayati Raj elections.
- At present, these election-aiding equipment are being kept in Government College, Kullu. The demand for making an EVM warehouse was being made to the government and the Election Commission for several years.
- The EVM warehouse was finally approved and its construction work began in February this year.
- The EVM warehouse will provide a permanent solution for the storage of election-related material. These will be mobilised only during the elections. There will be five floors in this warehouse.
- The two floors will have a District Election Office and apartments for security personnel, the other two floors will have strong rooms and one floor will have a training hall. The administration will be fully assured about the security by having this modern warehouse near the Mini Secretariat.
- The construction work of the warehouse has been given impetus. The target of March 2023 has been set to prepare the five-storey building.
- The District Administration and Public Works Department are trying to complete the construction work of the warehouse as soon as possible.
- Kullu Deputy Commissioner Ashutosh Garg said the construction work was entrusted with the PWD. He said efforts were being made that the construction of the EVM warehouse is accomplished soon, most likely by December.

1.216. FINALLY, ECO-FRIENDLY MARKET BECOMES FUNCTIONAL AT MARHI.

- Finally, the directions of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) in February 2014, to construct an eco-friendly market in Marhi to facilitate the visitors and conserve the fragile ecology of the Rohtang region have been complied with after over eight years and the eco-friendly market has recently started catering to the tourists visiting Rohtang Pass near Manali. Though finishing touches are being provided the market and other basic amenities have started functioning.
- The project had been accomplished at a cost of Rs 7.23 crores.
- Marhi is a famous tourist spot between Manali and Rohtang and it is thrown open for the tourists as a snow point in the month of April till the road to Rohtang Pass is restored later by the end of May. The market has 16 stalls and almost all kinds of items needed by the tourists are available in this small market.
- The construction work of parking at Marhi has been completed. The sewage treatment plant has been made functional and electricity supply has also been provided for it. In the event of power supply disruption, the Manali Tourism Development Council (TDC) has sanctioned Rs 24 lakh to the Jal Shakti Department for generator sets for the operation of the plant. The Jal Shakti Department has been asked to keep the plant running at all times.

- It is the responsibility of the TDC to create facilities to give shape to the directions of the NGT. No construction or activities can be undertaken without the permission of the NGT in the region. The TDC authorities said that the remaining works of the eco-friendly market will be completed soon.
- The residents alleged that while the government had failed or delayed to initiate development procedures as directed by the NGT, the administrative authorities had forcefully and hastily implemented those directions, which snatched the employment of a large number of people.
- They said that the order for barriers, permits and banning commercial activities were enforced almost instantly after the orders of the NGT but work on creating eco-friendly toilets, eco-friendly market and other such efforts to conserve the fragile ecology of Rohtang were lingered.

1.217. SPECIALLY ABLED GIRL OF KANGRA TO GET WRITING AWARD.

- Himalaya Literary Culture and Environment Forum, Shimla, today announced to give “Vilakshan Pratibha Lekhak Award” for the year 2020 to specially abled Kavya Varsha of Kangra.
- Despite being uneducated, Kavya learned Hindi and Punjabi languages, besides Pahari dialect on mobile and is constantly writing poems, songs, stories and memoirs.
- Her first collection of 117 poems, ‘Neel Gagan ko Chhune do’ was published in the year 2021.
- Eminent writer SR Harnot said that the six short films based on the script written by Kavya Varsha, including Pillow, Good Bye Papa, Samaj and Pocket Money, had been produced and a song ‘O Jaane Jaan’ had also been shot.
- Born on February 8, 1990, Kavya is handicapped since childhood and is completely unable to walk and get up.

1.218. FEATURE FILM OF SHIMLA LAD TO BE PREMIERED AT ESTONIA FEST

- Feature film “Amar Colony”, written and directed by Shimla lad Siddharth Chauhan, will be premiered at the prestigious 26th Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival to be held from November 11 to 27 in Estonia.
- The 80-minute film is the only Indian film to make it to the competition this year. It will be screened in the “First Features Competition” category. Other films in the competition are from Italy, Japan, Germany, the UK, Lithuania, Portugal, New Zealand, Norway, Brazil, Poland, Switzerland, Slovenia, South Korea, Israel, Slovakia, Canada and Spain.
- Shot in 30 days at the YWCA, the US Club, the Shimla General Post Office (Mall Road), St Thomas School, Oak Tree House (Bharari), Lower Bazaar, Sabzi Mandi and Baldeyan on the outskirts of the city, “Amar Colony” is a story of three women (neighbours) Devki (50), a widow confined to a wheelchair who demands respect for her pigeon, Meera (20), a lonely pregnant woman who is caught in a maze of desires and disappointments, and Durga (60), a religious fanatic, who begins to experience delusions living in a dilapidated building called Amar Colony.
- “As per the film festival team, ‘Amar Colony’ is a delicate and unique portrait of an exotic community that represents all of us. This film is a satire on mankind.”
- In the past, Siddharth has experimented with documentary and short films on fiction and realistic issues. His first film was “Zunie”, followed by “Peace is nowhere”, “Boys don’t wear nail polish”, “Infinite space”, “Papa”, Pahari film “Pashi” and “The flying trunk”.

1.219. SJVN SIGNS MOU TO DEVELOP 1,000 MW FLOATING SOLAR PROJECTS.

- A memorandum of understanding (MoU) has been signed between the Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam’s (SJVN) subsidiary Green Energy Limited (SGEL) and Assam Power Distribution Company Limited (APDCL) at Guwahati for developing 1,000 MW floating solar power projects in Assam by incorporating a joint venture company.
- SJVN chairman Nand Lal Sharma said the project would generate 2,192 million units in the first year after commissioning and around 50,425 million units cumulative energy would be generated over 25 years.
- An investment of Rs 6,000 crore will be made by the SJVN for developing the project. During the construction and operation stages, approximately 4,000 persons will get direct and indirect employment.

- Carbon emissions' reduction to the tune of 1,07,383 tonne for first year and 24,70,732 tonne for complete life span will be achieved from this project.
- Assam has the floating solar power generation potential of around 3,000 MW, out of which SJVN would develop 1,000 MW floating solar projects across the state, spread over 4,500 hectares of water area.
- "This will save approximately 2,500 hectares of land as floating solar power projects do not require any land levelling, removal of vegetation or any displacement."
- Presently, the total portfolio of the SJVN is around 42,000 MW, out of which around 97 per cent is based on non-fossil fuel sources in India and neighbouring countries of Nepal and Bhutan.

1.220. 57TH FOUNDATION DAY OF THE INDIAN INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED STUDY (IIAS).

- The educational research journey undertaken by the Indian Institute of Advanced Study (IIAS) in 57 years of its establishment had come across many milestones of achievements, which would remain memorable and significant for us, said Minister of State for Education Dr Subhas Sarkar.
- Sarkar was the chief guest at the event organised to mark the 57th Foundation Day of the IIAS via videoconferencing.
- He said it was the great thought of a renowned philosopher, thinker, scholar and the second President of India, Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, to convert this building into an independent research centre known as the IIAS.

About Indian Institute of Advanced Study (IIAS).

- The IIAS was established in 1964 as an autonomous body under the Ministry of Education and it started functioning on Oct 20, 1965.
- It is housed in a building that used to be the summer seat of the British Empire and witnessed many historic events.
- The institute has a rich library comprising over 2.25 lakh titles on different subjects, especially on social sciences.

1.221. 19% OF 68 SITTING MLAS FACING CRIMINAL CASES.

- As many as 28 (19 per cent) out of the total 68 sitting MLAs in Himachal are facing criminal cases out of which eight (12 per cent) have serious criminal cases as per the analyses of affidavits submitted by the MLAs during 2017 Assembly polls by Himachal Election Watch, Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR).
- Roads, water and unemployment are the main issues followed by education and health while price rise ranks seventh in the list, said, coordinator, Himachal Election Watch and National Treasurer Bharat Gyan Vigyan Samiti, Dr OP Bhuraita while releasing the 37-page report on analysis of criminal background, financial, education, gender and other details of sitting MLAs.
- Fifty (74 per cent) out of 68 MLA are crorepati and the average assets of MLAs is Rs 8.45 crores. Balbir Verma from Chopal is the richest with assets worth Rs 90 crores while Kamlesh Kumari from Bhoranj is at the bottom of the list with assets of Rs 29 lakhs.
- He said that 89 per cent of voters vote on the basis of the candidate's face, personal equation and honesty while 11 per cent vote for the party. Interestingly, 20 per cent were not aware who the MLA was while 30 per cent said that MLA has not been seen in the past five years. As per the educational qualification, out of 68 MLAs, one is VIIIth pass, 11 are Xth pass, eight and XIIth pass, 20 are graduates, 12 are professional graduates, 14 are post graduate and two are doctorate.
- The agency is also undertaking an electoral literacy campaign "I will vote and you" in view of the elections to the 14th Legislative Assembly polling for which will be held on November 12. During this month-long campaign, mass dialogues are being conducted to cover more than 1500 gram panchayats with the objective of the campaign is to make people aware of the importance of voting and motivate them not to boycott polls.
- The Supreme Court had also directed political parties to list reasons on their website, including their social media platforms for nominating candidates with criminal background within 72 hours of the selection of such candidates. This information shall also be published in one local vernacular newspaper and one national newspaper, besides official social media platforms of the political party, including Facebook & Twitter.

1.222. KULLU GIRL ISHANI PROVES HER METTLE IN MOUNTAINEERING ONCE AGAIN.

- Ishani Singh Jamwal from Pahnala village, Kullu, became the first Indian girl to attempt to scale Mt Cho Oyu (8,201m), sixth highest peak in the world, from the difficult south side through Nepal. She finally reached the height of 7,200m on October 19.
- From battling strong gusts above 70kmph to staying put amid extreme weather conditions, she was the only woman amongst the climbers from all around the world to scale the maximum height of the extremely challenging south side of Mt Cho Oyu.
- As a member of the 'Pioneer Cho-Oyu Expedition 2022', led by Piyali Basak of India, Ishani reached Nepal on October 6 for the expedition and was aiming to officially set a record by summiting Mt Cho Oyu from the Nepal side. Generally, Cho Oyu is attempted from the Tibet side.
- However, due to bad weather, the entire team had to abandon the whole expedition on October 20.
- As her first 8,000m-above peak climb, Ishani chose the unclimbed and the most challenging route as she wanted to attempt an over 8,000m-peak ascend from where nobody had ever climbed. She was optimistic, but the extreme weather conditions and the safety of the entire team made her descend from Camp 2.
- The Pioneer adventure had also given her a certificate recommending her technical skills as 'good' for scaling Mt Everest.
- The Pioneer group included Ishani Singh Jamwal (24) and Piyali Basak (35) of India, Csaba Varga (40) of Hungary, Qaisra Yasmin Saeed-Katdare (51) of the US, Ko-Erh Tseng (30) of Taiwan and Hu Tao (36) of China. Fourteen Sherpas also accompanied the expedition.

1.223. SHIMLA: ANNUAL 'PATHRON KA MELA' HELD AT DHAMI VILLAGE.

- The annual 'Pathron Ka Mela', a unique festival held one day after Diwali to uphold the centuries-old tradition, was held at Dhami village, about 30 km from Shimla, today.
- People gathered in large numbers at the Sports Ground. The festival is marked by throwing of stones between two groups of villagers, one representing the royal family of the erstwhile princely state of Dhami, and the other, their rival.
- This year, the stone pelting lasted for 20 minutes.
- As per tradition, the injured person applies a 'tilak' on the idol of goddess Kali with blood.

1.224. COMMISSIONING OF POWER PROJECT COMMENCES.

- The SJVN has started commissioning of its 75 MW solar power project in Parasan Solar Park near Kanpur, UP.
- The process of commissioning will finish by month end.
- "The project will be third commissioned solar project of the SJVN. With commissioning of this project, the installed capacity of the SJVN will now be 2091.5 MW," said SJVN chairman Nand Lal Sharma.
- Sharma also said that SJVN bagged the 75 MW Parasan Solar Power Project at a tariff of Rs 2.68 per unit on Build, Own, and Operate basis under the competitive tariff bidding held by Uttar Pradesh New and Renewable Development Agency (UPNEDA).
- The cost of Construction Development of the project is Rs 392.3 crore.

1.225. KUFRI REDEVELOPMENT PLAN HITS A ROADBLOCK.

- The ambitious Kufri re-development project to revive ski slopes of this tourist destination and make it stink free from piles of horse dung has hit a roadblock as there has been no response from Central Potato Research Institute (CPRI) in regard to no objection certificate (NOC) for the proposed land.
- The Shimla district administration had identified one hectare land near Chini Bangla to establish a horse stable, parking, biomethanation plant and an integrated complex with rural 'haat' and parking.
- The project estimated to come up at around Rs 50 crores envisages setting up a stable to accommodate 1,500 horses and a biomethanation plant adjacent to the stable to produce methane gas from horse dung

besides construction of parking spaces to decongest the area, beautification with installation of street sitting, fountain and light and sound show, pedestrian paths, toilets, rain shelters and a rural 'haat' (food and craft bazaar).

- "The said land is under the ownership of Himachal government but the possession is with the CPRI and we have written several times to the agriculture department and CPRI but there is no response yet," said Deputy Commissioner Shimla Aditya Negi, when contacted.
- As per the proposal, the biomethanation plant funded by the state Pollution Control Board in collaboration with the Science and Technology Department would go a long way in providing a clean and serene environment, as horse dung that creates unhygienic conditions would be treated there.
- The possibility of reviving skiing and associated activities to increase the footfall was also being explored. Moreover, the Detailed Project report (DPR) to upgrade the Kufri-Chail road and increase its width from 5 – 7 metres to 7 -9 metres at a cost of Rs 39 crores have been also prepared for overall development of the area.
- A large number of resorts have come up in the area and 'Chini Bangla' is located on the Kufri-Chail road. Hundreds of vehicles heading to Chail pass through this stretch and the beautification and creation of more facilities would improve tourist experience.
- At present, the tourist attractions in Kufri include Kufri Fun Worlds, Hip Hip Hurray adventure park, Himalayan Nature Park, Indira Tourist Park, Tobogganing, horse riding in Mahasu peak, trekking, cycling, Kufri main Bazaar, nature and culture photography and yak Ride and another mega private project coming up at Kufri is India's first indoor ski park.
- Skiing was a major winter attraction in Shimla and Kufri where hill slopes covered with a thick blanket of snow provided thrill and excitement to skiers and tourists. The last ski carnival at Kufri was held in February 1968 but over the years, the snowline had shifted upwards and barring a few sessions in 1982 and 1991, skiing in Kufri had been a fond memory of the past.

1.226. RENUKA JI FAIR TO BEGIN ON NOV 3

- RD Dhiman, Chief Secretary, will inaugurate the international Renuka Ji fair on November 3.
- Though the fair is traditionally inaugurated by the Chief Minister, owing to the model code of conduct, the Chief Secretary will inaugurate it this time.
- The fair marks the union of Lord Parshuram with his mother Goddess Renuka on Dashmi. Every year on Devprobodhini Ekadashi, traditional Renukaji fair is organised on the banks of the Renuka Lake where lakhs of devotees converge. They take a holy dip in the religious Renuka lake on 'Prabodhini Ekadashi'.
- As per the tradition, the palanquin of Lord Parshuram is brought to Renuka from the ancient temple in Jamu Koti village. It departs after religious ceremonies, including a dip in the Renuka lake. Attired in traditional colourful attire and dancing to the tune of folk music, the devotees lend religious fervour to the occasion.
- This fair is celebrated for Six days.
- Renuka fair starts ten days after the Diwali festival.

1.227. PLAN TO LINK PALAMPUR VARSITY TEA GARDENS WITH TOURISM.

- The university tea gardens will soon undergo a transformation with the addition of a cafeteria. This was disclosed by Prof HK Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor, CSK HP Agriculture University.
- He said a plan was envisaged to link the university tea gardens with tea tourism, excursions, etc. The Vice-Chancellor visited Orthodox Tea Garden of the Department of Tea Husbandry & Technology and sought details about the ongoing activities like processing of Orthodox Black and Green Tea.
- Prof Chaudhary said the tea produced in the hill state had been accepted for its high-standard quality and taste by several experts and had got wider acceptability in urban areas of the country.
- He said high polyphenols in green tea helped improve metabolism as compared to black tea, thereby making green tea more popular among health-conscious urban population.

1.228. THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT DECISION TO BRING THE HATTI COMMUNITY UNDER THE SCHEDULED TRIBES LIST IN HIMACHAL PRADESH'S SIRMAUR DISTRICT IS SPREADING RESENTMENT AMONG SOME SECTIONS.

About:

- The Hattis are a close-knit community who take their name from their traditional occupation of selling home-grown crops, vegetables, meat, and wool at small-town markets known as 'haats'.
- Hatti men traditionally don a distinctive white headgear on ceremonial occasions.
- The Hatti homeland straddles the Himachal-Uttarakhand border in the basin of the Giri and Tons rivers, both tributaries of the Yamuna.
- The Tons marks the border between the two states, and the Hattis living in the Trans-Giri area in today's Himachal Pradesh and Jaunsar Bawar in Uttarakhand were once part of the royal estate of Sirmaur. Jaunsar Bawar was conquered by the British in 1814.
- Parts of the Trans-Giri region, where most of the Hatti community lives, also come under the Assembly Constituencies of Renukaji, Shillai, and Pachhad.
- The two Hatti clans, in Trans-Giri and Jaunsar Bawar, have similar traditions, and inter-marriages are common.

SC & ST Population of Himachal Pradesh:

- As per the most recent Census (2011), 5.71% of the State's population is ST and 25.19% of the population is classified as SC.

1.229. NALAGARH SCHOOL ADJUDGED BEST FOR THIRD TIME IN ROW.

- Nalagarh-based Doon Valley Public School has bagged the top rank in the state in the best co-educational day ranking by Educational World.
- The school has topped for the third consecutive time.
- It has also been ranked fourth rank in the Best School to Work within India category.
- The school management comprising chairperson Anoop Sharma, managing director (MD) Rajiv Sharma and principal Devendera Mahal received the award at a ceremony held in Delhi recently.
- Education World ranks the schools after conducting a survey on 14 parameters of excellence like academic reputation, co-curricular activities, sports, infrastructure, leadership and value for money among others.

1.230. EXILED TIBETANS REGISTER AS VOTERS IN DHARAMSALA.

- As many as 720 Tibetan exiles have registered themselves as voters from the Dharamsala constituency in Kangra.
- Most of the Tibetan monasteries and the headquarters of its government in exile, are located in the constituency. Thousands of Tibetans living here are eligible to be voters.
- Many had not registered themselves as they feel that it might infringe their status as refugees.
- Kangra DC Nipun Jindal said, all Tibetans born in India between January 26, 1950, and July 1, 1987, were eligible to be registered as voters in the country.
- Tibetans born in India between July 1, 1987, and December 2, 2004, with one of their parents being an Indian citizen were also eligible.

1.231. LOCALS RUE LACK OF JOB OPPORTUNITIES IN BBN AREA.

- Lack of employment opportunities for the residents of Baddi-Barotiwala-Nalagarh (BBN) in this industrial belt is emerging as a key issue for the Assembly polls.
- In the absence of adequate jobs in the public sector, residents hope to secure jobs in the industries set up in this bordering industrial belt. There were about 1800 industrial units in this belt which manufacture drugs, iron and steel, textiles, chemicals, automobiles, shoes, cosmetics, food products, engineering goods, etc.

- An industrial revolution was witnessed after the NDA-led Central Government had granted a package providing a 10-year tax holiday in 2003. This was, however, curtailed to seven years by the Congress-led UPA government.
- This severely hit the pace of industrialisation. Several industrial houses have either closed their operations or scaled down their production activities in the last five years. Several employees have lost their jobs in this exercise. Little has been done by the government to safeguard their interest.
- The managements of industrial houses avoid entertaining the locals as they feel they will create problems like being part of trade unions and exert pressure on the managements.
- This has created an unsavoury situation for qualified youth. They are forced to turn to other states to look for an opening.
- Though the state industrial policy mandates grant of at least 70 per cent jobs for the locals, in the absence of any check on this policy a majority of the industrial houses fail to adhere to it.

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OTHER IMPORTANT ONE LINERS

1. A winter action plan was unveiled by the Delhi Government to combat air pollution. The 15-point Delhi Winter Action Plan will act as the blueprint for addressing air pollution in the national capital. The plan involves collaborating with IIT Kanpur to conduct a study on the amount of pollution and its source during a particular period of time. The source of the pollution can be vehicles, stubble burning and industrial pollution.
2. 5G telephony service was rolled out by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the 6th Edition of India Mobile Congress 2022 organized at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi.
3. The NGT has directed the state government of Odisha to revive Sukapaika River within 6 months.
4. Kazakhstan's president, Kassym-Jomart Tokayev is to restore the former name of the country's capital, Astana, just three years after he renamed it in honour of his predecessor.
5. World's largest two-wheeler manufacturer Hero MotoCorp has roped in actor Ram Charan of RRR fame as its new brand ambassador.
6. President Droupadi Murmu launched 'herSTART', a startup platform for women entrepreneurs created by Gujarat University in Ahmedabad. The platform dedicated to women entrepreneurs, will boost innovation and startup efforts of women entrepreneurs and connect women entrepreneurs with various government and private enterprises.
7. Former German Chancellor Angela Merkel was named as the recipient of Nansen Award given by UN High Commissioner for Refugees. The former scientist, who led her country for 16 years, was awarded for offering haven to over 1.2 million refugees and asylum seekers fleeing violence during Syrian conflict, when other countries were turning their backs on them.
8. The Standing Committee on Labour, Textiles and Skill Development chaired by Bhartruhari Mahtab submitted its report on 'Implementation of Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY)'.
9. World Space Week is observed from October 4 to 10 every year.
10. According to Sample Registration System Statistical Report 2020, Chhattisgarh had the highest gap in 2020, with a male infant mortality rate of 35 compared to female infant mortality rate of 41.
11. Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) renamed as Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) by CM K. Chandrasekhar Rao
12. Defence Minister performs 'Shastra Pooja' at Auli Military Station in Uttarakhand
13. The European Parliament has approved the new rule to introduce single charging port for electronic gadgets by 2024 in the EU.
14. Tesla CEO Elon Musk recently unveiled the latest prototype of Optimus – a humanoid robot developed by the American company based in Texas.
15. PM Modi calls for giving boost to One District One Product scheme & further develop Aspirational Districts
16. The National Health Authority under its flagship scheme Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission has introduced QR Code based rapid OPD registration in the hospital. This service allows old as well as new patients to simply scan a QR Code and share their demographic details like name, father name, age, gender, address and mobile number with the hospital.
17. The Chief Election Commissioner Shri Rajiv Kumar launched a yearlong Voter Awareness Program 'Matdata Junction' during an event organized at Akashvani Rang Bhavan. The launch event was also facilitated by Election Commissioner Shri Anup Chandra Pandey. The Matdata Junction is a 52-episode radio series produced by the election commission of India, in collaboration with All India Radio.
18. Sandeep Kumar Gupta has been appointed as Chairman and Managing Director of Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL). It is the nation's largest gas company.
19. Roxy Mathew Koll, a scientist at the Pune-based Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM) has received the American Geophysical Union's Devendra Lal Memorial Medal 2022.
20. First green tech based incubation centre of India to come up at NIT Srinagar Technology Business Incubation or Inclusive TBI (i-TBI) is a three-year initiative supported by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) for educational institutions, idea-generators, innovators and entrepreneurs to support

- the innovative ideas, startup initiatives and promote self-employment and job creation through incubation.
21. Hanuma Vihari led Rest of India has defeated Saurashtra to win Irani Cup 2022 at the Saurashtra Cricket Stadium, Rajkot.
 22. Samajwadi Party patriarch and former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Mulayam Singh Yadav passed away this morning after prolonged illness. The 82 year old veteran leader breathed his last at a private hospital in Gurugram, Haryana.
 23. Women and Child Development Ministry to organize National Conference on Skilling in Non-Traditional Livelihood for Girls 'Betiyan Bane Kushal' tomorrow. The conference will be organized under the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao initiative on the occasion of the International Day of the Girl Child.
 24. Union Sports Minister Anurag Singh Thakur has nominated Law Minister Kiren Rijiju, Athlete Neeraj Chopra and Actor Ajay Devgan to join the 'Kick Off The Dream' campaign and show support for India female footballers participating in FIFA Under-17 Women's World Cup for the first time.
 25. Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel has inaugurated Chhattisgarh Olympics. The event will be organized in the state from 6 October 2022, to 6 January 2023.
 26. The first conference of the Agni campaign was organised in Leh, on the theme of 'Sustainability and Culture'. Power Foundation of India in association with Vijnana Bharati (VIBHA) is currently running a campaign to create awareness on Agni Tattva under LiFE – Lifestyle for environment.
 27. India star defender Harmanpreet Singh was named the FIH Player of the Year in the men's category. He won the title for the second successive time.
 28. Felice Albers of Netherlands was named the FIH Player of the Year. The 22-year-old became the youngest winner of the FIH Player of the Year award (women's category) since Germany's Natascha Keller (1999) and second youngest ever, since the inception of the awards in 1998.
 29. October 9 is celebrated as Indian Foreign Service Day. On 9 October 1946, the Indian government established the Indian Foreign Service for India's diplomatic, consular and commercial representation overseas.
 30. World Mental Health Day is observed on October 10 every year. On this day, various programs are designed to draw attention to mental health issues and their effects on those affected and the lives of their caregivers. The theme or rather the slogan for 2022's celebration of World Mental health Day is "Make mental health & well-being for all a global priority."
 31. Former Indian cricket Mahendra Singh Dhoni has launched the made-in-India camera drone named 'Droni' with advanced features manufactured by Garuda Aerospace.
 32. Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated Phase I of the Mahakal Lok Project to the nation at Shri Mahakal Lok in Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh.
The total cost of the entire project is around ₹850 crore. The Mahakal Path contains 108 stambhs (pillars) which depict Anand Tandav Swaroop (Dance form) of Lord Shiva.
 33. As part of its Education 4.0 India initiative, the World Economic Forum has launched a new 'Education 4.0 India Report'.
The report deliberates on how digital and other technologies can address learning gaps and make education accessible to all. The report is the result of collaboration between the World Economic Forum, UNICEF and YuWaah.
 34. INS Tarkash reached Port Greqhrea, also known as Port Elizabeth in South Africa to participate in the seventh edition of IBSAMAR, a joint multinational maritime exercise among Indian, Brazilian and South African Navies.
 35. Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, Anurag Singh Thakur launched the World Anti-doping Agency (WADA) Athlete Biological Passport Symposium - 2022 in New Delhi today. The event is being jointly organized by National Anti-Doping Agency and National Dope Testing Laboratory for the first time in the country.
 36. Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar today said that Human rights are quite essential to a flourishing democracy. Addressing the National Human Rights Commission's (NHRC) 30th Foundation Day function in New Delhi,

37. NGLV (Next-Gen Launch Vehicle) is going to replace the current PSLV (Polar Satellite launch Vehicle) in near future. NGLV is a three – staged heavy lift reusable vehicle with the payload capability of 10,000 kg to Geostationary transfer orbit (GTO) and 20,000kg to low earth orbit (LEO).
38. The most incredible world cup stories -Anecdotes from Football World Cup, From Uruguay in 1930 to the present day' is a book written by Luciano Wernicke from Argentina & is published by Niyogi books.
39. Bharat Krishi Satellite programme' is ISRO's dedicated programme in agriculture sector. It will span agricultural related activities, pesticides, irrigation, crop data, drought statistics etc. A minimum of 2 satellites will be required to cover the entire agricultural area of the country.
40. The 'Living Planet Report' published by WWF stated that the Monitored wildlife population (including mammals, amphibians, fish, reptiles) has seen a drop of 69% in last five decades between 1970 -2018.
41. International Criminal Police Organisation (INTERPOL) is an international organisation headquartered at Lyon, France was established in the year 1923. This is a second time for India since 1997 to host such conference. The General Assembly of INTERPOL is headed by the President who holds the office for 4 years, current being Ahmed Naseer Al-Raisi of UAE.
42. Home Minister Amit Shah lays Foundation stone of new terminal building of Rajmata Vijayaraje Scindia airport in Gwalior, MP.
43. ORS (oral rehydration solution) inventor Dr. Dilip Mahalanabis dies in Kolkata at 88.
44. India's First Aluminium Freight Rake inaugurated at Bhubaneswar Railway Station in Odisha Union Minister for Railways Ashwini Vaishnaw.
45. PM Narendra Modi dedicates 75 Digital Banking Units across 75 districts.
46. World Food Day celebrated on Oct 16; theme: 'Leave NO ONE behind
Global Handwashing Day observed on Oct 15; theme: 'Unite for Universal Hand Hygiene'.
47. India win gold medal in men's 10-metre air rifle team event at ISSF World Championships in Cairo.
48. Gaganjeet Bhullar wins Jeev Milkha Singh Invitational golf tournament in Chandigarh.
49. Hyderabad has beaten the cities like Paris, Bogota, Mexico City, Montreal and Fortaleza to receive World Green City Award 2022 – the best across all six categories.
Hyderabad received the award at the International Association of Horticulture Producers (AIPH) 2022.
The announcement of the winners under six categories and the grand winner was made during the special gala dinner at the IUCN Leaders Forum held in Jeju, South Korea.
50. Indian Coast Guard hosting 18th Heads of Asian Coast Guard Agencies Meeting (HACGAM) on Oct 14-18.
51. Global Hunger Index 2022: India ranks 107 out of 121; ranking by NGOs Concern Worldwide (Ireland) and Welthungerhilfe (Germany).
52. Ministry of Agriculture & Farmer's Welfare celebrates 'Mahila Kisan Diwas' on Oct 15.
53. International Day of Rural Women celebrated on Oct 15; theme: 'Rural women confront the global cost-of-living crisis'.
54. British PM Liz Truss sacks Finance Minister Kwasi Kwarteng; Jeremy Hunt appointed new Treasury chief.
55. Sports Ministry to set up India's first dietary supplements testing facility at National Forensic Science University in Ahmedabad.
56. THE 12TH EDITION OF THE BIENNIAL DEFEXPO WILL BE ORGANIZED FROM OCTOBER 18 TO 22 IN GUJARAT. THE THEME FOR THE DEFEXPO 2022 IS 'PATH TO PRIDE', WHICH IS IN LINE WITH THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT'S VISION TOWARDS ATMANIRBHAR BHARAT.
THE EVENT WILL BE HELD IN AHMEDABAD AND GANDHINAGAR, INVOLVING LIVE DEMONSTRATIONS SHOWCASING THE EQUIPMENT AND SKILLS OF THE ARMED FORCES, DEFENCE PUBLIC SECTOR UNDERTAKINGS (DPSUS), AND PRIVATE ENTITIES.
57. RUSSIA IS SET TO DEMONSTRATE ITS SPRUT-SDM1 LIGHT AMPHIBIOUS TANK DURING THE INDIAN ARMY'S UPCOMING TENDER FOR LIGHT TANKS.
 - SPRUT-SDM1, EQUIPPED WITH A 125 MM TANK GUN, IS THE ONLY LIGHT AMPHIBIOUS TANK OF ITS CLASS TO HAVE FIREPOWER EQUIVALENT TO THAT OF THE MAIN BATTLE TANK.
 - THE AMPHIBIOUS TANK IS CAPABLE OF CROSSING WATER OBSTACLES AND FIRING A GUN WHILE AFLOAT.
 - IT CAN DISEMBARK FROM SHIPS, BE TRANSFERRED BY MILITARY CARGO PLANES, OR CAN BE PARACHUTED WITH THE CREW.

- ITS MAXIMUM RANGE IS 500 KM WITHOUT REFUELING.
58. NUMBER OF POOR PEOPLE IN INDIA FELL BY 415 MN BETWEEN 2005-06 AND 2019-21 AND INDIA HAS THE LARGEST NUMBER OF POOR PEOPLE WORLDWIDE (228.9 MN) FOLLOWED BY NIGERIA (96.7 MN): UN
 59. THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT HAS APPROVED THE CONSTRUCTION OF AN ICONIC CABLE STAYED-CUM-SUSPENSION BRIDGE ACROSS THE KRISHNA RIVER CONNECTING TELANGANA & ANDHRA PRADESH.
 60. HARYANA HAS BEEN RANKED THE BEST-GOVERNED STATE IN THE PUBLIC AFFAIRS INDEX REPORT 2022 PREPARED BY THE BENGALURU-BASED THINK TANK PUBLIC AFFAIRS CENTER (PAC).
 61. GOA WILL HOST 9TH WORLD AYURVEDA CONGRESS & AROGYA EXPO FROM 8-11 DECEMBER 2022.
 62. SENIOR IFS OFFICER PARTHA SATPATHY HAS BEEN APPOINTED AS INDIA'S NEXT AMBASSADOR TO BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
 63. THE INDIAN WOMEN'S TEAM WON THE WOMEN'S ASIA CUP 2022 TITLE AFTER DEFEATING SRI LANKA BY EIGHT WICKETS IN THE FINAL HELD AT SYLHET INTERNATIONAL CRICKET STADIUM, BANGLADESH.
 64. THE INTERNATIONAL CRICKET COUNCIL HAS ENTERED INTO A PARTNERSHIP WITH UNICEF TO EMPOWER WOMEN AND GIRLS AND PROMOTE INCLUSION AND GENDER EQUALITY THROUGH CRICKET.
 65. TAMIL NADU HAS EMERGED AS THE ONLY STATE WHICH HAS ACHIEVED THE TARGET FOR 2022 Q1 AND Q2 FOR JAL JEEVAN MISSION, WITH 69.57 LAKH HOUSEHOLDS PROVIDED WITH TAP CONNECTIONS TILL DATE, ACCORDING TO OFFICIAL DATA.
 66. UNDP PARTNERS ARYA.AG, FWWB INDIA TO STRENGTHEN VALUE CHAIN IN AGRICULTURE, ALLIED SECTORS THE UNDP HAS SELECTED ARYA.AG AND FRIENDS OF WOMEN'S WORLD BANKING, INDIA (FWWB INDIA) AS PARTNERS TO IMPLEMENT ENTERPRISE PROMOTION AND VALUE CHAIN INTERVENTIONS IN AGRICULTURE AND ALLIED ACTIVITIES.
 67. BADMINTON LEGEND PRAKASH PADUKONE WAS AWARDED THE SPORTS JOURNALISTS' FEDERATION OF INDIA (SJFI) MEDAL FOR 2019 AT A WARM CEREMONY AT THE KARNATAKA STATE CRICKET ASSOCIATION.
 68. 18-YEAR OLD RUDRANKKSH PATIL WON GOLD IN MEN'S 10M AIR RIFLE EVENT IN THE ISSF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP HERE, BECOMING ONLY THE SECOND INDIAN TO ACHIEVE THE FEAT AFTER THE LEGENDARY ABHINAV BINDRA.
 69. AMIT SHAH HAS INAUGURATED A GALLERY-CUM-EXHIBITION DEPICTING THE HISTORY OF PROMINENT MARATHA COMMANDERS AT THE SPRAWLING JAI VILAS MAHAL OF SCINDIAS, THE ERSTWHILE RULERS OF GWALIOR. SHAH WAS IN GWALIOR TO LAY THE FOUNDATION FOR THE TERMINAL BUILDING AND EXPANSION OF THE RAJMATA VIJAYARAJE SCINDIA AIRPORT.
 70. JAPANESE CABINET MINISTERS ON OCT 14 APPROVED THE SCRAPPING OF A LAW THAT STIPULATES WOMEN PREGNANT AT THE TIME OF A DIVORCE MUST WAIT 100 DAYS BEFORE MARRYING AGAIN.
 71. TWO AMERICAN CONGRESSMEN HAVE INTRODUCED A RESOLUTION IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES URGING THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION TO RECOGNISE THE PAKISTAN ARMY'S ATROCITIES AGAINST ETHNIC MINORITIES DURING THE 1971 LIBERATION WAR OF BANGLADESH.
 72. PIYUSH GOYAL: INDIA TO ACHIEVE USD 2 TRILLION EXPORT TARGET BY 2030 .
PIYUSH GOYAL PREDICTED THAT THE NATION'S ECONOMY WILL REACH USD 30 TRILLION BY 2047, WITH EXPORTS ACCOUNTING FOR 25% OF TOTAL OUTPUT. LOGISTICS PERFORMANCE INDEX 2022: ANDHRA PRADESH, ASSAM, AND GUJARAT ARE THREE OF THE 15 STATES AND UTS THAT ARE CATEGORISED AS ACHIEVERS IN THE LOGISTICS INDEX CHART FOR 2022, ACCORDING TO A STUDY RELEASED BY THE COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY MINISTRY.
LOGISTICS PERFORMANCE INDEX 2022: ANDHRA PRADESH, ASSAM, AND GUJARAT ARE THREE OF THE 15 STATES AND UTS THAT ARE CATEGORISED AS ACHIEVERS IN THE LOGISTICS INDEX CHART FOR 2022, ACCORDING TO A STUDY RELEASED BY THE COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY MINISTRY.
 73. INDIA IS SET TO HOST THE SHANGHAI COORDINATORS ORGANIZATION NATIONAL COORDINATOR MEETING IN DELHI. THE SCO NATIONAL COORDINATORS MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE FROM THE 17TH TO THE 18TH OF OCTOBER 2022.
 74. KURDISH POLITICIAN ABDUL LATIF RASHID HAS BEEN ELECTED AS PRESIDENT BY IRAQ'S PARLIAMENT. RASHID WON MORE THAN 160 VOTES AGAINST 99 FOR THE INCUMBENT SALEH.
 75. TIMES HIGHER EDUCATION RANKINGS 2023 HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED. THIS YEAR, THE INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE, BANGALORE HAS SECURED THE TOP PLACE AMONG INDIAN UNIVERSITIES

76. DR ADARSH SWAIKA, A JOINT SECRETARY IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, HAS BEEN APPOINTED INDIA'S NEXT AMBASSADOR TO KUWAIT.
77. THE 2022 MERCER CFA INSTITUTE GLOBAL PENSION INDEX SURVEY (MCGPI) WAS RELEASED RECENTLY. THE MCGPI ASSESSES THE PENSION SYSTEMS IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES ACROSS THE WORLD. IT BENCHMARKS RETIREMENT INCOME SYSTEMS, HIGHLIGHTS EACH OF THESE SYSTEMS' SHORTCOMINGS, AND PROVIDES RECOMMENDATIONS TO ENSURE ADEQUATE AND SUSTAINABLE RETIREMENT BENEFITS.
78. UN SECRETARY-GENERAL ANTONIO GUTERRES ARRIVES ON 3-DAY VISIT TO INDIA.
79. INDUS WATERS TREATY: WORLD BANK APPOINTS CHAIRMAN OF COURT OF ARBITRATION REGARDING PAKISTAN'S OBJECTIONS OVER INDIA'S KISHENGANGA AND RATLE HYDROELECTRIC POWER PLANTS
80. THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT RECENTLY DISBANDED THE MULTI-DISCIPLINARY MONITORING AGENCY (MDMA) THAT WAS SET UP TO INVESTIGATE THE ASSASSINATION OF THE FORMER INDIAN PRIME MINISTER RAJIV GANDHI.
81. INDIA RANKED 51ST ON INTERNET FREEDOM BY US NGO FREEDOM HOUSE.
82. INDIA, FRANCE RE-ELECTED AS PRESIDENT AND CO-PRESIDENT OF INTERNATIONAL SOLAR ALLIANCE (ISA) AT FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN NEW DELHI
83. PM ADDRESSES 90TH INTERPOL GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT PRAGATI MAIDAN, NEW DELH.
84. CABINET APPROVES MINIMUM SUPPORT PRICES FOR ALL RABI CROPS FOR MARKETING SEASON 2023-24; WHEAT MSP RAISED BY ₹110 TO ₹2,125 PER QUINTAL.
85. SENIOR ICAS OFFICER BHARATI DAS TAKES CHARGE AS CONTROLLER GENERAL OF ACCOUNTS.
86. INDIA RANKS 41ST OUT OF 44 COUNTRIES 2022 GLOBAL PENSION INDEX: MERCER.
87. RELIANCE JIO OVERTAKES BSNL TO BECOME LARGEST LANDLINE SERVICE PROVIDER IN AUGUST
88. BOOKER PRIZE 2022 AWARDED TO SRI LANKAN AUTHOR SHEHAN KARUNATILAKA FOR HIS NOVEL 'THE SEVEN MOONS OF MAALI ALMEIDA'.
89. AUSTRALIA DROPS RECOGNITION OF WEST JERUSALEM AS ISRAEL'S CAPITAL
90. NOTED AMERICAN HISTORIAN PROF. BARBARA METCALF WAS AWARDED THE SIR SYED EXCELLENCE AWARD 2022 BY THE ALIGARH MUSLIM UNIVERSITY (AMU) ON THE 205 TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF ITS FOUNDER SIR SYED AHMAD KHAN.
91. SWEDEN'S PARLIAMENT ELECTED MODERATES LEADER ULF KRISTERSSON AS THE COUNTRY'S NEW PRIME MINISTER.
92. THE 14TH EDITION OF THE WORLD SPICE CONGRESS IS SET TO BE ORGANIZED IN MUMBAI, MAHARASHTRA FROM FEBRUARY 16 TO 18 NEXT YEAR.
93. A NEW REPORT BY THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION REVEALED THAT THE LACK OF EXERCISE AND HEALTHY PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES CAN COST GOVERNMENTS ACROSS THE WORLD MORE THAN 27 BILLION USD EACH YEAR.
94. THE GLOBAL HUNGER INDEX SCORES ARE BASED ON FOUR INDICATORS — UNDERNOURISHMENT, CHILD STUNTING, CHILD WASTING AND CHILD MORTALITY. CHINA AND KUWAIT ARE THE ASIAN COUNTRIES THAT HAS RANKED AT THE TOP OF THE LIST.
95. AFTER COAL INDIA LTD HAS SIGNED MOUS WITH BHEL, IOCL, AND GAIL (INDIA) LTD— GOVERNMENT HAS PLANNED TO ESTABLISH PROPOSED SURFACE COAL GASIFICATION (SCG) PROJECTS IN WEST BENGAL, ODISHA, CHATTISGARH, MAHARASHTRA, AND TAMIL NADU. THE PROPOSED SCG PROJECTS WILL BE ESTABLISHED AT AN AGGREGATED ESTIMATED COST OF RS. 35,000 CRORES.
96. UNION MOS FOR ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR HAS FLAGGED OFF THE FIRST SEMICONINDIA FUTURE DESIGN ROADSHOW IN GUJARAT.
97. THE ASIAN FOOTBALL CONFEDERATION (AFC) HAS ANNOUNCED THAT THE 2023 ASIAN CUP FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT WILL BE HELD IN QATAR.
98. REAL MADRID'S KARIM BENZEMA, A PROFESSIONAL FRENCH FOOTBALLER, HAS WON THE MEN'S BALLON D'OR (GOLDEN BALL AWARD) 2022 AND BECOMES THE 5TH FRENCHMAN TO WIN THE PRIZE. ALEXIA PUTELLAS, A SPANISH PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALLER, HAS WON THE WOMEN'S BALLON D'OR AWARD OR BALLON D'OR FÉMININ AWARD FOR THE 2ND TIME.
99. SERBIAN SCIENTISTS HAVE NAMED A NEW SPECIES OF BEETLE AFTER THE TENNIS PLAYER NOVAK DJOKOVIC, A SERBIAN TENNIS PLAYER DUE TO ITS SPEED, STRENGTH, FLEXIBILITY, DURABILITY AND ABILITY TO SURVIVE IN A DIFFICULT ENVIRONMENT.

100. DEFEXPO 2022: DEFENCE MINISTER RAJNATH SINGH TERMS CURRENT ERA AS GOLDEN PERIOD FOR INDIAN DEFENCE SECTOR
101. THE FIFTH KHELO INDIA YOUTH GAMES -2022 WILL BE HELD IN THE STATE OF MADHYA PRADESH. THIS WAS ANNOUNCED BY UNION MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS ANURAG SINGH THAKUR AT AN EVENT IN NEW DELHI IN PRESENCE OF MADHYA PRADESH CHIEF MINISTER SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN.
102. The WHO fungal priority pathogens list (WHO FPPL) was released recently. The WHO FPPL is the first-ever list of fungi that are recognized as “priority pathogens”. It contains a catalog of 19 fungi that are considered to be the greatest public health threat.
103. The report titled “Portrait of Immigration to Canada” shows that Canada has a total of 8.3 million immigrants, the largest immigrant share of Canada’s population ever.
23 per cent of Canada’s population is, or has been, a landed immigrant or permanent resident of the country.
104. The 7th ASEAN-India Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Forestry was held under the co-chairmanship of Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar.
The meeting also welcomed the 30th anniversary of ASEAN-India relations.
105. Pradhanmantri Sangrahalaya to have gallery on present PM, open for public viewing in January 2023.
106. Shaurya Diwas’ celebrated in Srinagar, J&K on Oct 27 to commemorate the 75th year of air landed operations of Indian Army at Budgam Airport in 1947.
107. Indian Army celebrates Infantry Day on Oct 27.
108. India, US to conduct ‘Yudh Abhyas’ at Auli in Uttarakhand near China border from Nov 15 to Dec 2.
109. Chintan Shivir of Home Ministers of States being held at Surajkund in Haryana on October 27-28
110. President Droupadi Murmu presents Silver Trumpet and Trumpet Banner to President’s Bodyguard.
111. World Day for Audiovisual Heritage celebrated on Oct 27.
112. The report titled “Emissions Gap Report 2022-The Closing Window” was released recently by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
113. The Indian Government officially restricted the use of popular herbicide glyphosate.
114. The 2022 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP27) is set to be held from November 6 to 18 this year
115. Delhi Lieutenant-Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena recently announced a one-time property tax amnesty scheme.
Under the Strengthening & Augmentation of Municipal Revenue for Infrastructure Development in Delhi (SAMRIDDI) 2022-23 scheme, the NCR people will be able to pay the principal amount of the current and pending tax of past five years for residential properties.
The World Health Organization released the Global TB Report 2022 on October 27 this year.
116. The Global TB report is released every year by the World Health Organization to provide a comprehensive assessment of the tuberculosis epidemic and the progress of countries in preventing, diagnosing and treating the disease at the global, regional and national levels
117. Air forces of India and France to conduct ‘Garuda VII’ exercise Oct 26 to Nov 12 at Jodhpur.
118. Defence Minister dedicates to the nation 75 BRO (Border Roads Organisation) infrastructure projects, spread across six States & two Union Territories, during his visit to Ladakh.
119. UP: 27 tigers to be relocated to Ranipur Tiger Reserve (RTR) from Pilibhit Tiger Reserve.
120. India Space Congress 2022 (ISC-2022) being organised in New Delhi from Oct 26 to 28.
121. UNSC Counter Terrorism Committee meeting being held in Mumbai and Delhi on Oct 28-29.
122. Global Digital Health Summit, Expo and Innovation Awards being held in New Delhi on Oct 28-29.
123. India bags two gold medals in Asia Cup bridge in Jakarta, Indonesia.
124. Red Bull driver Max Verstappen wins Formula One United States GP at Austin.
125. On October 30, Prime Minister Modi will lay foundation stone for C-295 transport aircraft manufacturing facility in Vadodara, Gujarat.
126. India to contribute \$500,000 for UN Trust Fund for Counter-Terrorism
127. Election Commission to host two-day international conference from Oct 31 in New Delhi; theme: ‘Role, Framework & Capacity of Election Management Bodies’

- 128. PM Modi speaks to Qatar’s Amir Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, two countries to celebrate 50 years of diplomatic relations in 2023
- 129. Non-compliance of ambulance rule on highways will entail fines up to Rs 1 lakh
- 130. West Bengal govt’s Lakshmir Bhandar scheme bags SKOCH Award in women and child development category
- 131. 9th annual India Sweden Innovation Day 2022 celebrated on Oct 27
- 132. India’s Ministry of Defence is world’s biggest employer with 2.92 million people: Statista Infographic
- 133. India-Mozambique-Tanzania Trilateral maritime exercise held in Tanzania
- 134. Rock ‘n’ roll legend Jerry Lee Lewis dies in US at 87.



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