

Current Affairs MONTHLY



December 2022

**By
CivilsTap Himachal**



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

Prelims

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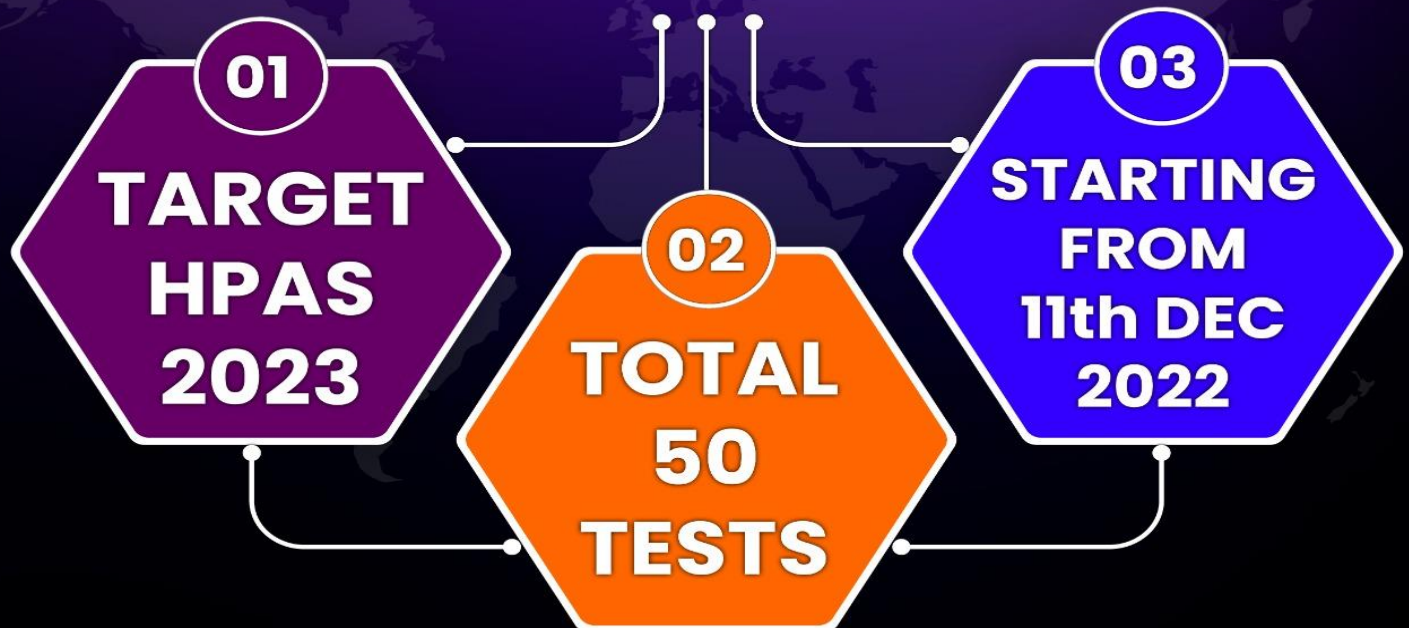
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CivilsTap Himachal



ONE YEAR DEDICATED PRELIMS TEST SERIES + MAINS TEST SERIES



NATIONAL NEWS

1.1. PRESIDENT DROUPADI MURMU TO INAUGURATE 'INDIA WATER WEEK' IN GREATER NOIDA.

- President Droupadi Murmu to inaugurate the India WaterWeek in Greater Noida.
- Ministry of Water Resources, River Development, and Ganga Rejuvenation is organizing the seventh edition of India Water Week from 1st November till the 5th of November, 2022 in an effort to raise awareness, conserve and use water resources in an integrated manner.
- The platform will be used to elicit ideas and opinions from global-level decisions makers, politicians, researchers, and entrepreneurs.
- The theme is “Water Security for Sustainable Development and Equity”.
- The event will bring together experts, planners, and stakeholders from across the globe.
- It will address the issues of sustainability of water resources development and management in the linewith sustainable development goals.
- The event will host conferences with seminars, panel discussions, side events, exhibitions, and cultural programs. Denmark, Singapore, and Finland will be the partner countries for this event.



1.2. ONE NATION, ONE INCOME TAX RETURN (ITR) FORM.

- The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has proposed a single income tax return (ITR) form for all taxpayers.

About:

- According to the proposal, all taxpayers, barring trusts and non-profit organisations, can use the common ITR form, which also includes a separate head for disclosure of income from virtual digital assets.
- The draft ITR form aims to bring ease of filing returns and reduce the time for filing the ITR by individuals and non-business-type taxpayers considerably.
- It proposes to introduce a common ITR by merging all the existing returns of income except ITR-7. However, the current ITR-1 and ITR-4 will continue.
- This will give an option to such taxpayers to file the return either in the existing form (ITR-1 or ITR-4), or the proposed common ITR, at their convenience.



Current Scenario:

- There are seven kinds of ITR forms, which are used by different categories of taxpayers. They are as follows:
- ITR Form 1, called 'Sahaj', is for small and medium taxpayers. Sahaj forms can be filed by individuals who have an income up to Rs 50 lakh, with earnings from salary, one house property/ other sources (interest etc).
- ITR-2 is filed by people with income from residential property.
- ITR-3 is intended for people who have income as profits from business/ profession
- ITR-4 (Sugam) is, like ITR-1 (Sahaj), a simple forms, and can be filed by individuals, Hindu Undivided Families (HUFs) and firms with total income up to Rs 50 lakh from business and profession.
- ITR-5 and 6 are for limited liability partnerships (LLPs) and businesses respectively.
- ITR-7 is filed by trusts and non-profit organisations.

1.3. UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION PROPOSED 'BHARATIYA BHASHA DIWAS' TO BE CELEBRATED ON DEC 11.

- The **University Grants Commission** has written to vice-chancellors and principals of all universities and colleges in this regard following recommendations of a committee constituted last year by the education ministry to promote Indian languages. All higher education institutions in India must observe a '**Bharatiya Bhasha Divas**' on **December 11 every year** to create "language harmony" and develop a conducive environment for learning Indian languages.



What is the proposal of the committee?

- The committee has proposed to observe December 11 as '**Bharatiya Bhasha Diwas**' or '**Bharatiya Bhasha Utsav**' on the birth anniversary of poet Subramania Bharati, a pioneer of modern Tamil poetry who penned songs to kindle patriotism during the Independence movement.
- The commission also shared a concept note of the proposal with the universities, according to which universities and colleges will organise competitions, games, exhibitions and other activities to mark the day. They will also be felicitating students who know multiple languages or those who can read the scripts of major Indian languages.
- The central government has been making efforts to promote Indian languages. It is soon going to establish 22 bhasha kendras (language centres) to promote Indian languages as enshrined in the eighth schedule of the Constitution.

1.4. ITANAGAR: HOLLONGI GREENFIELD AIRPORT TO BE CALLED 'DONYI POLO' AIRPORT

- The Union Cabinet has given its approval for the naming of the new Greenfield Airport at Hollongi, Itanagar, the State Capital of Arunachal Pradesh as "Donyi Polo Airport, Itanagar".
- In January 2019, the Government of India had given its "in-principle" approval for the construction of the Hollongi Greenfield Airport.
- The airport is being developed by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) with assistance from the Central Government and the State Government of Arunachal Pradesh.



1.5. SUPREME COURT UPHOLDS 10% QUOTA FOR ECONOMICALLY WEAKER SECTIONS.

- The Supreme Court upheld the constitutional validity of 10 per cent quota for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) in government jobs and educational institutes.
- By a majority of 3:2 a five-judge Constitution Bench upheld the validity of the 103rd constitutional amendment under which the EWS quota was provided.
- While Justice Dinesh Maheshwari, Justice Bela M Trivedi and Justice JB Pardiwala upheld the validity of EWS quota law, CJI UU Lalit and Justice S Ravindra Bhat delivered a dissenting verdict.
- The majority said the EWS quota law does not violate the equality code of the Constitution or the basic structure of the Constitution.



- The Bench had reserved its verdict on September 27 after hearing the petitioners, the Centre and others.
- The Centre defended the EWS quota law, asserting that it did not violate the basic structure of the Constitution and did not disturb the 50 per cent existing quota meant for SCs, STs and OBCs. It has been given for the first time without eroding the “totally independent” reservation for SCs, STs and OBCs, it had contended during the hearing.
- Noting that a constitutional amendment can only be challenged if it destroyed the basic structure of the Constitution, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta had argued that the ceiling of 50% has not been held inviolable.
- The Constitution Bench broadly considered three questions, the first being whether the 103rd Constitution amendment Act can be said to breach the basic structure of the Constitution by permitting the State to make special provisions, including reservation, based on economic criteria.
- The other two issues are: Whether the constitutional amendment could be said to breach the basic structure by permitting the state to make special provisions concerning admissions to private unaided institutions and whether it can be said to breach the basic structure of the Constitution in excluding the SEBCs/OBCs, SCs/STs from the scope of EWS reservation.
- There are 40 petitions challenging the 103rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 2019, which introduced 10 per cent EWS reservation in public employment and educational institutes over and above the existing 50 per cent reservation to SCs, STs and Other Backward Classes (OBCs).

1.6. MOS DR JITENDRA SINGH LAUNCHES INDIA’S FIRST NATIONAL REPOSITORY FOR LIFE SCIENCE DATA, IBDC.

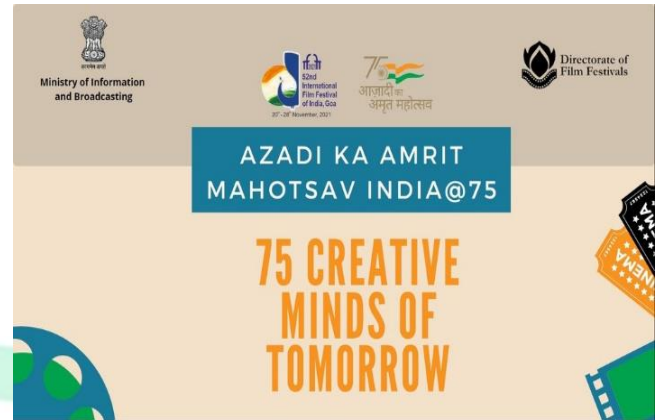
- Minister of State in the Prime Minister's office, Dr Jitendra Singh launched India’s first national repository for life science data, the ‘Indian Biological Data Center’ (IBDC) at Faridabad, Haryana.
- Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Jitendra Singh said, as per the BIOTECH-PRIDE guidelines of the Government of India, IBDC is mandated to archive all life science data generated from publicly-funded research in India.
- Supported by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), it has been established at Regional Centre of Biotechnology (RCB), Faridabad with a data disaster recovery site at National Informatics Centre (NIC), Bhubaneswar.
- According to the Ministry of Science and Technology, it has a data storage capacity of about 4 petabytes and houses the ‘Brahm’ High-Performance Computing (HPC) facility.
- Dr Jitendra Singh informed that IBDC has started nucleotide data submission services via two data portals viz. The ‘Indian Nucleotide Data Archive (INDA)’ and ‘Indian Nucleotide Data Archive - Controlled Access INDA-CA’ has accumulated over 200 billion bases from 2,08,055 submissions from more than 50 research labs across India.



1.7. 75 YOUNGSTERS, ALL IN THE AGE GROUP 18 – 35, WILL GET TO ATTEND THE 53RD EDITION OF INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL OF INDIA AS SPECIAL GUESTS, AS PART OF THE ‘75 CREATIVE MINDS OF TOMORROW’ INITIATIVE OF THE GOVERNMENT.

- The 75 Creative Minds of Tomorrow initiative is the brainchild of Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting and Youth Affairs and Sports, Anurag Singh Thakur.
- The initiative aims to identify, encourage and nurture young creative talent in filmmaking, from the entire length and breadth of the country.

- The segment is an annual platform at the International Film Festival of India held in Goa, to identify, encourage and nurture young creative talents from across various aspects of filmmaking.
- The initiative is in its second year, having been launched in 2021 to mark the 75th year of India's independence as part of the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' celebrations.
- The 75 creative minds will be shortlisted and selected on the basis of their submissions by an eminent jury, under the aegis of the National Film Development Corporation ahead of the 53rd edition of International Film Festival of India.



1.8. THE COMMISSION FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL TERMINOLOGY WILL SOON LAUNCH SHABD SHALA, A WEBSITE TO INVITE SUGGESTIONS FOR TRANSLATION OF WORDS THAT ARE RECENT ADDITIONS TO THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE.

About:

- People across India can log onto the 'Shabd Shala' website and provide suggestions for possible translations of these words or their most prevalent usages in their respective languages.
- After collating all the suggestions, the Technical Words Selection Committee will zero in on the most popular or appropriate translations for each word, following which a glossary would be brought out in all the respective languages.
- The committee, to be constituted in consultation with the Education Ministry, will comprise of subject experts in science and technology, and experts in linguistics and the Sanskrit language.



The Commission for Scientific and Technical Terminology:

- It was established on October 01, 1961 in pursuance of a Presidential Order dated April 27, 1960.
- Presently, CSTT is functioning under Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Government of India with its headquarters at New Delhi.
- The main objective is to evolve standard terminology, propagate its use, and distribute it widely.
- The commission is mandated to collaborate with State governments, universities, regional textbook Boards, and State 'Granth Academies', which are nodal bodies in-charge of providing translations of English textbooks in local languages for institutions of higher education.
- Eighteen States were mandated to have Granth Academies.

1.9. 25TH NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON E-GOVERNANCE TO BE HELD IN KATRA FROM NOV 26.

- The 25th National Conference on e-governance will be held in Katra, Jammu & Kashmir from 26th of November.
- The **theme** of the two-day Conference is **Bringing Citizens, Industry and Government closer**.
- The Conference will be inaugurated by the Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office, Minister of State of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions Dr. Jitendra Singh.
- The two-day conference will be organised by the Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances (DARPG) and Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India, in association with the State Government of Jammu & Kashmir.

- National Awards for e-Governance (NAeG) will be presented under 5 categories of the NAeG Scheme - 2022 to 18 e-Governance initiatives at Central, State and District levels, Academic & Research Institutions and Public Sector Undertaking.
- This includes 9 Gold and 9 Silver Awards.



1.10. CENTRE JOINS HANDS WITH MICROSOFT TO DIGITISE 36 EKLAVYA MODEL SCHOOLS.

- In a bid to digitally transform Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) and impart quality education to its tribal students, the Centre has joined hands with Microsoft.
- In the first phase, 36 EMRS have been selected for the digital transformation. “Digital Transformation of EMRSs can play a key role in improving the learning experience for both students and teachers, where focus shall be on integration of digital technologies to improve teaching and learning.
- Access to technology can lead the way forward for access to knowledge,” said Asit Gopal, Commissioner, National Education Society for Tribal Students (NESTS), an autonomous organization established under the Union Tribal Affairs Ministry. He was speaking at an online workshop organized for EMRS principals and school heads on “Education Transformation Framework” (ETF), in collaboration with Microsoft Corporation India Private Limited recently.
- Emphasizing on the imperative need of digital transformation in EMRSs, Gopal said that such change keeping in with changing times can play a key role in improving the learning experience for both students and teachers, where focus shall be on integration of digital technologies to improve teaching and learning.
- Gopal asserted that in the first phase, 36 EMRSs have been selected which shall walk their way forward to digitally transform schools and enhance the technological skills by use of Microsoft software and application.
- The Union Tribal Ministry hopes to enroll 3.5 lakh students and recruit 36,000 teachers in its 740 Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRs) for tribal students schools targeted to be functional by 2026 across the country.
- Presently, as of November, a total of 688 EMRSs have been sanctioned, of which 392 are functional where around 105463 students are enrolled.
- The current workshop on EMRs digitization was first in its journey of transformation, other components include professional development of teachers using Microsoft Technologies and artificial intelligence (AI) applications; building exposure of students to AI and Coding; sharing of Coding Curriculum for Grade 6th to 12th & AI curriculum for Grade 8th to 12th; workshop on Microsoft Certified Educator (MCE) program etc, shared an official from the Ministry. Last year, the Ministry on May 17 had inked a pact with Microsoft to help Tribal schools such as EMRS and Ashram Schools have digital transformation.
- As per the MoU, Microsoft is preparing bi-lingual Artificial Intelligence (AI) curriculum for tribal students in English and Hindi languages that will be taught at all EMRS schools to upskill both educators and students in nextgen technologies.
- The project could not take off last year in full swings owing to the restrictions posed by the Covid-19 pandemic, the official said. He explained that as part of the MoU, the teachers will also be trained in using productivity technologies like Office 365 and AI applications in teaching in a phased manner, where they can even earn certificates from Microsoft Education Centre.



- Microsoft will also mentor students from EMRS on Ai projects to help pursue the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

1.11. UNRECOGNISED KOSOVO OPENS TRADE OFFICE IN INDIA; MEA SAYS NO CHANGE IN POLICY

- In a shift in policy, India permitted the India-Kosovo Commercial Economic Office to open its office here but the MEA said "it is reiterated that our position on Kosovo is well known, and there is no change in it." The opening of the office is significant because India does not recognise Kosovo though it has its own independent functioning government like Taiwan.
- In the aftermath of the dissolution of Yugoslavia, the West helped 92 per cent of ethnic Albanians to gain independence from Serbia, an ally of Russia. Since the 2008 Kosovo declaration of independence, the MEA's approach is that the recognition of Kosovo "can set a very dangerous precedent for similar cases around the world". Recently, Kosovo President Vjosa Osmani renewed his appeal to India to recognise the "sovereign territory of Kosovo".
- Due to India's non recognition, the nearest embassy of Kosovo is in Dhaka and its Ambassador to Bangladesh Guner Ureya sent a welcome message on the low-key opening on November 17.
- At the same time, Serbian ambassador Sinisa Pavic welcomed the MEA stating that India's position on Kosovo has not changed. "It is the newest confirmation of historical friendship and actual partnership between Serbia," said a tweet from the Serbian embassy.
- According to WikiLeaks, the US and European countries pressured India in recognising Kosovo's independence. India's default position is non-recognition due to its close ties with Russia and the prospect that it will be caught in a bind over J&K.
- The Office may not have the same status as the Taipei Economic and Cultural Centre. Though Taiwan and India say their respective "Centres" promote only economy and culture, both have posted promising diplomats as the heads and other senior staff.
- Indian Economic Trade Organisation chief Asif Iqbal and an entrepreneur couple had met Kosovo PM Albin Kurti in the capital Pristina as a prelude to opening of the Office here. "The objective is to help promote economic cooperation and strengthen ties between the world's largest agricultural country and Europe's youngest country," said the Indian entrepreneur couple Payal Kanodia and Deepak Kanodia who had accompanied Iqbal to Pristina in August.
- Kosovo is slowly gaining international acceptance. A delegation from Kosovo had for the first time participated in the COP27 Conference in Egypt.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

1.12. WHO & WMO LAUNCHES GLOBAL KNOWLEDGE PLATFORM FOR CLIMATE HEALTH.

- The World Health Organisation (WHO) and World Meteorological Organization (WMO) along with Wellcome Trust has launched a global knowledge platform dedicated to climate and health – climahealth.info.
- According to WHO, this is in response to growing calls for actionable information to protect people from the health risks of climate change and other environmental hazards.
- WHO and WMO have designed this new global open-access platform to become the go-to technical reference point for users of interdisciplinary health, environmental, and climate science.
- Climate and health are inextricably linked. Climate change, extreme weather events and environmental degradation have fundamental impact on human health and well-being.
- Site users will be able to connect with global experts; find upcoming events, news, opportunities, technical resources and data, applied decision and learning tools, case studies, and curated guidance and research documents; explore country, hazard- and theme-focused entry points and a growing number of climate service provider profiles and resources.
- According to WHO, this living platform will be enhanced with new content and dynamic features in the coming months and years, with a view towards expanding its offerings to meet the needs of users on all sides of the climate – environment – health interface.



1.13. GHANA TO ASSUME PRESIDENCY OF UN SECURITY COUNCIL.

- West African country, **Ghana** assumes the rotating monthly **Presidency of the United Nations Security Council**. During the month of November 2022, Ghana shall preside over the meetings of the Council (adoptions, debates and consultations) and, under its authority, shall represent the Security Council in its capacity as an organ of the United Nations.

About the Presidency of the United Nations Security Council:

- In its capacity as President of the UN Security Council, Ghana is focusing on enhancing Global Peace and Security for Sustainable and Inclusive Development, particularly on the continent of Africa.
- This will be by fully addressing underlying causes and drivers of conflict linked to the growing youth bulge, poverty, climate change and the absence of resilient institutions.
- Ghana rejoined the UN Security Council on **January 1, 2022**. It is the third time Ghana is holding a non permanent seat on the Council.
- Ghana was first given the opportunity to serve on the council from **1962 to 1963**, and was back for the **period of January 2006 – December 2007**.

Composition of UN Security Council

- The UN Security Council is composed of 15 members, including **five permanent member states** – China, France, Russian Federation, the United States, and the United Kingdom – and **10 non-permanent member states**, which are elected by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).



- Ten non-permanent members are elected to the UNSC every year for a **two-year term**.
- The 10 non-permanent seats are distributed among the regions of the world: five seats for African and Asian countries (three are for Africa and two for Asia), one for Eastern European countries, two for Latin American and Caribbean countries, and the remaining two for Western European and other countries.
- The Africa and Asia Pacific group takes turns every two years to put up an Arab candidate.

1.14. MICROSOFT EXTENDS FREE TECH SUPPORT FOR UKRAINE THROUGH 2023.

- Microsoft Corp said it would extend technology support for Ukraine free of charge through 2023, as Russia's invasion of the country drags on.
- Microsoft said it would provide additional technology aid of nearly \$100 million, bringing its total support for Ukraine to more than \$400 million since the crisis started in February.
- A number of companies across Europe and North America have mobilized in offering aid to Ukrainian authorities and people.
- Earlier in June, Microsoft also said it was making substantial cuts to its business in Russia, joining a list of companies that had reduced their exposure or pulled out of the country in response to the invasion.



1.15. INDIA DONATES USD 2.5 MILLION TO SUPPORT EDUCATION, HEALTHCARE OF PALESTINIAN REFUGEES

- India presented the second tranche of aid of USD 2.5 million to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) for the financial year 2022-2023.
- India's Representative Office in Ramallah said this will support the agency's core programs and services, including education, healthcare, relief and social services.
- "The Government of India presented USD 2.5 million (second tranche of a total contribution of USD 5 million for the Financial Year 2022-2023) to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), in support of the Agency's core programmes and services, including education, healthcare, relief and social services," Representative Office of India Ramallah said in a statement.



1.16. INDIA TO PARTICIPATE IN WORLD TRAVEL MARKET BEGINNING AT LONDON.

- India will participate in the World Travel Market (WTM) 2022 in London which is one of the largest international travel exhibitions.
- The theme of this year's exhibition is - the Future of Travel Starts Now.
- Tourism Ministry said, India is participating in the WTM 2022 to showcase itself as a preferred destination for tourism. During the three-day exhibition, a total of 16 stakeholders, including State Governments, Central Ministries, and tour operators, among others are participating as co-exhibitors in the India Pavilion.



- The objective is to showcase the diverse tourism products and services including Medical Value travel, luxury trains, and the gamut of tourism products to the international business community.
- In 2019, the contribution of travel and tourism to India's GDP was 5.19 percent of the total economy.
- The Indian tourism sector accounted for around 80 million jobs.
- The consistent efforts of the Central and State Governments have helped the tourism industry to gradually recover from the Covid-19 pandemic to the pre-pandemic levels.

1.17. THREE AGREEMENTS SIGNED BETWEEN INDIA, TAIWAN FIRMS IN ELECTRONICS, GREEN TECH.

- Three memoranda of understanding were inked between businesses in Taiwan and India for cooperation in electronics manufacturing and green technologies.
- According to the report, all three agreements were signed at the 2022 India-Taiwan Industrial Collaboration Summit jointly held by Taiwan's Chinese National Federation of Industries (CNFI) and India's industry body Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry on Thursday. Out of them, one MOU was signed by Taiwanese memory chipmaker Adata Technology and the Electronic Industries Association of India (ELCINA).
- Another agreement was by Taiwanese precious metal recycling specialist UWin Nanotech. Co. and India's Srikaarya Industries, the report said.
- The third was signed by the Taiwan Environmental Manufacturers Association, Taiwan's China Productivity Center, Industrial Technology Research Institute, and Water Affairs Organization, and India's International Centre for Clean Water and Steady-taps Consulting.
- The signing ceremony was witnessed by Taiwan's Deputy Economics Minister Chen Chern-Chyi — who headed a Taiwanese delegation to India.
- Stating that Taiwanese companies have been eager to grow along with their foreign counterparts, the minister urged the Indian government to lend support to the Taiwanese companies that invest in India.
- In addition to the summit, Chen also attended a CEO roundtable forum where representatives of Taiwan's government and industrial groups joined with Indian attendees to discuss a wide range of topics.
- Among the topics covered were electronics manufacturing, electric vehicles, batteries, and electronics/information and communications technology development, according to Taiwan's representative office.



1.18. INDIA, PAK NAVIES TAKE PART IN 11-NATION DRILL OFF JAPAN COAST.

- India joined 10 other countries for a "search and rescue" exercise planned within the International Fleet Review (IFR) off the coast of Japan over the weekend.
- The IFR was conducted on November 6 and 7.
- Unusually, from the Indian perspective, the Pakistan navy was also part of the exercise at sea. Japan had invited Pakistan for the exercise.
- China abstained from the IFR in spite of an invitation from Japan.
- A day after skipping the IFR, China today joined the Western Pacific Naval Symposium (WPNS) in Yokohama.
- India has the status of an 'observer' at the WPNS and Navy Chief Admiral R Hari Kumar is participating. About 30 countries are part of the symposium.



- This was not for the first time that the India and Pakistan militaries were together for a multi-nation forum or exercise. In 2019, armies of the two countries participated in a multi-nation exercise in Russia under the umbrella of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO).
- Indian naval warships Shivalik and Kamorta were part of the IFR and will remain there for almost two more weeks for other engagements.
- The Japan Maritime Self Defence Force (JMSDF) said 11 countries — Australia, Canada, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Republic of Korea, Singapore, Thailand and the US — participated in search and rescue exercise.
- The Indian naval ships were part of a group that included ships from Japan, Malaysia and Indonesia, indicating that Pakistan was in another group.
- The exercise encompassed fire-fighting and medical evacuation drills.
- Japanese PM Fumio Kishida inspected the fleets at the IFR on board JMSDF carrier JS Izumo. Japan hosted the IFR for the first time in 20 years to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the establishment of the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) this year.

1.19. YEAR 2022 DECLARED AS ASEAN-INDIA FRIENDSHIP YEAR.

- The year 2022 has been declared as the ASEAN-India Friendship year, as ASEAN and India commemorate 30 years of partnership. As a part of this programme, Indian media delegation is on a visit to Singapore and Cambodia under the ASEAN-INDIA Media exchange programme from 8th November to 13th November.
- On the first leg of the visit the delegation visited the Singapore-India Chambers of Commerce and Industries (SICCI) and had an exchange of thoughts on topics such as India-Singapore relations with a specific focus on business-friendly policies and the expectations of business community in Singapore from India.
- After the first leg of visit, the delegation has reached Cambodia.
- As a precursor to the visit of the Vice President of India to Cambodia for the ASEAN Summit, the delegation visited the Angkor Vat and Ta Prohm temple complexes and witnessed the prominent role played by the Government of India and the Archeological Survey of India in restoring these UNESCO World Heritage sites there. Vice President would be inaugurating the newly restored portions of the Ta Prohm temple complex during the visit.



About ASEAN

- It is a **regional grouping that promotes economic, political, and security cooperation.**
- It was **established in August 1967 in Bangkok**, Thailand with the signing of the ASEAN Declaration (Bangkok Declaration) by the founding fathers of ASEAN, namely Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.
- Its **chairmanship rotates annually**, based on the alphabetical order of the English names of Member States.
- ASEAN countries have a total population of 650 million people and a combined **Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of USD 2.8 trillion**. It is India's 4th largest trading partner with about USD 86.9 billion in trade.

About ASEAN-India:

- ASEAN, a 10-nation grouping, is **considered one of the most influential groupings in Southeast Asia.**
- India and several other countries, including the US, China, Japan and Australia, are its dialogue partners.
- The **ASEAN-India dialogue relations started with the establishment of a sectoral partnership in 1992.**
- This graduated to full dialogue partnership in **December 1995 and summit-level partnership in 2002.**

- Traditionally the basis of India-ASEAN ties **has been trade and people-to-people ties due to shared historical and cultural roots**, a more recent and urgent area of convergence has been balancing China's rise.
 - Both **India and ASEAN aim to establish a rules-based security architecture** for peaceful development in the region, in contrast to China's aggressive policies.

1.20. SMALL ISLAND NATIONS WANT MAJOR POLLUTERS INDIA, CHINA PAY FOR CLIMATE FUND.

- The climate change discourse took a new turn on Wednesday with small island nations demanding that countries like India and China, which are perceived to be highly polluting nations, should contribute to a climate fund. This, according to reports they said, would help countries rebuild after climate change-driven disasters.
- The suggestion came from Antigua and Barbuda's Prime Minister Gaston Browne at the UN COP27 summit underway in Egypt's Sharm El-Sheikh. This is the first time that India and China have been clubbed together as major emitters by small island nations.
- Speaking to media persons on the sidelines of the summit, Browne said the two countries (India and China) are liable to pay for a climate compensation fund irrespective of the fact that both are emerging economies. He was representing the Association of Small Island States (AOSIS) negotiating bloc.
- There was consensus among the delegates at the conference to take up the issue of loss and damage as the formal agenda for the first time in the history of international climate negotiations, said further.
- Reports from the summit quoted Browne as saying: "We all know that the People's Republic of China, India they're major polluters, and the polluter must pay."
- "I don't think that there's any free pass for any country and I don't say this with any acrimony."
- In climate talks parlance, the phrase "loss and damage" refers to costs already being incurred from climate-fuelled weather extremes or impacts, like rising sea levels.



1.21. INDIA-EU TRADE PACT: NEXT ROUND OF TALKS FROM NOV-END OF 2022.

- The next round of talks between India and the European Union (EU) on a proposed free trade agreement, which aims at boosting trade and investments between the two regions, is scheduled to start from the end of this month, an official said.
- India and the EU on June 17 this year formally resumed negotiations on the proposed agreement, after a gap of over eight years.
- "The EU delegation will be here on November 28 for the third round of talks for India-EU Trade and Investment Agreement, including the Geographical Indications (GI)," the official said.
- The second round of negotiations were held in Brussels.
- India's bilateral trade with the EU rose by 43.5 per cent to USD 116.36 billion in 2021-22.
- At present, the EU is India's second largest trading partner after the US, and the second largest destination for Indian exports.
- According to the commerce ministry, the trade agreement with the EU would help India in further expanding and diversifying its exports of goods and services, including securing the value chains.
- Both sides are aiming for the trade negotiations to be broad-based, balanced, and comprehensive, based on the principles of fairness and reciprocity.



- A GI is primarily an agricultural, natural or a manufactured product (handicrafts and industrial goods) originating from a definite geographical territory. Typically, such a name conveys an assurance of quality and distinctiveness, which is essentially attributable to the place of its origin.

1.22. WORLD SOARS TO 8 BN; INDIA TO BEAT CHINA NEXT YEAR.

- The world's population touched 8 billion, a remarkable milestone for humanity that added one billion people in the last 12 years alone. India is expected to surpass China as the world's most populous nation by next year.
- The population prospects report had said India's population stands at 1.412 billion in 2022, compared with China's 1.426 billion. India is projected to have a population of 1.668 billion in 2050, way ahead of China's 1.317 billion people by the middle of the century.
- The world population numbered under one billion for millennia until around 1,800, and that it took more than 100 years to grow from one to two billion.
- The global population is projected to surpass nine billion around 2037 and 10 billion around 2058, according to UN estimates
- The year 2023 could well be a landmark year for India as it is projected to overtake China as the world's most populous country with prospects to reap the demographic dividend as the median age of an Indian this year was 28.7 years, compared to 38.4 for China and 48.6 for Japan against a global value of 30.3 years, according to official data.
- According to UNFPA estimates, 68 per cent of India's population is between 15-64 years old in 2022, while people aged 65 and older were seven per cent of the population.
- As per UN estimates, over 27 per cent of the country's population is between the ages of 15-29 years. At 253 million, India is also home to the world's largest adolescent population (10-19 years).
- The UNFPA has noted that India has its largest ever adolescent and youth population. According to UNFPA projections, India will continue to have one of the youngest populations in the world till 2030 and India is experiencing a demographic window of opportunity, a "youth bulge" that will last till 2025.
- It listed eight trends for a world of 8 billion - slowing growth, fewer children, longer lives, people on the move, aging populations, women outliving men, two pandemics and shifting centres.
- The UN agency elaborated that after half a century of falling fertility, growth in global population is slowing down.
- Further, the UNFPA said across the world people are living longer. In 2019, global life expectancy at birth stood at 72.8 years, up almost nine years since 1990 and is projected to rise to 77.2 years by 2050.
- As fertility declines and life expectancy rises, the global population is aging fast and the share of people 65 and over in the population stands at nearly 10 per cent as of 2022 and is projected to rise to 16 per cent by 2050.
- Between now and 2050, almost all of the global increase in the numbers of children and youth and of adults under age 65 will occur in low-income and lower-middle-income countries.



1.23. AFTER FATF, UK REMOVES PAKISTAN FROM HIGH-RISK LIST.

- In recognition of the effective measures taken by Pakistan against money laundering and terror financing, the UK has now officially removed the nation from its list of "High Risk Third Countries".
- The UK has officially removed Pakistan from its list of 'High Risk Third Countries' following our early completion of FATF action plans".
- "His Majesty's Treasury issued an amendment to the UK's High-Risk Third Countries' list ON November 14, 2022, through a Statutory Instrument. The amendment removes Pakistan from the list in accordance with the decision taken by the FATF on October 21, 2022," the official document read.

- "The Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office recognizes the progress Pakistan has made to improve money laundering and terrorist financing controls." In April 2021, the UK government added Pakistan to the list of undesirable 21 high-risk countries with unsatisfactory money laundering and terrorist financing controls.
- This list of 21 countries, released by the UK government, replicated the list of countries named by the FATF as high-risk or under increased monitoring. Pakistan shared the list at number 15 with conflict-ridden countries such as Syria, Uganda, Yemen and Zimbabwe.
- However, last month (October) the FATF, a Paris-based global money-laundering and terrorism-financing watchdog, finally removed Pakistan from its grey list after four years.
- The global body's President Raja Kumar had announced that Pakistan's name has been removed from the "grey list" as the country addressed all 34 points of the action plan.



1.24. RUSSIA AND UKRAINE AGREE TO EXTEND GRAIN DEAL BY FOUR MONTHS.

- Russia and Ukraine have agreed to extend the grain deal brokered by the United Nations and Turkey by another 120 days. The deal allows grain exports from Ukrainian ports through a safe corridor in the Black Sea. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres welcomed the agreement by all parties to continue the Black Sea Grain initiative.
- Ukraine's Infrastructure Minister Oleksandr Kubrakov said that the decision was made in Istanbul after the talks were held for the same. So far, nearly 11 million tons of grain and foodstuffs have been exported under the agreement. The grain export has served as a lifeline to Ukraine's crippled economy amid the ongoing conflict and helped ease food shortages around the world.
- The deal will continue with the existing provisions. Ships will carry grain from three Ukrainian ports of Chornomorsk, Odesa and Yuzhny and Pivdennyi. They will travel through the humanitarian corridor set up in the Black Sea and stop in Istanbul for inspection before continuing to the final destination.
- The grain deal is vital for many African countries as they face crop failure due to weather extremes and internal conflicts. The nations that will benefit from the deal include Egypt, Djibouti, Somalia and Sudan Senegal, Rwanda, Congo, Libya, Tanzania and Namibia.



1.25. CEC RAJIV KUMAR INVITED AS INTERNATIONAL OBSERVER IN NEPAL POLLS.

- Chief Election Commissioner of India Rajiv Kumar has been invited by Election Commission of Nepal as International Observer for the forthcoming elections to Nepal's House of Representatives and Provincial Assembly.
- Elections are scheduled in Nepal on 20 November for the Federal and Provincial elections to elect 275 members of the Federal Parliament and 550 seats of the seven Provincial Assemblies.
- Rajiv Kumar will be leading a delegation of ECI officials as State guest in Nepal from 18 to 22 November.
- During his visit Kumar would be visiting polling stations at Kathmandu and areas around.



- ECI also has a similar International Election Visitors Program where members from other Election Management Bodies are invited to experience firsthand our General and Assembly Elections held periodically.
- ECI's India International Institute of Democracy and Election Management (IIIDEM) has by far trained more than 2200 officers from 109 countries of whom 70 officers from Nepal have also been trained as part of capacity building initiatives.
- A capacity building program for 25 officials from Election Commission of Nepal is also scheduled to be held from 13 to 24 March 2023 at IIIDEM.
- Representatives from Election Commission of Nepal participated in the recently held International Conference hosted by ECI on Conference on 'Role, Framework & Capacity of EMBS' as a follow on to the Summit for Democracy'.
- ECI would be hosting two more International conferences on the theme of "Inclusive and Accessible elections" as also "Technology in elections" as part of Cohort activities under "Summit for Democracy – Year of Action".
- ECI had been chairing the Association of World Election Bodies, which is the world's largest international organization in the field of election management – since Sept 2019 to October 2022.
- ECI has now been unanimously elected as the new Chair of the Association of Asian Election Authorities (AAEA) for the term 2022 to 2024 thus globally acknowledging ECI's presence and efficient conduct of Elections in world's largest democracy.

1.26. INDIA ON SOLO HUNT FOR CRITICAL MINERALS IN AUSTRALIA, ARGENTINA.

- Not included in the US-led Minerals Security Partnership (MSP) so far, India is trying to strike out on its own and is engaging consultants to identify assets and companies in the critical mineral sector in Australia and Argentina after having received a promising response from both.
- The government is planning to send a team of geologists to Argentina to evaluate lithium varieties. India is keen on joining the MSP but it has not received a positive signal and according to some of its members, it does not bring adequate expertise to the table. Two years ago, India had signed an agreement to jointly prospect lithium in Argentina, which has the third largest reserves of the metal in the world. India's foray is being spearheaded by public sector KhanijBidesh India Limited (KABIL).
- The discussions with Australia are in an advanced stage with both sides close to identifying companies in this space after an MoU on cooperation in the field of mining and processing of critical minerals.
- An Australian parliamentary committee on treaties on Friday recommended that Canberra should ratify the Australia-India Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (AI-ECTA) with its Chair Josh Wilson saying this would pave the way for further trade, investment and regulation.
- The hunt worldwide is for graphite, lithium, nickel and cobalt that find applications in EV batteries, semiconductors and high-end electronics manufacturing, including for space and defence industries. Extraction and processing of most of these metals take place in Australia, China, Congo and Latin America.
- These minerals, considered the building blocks of essential modern-day technologies, are used for making cellphones, computers, batteries, EVs, solar panels and wind turbines.



1.27. INDIA-SRI LANKA FREE TRADE AGREEMENT.

- According to a report issued by the Sri Lankan finance ministry, Sri Lanka has exported five times more than its imports under the India-Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement in the first nine months of this year, 2022.

About:

- Sri Lanka's exports added up to over 140 billion Lankan rupees under the agreement.
- Imports into Sri Lanka from India stood at 28 billion rupees.

- Trade with India contributed to almost 65 percent of the total trade of Sri Lanka under four existing free trade agreements.
- The Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between India and Sri Lanka was the first-ever bilateral trade agreement for both countries, **signed in 1998 and enforced in 2000**.
- The pact is aimed at further boosting the economic ties between the two countries by liberalising trade norms.

Free Trade Agreement (FTA):

- FTA is an agreement between the countries or regional blocks to reduce or eliminate trade barriers, though mutual negotiations with a view to enhancing trade.
- It can however be comprehensive to include goods, services, investment, intellectual property, competition, government procurement and other areas.
 - On goods, the key areas covered are customs duties or tariffs, rules of origins, non-tariff measures such as technical barriers to trade (TBT), sanitary phytosanitary (SPS) measures, trade remedies etc.
 - On services, the negotiations are on barriers to various modes of supply including domestic regulations.



Trade agreements could be bilateral, plurilateral or multilateral.

- **Bilateral trade agreements** occur when two countries agree to unshackle trade restrictions to expand business opportunities.
- **Plurilateral agreements** occur between a large number of countries, either in the regional context or otherwise.
- **Multilateral trade agreements** is generally referred to for WTO negotiations since it covers a large number of countries and sets global trade rules.

1.28. UK-INDIA YOUNG PROFESSIONALS SCHEME.

About this Scheme:

- The UK-India Young Professionals Scheme will provide Indians places to work in the United Kingdom for up to two years.
- It will benefit 3,000 degree-holding Indians aged 18 to 30 years.
- This scheme will be implemented from the early 2023 on a reciprocal basis.
- The initiative will strengthen the Mobility Partnership and Migration between the countries as agreed in 2021.
- This scheme makes India the first visa-national country to benefit from the scheme.
- It was launched by the United Kingdom amid the huge labor shortages in the country.



Significance of this scheme:

- The United Kingdom is currently experiencing labor shortages in industries like hospitality, manufacturing, construction etc. A new study revealed that a three-quarters of the UK businesses were impacted by the labour shortages in the country. The BREXIT was blamed for the exacerbation of the labour shortage concerns. Labour force shortages were especially seen in sectors that heavily depended on the EU countries before the pandemic hit. The new scheme will address the labour shortages in the country.
- The new scheme will also reinforce the cultural and economic ties between the United Kingdom and India. A quarter of international students in the United Kingdom are from India. This shows the strong bilateral

ties between the two countries. India's investment in the UK is directly supporting some 95,000 jobs across the country.

- The scheme will also improve the United Kingdom's ties with the Indo-Pacific region. The UK had taken several measures to boost its relations with the countries in the region, especially in the security aspects.

Challenges of this scheme

- Currently, millions of Indians are eligible for the UK-India Young Professionals Scheme. Therefore, it will create the problem of over-subscription of visas. There are also concerns regarding the monopolization Of the scheme.

1.29. AUSTRALIAN PARLIAMENT APPROVES FREE TRADE AGREEMENT WITH INDIA; TO IMPLEMENT ON MUTUALLY AGREED DATE.

- India and Australia would now implement the free trade agreement on a mutually agreed date as the Australian Parliament on Tuesday approved the pact between the two countries.
- The India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (AI-ECTA) needed ratification by the Australian parliament before its implementation. In India, such pacts are approved by the Union Cabinet.
- The agreement was signed between the two countries in April this year.
- After the ratification, both sides will decide a date to implement the pact and customs authorities will also issue a notification a day before the implementation.
- Meanwhile, Australian trade minister in a statement said that the ECTA will enter into force 30 days (or another mutually agreed time) after the respective parties have confirmed in writing that they have completed their domestic requirements.
- The agreement, once implemented, will provide duty-free access to the Australian market for over 6,000 broad sectors of India, including textiles, leather, furniture, jewellery and machinery.
- Under the pact, Australia is offering zero-duty access to India for about 96.4 per cent of exports (by value) from day one. This covers many products that currently attract 4-5 per cent customs duty in Australia.
- Labour-intensive sectors which would gain immensely include textiles and apparel, few agricultural and fish products, leather, footwear, furniture, sports goods, jewellery, machinery, electrical goods and railway wagons.
- India's goods exports to Australia stood at USD 8.3 billion and imports from the country aggregated to USD 16.75 billion in 2021-22.
- Goyal had earlier stated that the agreement would help in taking the bilateral trade from USD 27.5 billion at present to USD 45-50 billion in the next five years.



1.30. INDIA, GABON HOLD FIRST FOREIGN OFFICE CONSULTATIONS IN NEW DELHI.

- India and Gabon held the first Foreign Office Consultations in New Delhi.
- Both sides carried out a comprehensive review of the existing bilateral relations, including strengthening of cooperation in trade and economic relations, defence and maritime.
- The two sides also exchanged views on regional and international issues of mutual interest, including cooperation in the UN and other multilateral fora, climate change, International Solar Alliance and sustainable development.
- India and Gabon have traditionally enjoyed warm and friendly relations, which are based on shared democratic values and vision.



- The bilateral relationship has further strengthened in the past few years with opening of the Gabonese Mission in New Delhi and exchange of high-level visits.
- The bilateral trade between India and Gabon is growing at a healthy rate and has touched 1.12 billion dollars in 2021-22 from 440 million dollars in 2017-18.
- India is now the second-largest destination for Gabonese exports. Over 50 Indian companies have set up manufacturing units in the Gabon Special Economic Zone.

1.31. THREE DECADES AFTER DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN THAILAND AND SAUDI ARABIA BROKE DOWN OVER THE 'BLUE DIAMOND AFFAIR', THE COUNTRIES ARE WORKING TO MEND TIES.

- In January this year, Thai Prime Minister Prayut Chan-ocha's landmark visit to Saudi Arabia marked the highest level of contact between the two countries after the \$20-million heist controversy, resuming full diplomatic ties.
- Now, Salman's visit to Thailand came on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit.
- The crown prince said restoration of ties has benefits for both countries, as the two leaders inked agreements pledging to increase trade and investment.



The Blue Diamond Affair:

- Saudi Arabia downgraded its diplomatic relations with Thailand over the theft that led to a string of mysterious killings and became known as the Blue Diamond affair.
 - It all started with the theft of jewelry and other valuable gems from the palace of Prince Faisal bin Fahd, the eldest son of King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, in 1989.
 - A Thai worker employed as a servant at the palace, stole precious gems worth \$20 million from Prince Faisal's home, which also included a rare 50-carat blue diamond, which is still missing.
 - The ensuing diplomatic repercussion was thus named after the gem.
- **Present Saudi-Thailand relations:** Recent The high-level meeting also saw the two leaders agreeing on the appointment of ambassadors "in the near future" and to strengthen economic and trade relations
 - As the two countries turned a new page in their relationship, Saudi restarted direct flights to Thailand in February.
 - Since January 2022, many friendly exchanges have taken place between the two countries — one being an agreement between state-owned energy firms Saudi Aramco and Thailand's PTT for cooperation in carbon capture and crude oil sourcing.

1.32. INDIA-GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL (GCC) DECIDE TO PURSUE RESUMPTION OF FREE TRADE AGREEMENT (FTA) NEGOTIATIONS

- Shri Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce and Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food, and Public Distribution and Textiles, Government of India, and His Excellency Dr. Nayef Falah M. Al-Hajraf, Secretary General, Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), held a Joint Press Conference, in New Delhi, to announce the intent to pursue negotiations on the India-GCC FTA.
- With forward-looking and solution-oriented deliberations, bilateral engagements witnessed significant progress on all matters of mutual interest across the entire gamut of bilateral economic relations between India and the GCC nations.



- Both sides agreed to expedite conclusion of the requisite legal and technical requirements for formal resumption of the FTA negotiations.
- The FTA is envisaged to be a modern, comprehensive Agreement with substantial coverage of goods and services.
- Both sides emphasized that the FTA will create new jobs, raise living standards, and provide wider social and economic opportunities in India and all the GCC countries.
- Both sides agreed to significantly expand and diversify the trade basket in line with the enormous potential that exists on account of the complementary business and economic ecosystems of India and the GCC.
- It may be noted that the GCC is currently India's largest trading partner bloc with bilateral trade in FY 2021-22 valued at over USD 154 billion with exports valued at approximately USD 44 billion and imports of around USD 110 billion (non-oil exports of USD 33.8 Billion and non-oil imports of USD 37.2 Billion).
- Bilateral trade in services between India and the GCC was valued at around USD 14 billion in FY 2021-22, with exports valued at USD 5.5 Billion and imports at USD 8.3 Billion.
- GCC countries contribute almost 35% of India's oil imports and 70% of gas imports. India's overall crude oil imports from the GCC in 2021-22 were about \$48 billion, while LNG and LPG imports in 2021-22 were about \$21 billion. Investments from the GCC in India are currently valued at over USD 18 billion.

1.33. CANADA LAUNCHES INDO-PACIFIC STRATEGY TO BOOST MILITARY AND CYBER SECURITY.

- Recognizing that the Indo-Pacific region will play a significant role in the Canada's future, the country has launched an Indo-Pacific strategy with an initial investment of nearly \$2.3 billion over the next five years.
- The Indo-Pacific strategy presents a comprehensive roadmap to deepen its engagement in the Indo-Pacific over the next 10 years, increasing its contribution to regional peace and security, consolidating economic growth and resilience, strengthening close ties between its people and supporting sustainable development throughout the region, said the High Commission of Canada.
- The strategy was launched by Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mélanie Joly.
- **"The central tenet of the Indo-Pacific Strategy is acting in Canada's national interests, while defending our values".**
- It positions Canada as a reliable partner to the region, now and into the future. It is an ambitious plan, beginning with an investment of almost \$2.3 billion over the next five years," it said.
- This whole-of-society strategy puts forward how Canada intends to actively work with allies and partners to shape the future of the region, in the midst of a generational global shift.
- To promote Canada's regional peace and security interests, the government will invest more than \$720 million. This investment includes, among other things: \$492.9 million to strengthen Canada's naval presence in the Indo-Pacific and increase Canadian Armed Forces' participation in regional military exercises; and \$47.3 million to launch a new interdepartmental initiative to build the cybersecurity capacities of selected regional partners.
- To foster open, rules-based trade and support the country's economic prosperity, Canada will invest \$240.6 million. This investment includes, among other things: \$24.1 million to create the Canadian Southeast Asia Trade Gateway to expand Canada's business and investment networks in the region; \$31.8 million to establish Canada's first agricultural office in the region to increase and diversify agriculture and agri-food exports to the Indo-Pacific; and \$13.5 million to expand natural resource linkages with its partners in the Indo-Pacific region in the areas of trade, investment, and science, technology and innovation.
- To strengthen the close ties between Canadians and the people of the Indo-Pacific, Canada will contribute \$261.7 million.
- This investment includes, among other things: \$100 million to fund development programmes related to the Feminist International Assistance Policy to support the Indo-Pacific; \$74.6 million to strengthen Canada's



visa processing capacity within the centralised Canadian network as well as in New Delhi, Chandigarh, Islamabad and Manila, to strengthen the close ties between its people.

- As part of its commitment to building a clean future, Canada has pledged a total of \$913.3 million. This investment includes, among other things, i.e, \$750 million will strengthen FinDev Canada’s ability to expand into the Indo-Pacific and accelerate its work in priority markets to support the development of high-quality and sustainable infrastructure; and \$84.3 million to contribute to a healthier marine environment in the Indo-Pacific region, which includes strengthened measures against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.
- To strengthen its presence, visibility and influence in the region, Canada has pledged a total of \$143.3 million. This investment includes, among other things, i.e, \$92.5 million to significantly increase the capacity of Canada’s missions abroad and within Global Affairs Canada; \$24.5 million for the opening of a new Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada office in the region to help build and strengthen relationships with local partners.
- “The future of the Indo-Pacific is ours; we have a role to play in shaping it. To this end, we must be a genuine and reliable partner. Today we are presenting a truly Canadian strategy -- one that addresses every aspect of our society. This strategy sends a clear message: Canada is present in the region and it is here to stay,” said Mélanie Joly, Canada’s Minister of Foreign Affairs.
- Responding to investment to strengthen visa processing capacity, Sean Fraser, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, said, “The Indo-Pacific region is critical for immigration to Canada and will continue to be so in the future. Today’s announcement brings significant new funding to help boost Canada’s visa application processing capacity at home and abroad. As we look to record growth in admissions in the years ahead, this funding will help promote greater diversity among those looking to work and study in Canada.”
- The Indo-Pacific is the world’s fastest-growing economic region and accounts for 65% of the global population. By 2030, it will be home to two thirds of the global middle class. The Indo-Pacific is Canada’s second-largest regional export market, after the United States, with annual 2-way trade valued at \$226 billion.



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DAY REMEMBER

1.34. TRIBAL AFFAIRS MINISTRY PLANS NATIONWIDE CELEBRATIONS TO MARK JANJATIYA GAURAV DIWAS ON NOVEMBER 15.

- Ministry of Tribal Affairs has planned nationwide celebrations to mark Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas on 15th of November.
- The Union Government has declared 15th November as Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas to commemorate the contributions of tribal communities in the nation's history and culture. It will inspire the coming generations for preservation of cultural heritage and national pride.
- 15th November is the birth anniversary of Birsa Munda who is revered as Bhagwan by tribal communities across the country. Birsa Munda was an iconic freedom fighter, social reformer and revered tribal leader of the country.
- President Droupadi Murmu will garland the statue of Bhagwan Birsa Munda at his birthplace at Ulihatu village.
- The State Tribal Research Institutes are also organizing various events.
- **Tribal Freedom Fighters:**
 - **Birsa Munda:**
 - He was born on 15th November 1875. He belonged to the Munda tribe.
 - He spearheaded an Indian tribal religious Millenarian movement during British rule in the late 19th century across the tribal belt of modern-day Jharkhand and Bihar.
 - **Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh:**
 - He is considered the Pride of Sonakhan in Chhattisgarh, he looted trader's grain stock and distributed them amongst the poor after the 1856 famine.
 - The sacrifice of Veer Narayan Singh made him a tribal leader and he became the first martyr from Chhattisgarh in the independence struggle of 1857.
 - **Shri Alluri Seetha Ram Raju:**
 - He was born on 4th July, 1897 in a village called Mogallu near Bhimavaram in Andhra Pradesh.
 - Alluri is best remembered for leading the Rampa Rebellion against the British in which he organised the tribal people of Visakhapatnam and East Godavari districts to revolt against the foreigners.
 - He was inspired by the revolutionaries of Bengal to fight against the British government.
 - **Rani Gaidinliu:**
 - She was a Naga spiritual and political leader who led a revolt against British rule in India. At the age of 13, she joined the Heraka religious movement of her cousin Haipou Jadonang.
 - For her, the Naga people's journey to freedom was part of India's wider movement for freedom. She also spread the message of Gandhi ji in Manipur region.
 - **Sidhu and Kanhu Murmu:**
 - On 30th June 1855, two years before the Great Revolt of 1857, two Santhal brothers Sidhu and Kanhu Murmu organised 10,000 Santhals and proclaimed a rebellion against the British.
 - The tribals took an oath to drive away from the British from their homeland. The Murmu brothers' sisters Phulo and Jhano also played an active part in the rebellion.



जनजातीय कार्य मंत्रालय

MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

1.35. WORLD PNEUMONIA DAY OBSERVED ON 12 NOVEMBER.

- World Pneumonia Day is a global event observed every year on 12 November to spread awareness and educate people to combat Pneumonia disease, which is a world's biggest infectious killer of adults and children, responsible for the majority of death of children below five around the world.

- The day is also focused on creating ample opportunity and encourage for the global action mainly in the low- and middle-income countries to fight the toll due to pneumonia and other respiratory infection.

Theme 2022:

- This year 2022, World Pneumonia Day theme is based on the Worldwide Pneumonia Awareness Campaign – “**Pneumolight 2022**”, with a theme and slogan “**Pneumonia Affects Everyone**”, with an aim to amplify the effect of awareness campaigns by illuminating monuments worldwide.
- This year 2022, with the support of 42 countries 228 monuments will be illuminated to mark the World Pneumonia Day, with an intention to raise visibility of World Pneumonia Day, 2022 globally.



1.36. DEPARTMENT OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION TO ORGANISE 'SWACHHTA RUN' ACROSS RURAL INDIA ON NOV 19 TO MARK WORLD TOILET DAY.

- The Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation under the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) will organise 'Swachhta Run' across rural India tomorrow to mark the World Toilet Day. The theme of this year World Toilet Day is Making the Invisible Visible.
- The Ministry of Jal Shakti has directed states and union territories to conduct the Swachhta Run at the Gram Panchayat level and involving local heroes, Swachhagraha, ASHA workers, volunteers, youth, school children and local folk artists.
- The Ministry said that in the event local elected representatives, sports persons and other local influencers will flag off the Run to enthuse the local populace for participation.
- The World Toilet Day has been observed annually since 2013 to raise awareness for the people living without access to sanitation.



जल शक्ति मंत्रालय
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1.37. WORLD CHILDREN'S DAY 2022 CELEBRATES ON 20 NOVEMBER.

- World Children's was celebrated on November 20.
- The theme for International children's day is, “**Inclusion, for every child**”.
- On the occasion, the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights will launch training modules for Chairpersons and Members of Child Welfare Committees and Protocols for the Restoration and Repatriation of Children in New Delhi.
- These modules and protocols have been developed to address the amended roles of Child Welfare Committees and District Child Protection Officers in matters of children in need of care and protection.
- The Training Module has been made with the aim to bring the roles and responsibilities of Child Welfare Committees into one place. Women and Child Development Ministry said, the government is committed to reaching out to every child needing care and protection.
- The Union Ministry for Women Child and Development launched training modules for the Child welfare committee and protocols for repatriation and restoration for children at Vigyan Bhawan.



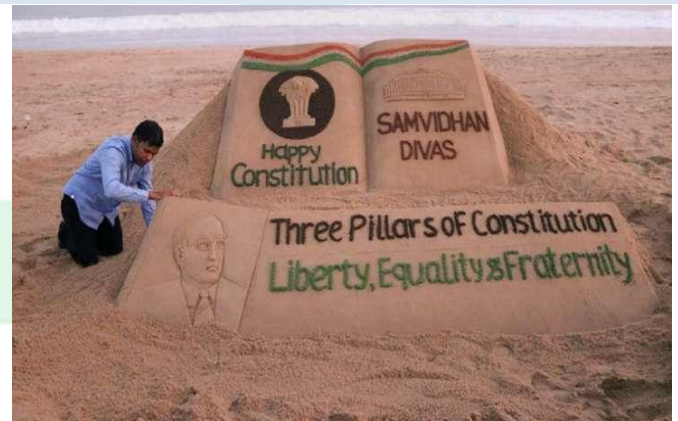
- The aim of the programme is to provide training to members and officials to the child welfare committees (CWCs) and Districts Child Protection Unit (DCPUs) for the effective implementation of Juvenile Justice Rules in the country.
- The training Programme, was launched on World Children's day by the Secretary of Women Child and Development, Indevar Pandey, Chairman of National Commission for Protection of Child Right (NCPCR) Priyank Kanoongo and member secretaries.
- India has 55 crore children, and since they are the nation's future, it is our duty to protect their rights.
- During the programme, a portal, 'GHAR" means "Go Home and Re-Unite for restoration and repatriation of children also launched.

1.38. CONSTITUTION DAY: HISTORY, SIGNIFICANCE

- India observes Constitution Day or Samvidhan Divas on November 26 every year in order to commemorate the adoption of the Constitution of India.
- On the occasion of the 125th birth anniversary of BR Ambedkar, the Union Cabinet decided to celebrate November 26 as Constitution Day.

What is the importance of Constitution Day?

- The main aim of celebrating this day is to create awareness among the citizens about the Constitution and its values. Earlier, this day was celebrated as 'National Law Day'.



History of the Constitution Day

- The Constituent Assembly adopted the present-day Constitution on November 26, 1949 but it was decided that it will come into effect after a gap of almost two months i.e. on January 26, 1950. During this two-month break, the members of the constituent assembly thoroughly read it in order to find any mistakes.
- The Constituent Assembly met for two years, eleven months and eighteen days, a total of 166 days, before adopting the Constitution. Initially, it had been written in both English and Hindi and had been signed by each member of the assembly.

Interesting facts about the Constitution of India

- The constitution is the largest written constitution in the world.
- The original copy had been written by hand.
- Each page of the constitution has a gold leaf frame while the opening page of each is adorned with some kind of artwork.
- Beohar Rammanohar Sinha and Nandalal Bose, who were artists from Shantiniketan, had decorated the original version of the Constitution.
- Prem Behari Narain Raizada was a talented calligrapher who had prepared the original copies of the constitution.

PERSON NEWS

1.39. FIRST WOMAN DIRECTOR DR G HEMAPRABHA TAKES CHARGE AT ICAR-SBI.

- **ICAR-Sugarcane Breeding Institute (ICAR-SBI)** got its first-ever woman director in over a century of the Institution's existence. **Dr. G Hemaprabha** was appointed as the Director of the **ICAR-Sugarcane Breeding Institute** up to 2024 on the recommendation of the **Agricultural Scientists Recruitment Board**, New Delhi under the Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare.

About Dr. G Hemaprabha

- **Dr. G Hemaprabha** is the first woman director of the 111-year-old ICAR-Sugarcane Breeding Institute. With over 34 years of research experience in sugarcane genetic improvement.
- She has more research experience of over 34 years in Sugarcane genetic improvement and so far, she has developed 27 sugarcane varieties and registered 15 cane genetic stock.

About ICAR-Sugarcane Breeding Institute

- The ICAR-Sugarcane Breeding Institute, Coimbatore is the premier and one the oldest agriculture research institutes under the Indian Council of Agriculture Research.
- It was established in 1912, the institute has been largely responsible for meeting the sugarcane varietal requirements of the country for the past ten decades with the dual mandate of developing improved sugarcane varieties and also supporting the sugarcane breeding program of over 23 Sugarcane Research Stations in India.



1.40. SEWA FOUNDER, WOMEN'S RIGHTS ACTIVIST ELA BHATT PASSES AWAY.

- Renowned women's rights activist Ela Bhatt, the founder of SEWA (Self Employed Women's Association), died due to age-related issues.
- Bhatt (89), a Padma Bhushan recipient, was a pioneer in the field of women's empowerment and had received international recognition due to her work.
- Bhatt is mainly known for her work through the Self-Employed Women's Association or SEWA, a trade union of women working in the unorganised sector, which now has two million members.
- Bhatt was born in Ahmedabad on September 7, 1933. After a short stint as a college teacher, she joined the legal department of the Textile Labour Association (TLA), one of the oldest unions of textile workers in Ahmedabad, in the 1960s.



1.41. KV KAMATH APPOINTED AS INDEPENDENT DIRECTOR OF RIL

- **Reliance Industries** has appointed **K V Kamath** as the **Independent Director of the company for a period of five years**. The Board of Directors has, at its meeting held, based on the recommendation of the human resources, nomination and remuneration committee considered and recommended to the shareholders for approval the appointment of Shri K. V. Kamath.
- KV Kamath has also been appointed as an Independent Director and non-executive Chairman for Reliance Strategic Investment Limited (RSIL). RSIL will be renamed as Jio Financial Services Limited ("JFSL") and the scheme of demerger approved by the board of directors for demerger of the financial services business.

About the K V Kamath:

- Currently the Chairman of the National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID), Kamath has served as Chairman of Infosys.
- In 2015 he was appointed as the first President of the New Development Bank set up by the BRICS countries from where he retired in 2020.
- Under his leadership, ICICI Bank transformed itself into a diversified, technology-driven financial services group across banking, insurance and asset management in India, and a global presence.
- He retired as Managing Director and CEO in 2009 and



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continued as the Chairman of ICICI Bank till 2015.

ART & CULTURE

1.42. DANCE DRAMA BASED ON THE LIFE OF RAJA RAMMOHUN ROY TO BE ORGANIZED UNDER THE THEME 'NARI SAMMAN' ON CENTRAL VISTA ON 5TH AND 6TH NOVEMBER

- A dance drama based on the life of Raja Rammohun Roy, who is called the father of modern Indian society, will be organized in the evening of 5th and 6th November, 2022 at Kartavya Path and India Gate (Central Vista).
- Titled 'Yugpurush Raja Rammohun Roy', the program is based on the theme 'Nari Samman', which is being organised by Raja Ram Mohun Roy Library Foundation.
- A one-year long celebration was launched by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India on May 22, 2022, on the occasion of the 250th birth anniversary of Raja Ram Mohan Roy, as part of the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav



About Raja Rammohun Roy

- Born on May 22, 1772 in Radhanagar, Bengal, Raja Rammohun Roy played a remarkable role in the religious, social and political reforms of India.
- He was the founder of Brahmo Samaj and always promoted modern and scientific approach.
- He was given the title of Raja by Akbar II, the Mughal emperor. His influence was apparent in the fields of politics, public administration, education and religion.
- He was known for his efforts to abolish the practices of sati and child marriage. Roy is considered to be the "Father of the Bengal Renaissance" by many historians.

1.43. NATIONAL MISSION FOR CLEAN GANGA ORGANIZES GANGA UTSAV - THE RIVER FESTIVAL

- Ministry of Jal Shakti is organizing Ganga Utsav- The River Festivals 2022 on 4th November 2022 at the Major Dhyan Chand Stadium in New Delhi in two separate sessions.
- The Ganga Utsav- The River Festivals 2022 is being organized by the collaboration of The National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), the Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, and the Ministry of Jal Shakti.
- NMGC will make Ganga Utsav- The River Festivals 2022 more colorful with the active and inspirational participation of multiple stakeholders.
- One of the main objectives of Ganga Utsav 2022 is to celebrate rivers and spread awareness of the significance of river rejuvenation across river basins in India.



1.44. MADHYA PRADESH: UJJAIN TO GET WORLD'S FIRST VEDIC CLOCK.

- Madhya Pradesh's Ujjain, the city of Mahakal will soon boast the world's first Vedic clock which will be synced with the position of the Sun. This came after state higher education minister Mohan Yadav laid the foundation stone at the 300-year-old Jiwaji Observatory in Ujjain. The observatory was constructed by Maharaja Sawai Raja Jaisingh of Jaipur in 1719.
- The mega project is being taken up by the state government at an estimated cost of Rs 1.62 crore as the state government is working to restore the ancient glory of Ujjain. The minister said the (Vikramaditya) Vedic clock will be divided into 24 muhurats (hours).
- He said that there will be a dedicated mobile application for the readings of the Vedic Clock, and citizens will be able to use it on their smartphones, computers, televisions, and other devices. The Vedic Clock's background graphics will depict Jyotirlingas, Navagrah, etc.

How does Vedic Clock works?

- This clock, in the place of 1 to 12, respectively – Brahma, Ashwinu, Triguna, Chaturveda, Panchapranaah, Shadrasaah, Saptarsayah, Ashtasiddhayah, Navadravyani, Dashadishah, Rudraah and Adityaah are written.

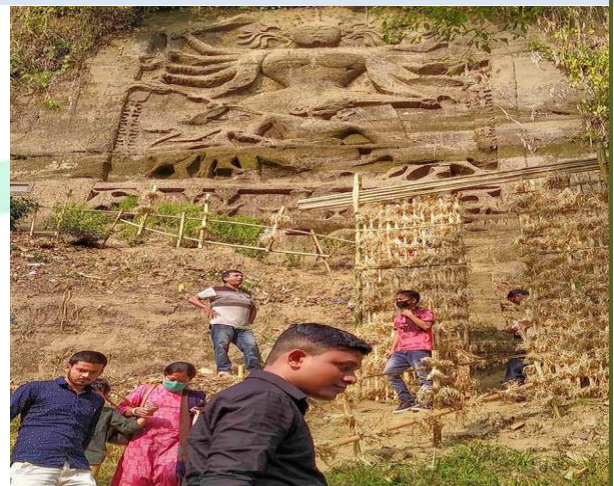
- Out of these, 12 Adityas, 11 Rudras, 8 Vasus and 2 Ashwini Kumars are counted among the famous 33 koti of god's (deities) of Sanatan Dharma.

1. **Brahma:** Brahma is written in place of 1:00 o'clock, it means that Brahm is one and no one else – Ekobrahmdvityo nasti.
2. **Ashwinu:** Ashwinu is written in place of 2:00. Ashwini Kumar has two sons- Nasatya and Dastra. Nasatya represents sunrise and Drastya represents sunset.
3. **Triguna:** In place of 3:00 pm, it is written Triguna which means that there are three types of Gunas – Satoguna, Rajoguna and Tamoguna. Jiva and Prakriti are of three gunas.
4. **Chaturveda:** At the place of 4:00, Chaturveda is written, which means that there are four types of Vedas – Rigveda, Yajurveda, Samaveda and Atharvaveda. Vedas are the scriptures of Hindus and no other scripture.
5. **Panchaprana:** At the place of 5 o'clock it is written Panchapranah, which means that there are five types of Prana – Apana, Samana, Prana, Udana and Vyana. There are mainly five types of prana in the body.
6. **Shadrasa:** At the place of 6:00, it is written Shadrsta: It means that there are 6 types of rasa – sweet, amal, salt, bitter, tikta and kasaya.
7. **Saptarshayah:** In the place of 7:00, it is written Saptarshaya: It means that there are 7 sages – Kashyapa, Atri, Bharadwaja, Vishwamitra, Gautam, Jamadagni and Vashistha. There have been different Sapta Rishis in each era.
8. **Ashtasiddhaya:** In place of 8:00, it is written Ashta Siddhi: It means that there are eight types of Siddhis – Anima, Mahima, Laghima, Garima, Prapti, Prakamya, Ishitva and Vashitva.
9. **Navdravyani:** Navdravyani is written at the place of 9:00, which means that there are 9 types of funds – Padma, Mahapadma, Neel, Shankha, Mukunda, Nanda, Makar, Kachhap, Kharva.
10. **Tenth:** Dashdishah is written in the place of 10:00 o'clock, which means that the directions are 10 – East, West, North, South, Ishaan, Southwest, Vayavya, Agneya, Akash, Patal.
11. **Rudra:** In the place of 11:00 o'clock Rudra is written, it means that there are 11 types of Rudra- Kapali, Pingal, Bhima, Virupaksha, Vilohit, Shasta, Ajapada, Ahirbudhnya, Shambhu, Chand and Bhava. This is the form of God Shiva.
12. **Aditya:** At the place of 12:00 it is written Aditya: meaning that there are 12 types of Suns – Anshuman, Aryaman, Indra, Tvashta, Dhatu, Parjanya, Pusha, Bhaga, Mitra, Varuna, Vivasvan (Sun) and Vishnu (Vaman). He is the son of sage Kashyapa and Atiti who are gods.



1.45. MYSTERIOUS 15TH-CENTURY ROCK CARVINGS DOT KALAJHARI HILLS IN TRIPURA.

- Devtamura, a nondescript place in Tripura where panels of 15th-century rock carvings exist on the steep slopes of a hill along the banks of the Gomati river, is poised to welcome tourists, thanks to an initiative of the state government.
- The carvings have 37 sculptures of Hindu deities like Shiva, Ganesha, Kartikeya, Mahishasur Mardini, and Durga on the Kalajhari Hills.
- It is not known who carved the figures of gods and goddesses in this remote place inhabited by Jamatiya and Reang tribes.
- The chiselled wonder also known as Chabimura, 75 km from the state capital Agartala, had been pushed to obscurity by decades-old insurgency and a lack of proper infrastructures like roads and accommodation facilities.



- State Tourism Minister Pranajit Singha Roy said the tourism infrastructure of the state is being developed so that footfalls of visitors increase to the archaeological site at Devtamura.
- “Tourism brings together different cultures and creates good people-to-people relationships. We are attaching maximum importance to this sector and creating more infrastructure to increase footfalls of tourists”, he said.
- The state is witnessing a steady rise in the number of tourists after the coronavirus pandemic, the minister said.
- The complete stretch of 12 km between Amarpur, a sub-divisional town, to Devtamura in the Gomati district was recently widened, a tourist lodge was constructed and a boating facility was introduced to attract more visitors, Singha Roy said.
- One can reach the banks of the Gomati river in a car and then undertake the rest of the journey on boat.
- Historian Jahar Acharjee, who studied the carvings for his article on rock-cut sculpture, wrote that available evidence suggests that some soldiers, who were hiding in the area during a Muslim attack in the 15th century, had made them.
- The area also deserves to find a place in the tourists' diary for its lush green vegetation dotted with beautiful bamboo-straw huts of tribals.
- The hill ranges are covered with thick jungles and the area is also an eco-tourism centre.
- The first panel measures 10.3 metre in (height), is spread over a length of 28 metre, and is south-facing. The monolith on which the carvings were done stands at an almost 90-degree angle.
- The area to the right of the panel extends up to 60 metre where some other sculptures existed. At present, some of them have been lost due to weathering and sliding of the rock panels.
- The second image of Mahishasur Mardini, about one km away from the first panel, stands at a height of over 10 metre from the river bed. It is the largest of all carvings and the locals worship the deity as Chakrak-Ma.
- The carving is 10.7 metre high and 7.7 metre wide. The face is round in shape. The rock cut image has ten arms and it is seen holding weapons in nine arms and the lower one is seen holding the hair of the demon king. The weapons are mostly indistinct due to erosion and the growth of weeds.

1.46. THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (MHA) HAS COMPLETED THE MOTHER TONGUE SURVEY OF INDIA (MTSI) WITH FIELD VIDEOGRAPHY OF THE COUNTRY'S 576 LANGUAGES.

About:

- According to the report, the Mother Tongue Survey of India is a project that “surveys the mother tongues, which are returned consistently across two and more Census decades”.
- It also documents the linguistic features of the selected languages.
- The report states that the NIC and the National Film Development Corporation (NFDC) will be documenting and preserving the linguistic data of the surveyed mother tongues in audio-video files.
- Video-graphed speech data of Mother Tongues will also be uploaded on the NIC survey for archiving purposes.
- Linguistic Survey of India (LSI) is a regular research activity in the country since the 6th Five Year Plan.

How many “mother tongues” does India have, and what is spoken the most?

- As per an analysis of 2011 linguistic census data in 2018, more than 19,500 languages or dialects are spoken in India as mother tongues.
- The category “mother tongue” is a designation provided by the respondent, but it need not be identical with the actual linguistic medium.
- After subjecting the 19,569 returns to linguistic scrutiny, edit and rationalisation, they were grouped into 121 mother tongues.



- According to the 2011 linguistic census, Hindi is the most widely spoken mother tongue, with 52.8 crore people or 43.6 per cent of the population declaring it as the mother tongue.
- The next highest is Bengali, mother tongue for 9.7 crore individuals, and accounting for 8 per cent of the population.

Mother tongue in the education of children:

- The new National Curriculum Framework (NCF) for the foundational stages of education, has recommended that mother tongue should be the primary medium of instruction in schools for children up to eight years of age.
- The focus on mother tongue as the medium of instruction, especially for primary schooling, has been a feature of education policies for years.
- The new NCF, which deals with pre-school and classes I-II, emphasises the virtues of the mother tongue as the primary medium of instruction, saying that by the time children join pre-school, they acquire significant competence in the “home language”.
- According to the NCF, evidence from research confirms the importance of teaching children in their mother tongue during the foundational years and beyond.
- NCF also states that since children learn concepts most rapidly and deeply in their home language, the primary medium of instruction would optimally be the child’s home language/ mother tongue/ familiar language in the Foundational Stage.

1.47. MONTH-LONG KASHI TAMIL SANGAMAM TO START TODAY IN VARANASI.

- Month-long Kashi Tamil Sangamam will start in Varanasi.
- The objective of Sangamam is to rediscover, reaffirm and celebrate the age-old links between Tamil Nadu and Kashi - two of the country’s most important and ancient seats of learning.
- Kashi Tamil Sangamam aims to provide an opportunity for scholars, students, philosophers, traders, artisans, artists and people from other walks of life from the two regions to come together, share their knowledge, culture and best practices and learn from each others’ experience. The endeavour is in sync with National Education Policy 2020’s emphasis on integrating the wealth of Indian Knowledge Systems with modern systems of knowledge.
- More than 2000 delegates from Tamil Nadu under 12 categories will visit Varanasi on 8-day tours during this sangamam.
- They will see places of interest in and around Varanasi including Prayagraj and Ayodhya, and participate in seminars, lectures, and, site visits to interact with local people of the relevant categories.
- Along with this, a month long exhibition of handlooms, handicrafts, ODOP products, books, documentaries, cuisine, artforms, history, tourist places of Tamil Nadu will be put up in Varanasi for the benefit of the local people.



1.48. SANGAI FESTIVAL BEGINS IN MANIPUR.

- The largest tourism festival of Manipur, the Sangai Festival begins on Monday in Manipur.
- The festival named after the State Animal which is found only in Manipur have been organised in grand manner this time after the COVID-19 pandemic hit the festival in the last two years.
- The Union Minister of Tourism, Culture and DoNER G. Kishan Reddy along with the Chief Minister N. Biren



Singh attended the inaugural ceremony of Manipur Sangai Festival 2022 held at Sangai Ethnic Park located at Moirang Khunou of Bishnupur district this afternoon.

- This time the festival is being held at 13 different places of Manipur to showcase the varieties of cultural items to both domestic and international tourists.
- The **theme** of the festival is '**festival of oneness**'.
- The ten days festival is expected to attract tourists in Manipur.

1.49. 128 ARTISTS TO RECEIVE SANGEET NATAK AKADEMI AWARDS FOR 2019, 2020, 2021.

- The Sangeet Natak Akademi announced the list of 10 Akademi fellows and 128 artists who will receive the prestigious Akademi Puraskar for 2019, 2020 and 2021.
 - The National Academy of Music, Dance and Drama elects eminent personalities in the field of performing arts as Akademi Fellows.
 - The fellows are: Bharatnatyam dancer Saroja Vaidyanathan, Kathakali exponent Sadanam Krishnan Kutty, Manipuri dancer Darshana Jhaveri, classical vocalist Chhannu Lal Mishra, Carnatic clarinet player AKC Natarajan, tabla player Swapan Chaudhuri, classical singer Malini Rajurkar, Carnatic and Hindustani musician TV Gopalakrishnan, folk singer Teejan Bai, and musicologist Bharat Gupt.
- 
- "The fellowship of the Akademi is the most prestigious and rare honour, which is restricted to 40 at any given time. With the election of ten fellows, there are presently 39 fellows of Sangeet Natak Akademi," it said in a statement.
 - The general council of Sangeet Natak Akademi also selected 128 artists from the field of Music, Dance, Theatre, Traditional/Folk/Tribal Music/Dance/Theatre, Puppetry and Overall contribution/scholarship in the performing arts for the Akademi Puraskar for the years 2019, 2020 and 2021.
 - The 128 artists include three joint awards. The eminent artists cover the entire gamut of the performing arts such as Hindustani and Carnatic vocal music, Hindustani and Carnatic instrumental music, Sugam Sangeet as well as Harikatha; the major forms of Indian dance such as Bharatanatyam, Kathak, Kathakali, Kuchipudi, Odissi, Sattriya, Mohiniattam as well as contemporary dance.
 - Artists with different specialisations of theatre such as playwriting, direction, acting, make-up, lighting and stage design as well as other major traditions of theatre like Isai Natakam have been selected.
 - Practitioners of folk and tribal arts and the arts of puppetry and instrument making have also made it to the list of awardees.
 - The award of Akademi fellow carries a prize money of Rs three lakh while the Akademi award carries a prize money of Rs one lakh, besides a 'tamrapatra' and 'angavastram'. The awards will be conferred by President Draupadi Murmu in a special investiture ceremony.

1.50. UNESCO ASIA-PACIFIC AWARDS FOR CULTURAL HERITAGE CONSERVATION, 2022.

- Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya (CSMVS) was recently conferred with the 'Award of Excellence' at the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation-2022.

About:

- The UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation is supported by a partnership between **UNESCO and Ng Teng Fong Charitable Foundation since 2021**.
- UNESCO introduced the new category, 'Special Recognition for Sustainable Development', in 2020, together with an updated set of Awards Criteria to acknowledge the role and contribution of cultural heritage to sustainable development within the broader framework of the UN 2030 Agenda.

- Since 2000, the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation programme has been recognizing the efforts of private individuals and organizations in restoring, conserving, and transforming structures and buildings of heritage value in the region.
- **The complete list of 2022 awarded projects comprises:**
- **Award of Excellence**
 - Chhtrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya Museum, Mumbai, India
- **Award of Distinction**
 - Stepwells of Golconda, Hyderabad, India
 - Zarch Qanat, Yazd, Iran
 - Neilson Hays Library, Bangkok, Thailand
- **Award of Merit**
 - Topdara Stupa, Charikar, Afghanistan
 - Nantian Buddhist Temple, Fujian, China
 - Domakonda Fort, Telangana, India
 - Byculla Station, Mumbai, India
 - Sadoughi House, Yazd, Iran
 - 25 Chivas in Kathmandu, Nepal
- **Special Recognition for Sustainable Development**
 - West Guizhou Lilong Neighborhood, Shanghai, China
- **Award for New Design in Heritage Contexts**
 - M30 Integrated Infrastructure for Power Supply and Waste Collection, Macao SAR, China
 - Xiaoxihu Block, Nanjing, China.



1.51. SHAKYA GASAN TO LAY FOUNDATION STONE OF BUDDHIST INTERNATIONAL VARSITY IN TRIPURA.

- The chief monk of World Buddhist Pope Association of Korea, Shakya Gasan will lay the foundation stone of International Buddhist University in South Tripura's Manu Bankul on November 29, a senior monk said on Sunday.
- Arunachal Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Chowna Mein, local MLA Sankar Roy and senior Buddhist monk from Thailand Dr Pornchai Pinyapoong will be present at the foundation stone laying programme.
- **"Dhamma Dipa International Buddhist University (DDIBU) will be the first Buddhist University in India to be headed by Buddhist Monastics and run and monitored by Buddhists.** This university will set an example in the history of Indian Buddhism for the promotion and revitalization of Buddhist culture", said Dhammapiya, the founder chairman of Bahujan Hitaya Education Trust (BHET).
- "His holiness Dalai Lama will not be joining the programme physically but has sent his message for his spiritual participation", he said.
- Dhammapiya hopes DDIBU to offer insight and depth of Buddhist lens, a better understanding of the contemporary world and will also prepare students and youth with knowledge and skills so that they can lead a healthy, peaceful and satisfying life.

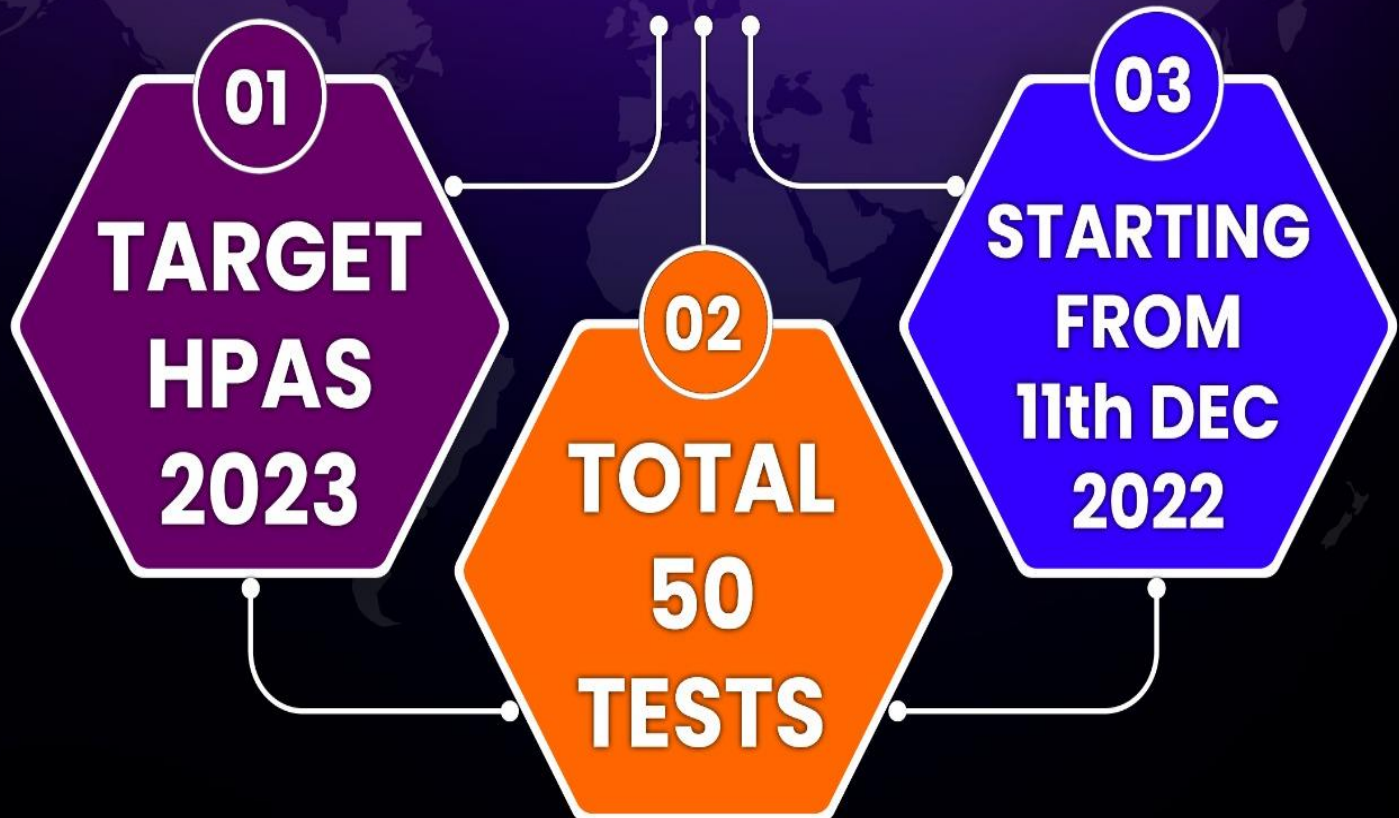


- Students from 31 countries will get a chance to study as well as research Buddhist literature, culture and tradition in the proposed varsity. Besides, there is also a plan to establish medical, technical and general degree colleges on the campus.
- On September 26, the Tripura Assembly passed a bill paving the way for establishing a Buddhist University at Manu Bankul, around 135 km from the state capital.

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SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

1.52. INDIA'S FIRST INDIGENOUS OVERHAUSER MAGNETOMETER

- OVH Magnetometers are known for their higher accuracy, higher sensitivity, and efficient power consumption.
- The Indian Institute of Geomagnetism (IIG), an autonomous research institution under DST, has developed the Magnetometers.
- A team from IIG's instrumentation division used various spectroscopic tools and theoretical simulations to understand the working.
- They find applications in all magnetic observatories worldwide as well as in international space programs.
- It has so far been imported for such purposes in India.



Benefits of OVH magnetometers

- OVH magnetometers reduce the cost of sampling and sensing experiments essential for geomagnetic sampling.
- It can reduce India's dependence on commercial OVH magnetometers for performing geomagnetic field measurements.

1.53. CHINA'S HOME-GROWN BEIDOU SATELLITE SYSTEM EYES GLOBAL FOOTPRINT.

- China on November 4, 2022 outlined plans to further expand the global reach of its home-grown Beidou satellite navigation system, billed as its alternative to America's Global Positioning System (GPS).
- A white paper released by the Chinese government said Beijing is "strengthening regional cooperation with organisations such as ASEAN, the African Union, the League of Arab States, and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States".
- Beijing has, since 2020, also made an outreach to South Asia and is already working, or in discussion with, a number of countries in the region, including Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, over adopting the Beidou satellite (BDS) navigation system.
- "The Belt and Road (BRI) countries are our priority," Ran Chengqi, Director of the China Satellite Navigation Office, said at launch of the white paper.
- Mr. Ran said the BDS, which now has a "constellation" of 30 satellites in orbit, began its international outreach once the set up was finished in 2018. It is now in use "in more than half of the world's countries". China is also helping several BRI partners, including Pakistan and Sri Lanka, launch communication satellites.
- "Saudi Arabia is using Beidou in surveying and mapping, positioning people and vehicle in the desert," he said. "Tajikistan is using BDS to monitor dams and lakes with precision. Lebanon is using BDS at Beirut port for marine survey and construction. In Burkina Faso, it is being used for survey and construction of hospitals".
- Pakistan and Russia are two significant Beidou hubs. Mr. Ran said China and Russia have signed a strategic framework on their two navigation systems, taking forward a 2015 deal on interoperability between Beidou and GLONASS
- Pakistan in 2014 became the first foreign country to set up a Beidou network. South Asia and Southeast Asia – both of which are key BRI regions – are a current focus of expanding Beidou's presence.
- Beidou has set up a first of three Continuously Operating Reference Stations (CORS) for its network in Thailand in 2013, to serve as a hub for ASEAN. China and Sri Lanka also agreed plans to set up 10



CORS, according to reports in Chinese official media, which said “CORS in Thailand and Sri Lanka will extend the BDS coverage at least 3,000 km more towards Southeast Asia and South Asia.

- In 2020, Beijing reached out to Bangladesh and Nepal. That year, Bangladesh Post and Telecommunications Minister Mustafa Jabbar told the official Xinhua news agency Dhaka “will consider cooperation with BDS”, while China has invited Nepal officials to Beijing for training on the Beidou system.
- Mr. Ran said the next focus was to improve Beidou’s capabilities, which have, in China, closed the gap with GPS in terms of accuracy, although its overseas services still lag behind.
- “We need more medium to high orbit satellites and to build a combined constellation of low, medium and high orbit satellites,” he said. “Now, most of the very good service can only be accessed in China. To expand this provision is our future direction”.
- Its application in China, he said, now included use in guiding drones, autonomous cars, in agriculture and forestry, as well as launching with Chinese mobile phone companies, using Chinese chips, satellite-powered messaging for smartphones that provides for connectivity in remote areas even in the absence of ground reception.

1.54. INDIAN FIRM EYES SENDING TOURISTS TO SPACE IN BALLOON-PROPELLED CAPSULE BY 2025.

- An Indian firm is planning to ferry tourists near space in a spaceship attached to a unique high-altitude balloon system by 2025.
- Inspired by Elon Musk’s SpaceX, the Mumbai-based Space Aura Aerospace Technology Pvt Ltd company has begun to build a space capsule measuring 10 feet x 8 feet, which can carry six tourists besides the pilot into space at a time. However, the space capsule will remain within 35 km radius above the earth.
- The company presented a prototype of the space capsule named SKAP 1 at a science exhibition ‘Akash Tatva’ here, which got great response from scientists and common people alike.
- According to Space Aura founder and CEO Akash Porwal, the firm has set itself a target of 2025 for beginning its flight into space.
- Two places have been identified in Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh, from where the flight into space can be launched, and a decision in this regard will be taken soon, he said.
- The company is busy trying to achieve its target with the help of scientists from ISRO and TIFR, Porwal said.
- Equipped with all modern facilities, life saving and information systems, the space capsule will be propelled by a balloon filled with helium or hydrogen gas up to 30 to 35 kilometre above the sea level, where space tourists can witness the earth’s curvature and the blackness of space for around 1 hour, he said.
- The space balloon will slowly be deflated and a parachute will be unpacked to bring down the spaceship. At a definite point the space balloon will be detached from the space capsule and the tourists will be brought down safely.
- “Our objective is to attract space tourists to India by presenting to them a mix of space tourism and Indian culture,” Porwal said.
- “In comparison to Space X and Blue Origin, our company will help space tourists go to space at a much lower cost,” he said.
- Though the fare for a flight in the spaceship has not been decided, it is likely to be nearly Rs 50 lakh.



1.55. HOW BLOCKCHAIN-BASED CBDC AND CRYPTO ARE DIFFERENT?

- Both the cryptocurrencies and the central bank digital currency (CBDCs) have attracted the interest of millions across India. However, despite their common position as “digital assets”, there are some significant distinctions between the two.

- Former Finance Secretary S.C. Garg believes that the CBDC will be more like “dematerialised bank notes” as they have nothing to do with cryptocurrencies.
- “The way cryptocurrencies have evolved in value, the world may not accept their use as currency. However, regulated digital coins like the CBDC might be the future of crypto,” he said.
- McKinsey says that with the rapid rise in circulation of stablecoins over the past couple of years, central banks have stepped up efforts to explore their own stable digital currencies.
- The CBDC, or the Indian e-rupee, is a digital token issued by the RBI and is linked to the value of the fiat currency of the country.
- “The emergence and development of cryptocurrencies and Blockchain technology have increased interest in cashless societies and digital currency. As a result, governments and central banks throughout the world are considering the use of government-backed digital currencies,” says the Blockchain Council, a group of Blockchain experts.
- The CBDCs’ primary purpose is to provide privacy, transferability, ease, accessibility, and financial security to companies and consumers.
- “CBDCs also minimise the maintenance required for a complicated financial system, cut cross-border transaction costs, and give lower-cost choices to people who now utilize other money transfer methods,” says the Council.
- Digital currencies issued by central banks would also minimise the dangers associated with utilising digital currencies in their current form.
- On the other hand, cryptocurrencies are very volatile, with their value shifting all the time.
- Cryptocurrencies are classified as both assets and currency in terms of use cases.
- Individuals can participate in investment markets to speculate on the price behaviour of a cryptocurrency. They may also use particular projects like Bitcoin as a store of value to shield themselves from inflation and economic instability.
- Bitcoin and Ethereum may be used by anybody to perform transactions and payments. Today, more merchants and stores accept cryptocurrency payments than ever before, according to the Council.
- There are several contrasts between CBDCs and cryptocurrencies.
- The CBDCs operate on authorized (private) blockchains, whereas cryptocurrencies operate on permissionless (public) blockchains. The former is centralised, whereas the latter is not.
- Anonymity is a benefit for cryptocurrency users. CBDC customers’ identities will be linked to an existing bank account as well as a similar quantity of personal information.
- A central bank determines the regulations for CBDC networks. The authority in crypto networks is given to the user base, which makes choices through consensus.
- “CBDCs can only be used for payments and other monetary transactions. Cryptocurrencies may be used for both speculation and payment,” according to the Council.



1.56. INDIA'S FIRST PRIVATE ROCKET TO BE LAUNCHED BETWEEN NOV 12-16.

- India's first privately developed rocket – Vikram-S -- is set for a launch in a sub-orbital mission with three payloads between November 12 and 16, Hyderabad-based space startup Skyroot Aerospace.
- The maiden mission of Skyroot Aerospace, named 'Prarambh' (the beginning), will carry two Indian and one foreign customer payloads and is set for launch from Indian Space Research Organisation's launchpad at Sriharikota.
- "A launch window between November 12 and 16 has been notified by authorities, the final date being confirmed based on weather conditions," Skyroot Aerospace CEO and co-founder Pawan Kumar Chandana said.

- There is two Indian and one foreign payloads.
- Spacekidz, a Chennai-based aerospace startup, will fly 'Fun-Sat', a 2.5 kg payload developed by students from India, the US, Singapore and Indonesia on the sub-orbital flight on board Vikram-S.
- "We want the children to learn about conducting experiments in space. It is a simple payload developed by grandparents with their grandchildren," Srimathy Kesan, CEO of Spacekidz.
- ISRO Chairman S Somanath unveiled the mission patch for the Skyroot Aerospace launch.
- With this mission, Skyroot is set to become the first private space company in India to launch a rocket into space, heralding a new era for the space sector which was opened up in 2020 to facilitate private sector participation.
- "The Vikram-S rocket is a single-stage sub-orbital launch vehicle which would carry three customer payloads and help test and validate the majority of the technologies in the Vikram series of space launch vehicles," Naga Bharath Daka, Chief Operating Officer of Skyroot Aerospace, said in a statement.
- Chandana said Skyroot could build and get the Vikram-S rocket mission-ready in such a short time only because of the invaluable support from ISRO and IN-SPaCe (Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre).
- Skyroot's launch vehicles are named 'Vikram' as a tribute to the founder of the Indian space programme and renowned scientist Vikram Sarabhai.
- Based in Hyderabad, Skyroot was the first startup to sign a memorandum of understanding with ISRO for launching its rockets.
- It aims to disrupt entry barriers to cost-efficient satellite launch services and space-flight by advancing its mission to make spaceflights affordable, reliable and regular for all.



1.57. COCHIN SHIPYARD TO BUILD INDIA'S FIRST HYDROGEN FUEL CELL CATAMARAN VESSEL IN VARANASI.

- Cochin Shipyard has signed a MoU with Inland Waterways Authority of India to build the country's first hydrogen fuel cell catamaran vessel for Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh.
- The Shipyard also signed another MoU for the construction of six electric catamaran vessels for Uttar Pradesh and two such vessels for Guwahati.
- The MoU was signed at Varanasi in the presence of Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Sarbananda Sonowal, Union Minister for Heavy Industry Mahendra Nath Pandey, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and a host of other dignitaries.
- The air-conditioned hydrogen fuel cell catamaran vessel will have a seating capacity for 100 passengers. It will be deployed at Varanasi after test and trial in Kochi.
- The air-conditioned electric hybrid vessels, designed for short-distance commute in riverine waters, will have seating capacity for 50 passengers. The vessels will provide onboard accommodation for the crew, besides toilet and washroom facilities for the passengers.
- The vessels will significantly contribute to the reduction in pollution levels in the National Waterways.



1.58. ROCKET STARTUP ASTRA LAYS OFF 16% OF ITS WORKFORCE.

- Astra, a rocket startup based in the US that went public last year, has fired 16 per cent of its staff as part of a wider strategy to increase the shrinking financial runway and decrease expenses.
- According to TechCrunch, the company mentioned that in order to expand its core businesses — namely, launch and spacecraft engines, it would reduce near-term investments in space services.
- With 237 committed orders for its spacecraft engines from companies like Maxar, OneWeb, and Astroscale, which represents an increase of 130 per cent from the previous quarter, Astra reported that this latter segment in particular has become a growing source of revenue.
- Astra is also developing Launch System 2, which includes a new rocket, software suite, and ground system, to replace the lightweight Rocket 3 vehicle, which experienced a number of launch failures this year.
- The company expects to conduct initial flight tests in late 2023, according to the report.
- The layoffs shine an unflattering light on Astra's quick growth: CEO Chris Kemp told investors during a call that the company tripled in size in just a year, growing to more than 400 people.
- However, the company concluded the quarter with \$151 million in cash.
- It reported a net loss of \$199.1 million and \$2.8 million in revenue from its spacecraft engines. Astra expects payroll savings from the layoffs to be realized in the first quarter of next year, said the report.



1.59. GOOGLE'S 1,000 LANGUAGE AI MODEL.

What are the AI language models?

- AI language models aim to minimise the dependence on human labour for fields such as translation, customer service or computation. They automate manual processes and generate new insights based on the existing data.
- The deep learning processes of these AI models are used for instantly decoding foreign languages by making use of massive volumes of user data and content on their servers.



About Google's 1,000 Language AI Model

- Google's 1,000 language AI Model was announced at the AI event that was organized in November 2022.
- To investigate the potential of this massive project, Google is currently working on an AI language model that can support some 400 languages.
- This model is said to be the "largest language coverage" among existing speech models.

How is this new language model different from the existing AI models?

- Currently, numerous AI language models are deployed for businesses or research. Google's 1,000 languages initiative seeks to improve these models as a whole for diverse use cases.
- It aims to create one gigantic model for the 1,000 commonly used languages across the globe. It covers widely used as well as rarely used languages, enabling them to co-exist, interact and grow together.

Other AI language models

- OpenAI, an artificial intelligence research firm, developed GPT-3 (Generative Pre-trained Transformer 3) set of models named Davinci, Curie, Babbage, and Ada to generate natural text responses and perform tasks such as classification, simple summaries, address correction, answering questions etc.
- Meta is developing an AI-based language translation. The company claims that its open-source M2M-100 model is said to be the first multilingual translation model that does not rely on English as the default language when it translates directly between 100 languages.

- The Facebook-parent company is also focusing on AI-based translation for not just text but also oral languages like Hokkien. Google is also currently collecting data for languages that are widely spoken but do not have online presence.

1.60. ISRO TO LAUNCH THE FIRST-EVER PRIVATE ROCKET FROM SRIHARIKOTA IN ANDHRA PRADESH.

- India's first-ever private launch of Vikram Suborbital rocket will take place at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota. All arrangements are in place for the rocket to be launched at around 11.30 am. The countdown of the launch will begin at 8.30.
- The Mission Prarambh will carry three customer payloads Space Kidz India, Bazoomq Armenia and N-Space Tech India.
- The one stage rocket is equipped with sensors for securing datas including measurement of acceleration and pressure. This mission is a milestone in the history of ISRO.
- A non-government entity, the start up Skyroot Aerospace Private limited had developed the single-stage Vikram Suborbital rocket .
- Weighing 550 kilogram the rocket will reach a maximum altitude of 101 km and is expected to splash in the sea after an overall duration of 300 seconds post-launch.
- These rockets require Minimal range infrastructure and can be assembled and launched within 24 hours from any launch site. Skyroot was the first startup to sign an MOU with ISRO for launching its rockets. Union Minister of Space Dr.Jitendra Singh is expected to participate in today's launch.
- The Sky root start-up is planning to send more than 20,000 small satellites in the coming decade. Vikram series is named after Dr. Vikram Sarabhai, the father of Indian Space Science. The rocket was designed to enable this through unprecedented mass producibility and affordability.



1.61. JNPA INAUGURATES CONTINUOUS MARINE WATER QUALITY MONITORING STATION.

- Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA), India's Port, in association with the Department of Civil Engineering, IIT Madras, developed a Continuous Marine Water Quality Monitoring Station (CMWQMS) and launched an Electric Environmental Monitoring Vehicle (EV) on November 21 at the Port.
- The monitoring station and vehicle were inaugurated by Sanjay Sethi, IAS, Chairman, JNPA, in the presence of Unmesh Sharad Wagh, Dy. Chairman, JNPA, along with all the HoDs of JNPA.
- Speaking at the occasion, Sanjay Sethi said, "JNPA is committed to achieving leadership in sustainability and creating value for the trade – depicted across the economic, social, and environmental parameters."
- JNPA always thrives on being an environmentally responsible port. The Continuous Marine Water Quality Monitoring Station and launch of E- Vehicles is yet another step towards commitment to sustainable development.
- The continuous water quality system and electric monitoring vehicle will assist in managing the marine water and air quality in the port area, regulating the environmental quality within the port area.
- Through this, JNPA will be able to reduce the greenhouse gas footprint of vehicles, in addition to checking compliance with Environmental Quality around the port estate through water quality stations data, such as temperature, pH, dissolved oxygen, ammonia, conductivity, nitrate, salinity, turbidity, and TDS of marine water a database on marine water quality is essential for maintaining hygienic standards in the marine environment.
- The E- Vehicle also substantiates the ongoing ambient air and noise monitoring activities at JNPA.



- JNPA has initiated various environmental upgradations and Green Port Initiatives like a Sewage Treatment Plant, Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Station (CAAQMS), Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Facility, LEDs lamps replaced in the Port area and township, E RTGCS, Shore power supply, Rejuvenation of Water Body near Sheva Temple and Sheva Foothill at JNPA, Initiative for the ease of Traffic at Centralized Parking Plaza, Port Green Cover including Mangroves Management, Oil Spill Response, etc.
- Jawaharlal Nehru Port has also installed Solar Panels of around 4.10 MWp. 38% of avg. Power requirement is from renewable energy, and has also switched to LED lights at the Port area to lower energy consumption & decrease carbon footprint.

1.62. RECENTLY, THE CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF TELEMATICS (C-DOT),ORGANISED ‘NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON CRYPTOLOGY (NWC)’.

About:

- The workshop was conducted as part of the ‘Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav’ with the **theme ‘Advancements in Cryptology for enhancing security & privacy in communication networks’**.
- NWC 2022 aimed to bring all the relevant stakeholders on a common platform to deliberate upon various contemporary themes in the field of Cryptology spanning **Cyber Security, Quantum Computing, Post-Quantum Cryptography**
- Cryptography, or cryptology is the practice and study of techniques for secure communication in the presence of adversarial behavior.



Difference between Cryptography and Cryptology

- **Cryptography**
 - It is the study of **conversion of plain text(readable format) to ciphertext(non-readable format) i.e. encryption**. It is also called the study of encryption.
 - It takes place on the sender side.
 - In Cryptography, sender sends the message to receiver.
 - Cryptology is the parent of Cryptography.
- **Cryptology:**
 - It is the **study of the conversion of plain text to ciphertext and vice versa**. It is also called the study of **encryption and decryption**.
 - It takes place on the sender and receiver side.
 - In Cryptology, both sender and receiver send messages to each other.

1.63. WHAT IS BLUEBUGGING, AND HOW IS IT USED TO HACK BLUETOOTH-ENABLED DEVICES?

- Cybersecurity experts recently noted that apps that let users connect smartphones or laptops to wireless earplugs can record conversations, and are vulnerable to hacks.

About:

- It is a form of hacking that lets attackers access a device through its discoverable Bluetooth connection.
- Once a device or phone is bluebugged, a hacker can listen to the calls, read and send messages and steal and modify contacts.
- It started out as a threat for laptops with Bluetooth capability.
- Later hackers used the technique to target mobile phones and other devices.



Process:

- Bluebugging attacks work by exploiting Bluetooth-enabled devices.
- The device's Bluetooth must be in discoverable mode, which is the default setting on most devices.
- The hacker then tries to pair with the device via Bluetooth.
- Once a connection is established, hackers can use brute force attacks to bypass authentication.
- They can install malware in the compromised device to gain unauthorised access to it.
- Bluebugging can happen whenever a Bluetooth enabled device is within a 10-metre radius of the hacker.
- However, according to a blog by VPN service provider NordVPN, hackers can use booster antennas to widen the attack range.

Which devices are most susceptible to such attacks?

- Any Bluetooth-enabled device can be bluebugged.
- Wireless earbuds are susceptible to such hacks.
- Apps that enable users to connect to their TWS (True Wireless Stereo) devices or earbuds can record conversations.
- The apps of these TWS devices can record conversations.
- Once hacked, the attacker can make and listen to calls, read and send messages, and modify or steal your contacts.



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ECONOMY

1.64. NATIONAL UNITY DAY: INCOME TAX DEPARTMENT LAUNCHES HARIT AAYKAR INITIATIVE TO CREATE MICRO FORESTS.

- The Income Tax Department participated in the Government of India's month-long Special Campaign for Swachhata which ends on 31st October, 2022.
- This day (31st October) marks the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and is also observed as the National Unity Day.
- On this special occasion, the Income Tax Department has launched the HARIT Aaykar (Hariyali Achievement Resolution by Income Tax) initiative.
- Under this initiative, the Department resolves to increase the green cover by planting trees and creating micro-forests in and around Income Tax Department's buildings and other public areas.
- Under the HARIT Aaykar initiative, the first of such micro-forests has been inaugurated by the Chairman, CBDT, Shri Nitin Gupta in the presence of Member (TPS), CBDT, Smt. Sangeeta Singh near Attari border in Punjab on 31st October, 2022.
- Chairman, CBDT exhorted the officers and officials of the Department to work towards achieving the objective of HARIT Aaykar in the coming year culminating on 31st October, 2023.
- To support this initiative further, the Department would continue to welcome dignitaries at events and programmes organized by it, with potted plants or a single stalk of a flower.



1. RBI TO LAUNCH PILOT PROJECT OF DIGITAL RUPEE IN WHOLESALE SEGMENT.

- The Reserve Bank of India will launch the pilot project of Digital Rupee in the wholesale segment. Digital Rupee will be used for settlement of secondary market transactions in government securities.
- RBI said that use of E-Rupee is expected to make the inter-bank market more efficient. Settlement in central bank money would reduce transaction costs by preempting the need for settlement guarantee infrastructure or for collateral to mitigate settlement risk.
- RBI has said that based on the learnings from this pilot, other wholesale transactions, and cross-border payments will be the focus of future pilots.
- Nine banks, viz., State Bank of India, Bank of Baroda, Union Bank of India, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Yes Bank, IDFC First Bank, and HSBC have been identified for participation in the pilot.
- The first pilot use of Digital Rupee in the retail segment is planned for launch within a month in select locations in closed user groups comprising customers and merchants.



1.65. AGRICULTURAL & PROCESSED FOOD PRODUCTS EXPORTS INCREASE BY 25 PER CENT.

- Exports of agricultural and processed food products rose by 25 per cent within six months of the current financial year 2022-23 (April-September) in comparison to the corresponding period of 2021-22.
- According to the provisional data released by the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI&S), the overall export of agricultural and processed food products has witnessed a growth of 25 per cent in dollars during April-September 2022.

- The overall export of Agricultural and Processed Food Export Development Authority (APEDA) products increased to \$13771 million in April-September 2022 from \$11056 million over the same period of the last fiscal year.
- The initiatives taken by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry through APEDA have helped the country achieve 58 per cent of its total export target for the year 2022-23 within six months of the current fiscal.
- For the year 2022-23, an export target of \$23.56 billion has been fixed by APEDA for the agricultural and processed food products basket and an export of \$13.77 billion has already been achieved in these six months of the current fiscal.
- As per the DGCI&S provisional data, processed fruits and vegetables recorded a significant growth of 42.42 per cent (April-September 2022), while fresh fruits registered 4 per cent growth as opposed to corresponding months of the previous year.
- Also, processed food products like cereals and miscellaneous processed items reported a growth of 29.36 per cent compared to the first six months of the previous year.
- In April-September, 2021, fresh fruits were exported to the tune of \$301 million which increased to \$313 million in the corresponding months of the current fiscal. Exports of processed F&V jumped to \$1024 million in six months of the current fiscal from \$719 million in the corresponding months of the previous year.
- The export of pulses has witnessed an increase of 144 per cent in Q2 of the current fiscal in comparison to the corresponding months of the last fiscal as the export of lentils increased from \$135 million (April-September 2021-22) to \$330 million (April-September 2022-23).
- Basmati Rice exports witnessed a growth of 37.36 per cent in six months of FY 2022-23 as its export increased from \$1660 million (April-September 2021) to \$2280 million (April-September 2022), while the export of non-Basmati rice registered a growth of 8 per cent in Q2 of current fiscal. Its export increased to \$3207 million in six months of the current fiscal from \$2969 million in the corresponding months of the previous year.
- The export of meat, dairy & poultry products increased by 10.29 per cent and the export of other cereals recorded a growth of 12.29 per cent in six months of the current fiscal. The poultry products alone registered a growth of 83 per cent as its export rose to \$57 million within the half-year bracket of the current fiscal from \$31 million recorded for the corresponding months of the previous year.
- Similarly, dairy products recorded a growth of 58 per cent as its export rose to \$342 million in Q2 of the current fiscal from \$216 million in Q2 of the previous year.
- Wheat export registered an increase of 136 per cent in Q2 of the current fiscal. Wheat export rose to \$1487 million in April-September 2022 from \$630 million in April-September 2021.
- Other cereals' export increased from \$467 million in April-September 2021 to \$525 million in April-September 2022 and the export of livestock products increased from \$1903 million in April-September 2021 to \$2099 million in April-September 2022.



1.66. INDIA'S FIRST FLOATING FINANCIAL LITERACY CAMP WAS ORGANIZED RECENTLY BY INDIA POST PAYMENTS BANK (IPPB)

About the Floating Financial Literacy Camp

- India's First Floating Financial Literacy Camp was conducted as part of the launch of the initiative called "Niveshak Didi" in Jammu and Kashmir's Srinagar.
- It was conducted among local residents around the famous Dal Lake in Srinagar.
- It focused on topics like:
 - Various banking and financial products
 - Importance of joining the mainstream financial services provided by various regulated entities
 - Protection against various types of risks related to investments and frauds.

What is “Niveshak Didi” initiative?

- “Niveshak Didi” initiative is implemented based on the concept of “by the women, for the women”. This concept believes that women in rural regions are more comfortable sharing their queries to other women.

About IPPB

- The India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) comes under the aegis of the Department of Posts, Ministry of Communication. It is fully owned by the central government. This bank was launched on September 1, 2018 to become the most accessible, affordable and trusted bank for common man in India.



1.67. HANDICRAFT EXPORTS FROM RAJASTHAN IN 2020-21 WORTH RS 6,205.32 CRORE.

- Having abundant raw material for handicrafts such as wood, marble, leather, metals, copper, etc. and rising trend in production, Rajasthan has exported handicraft items worth 6,205.32 crore in the last fiscal year 2020-21.
- Besides, gem and jewellery worth Rs 4,067.36 crore, textiles worth Rs 5,729.29 crore, readymade garments worth Rs 1,764.40 crore and carpet/dari worth Rs 464.70 crore were exported from the state during the fiscal year.
- At a recently-held Investment Rajasthan summit in October 2022 for the development of handicrafts and uplift of the artisans, for the first time, handicrafts were included as a thrust sector of the Rajasthan Investment Promotion Scheme for additional benefits of the state government. With an aim to further boost the investment on cultural heritage in the state the Rajasthan Handicraft Policy 2022 was introduced in September, 2022.
- The focus of the policy is to support the state’s handicraftsmen and weavers, acknowledging their significant involvement in the social and economic development as well as their access to technological advancements. The policy also assists with marketing, financial, social security by way of inclusion of clusters and craft villages concept.
- “The prime objective of the policy was to set up the essential infrastructure in the state for the sector. The policy focuses on empowering handicraftsmen by ensuring participation and generating new employment opportunities. It also aims at making the state’s products exportable.”
- The policy with the provisions like organising the national level handicrafts week every year, state level awards in various categories, brand building, e-marketing, social security, loan facility, scholarship and assistance for participation in fair exhibitions as well as craft villages empowers artisans. It also includes provisions for the handicraft parks, design centres, sales centres, and the creation of a Directorate of Handicraft. The new policy is also expected to generate more than 50,000 new jobs in the next five years, according to the Minister’s claim.
- According to India Brand Equity Foundation (IBEF), the demand for Indian handicraft products has constantly been increasing in foreign markets due to their individuality and beauty. The major handicraft export destinations for India are the US, the UK, Latin America and Caribbean (LAC), Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, the UAE and Switzerland.
- The USA is the top importer of Indian handicrafts with a share of 38 percent of the total exports during 2020-21. India exports carpet to over 70 countries worldwide, primarily to the US, Australia, and Europe. The largest carpet export destinations for India are the US, Germany, the UK and Australia with a share of about 57 percent, 6 percent, 6 percent, and 5 percent, respectively.



1.68. ADANI CONNEX ANNOUNCES OPENING OF ITS FLAGSHIP DATA CENTRE CAMPUS IN CHENNAI.

- AdaniConneX, a joint venture between Adani Enterprises and EdgeConneX, announced the opening of 'Chennai 1' hyperscale data centre campus located at SIPCOT IT Park in Chennai, India.
- In Phase 1, the campus offers 17 MW (IT Load) that will scale up to 33 MW (IT Load) at full capacity. The 'Chennai 1' campus hosts Tamil Nadu's first pre-certified IGBC Platinum Rated data centre.
- The facility will also be powered with up to 100 per cent Renewable Energy, offering enterprises and hyperscale customers sustainable energy choices. As one of the most advanced co-location campuses in the region, 'Chennai 1' is designed to offer robust physical protection to IT Infrastructure with seven layers of security system and commitment to provide 99.999 per cent availability. India is one of the fastest-growing data centre markets in the world.
- India's current data centre capacity is around 600 MW and is expected to grow to around 1300 MW by 2024. To address the growing need for reliable IT infrastructure, AdaniConneX is investing capital into the joint venture over the next decade with a mission to build over a 1 GW Green Data Centre platform.
- AdaniConneX is also building hyperscale campuses in all the big cities of India, including Mumbai, Navi Mumbai, Noida, Pune, Kolkata, Bhubaneswar, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Vizag, and many more.
- AdaniConneX is also developing distributed Edge Data Centres and Far Edge facilities in Tier 2 and 3 markets, relying heavily on renewable energy sources to help bring cloud, content, and data closer to customers.
- Supported by the team from EdgeConneX and their more than a decade of experience in building a global platform of data centres for some of the world's largest and most demanding tech and cloud firms, AdaniConneX is rapidly executing on its plan to deliver hyperlocal to hyperscale data centre capacity throughout India.



1.69. CENTRE ALLOWS INTERNATIONAL TRADE SETTLEMENTS IN INDIAN RUPEES FOR EXPORT PROMOTION SCHEMES.

- Centre has allowed International Trade Settlements in Indian Rupees for Export Promotion Schemes under the Foreign Trade Policy.
- According to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry the decision was taken to facilitate and ease international trade transactions in Indian Rupees.
- The Ministry said, suitable amendments have been made in the Foreign Trade Policy(FTP) and Handbook of Procedures to allow International Trade Settlement in Indian Rupees including, invoicing, payment, and settlement of exports and imports in Indian Rupees.
- It said that the changes have been introduced for grant of exports benefits , incentives, fulfilment of export obligation under FTP for export realisations in Indian Rupees as per the RBI guidelines.
- The Ministry informed, that given the rise in interest in internationalisation of Indian Rupee, the Policy amendments have been undertaken to facilitate and to bring ease in international trade transactions in Indian Rupees.



1.70. UNION MINISTER PIYUSH GOYAL CO-CHAIRS INDIA-US CEO FORUM WITH US COMMERCE SECRETARY.

- Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal highlighted the significant growth of the India-US economic relations driven by the common interest of promoting sustainability, emerging technologies, globally resilient supply chains, and small businesses.
- He also reiterated the importance of such dialogues in leveraging this momentum. Mr Goyal was chairing the India-U.S. CEO Forum with U.S. Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo through video conferencing.
- The U.S. Commerce Secretary thanked Piyush Goyal and other members for their participation and insightful identification of common focus areas that will bolster the bilateral partnership between the two nations.
- CEOs from leading Indian and US-based companies participated in the forum. This is the sixth time that the forum has been convened since its reconstitution in December 2014.
- It continues to be an effective platform for dialogue across key sectoral themes, and to identify areas for closer collaboration for mutual benefit of both economies.
- This dialogue will serve as a framework under which specific recommendations will be charted out during the sixth edition of the India-US CEO Forum to be held early next year.



1.71. THE UNION GOVERNMENT HAS RECENTLY APPROVED 'VOSTRO' ACCOUNTS FOR NINE RUSSIAN BANKS TO HELP PROMOTE TRADE IN RUPEES.

About:

- **Russia** becomes first country to facilitate rupee-based export-import transactions
- The move will facilitate India's exports to sanction-hit Russia, which reported a 24% decline in the April-August period. The RBI-designed mechanism only entails trade in the Indian rupee, eliminating exchange risks.
- To facilitate trade through this route, the government, through an amendment in the foreign trade policy recently, allowed exporters to avail of incentives or duty rebates for settling trade in rupee terms.



NOSTRO Account

- Italian word 'nostro' means 'ours'. Hence, Nostro account points at – **"Our account with you"**.
- **Nostro accounts are generally held in a foreign country (with a foreign bank), by a domestic bank (from our perspective, our bank). It obviates that account is maintained in that foreign currency.**
- **For example**, SBI account with HSBC in U.K. (may be).

VOSTRO Account

- Italian word 'vostro' means 'yours'. Hence, Vostro account points at – **"Your account with us"**.
- Vostro accounts are generally held by a foreign bank in our country (with a domestic bank). It generally maintained in Indian Rupee (if we consider India).
- **For example**, HSBC account is held with SBI in India. (may be).

1.72. ACCORDING TO THE WORLD BANK, INDIA WOULD NEED TO INVEST \$840 BILLION OVER THE NEXT 15 YEARS, THAT IS, AN AVERAGE OF \$55 BILLION EACH YEAR, TO MEET THE DEMANDS OF ITS FAST-GROWING URBAN POPULATION.

About:

- Its latest report, titled 'Financing India's Urban Infrastructure Needs: Constraints to Commercial Financing and Prospects for Policy Action', puts forth the urgent requirement to leverage greater private and commercial investments to meet the emerging financial gaps.



Highlights:

- Financing on a repayable basis can be done either through debt, private lending or public-private partnership investments.
- These require a recurrent source of revenue to meet obligations, thus, mandating raising adequate resources.
- Much of the urban infrastructure in India is financed by tied intergovernmental fiscal transfers, that is, vertical and horizontal transfer of finance for attaining certain objectives sub-nationally.
- Of the finances needed to fund capital expenditures for Indian cities, 48% is derived from State governments, 24% from the Central government and 15% from urban local bodies' own surplus.
- The rest includes public-private partnership (3%), commercial debt (2%) and loans from Housing and Urban Development Corporation, or HUDCO (8%).
- The report argues that the overall funding base to raise commercial revenues "appears to be low" owing to weak fiscal performance of cities and low absorptive capacity for execution of projects.
- The report states that city agencies have been unable to expand their resource and funding base to support private financing for services such as water supply, sewerage networks and bus services, as they are highly subsidised.

Solutions:

- The central idea is to increase cities' fiscal base and creditworthiness.
- For improving their fiscal base, it states, cities must institute a buoyant revenue base and be able to recover the cost of providing its services.
- The latter could be attained by revising property taxes, user fees and service charges, among other streams, from the current low base.

1.73. IFSCA SIGNS MoU WITH RBI IN THE FIELD OF REGULATION, SUPERVISION OF REGULATED ENTITIES.

- The International Financial Services Centres Authority, IFSCA and the Reserve Bank of India have signed a Memorandum of Understanding for collaboration in the field of regulation and supervision of regulated entities.
- As per an official statement, the MoU facilitates technical cooperation and exchange of information.
- The agreement aims to strengthen the safety, stability and soundness of respective financial ecosystems, thereby ensuring conducive environments for optimal business development and economic growth.
- While RBI is the central bank and monetary authority of India, the International Financial Services Centres Authority is a unified regulator responsible for development and regulation of financial products, financial services and financial institutions in the International Financial Services Centre (s), established across the country.



1.74. ELECTORAL BONDS WORTH Rs 10,246 CRORE SOLD BY STATE BANK OF INDIA IN 21 TRANCHES.

- Electoral bonds worth Rs 10,246 crore have been sold by the State Bank of India (SBI) since the instrument was launched in March 2018.

- Electoral bonds have been pitched as an alternative to cash donations made to political parties as part of efforts to bring transparency to political funding.
- Only 0.25 per cent in value terms were from one lakh, ten thousand and one thousand denominations.
- SBI has been authorised to issue and encash electoral bonds through 29 authorised branches. The authorised SBI branches include those in Lucknow, Shimla, Dehradun, Kolkata, Guwahati, Chennai, Patna, New Delhi, Chandigarh, Srinagar, Gandhinagar, Bhopal, Raipur, and Mumbai.
- The sale of the first batch of electoral bonds started on March 1-10, 2018.
- An electoral bond is valid for 15 days from the date of issuance. No payment can be made to any political party if the bond is deposited after the expiry of the validity period.
- Electoral bonds can be purchased by Indian citizens or entities incorporated or established in the country.
- Registered political parties that have secured not less than 1 per cent of the votes polled in the last Lok Sabha or legislative Assembly election are eligible to receive funding through electoral bonds.
- Electoral Bond (EB) is a bearer instrument in the nature of a Promissory Note and an interest-free banking instrument.
- The government, on January 2, 2018, notified the Electoral Bond Scheme, 2018 to establish and cleanse the system of political funding in the country.
- As per provisions of the scheme, electoral bonds may be purchased by a person, who is a citizen of India or entities incorporated or established in India
- The purchaser is allowed to buy an electoral bond(s) only on due fulfilment of all the extant instructions regarding KYC norms issued by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and by making payment from a bank account.
- All payments for the issuance of the bond are accepted only in Indian rupees, through demand draft or cheque through Electronic Clearing System or direct debit to the buyer's account.



1.75. RBI ANNOUNCES LAUNCH OF DIGITAL RUPEE ON 1 DECEMBER.

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced the launch of the first pilot for retail digital Rupee on 1 December. The digital rupee would be in the form of a digital token that represents legal tender.
- The project would cover select locations in a closed user group (CUG) comprising participating customers and merchants.
- The e-Rupee would be in the form of a digital token that represents legal tender. It would be issued in the same denominations that paper currency and coins are currently issued.
- It would be distributed through intermediaries, i.e., banks. Users will be able to transact with e-Rupee through a digital wallet offered by the participating banks and stored on mobile phones/devices.
- Transactions can be both Person to Person (P2P) and Person to Merchant (P2M). Payments to merchants can be made using QR codes displayed at merchant locations. The e-Rupee would offer features of physical cash like trust, safety and settlement finality.
- As in the case of cash, it will not earn any interest and can be converted to other forms of money, like deposits with banks.
- The pilot project will test the robustness of the entire process of digital rupee creation, distribution and retail usage in real-time. Different features and applications of the e-Rupee token and architecture will be tested in future pilots, based on the learnings from this pilot.
- Eight banks have been identified for phase-wise participation in this pilot. The first phase will begin with four banks, viz., State Bank of India, ICICI Bank, Yes Bank and IDFC First Bank in four cities across the country.



Four more banks, viz., Bank of Baroda, Union Bank of India, HDFC Bank and Kotak Mahindra Bank will join this pilot subsequently.

- The pilot would initially cover four cities, viz., Mumbai, New Delhi, Bengaluru and Bhubaneswar and later extend to Ahmedabad, Gangtok, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Indore, Kochi, Lucknow, Patna and Shimla.
- According to the RBI, the scope of the pilot may be expanded gradually to include more banks, users and locations as needed.

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DEFENCE

1.76. SECOND EDITION OF NAVAL COMMANDERS' CONFERENCE OF 2022 BEGINS IN NEW DELHI.

- The second edition of Naval Commanders' Conference of 2022 begins in New Delhi.
- During the Four-day conference, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will address and interact with the Naval Commanders on matters pertaining to national security.
- The Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan and the Chiefs of the Indian Army and the Indian Air Force would also interact with the Naval Commanders.
- During the conference, the Chief of the Naval Staff, along with other Naval Commanders will review major Operational, Material, Logistics, Human Resource Development, Training and Administrative activities undertaken by the Indian Navy in the last few months.
- They will further deliberate upon future plans for important activities and initiatives. The conference would also dwell upon the dynamics of the geostrategic situation of the region and the Navy's readiness to deal with the same.



1.77. DRDO SUCCESSFULLY CONDUCTS MAIDEN FLIGHT-TEST OF PHASE-II BALLISTIC MISSILE DEFENCE INTERCEPTOR.

- Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) has conducted a successful maiden flight-test of Phase-II Ballistic Missile Defence (BMD) interceptor AD-1 missile from APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha.
- The flight-test was carried out with the participation of all BMD weapon system elements located at different geographical locations.
- The AD-1 is a long-range interceptor missile designed for both low exo-atmospheric and endo-atmospheric interception of long-range ballistic missiles as well as aircraft.
- It is propelled by a two-stage solid motor and equipped with indigenously-developed advanced control system, navigation and guidance algorithm to precisely guide the vehicle to the target.
- It is a unique type of interceptor with advanced technologies available with a very few nations in the world.
- He exuded confidence that it will further strengthen the country's BMD capability to the next level.
- Secretary, Department of Defence R&D and Chairman, DRDO Dr Samir V Kamat also congratulated his team on the successful trial.



1.78. ARMY APPROVES FIVE NICHE TECH PROJECTS FOR DEVELOPMENT BY DOMESTIC INDUSTRY.

- The Army has approved five Project Sanction Orders (PSOs) for development of niche technology by the Indian industry under Make-II route of defence procurement. The projects include High Frequency Man Packed Software Defined Radios (HFSDR), drone kill systems, Infantry Training Weapon Simulator (IWTS), Medium Range Precision Kill Systems (MRPKS) and 155mm Terminally Guided Munitions (TGM).

- Make II projects are essentially industry funded projects involving design, development and innovative solutions by Indian vendors for development of prototypes. An assurance of order is given after successful prototype development.
- The Army is already progressing 43 projects under the Make II procedure of capital acquisition. Seventeen out of 43 projects have been initiated through suo motu proposals received from the industry, which has generated enthusiasm and confidence in the Indian defence industry for participation in the “Make procedure”, it said in a statement.
- “The PSO for development of prototype of HFSDR under Make-II scheme has been issued to 14 Developing Agencies (DA). These radio sets will replace the existing HF radio sets in the inventory, which have limited data handling capability and obsolete technology,” Army said in a statement.



Drone kill systems

- Similarly, PSO given to 18 DAs for procurement of 35 sets of drone kill systems under the Make-II scheme, post successful development of prototype. The project is reserved for start-ups and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). Drone kill system is a hard kill anti-drone system against low Radio Cross Section drones.
- The IWTS is the first triservice Make-II project with the Army as the lead service, the statement said. The PSO has been issued to four DAs to develop the prototype for subsequent procurement of 125 systems. This is also reserved for MSMEs and start-ups.
- Similarly, PSO has been issued to six DAs for development of 155 mm TGMs while PSO has been issued to 15 DAs for developing a prototype of MRPKS.
- On the 155mm TGM, the Army said variants of the ammunition have been held in the inventory, sans the precision strike capability. The Indian Army therefore plans to procure approximately 2000 rounds of 155mm TGM against High Value Targets with assured precision and lethality for mission accomplishment and minimum collateral damage, it stated.
- On the MRPKS, the Army said post successful development of the prototype, it intends to procure 10 sets of them. The MRPKS, once launched can ‘loiter’ in the air for up to two hours and can acquire, designate and engage real-time high value targets up to 40 km, the statement said.
- On the progress on Make-II progress so far, the statement added that 22 out of 43 projects are now in prototype development stage, which is 66% of projects by cost, ₹18,000 crore out of ₹27,000 crore.

1.79. DRDO LAUNCHES SUBMERSIBLE PLATFORM AT NPOL, TO GIVE BOOST TO SELF-RELIANCE IN DEFENCE.

- Giving a boost to self-reliance, Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) launched Hull Module of Submersible Platform for Acoustic Characterization and Evaluation (SPACE) facility at Naval Physical and Oceanographic Laboratory (NPOL) Kochi recently.
- It is a state-of-the-art testing and evaluation facility for sonar systems developed for use by the Indian navy onboard various platforms, including ships, submarines and helicopters.
- The SPACE facility is based on the concept design and requirements projected by the NPOL and constructed by Larsen and Toubro(L&T) Shipbuilding, Chennai. This will be mainly utilized for evaluating sonar systems, allowing for quick deployment and easy recovery of scientific packages such as sensors and transducers.



- The SPACE is one-of-a-kind facility in the world. The uniqueness of this facility lies in the specially designed submersible platform, which can be lowered up to depths of 100 meters using a series of synchronously operated winches.
- The design and construction of the platform meet all the statutory needs of Indian Register of Shipping and the vessel classifying authority and strictly adhere to the inspection and registration criteria as per Kerala Inland Vessel Rules, they said.

1.80. SEVENTH EDITION OF INDO-FRENCH JOINT AIR EXERCISE CULMINATES IN JODHPUR.

- The seventh edition of the bilateral air exercise between the Indian Air Force (IAF) and the French Air and Space Force (FAF), 'Exercise Garuda-VII' concluded at Air Force Station, Jodhpur.
- In a statement, the Defence Ministry said, that Exercise Garuda-VII provided the two Air Forces with the opportunity for professional interaction and sharing of operational knowledge and experience.
- With meticulous planning and execution of various phases of the exercise, personnel of the IAF and the FAF were exposed to realistic air combat simulations and the associated Combat Support Operations.
- This enabled the participating contingents to engage in wide-ranging interactions, providing valuable insight into each other's best practices.
- The exercise also provided a platform for cultural exchange between the Air Force personnel of both countries.



1.81. INDIA, US TO HOLD JOINT TRAINING EXERCISE IN UTTARAKHAND THIS MONTH.

- The 18th edition of the Indo-US joint training exercise "YUDH ABHYAS 22" will be conducted in Uttarakhand this month.
- The exercise is conducted annually by the two countries with the aim of exchanging best practices, Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures between the Armies.
- The previous edition of the exercise was conducted at the Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson, Alaska (USA) in October 2021.
- US Army soldiers of the 2nd Brigade of the 11th Airborne Division and Indian Army soldiers from the ASSAM Regiment will be participating in the exercise.
- The training schedule focuses on the employment of an integrated battle group under Chapter VII of the UN Mandate. The schedule will include all operations related to peacekeeping & peace enforcement.
- The troops from both nations will work together to achieve common objectives. The joint exercise will also focus on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations. Troops from both nations will practice launching swift and coordinated relief efforts in the wake of any natural calamity.
- In order to derive full benefit from the professional skills and experiences of both armies, a Command Post Exercise and Expert Academic Discussions (EAD) on carefully selected topics will be carried out.
- The scope of the Field Training Exercise includes the validation of integrated battle groups, force multipliers, establishment and functioning of surveillance grids, validation of operational logistics, mountain warfare skills, casualty evacuation and combat medical aid in adverse terrain and climatic conditions.
- The exercise will involve exchanges and practices on a wide spectrum of combat skills including combat engineering, employment of UAS/Counter UAS techniques and information operations.



- "The exercise will facilitate both Armies to share their wide experiences, and skills and enhance their techniques through information exchange," the Ministry of Defence said.

1.82. THIRD EDITION OF PAN INDIA COASTAL DEFENCE EXERCISE 'SEA VIGIL-22' CONDUCTED.

- The third edition of the 'Pan-India' Coastal Defence Exercise 'Sea Vigil-22' took place on November 15-16, 2022. The exercise was a build up towards the major Theatre Level Readiness Operational Exercise (TROPEX), which the Indian Navy conducts every two years. Sea Vigil and TROPEX together will cover the entire spectrum of Maritime Security challenges.

What is exercise Sea Vigil?

- This National Level Coastal Defence Exercise was conceptualised in 2018 to validate various measures that have been instituted towards enhancing maritime security since '26/11'. It was aimed to jointly conduct operations with the Coast Guard and the police forces of coastal states spanning India's 7,516-kilometre coastline.
- The exercise also included India's two million square km Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), involving all coastal states and Union Territories, along with other maritime stakeholders, including the fishing and coastal communities.
- Coastal Security being a major sub-set of Coastal Defence construct, the concept of 'Sea Vigil' is to activate the Coastal Security apparatus across India and assess the overarching Coastal Defence mechanism.
- The exercise is being conducted by the Indian Navy in coordination with the Coast Guard and other Ministries entrusted with the task of maritime activities.
- The scale and conceptual expanse of the exercise is unprecedented in terms of the geographical extent, the number of stakeholders involved, the number of units participating and in terms of the objectives to be met.
- Assets of the Indian Navy, Coast Guard, Customs and other maritime agencies participated in Ex Sea Vigil.

Operational Dimensions

- While smaller scale exercises are conducted in Coastal States regularly, including combined exercises amongst adjoining states, the exercise Sea Vigil at the national level is aimed to serve a larger purpose. It provides opportunity, at the apex level, to assess the country's preparedness in Maritime Security and Coastal Defence.



1.83. INDIA, JAPAN, AUSTRALIA, US HOLD MALABAR NAVAL EXERCISE.

- The navies of India, Japan, Australia and the US concluded the 26th edition of the multinational maritime exercise "MALABAR 22" in the seas off Japan. This edition also marked the 30th anniversary of the exercise and was hosted by the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF).
- The Indian Navy was represented by Eastern Fleet ships Shivalik and Kamorta led by Rear Admiral Sanjay Bhalla, Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Fleet.
- The Malabar series of exercises began in 1992 as a bilateral exercise between the navies of India and the US and gained further prominence after the navies of Australia and Japan joined the drills.
- The sea phase of "MALABAR 22" was conducted over a period of five days near Yokosuka and witnessed live weapon firings, surface, anti-air and anti-submarine warfare drills and tactical procedures. Another highlight of the sea phase was the conduct of the "War at Sea" exercise which enabled all four navies to consolidate interoperability and hone their tactical skills.



- The high-tempo exercise saw the participation of eleven surface ships, including a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier with its integral air elements, along with four long-range maritime patrol aircraft, integral helicopters and two submarines. The exercise also involved the exchange of 'Sea Riders' between various participating ships.
- Apart from operational drills and exercises, the bilateral logistics support agreements between the participating countries were validated during this edition of exercise Malabar.
- The exercise helped enhance understanding of each other's' operational methodologies and ability to cooperate to tackle myriad maritime challenges, the Ministry of Defence said.

1.84. INDIAN NAVY TO HOLD INDO-PACIFIC REGIONAL DIALOGUE ON NOV 23, 2022.

- With China adopting an aggressive stance in the Indo-Pacific, security experts and strategic thinkers will review its impact on the region during the three-day conference at New Delhi beginning November 23.
- It is part of the Indian Navy's annual international meet called the "Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue" (IPRD).
- The overarching theme of this year's conference is Operationalising the "Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative" (IPOI) Programme. The discourse is being led by the National Maritime Foundation(NMF), which is also the Indian Navy's knowledge partner.
- In 2018, the initial conception of an IPRD was made. With the exception of 2020, when it had to be postponed owing to the Covid-19 epidemic, the event has been hosted annually since its initial year in 2018.
- The IPRD reviews the current geopolitics in the Indo-Pacific region and identifies opportunities, dangers, and problems that might be present. It is difficult to exaggerate how important the IPRD is since it is not only essential to India's own policy-formulation but also to all other nations in the region.
- Additionally, IPRD remains crucial to its interests because one of the main goals of the NMF is to conduct analyses of international relations and geopolitical factors that are important to India strategically, with the aim of proposing maritime Confidence-Building Measures (CBMs) and amplifying maritime cooperation among seafaring nations as well as to achieve a sustainable security environment in the Indo-Pacific Region.
- As the term "Indo-Pacific," recognises the geopolitical unity of littoral nation-states of the Indian Ocean and the Pacific Ocean across a primarily oceanic regional-expanse, it has become intrinsic to global political, economic, and strategic discourse over the past ten years, and as such the Indo-Pacific region continues to be synonymous with the IPRD.



1.85. KEEN SWORD MILITARY EXERCISE.

- The joint military exercise – Keen Sword 23 – is being held from November 10 to 19 this year.

What is the Keen Sword exercise?

- Exercise Keen Sword is a joint and bilateral field training exercise between the US military and the Japan Self-Defence Force.
- It is held once in two years to boost the preparedness and interoperability between the military personnel of Japan and the United States.
- This biennial exercise has been held since 1986.
- This exercise provides opportunities for the US military and the JSDF to train together across various mission areas in realistic scenarios.
- Its ultimate goal is to build credible deterrence amid growing Chinese aggression in the region.



- It aims to create comprehensive scenarios to challenge the critical capabilities required to support the security of Japan and the stability of the Indo-Pacific.

About Exercise Keen Sword 2023

- The two-week-long exercise was held around Tokunoshima Island, situated southwest of Japan. It includes the participation of 26,000 personnel from JSDF and another 10,000 personnel from the US military. A total of 4 warships and 2 aeroplanes from Australia, Canada and Britain also participated in the military exercise.
- The exercise includes several anti-submarine warfare and surface gunnery events that will help the Pacific partners to improve their joint and advance multilateral tactics.
- It also focuses on responding to ballistic missiles and new threats like operations in space and cyberspace. Simulations drills on remote islands is a major focus area of the exercise Tokunoshima Island in Kagoshima Prefecture.

Why is this exercise significant?

- The exercise comes amid the Chinese military's growing presence near Taiwan, the neighbouring country of Japan. Also, the Chinese vessels are continuously trespassing into the Japanese territorial waters close to the Senkaku Islands in the Indo-Pacific.
- The Senkaku Islands are Japanese-controlled, uninhabited islands in the East China Sea. China is currently claiming that these islands are part of its territory.

1.86. COAST GUARDS TO GET 2 VESSELS FROM GSL FOR EFFECTIVE POLLUTION MONITORING AND RESPONSE.

About:

- For effective pollution monitoring and response, the Indian Coast Guard will get two more new generation vessels from Goa Shipyards Ltd (GSL) by 2025. The keel laying ceremony for the two pollution control vessels, GSL Yard 1267 and 1268, took place at the Goa Shipyard.
- The vessel, with an overall length of 114.5 meters, breadth of 16.5 meters and a draft of 4.5 meters, is capable of carrying a of 129 personnel, 14 officers and 115 sailors, onboard. The vessel's maximum speed will be 22 knots with an endurance of 6,000 nautical miles.
- These vessels have been designed for the first time in India.
- The GSL bagged the contract for two PCVs, which will be delivered by February 2025 and August 2025, through competitive bidding which saw participation from both, public as well as private shipyards.
- The ships will be capable of carrying out dedicated oil spill response operations for containment, recovery, separation and dispersal of pollutants. The vessel will be fitted with latest pollution control equipment including two flush type side sweeping arms enabling it to contain oil spill whilst in motion.
- An advanced software would assist in predicting the spread of the complex oil spill pattern and dynamic positioning system will enable the vessel to be maneuvered in restricted areas with precision.
- The vessel is being designed to recover the lightest to the most viscous oil at the rate of 300 tonnes per hour, and is also fitted with fire-fighting and salvage systems.
- Besides this, the GSL will hand over 8 Fast Patrol Vessels to the Coast Guard, from 2024 onwards. These specially designed FPVs are medium range weapon fitted surface vessels capable of operation in coastal waters and around island territories to protect offshore assets, said the GSL.



1.87. INDIAN, INDONESIAN TROOPS ENGAGE IN JOINT TRAINING EXERCISE 'GARUDA SHAKTI' IN KARAWANG

- A contingent of Indian Special Forces troops are currently engaged in a bilateral joint training Exercise GARUDA SHAKTI with Indonesian Special Forces at Sangga Buana Training Area, in Karawang in Indonesia.

- The Exercise is the eighth edition of the series of bilateral exercises under this banner and this is a part of military-to-military exchange programs.
- The exercise which commenced on 21st November 2022 aims at enhancing understanding, cooperation and interoperability between the Special Forces of both armies.



1.88. ASEAN TO TAKE PART IN IAF DRILL FROM NOV 28.

- The Indian Air Force (IAF) will conduct its annual joint humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) exercise “Samanvay 2022” from November 28 to 30 at Agra.
- The objective of the exercise is to assess the efficacy of institutional disaster management structures and contingency measures. It will comprise a seminar on disaster management and a “multi-agency exercise” involving static and flying aspects of several assets needed for the HADR operations.
- ASEAN representatives and several stakeholders within the country will participate in the three-day exercise.
- The armed forces, National Disaster Response Force, Defence Research and Development Organisation and Border Roads Organisation will also be part of the “Samanvay 2022”.
- The exercise is expected to contribute to the evolution of institutional frameworks for effective communication, interoperability, cooperation and their application for successful conduct of the HADR operations.
- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will be the chief guest at the capability demonstration planned during the exercise on November 29.



1.89. COAST GUARD DECOMMISSIONS SHIP ‘SAROJINI NAIDU’.

- The Indian Coast Guard ship Sarojini Naidu, which rendered two decades of meritorious service in maritime security, was decommissioned with full military honours at a ceremony at Odisha’s Paradip coast.
- As the sun disappeared over the horizon on Friday, the CG ship was accorded a warm farewell traditional military ceremony.
- The ship has glorified the name in Indian and foreign shores and has been the first of its class in the fleet of Indian Coast Guard, said the Coast Guard personnel.
- The farewell ceremony to decommission the ship was presided over by DIG YK Singh, Commander Coast Guard, Odisha.
- The occasion was graced by various civil and military dignitaries besides previous Commanding Officers and crew of the vessel.
- During the ceremony, an impressive Guard of Honour was paraded and with sunset the Coast Guard Ensign was hauled down on the ship for the last time. Soon after ‘Decommissioning Pennant’ which is equal to the length of the ship was lowered.



- The ship has been flying the National Flag and Coast Guard Ensign with great pride and honour during its illustrious career spanning over 20 years of commission.
- ICGS Sarojini Naidu was first of its water jet series, known as a fast patrol vessel (FPV) and built by Goa Shipyard Limited, Goa. The previous Commanding Officers along with a number of officers and sailors who had earlier served onboard were also present at the venue to bid a fond farewell to the ship.
- The Commanding Officer of the ship Commandant Jagannath Behera made the final decommissioning report to Commander Coast Guard, Odisha.

1.90. INDIA-AUSTRALIA BILATERAL MILITARY TRAINING EXERCISE 'AUSTRALIA HIND 22'.

- The bilateral training exercise "AUSTRALIA HIND 22" between contingents of the Indian Army and the Australian Army is scheduled to take place at Mahajan Field Firing Ranges (Rajasthan) from November 28 to 11th December 2022.
- This is the first exercise in the series of AUSTRALIA HIND with the participation of all arms and services contingent from both armies.
- The Australian Army contingent comprising soldiers from the 13th Brigade of the 2nd Division has arrived at the exercise location.
- The Indian Army is represented by troops from the DOGRA Regiment.
- Exercise "AUSTRALIA HIND" will be a yearly event that will be conducted alternatively in India and Australia.
- The aim of the exercise is to build positive military relations, imbibe each other's best practices and promote the ability to operate together while undertaking multi-domain operations in Semi deserts terrain under a UN peace enforcement mandate.



1.91. RECENTLY, INDIAN NAVY LAUNCHED 'IKSHAK', THE THIRD OF THE FOUR SURVEY VESSELS (LARGE) PROJECT AT KATTUPALLI IN TAMIL NADU.

About

- The ship, named 'Ikshak' which means 'Guide', is being built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) and Larson and Toubro (L&T).
- The ship's name honours the role that Survey ships have played in ensuring the safety of mariners when at sea.
- The first of class ship 'Sandhayak' was launched on December 5, 2021 at GRSE, Kolkata. SVL ships will replace the existing Sandhayak Class survey ships with new generation hydrographic equipment to collect oceanographic data.
- Despite challenges due to COVID-19 pandemic, L&T and GRSE have made substantial progress and aim to deliver 'Ikshak' by Oct 2023. Launch of the third Survey Vessel reinforces our resolve for indigenous shipbuilding as part of our Prime Minister's vision of 'Make in India', and thrust to the vision of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'.
- The Survey Vessels Large will have over 80% indigenous content by cost. This will also ensure that large scale defence production are executed by Indian manufacturing units thereby generating employment and capability build up within the country



About the ship

- The Survey Vessel (Large) ships are 110 m long, and 16 m wide with a deep displacement of 3400 tons and a complement of 231 personnel.
- The ship's propulsion system consists of two main engines with twin shafts, each capable of a **maximum speed of 18 knots and a cruise speed of 14 knots.**

1.92. INDIA-MALAYSIA JOINT MILITARY EXERCISE HARIMAU SHAKTI 2022 BEGINS IN MALAYSIA.

- India-Malaysia joint military Exercise Harimau Shakti-2022 started at Pulau Klang in Malaysia.
- Defence Ministry said, HARIMAU SHAKTI will enhance the defence cooperation between Indian Army and the Malaysian Army.
- It said, combat troops of the Garhwal Rifles Regiment of the Indian Army and the Royal Malay Regiment of the Malaysian Army are participating in the exercise.
- The military exercise will enhance interoperability in planning and execution of various operations in jungle terrain.
- During the exercise, emphasis will be made on developing tactical skills and enhancing interoperability between the two forces.
- HARIMAU SHAKTI is an annual training event between Indian and Malaysian armies which has been conducted since 2012.



INDEX AND REPORTS

1.93. INTERNATIONAL ENERGY AGENCY (IEA) RECENTLY PUBLISHED WORLD ENERGY OUTLOOK 2022.

About:

- This flagship publication of the IEA has appeared every year since 1998.
- Its objective data and dispassionate analysis provide critical insights into global energy supply and demand in different scenarios and the implications for energy security, climate targets and economic development.



Highlights:

- According to the World Energy Outlook 2022, Russia's invasion of Ukraine is a historic turning point in global energy markets, providing an unprecedented incentive to accelerate the transition to clean energy sources of fuel.
- Electricity and heat demand in the winter months shoot up in the Northern Hemisphere, so it is likely to be a challenging time for the European Union for the next couple of years.
- The global energy crisis has sparked desperate attempts from governments to promote energy security.
- Oil currently comprises 80 per cent of the global energy mix, but it may drop to 75 per cent by 2030 and around 60 per cent by 2050.

IEA's report talks mostly in terms of two models –

1. **stated policies scenario (STEPS) and**
 2. **announced pledges scenario (APS).**
 - **STEPS** provides a more conservative benchmark for the future, because it does not take it for granted that governments will reach all announced goals.
 - Instead, it takes a more granular, sector-by-sector look at what has actually been put in place to reach these and other energy-related objectives, taking into account not just existing policies and measures but also those that are under development.
 - **APS** aims to show to what extent the announced ambitions and targets, including the most recent ones, are on the path to deliver emissions reductions required to achieve net zero emissions by 2050.
- **India:**
 - India's coal generation and oil imports are going to peak in 2030, while gas imports will double around the same time.
 - India became the world's second-largest coal producer in 2021 (in energy terms), overtaking Australia and Indonesia, and that it plans to increase domestic production by more than 100 million tonnes of coal equivalent (Mtce) by 2025 from the current levels.
 - At present, India accounts for just over 10 percent of global coal consumption, after China which accounts for 55 percent.

1.94. UNION MINISTER OF JAL SHAKTI RELEASES REPORT OF DYNAMIC GROUND WATER RESOURCE ASSESSMENT FOR THE COUNTRY FOR THE YEAR 2022.

- The Union Minister of Jal Shakti, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat released the Dynamic Ground Water Resource Assessment Report for the entire country for the year 2022.
- The assessment was carried out jointly by Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) and States/UTs, which can be used for taking suitable interventions by various stake-holders.

As per the 2022 assessment report,

- Assessment indicates increase in ground water recharge
- Analysis indicates improvement in ground water conditions in 909 assessment units in the country compared with 2017 assessment data
- Total annual ground water recharge for entire country is 437.60 billion cubic meters (BCM)
- Annual ground water extraction for the entire country is 239.16 BCM
- Out of total 7089 assessment units, 1006 units categorized as 'Over-exploited'
- Such joint exercises between CGWB & States/UTs were carried out earlier in 1980, 1995, 2004, 2009, 2011, 2013, 2017 and 2020
- A detailed analysis of the information collected from the assessment indicates increase in ground water recharge which may mainly be attributed to increase in recharge from canal seepage, return flow of irrigation water and recharges from water bodies/tanks & water conservation structures.
- Further, analysis indicates improvement in ground water conditions in 909 assessment units in the country when compared with 2017 assessment data.
- In addition, overall decrease in number of over-exploited units and decrease in stage of groundwater extraction level have also been observed.



1.95. INDIA SAVES \$4.2 BN IN FUEL COSTS VIA SOLAR GENERATION IN FIRST HALF OF 2022: REPORT

- According to a study, India saved \$4.2 billion in fuel costs through solar energy generation and avoided an additional 19.4 million tonne (mt) of coal in the first half of the year.
- The report also said the contribution of solar generation in seven Asian countries – China, India, Japan, South Korea, Vietnam, the Philippines, and Thailand – avoided fossil fuel costs of approximately \$34 billion from January to June 2022.
- The report compiled by energy think tank Ember said India had been facing the high price of coal and this is one of the main factors in the ongoing power crises. However, the country managed to save \$4.2 billion in fuel costs in the reviewed period and also avoided the use for an additional 19.4 mt that could have further stressed the strained domestic energy supply.
- The report said as many countries continue to revise their energy development plans, the volatility in commodity markets and the record-breaking fuel costs affecting the price of electricity everywhere must serve as a warning against continued fossil fuel dependence. This needs to be translated into more ambitious solar deployments, capitalising on the massive solar potential in the region, the think tank said in the report.
- Solar on the grid is already contributing meaningfully to meeting electricity demand, the report said. Assuming solar replaced the most expensive fossil-based electricity (i.e. either coal, gas, or oil), the think tank said its analysis found that the contribution of solar generation in seven Asian countries – China, India, Japan, South Korea, Vietnam, the Philippines, and Thailand – avoided fossil fuel costs of approximately \$34 billion from January to June 2022.
- The majority of these estimated savings were in China, where solar met 5 per cent of the total electricity demand and avoided approximately \$21 billion in fossil fuels imports from January to June 2022, the report said.
- Japan saw the second biggest contribution with \$5.6 billion in avoided fuel costs thanks to solar power generation alone, which reached record levels for the country in May this year, the think tank said in the report.



- Vietnam's solar power avoided \$1.7 billion in potential fossil fuel costs, it said, adding that notably, Vietnam's solar generation was close to zero Terawatt-hour (TWh) in 2018. In 2022, solar accounted for 11 per cent (14 TWh) of electricity demand from January to June, the report said.
- In Thailand and the Philippines, where the growth in solar has been slower, the avoided fuel cost is still notable, the think tank said in a report. While solar only accounted for 2 per cent of Thailand's electricity in the first six months of 2022, an estimated \$209 million of potential fossil fuel costs were avoided. Similarly, the report said the Philippines avoided \$78 million in fuel costs, despite solar accounting for only 1.7 per cent of generation.
- In South Korea, solar had a 5% generation share in the first half of the year, avoiding potential fossil fuel use costing \$1.5 billion.
- In many geographies, the think tank says solar power offers the cheapest electricity in history. In the wake of soaring fossil fuel prices, the importance of diversified and domestic renewable energy has only become clearer. The report said the cost of continued reliance on expensive fossil fuels is evident in the supply crunches and increasing electricity prices that many countries are seeing today.

1.96. DENMARK TOPPED THE RULE OF LAW INDEX 2022.

- **The report is a compilation of the 'rule of law' status across 140 countries worldwide.**

About:

- It was released by an international civil society organisation, World Justice Project (WJP).
- According to the report, the rule of law has declined globally for the fifth consecutive year.
- It says that the checks on executive power are weakening, and respect for human rights is falling.



4.4 billion people live in a country where rule of law is declining.

World Justice Project

RULE OF LAW INDEX 2022

Top and bottom performers:

- **The top-ranked country** in the WJP Rule of Law Index 2022 is Denmark, followed by Norway (2), Finland (3), Sweden (4), and the Netherlands (5).
- **The bottom ranked countries** are Venezuela (140), Cambodia (139), Afghanistan (138), the Democratic Republic of Congo (137), and Haiti (136).

India:

- India has been **ranked 77 out of 140 countries** with a score of **50 on the 'rule of law index'**.
- Globally, India ranks 94 out of 140 as far as adherence to fundamental rights are concerned, 111 out of 140 in civil justice, 89 out of 140 in criminal justice and 93 out of 140 in absence of corruption.

Neighbouring countries:

- Bangladesh scored 0.39 in the 127th rank, Pakistan settled with a 0.39 score at the 129th rank, and China scored 0.47 in the 95th rank.
- Notably, Nepal has performed better than its neighbours, with a 0.52 score and 69th rank.

Factors:

- The index is prepared by examining these four principles through eight factors- **constraints on government powers, absence of corruption, open government, fundamental rights, order and security, regulatory enforcement, civil justice, and criminal justice.**

Rule of Law:

- The World Justice Project **defines the rule of law** as a durable system of laws, institutions, norms, and community commitment that delivers: accountability, just laws, open government, and accessible justice.

World Justice Project (WJP):

- The World Justice Project (WJP) is an independent, multidisciplinary organization working create knowledge, build awareness, and stimulate action to advance the rule of law worldwide.
- It was founded by William H. Neukom in 2006 as a presidential initiative of the American Bar Association (ABA).

Law and Order Index of 2022:

- The survey was conducted by a **global analytics firm called Gallup.**
- **India has scored 80 points and has secured the 60th rank on the index** that ranges from one to 100, a higher score indicating that more people feel secure in a country.
- It has declared East Asia as the most secure region in the world and Taliban-occupied Afghanistan as the least secured country for the third year.
- The first survey conducted by the firm was in 1938 in the United Kingdom.
- The survey evaluated around 120 countries based on the safety and security of the country's citizens.

1.97. INDIA CLIMBS SIX PLACES TO 61ST RANK IN NETWORK READINESS INDEX 2022 REPORT.

- India has improved its position by six slots and is now placed at 61st rank as per the Network Readiness Index 2022 report released recently. In its latest version of 2022, the report maps the network-based readiness landscape of 131 economies based on their performances in four different pillars technology, people, governance, and impact.
- India has not only improved its ranking but also improved its score from 49.74 in 2021 to 51.19 in 2022.
- The report states that India secured 1st rank in AI talent concentration, the second rank in Mobile broadband internet traffic within the country and International Internet bandwidth, third rank in Annual investment in telecommunication services and Domestic market size, fourth rank in ICT Services exports, fifth rank in FTTH and Building Internet subscriptions and AI scientific publications.
- The report was prepared by the Portland Institute, an independent non-profit, nonpartisan research and educational institute based in Washington DC. The report mention that India has a greater network readiness than would be expected given its income level.
- The country is ranked third out of 36 in the group of lower-middle-income countries after Ukraine and Indonesia.

**1.98. DISCOUNTS LIFT RUSSIA'S FERTILIZER EXPORTS, BECOMES TOP SUPPLIER TO INDIA: REPORT**

- Russia for the first time became the biggest fertilizer supplier to India in the first half of the 2022-23 fiscal year by offering discounts over prevailing global prices, cornering more than a fifth of the market share, government and industry sources said.
- India's fertilizer imports from Russia surged 371% to a record 2.15 million tonnes in the first six months of the year started on April 1.
- In value terms, India's imports during the period spiked 765% to \$1.6 billion, he said. In the last entire fiscal year India imported 1.26 million tonnes from Russia.



- Fertilizer prices jumped in the world market from March onwards after Western countries-imposed sanctions on the fertilizer shipments from Russia and Belarus, key exporters, in the wake of Moscow's invasion of Ukraine.
 - Combined, Russia and Belarus accounted for more than 40% of global exports of potash last year.
 - Russia accounted for about 22% of global exports of ammonia, 14% of the world's urea exports and about 14% of monoammonium phosphate (MAP) - all key kinds of fertilizers.
 - In June, India secured di-ammonium phosphate (DAP) from Russia at \$920-925 per tonne on a cost and freight basis (CFR), when other Asian buyers were paying more than \$1,000, industry officials said.
 - The surge in Russian supplies halved China's exports to India to 1.78 million tonnes in the first half of 2022/23.
 - Exports from other destinations such as Jordan, Egypt and the United Arab Emirates also fell. In the 2021/22 financial year Russia's share in Indian imports was around 6%, while China cornered 24%.
 - Russia's market share jumped to 21% in the first half of 2022/23, surpassing China as the biggest supplier to India, the official said.
 - Indian buying from Russia has not only helped local farmers, but also other import-dependent countries such as Brazil, Argentina, Malaysia, and Indonesia by curbing a rally in global prices, said another New Delhi-based industry official.
 - Global prices could have rallied more had India also moved away from Russia to other suppliers such as China and Morocco, which have limited supplies for exports, he said.
- India's total fertilizer imports in the first half of 2022/23 fell 2.4% from a year ago to 10.27 million tonnes, although in value terms imports during the period surged 59% to \$7.4 billion, the government official said

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SUMMITS

1.99. NEW DELHI: CEC RAJIV KUMAR ALONG WITH EC ANUP CHANDRA PANDEY INAUGURATE TWO-DAY INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE.

- The Election Commission of India is hosting a two day international conference on the theme 'Role, Framework & Capacity of Election Management Bodies' at New Delhi.
- Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar along with Election Commissioner Anup Chandra Pandey inaugurated a two-day international conference in New Delhi.
- The theme of the conference is 'Role, Framework, and Capacity of Election Management Bodies.
- In his keynote address at the inaugural ceremony, the CEC said that free, fair, inclusive, accessible, and inducement-free elections being a cornerstone of a democratic polity, is a precondition to peace and developmental dividends.
- These threshold concepts embody the understanding that sovereignty belongs to and flows from people of a country.
- He added that inclusivity also means adjusting inequalities, especially for women, Persons with Disabilities, senior citizens, young voters, and marginalized populations.
- The Conference is organized by Election Commission of India under Cohort on Election Integrity led by ECI, which was established as a follow on to the 'Summit for Democracy' held in December 2021.
- Mr Kumar while highlighting the idea of democracy in India said that democracy has always been a part of Indian ethos, a way of life. Diverse opinions, Dialogue, Discussions, accommodation, and non-aggression have been an intrinsic part of our culture.
- The CEC offered ECI's expertise in Election Management to world democracies to take forward the Summit's commitments to real outcomes.



Background:

- 'Summit for Democracy', was an initiative of US President and hosted in December 2021.
- The Prime Minister of India spoke at the Leaders Plenary Session on December 9, 2021. Following this Summit, a "Year of Action" was proposed with events and dialogues on themes related to Democracy and to host an in-person 'Leaders' Summit for Democracy' subsequently.
- The Summit also developed two platforms - 'Focal Groups' and 'Democracy Cohorts' to facilitate participation in the Year of Action.
- As part of the 'Summit for Democracy' Year of Action, India through the ECI, is leading the 'Democracy Cohort on Election Integrity' to share its knowledge, technical expertise and experiences with other democracies of the world.
- ECI, as its lead, has proposed to also provide training and capacity building programmes to Election Management Bodies (EMBs) across the world and provide technical consultancy as per needs of other EMBs

1.100. 1ST ASEAN-INDIA START-UP FESTIVAL 2022 INAUGURATED IN INDONESIA.

- The **1st ASEAN-India Start-up Festival (AISF)** was inaugurated by **Dr. Srivari Chandrashekar**, Secretary, Department of Science and Technology on 27th October 2022 in Bogor, **Indonesia**.
- The inaugural event was felicitated by **Mr. Satvinder Singh**, Deputy Secretary General for ASEAN Economic Community, and Ambassador, **Mr. Jayant Khobragde**, Indian Mission to ASEAN (IMA).

Key Points related to the 1st ASEAN-India Start-up Festival:

- Deputy Secretary General for ASEAN Economic Community, Satvinder Singh highlighted that ASEAN has a vibrant and promising start-up ecosystem.
- In 2021, 25 new unicorns in ASEAN were included with their combined valuation at USD 55.4 billion.
- The 1st ASEAN-India Start-up Festival will further strengthen the ASEAN-India cooperation to accelerate the start-up economy.
- The National COSTI Chairperson of Indonesia and the Chairman National Research and Innovation Agency, were also present at the inaugural ceremony.
- The festival is part of the overall ASEAN-India Science, Technology, and Innovation Corporation program between the ASEAN Committee on Science Technology, and Innovation (COSTI) and the Department of Science and Technology (GoI).
- It is supported under the ASEAN-India Science and Technology Development Fund (ADF) of Govt of India.
- The four-day event is being hosted in conjunction with the Indonesian Research and Innovation Expo (INARIE) from the 27th until the 30th of October 2022 at the Innovation Convention Centre, Cibinong Bogor, Indonesia.



1.101. 15TH EDITION OF URBAN MOBILITY INDIA CONFERENCE & EXPO OPENS IN KOCHI.

- In Kerala, the 15th edition of the Urban Mobility India Conference & Expo opens in Kochi tomorrow. Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs Hardeep Singh Puri and Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan will jointly inaugurate the three-day conference.
- Senior officers from the central and state governments, policymakers, Managing Directors of Metro Rail Companies, Chief Executives of transport undertakings, and international experts are participating in the conference.
- The meet will focus on the theme, 'Azadi @ 75 -- Sustainable Aatmanirbhar Urban Mobility'.
- The event lays strong emphasis on building capabilities at the state and city level to address problems associated with urban transport.
- It will also **focus on designing and implementing efficient, high-quality transport system in cities.**
- It will also focus on laying down guidelines for developing equitable and sustainable urban transport systems for all sections of the society.



1.102. PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI URGES CITIZENS TO VISIT NADABET AND OTHER BORDER AREAS AS PART OF SEEMA DARSHAN TO FURTHER TOURISM.

- "Seema Darshan Project adds a new dimension to the tourism sector. It gives the opportunity to appreciate the resilience of those who live on the borders.
- Prime minister also complimented all those involved in eco-friendly and sustainable development.
- The prime minister also said that from this, the infrastructure creation and circular economy, both will get an impetus.

Seema Darshan Project

- This Seema Darshan has begun on the basis of Wagah Border pattern with a view to observe bravery of BSF Jawans. Only a Wagah border is a border outpost across India-Pakistan borders where both the countries perform drill retreat and people can enjoy observing it.



- The attractions at the border viewing point will be a retreat ceremony by the BSF, fusion band performance, camel show and bird watching.
- Visitors will also be able to watch an exhibition of weapons, a photo gallery and a film on BSF at the newly developed border viewing point by Tourism Corporation of Gujarat Limited (TCGL).

1.103. V-P DHANKHAR TO REPRESENT INDIA AT ASEAN MEET IN CAMBODIA.

- Vice-President of India Jagdeep Dhankhar will visit Cambodia from 11-13 November to represent India at the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit and the 17th East Asia Summit.
- He will be accompanied by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar.
- Dhankhar will attend the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit in Phnom Penh on 12 November. This year marks the 30th anniversary of ASEAN-India relations and is being celebrated as the ASEAN-India Friendship Year.
- On 13 November, he will participate in the 17th East Asia Summit which comprises the ten ASEAN member states (i.e. Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand, the Philippines and Vietnam) and its eight dialogue partners- India, China, Japan, South Korea, Australia, New Zealand, Russia and the United States.
- During his visit, the vice president will also have bilateral engagements with the Cambodian leadership. On the margins of the summits, he will hold bilateral meetings with leaders from other countries as well.
- While returning from Phnom Penh, he will also visit Siem Reap to review the preservation and restoration work being undertaken by India at Cambodian heritage sites.



1.104. MANTRA OF ONE EARTH, ONE FAMILY, ONE FUTURE WILL LEAD TO GLOBAL WELFARE: PM MODI.

- Prime Minister unveiled the logo, theme and website of India's G20 Presidency through video conferencing. India will assume G20 Presidency from the 1st of December.
- It offers a unique opportunity for India to contribute to the global agenda on pressing issues of international importance.
- He said, the symbol of the G-20 logo is the representation of hope. Mr Modi said, the symbol of the Lotus in the logo portrays the cultural heritage and faith of India in bringing the world together.
- The seven petals on the Lotus represent the seven continents of the globe and also the seven notes of music. Mr Modi said, G-20 will bring the world together in harmony.
- India has led the world with initiatives like One Sun, One World, and One Grid in conserving renewable energy.
- The Prime Minister added that the mantra of One Earth, One Family, One Future in G-20 will pave a path for global welfare.
- Prime Minister Modi said G-20 is the premier forum for international economic cooperation. It represents around 85 per cent of the global GDP, over 75 per cent of the worldwide trade, and about two-thirds of the world population.
- Pointing out that G-20 is not solely an event of the central government, Prime Minister Modi requested the State governments as well as all the political parties to actively take part in this endeavour.
- He said that the event is organised by Indians and the G-20 is a great opportunity for us to showcase a glimpse of our tradition of Guest is God.



- He informed that the events related to G-20 will not be limited to Delhi or a few places but programmes will be held in every corner of the country.

1.105. INDIA JOINS MAC, AT 27TH SESSION OF COP27 IN EGYPT.

- India has joined the Mangrove Alliance for Climate, MAC, at the 27th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP27) at Sharm el-Sheikh in Egypt.
- After joining the alliance, India called for integration of mangroves conservation with the Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD) programmes for carbon sequestering.
- Speaking at the launch of MAC, Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav said, India sees the tremendous potential mangroves have for mitigation of growing GHG concentration in the atmosphere.
- He said studies have shown that mangrove forests can absorb four to five times more carbon emissions than landed tropical forests.
- **MAC is an intergovernmental alliance** that seeks to expand and hasten the progress towards conservation and restoration of mangrove ecosystems. India is among the first five countries to join the MAC, including Australia, Japan, Spain, and Sri Lanka.
- The alliance will raise global awareness about the role of mangroves as a nature-based climate change solution. It will ensure the rehabilitation of mangrove forests on a global level.



About Mangroves:

- Mangroves are small trees and shrubs which grow along the coastlines thrive in salty water and form unique forests on the edge of land and the sea. Mangrove ecosystems are among the most productive and ecologically important ecosystems in the world.
- They provide significant climate change mitigation and adaptation co-benefits since they are capable of storing carbon up to 400 percent faster than land-based tropical rainforests.
- They protect coastal regions from rising sea levels, erosion, and storm surges and provide breeding grounds for marine biodiversity. Around 80 percent of the global fish population rely on these ecosystems for their survival.
- India contributes to nearly half of the total mangrove cover in South Asia and West Bengal, the home to Sundarbans, has the highest percentage of mangrove cover in India. Spread over India and Bangladesh the Sundarbans are also the single largest mangrove forest in the world.
- Gujarat and Andaman, and Nicobar Islands, Maharashtra, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Goa, and Kerala too have mangrove forests.

1.106. NINE COUNTRIES INCLUDING BRITAIN, GERMANY, THE UNITED STATES AND JAPAN JOINED AN INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE RECENTLY AT THE UN COP27 CLIMATE SUMMIT, TO ENCOURAGE THE DEVELOPMENT OF OFFSHORE WIND POWER.

About:

- The Global Offshore Wind Alliance (GOWA), established to "remove barriers" to the energy.
- It was set up by the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), Denmark and the Global Wind Energy Council.
- The alliance is supported by a number of organizations which are actively promoting the offshore wind industry in their different regions.



Objective:

- It aims to provide the growing offshore wind industry with a one-stop shop overview of all offshore wind industry events around the world.
- Both IRENA and the International Energy Agency (IEA) expect that offshore wind capacity will need to exceed 2000 GW in 2050, from just over 60 GW today, to limit the rise in global temperatures to 1.5 degree Celsius and achieve net zero.
- To reach this target, GOWA will aim to contribute to accelerating growth to reach a total of at least 380 GW installed capacity by the end of 2030.

1.107. THE METHANE ALERT AND RESPONSE SYSTEM (MARS) WAS LAUNCHED AT THE 27TH CONFERENCE OF PARTIES (COP27) TO THE UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE HELD IN SHARM EL-SHEIKH, EGYPT.

What is Methane Alert and Response System (MARS)?

- The Methane Alert and Response System (MARS) is a satellite-based system that enables governments to detect methane emissions and take measures to address them.
- This data-to-action platform is part of the global endeavour to tackle climate change by curbing greenhouse emissions.
- It was set up as part of the United Nations Environment Programme's International Methane Emissions Observatory (IMEO) strategy to gain policy-relevant data required for mitigating emissions.
- This will be the first publicly available global system connecting methane detection with the notification processes transparently.
- It will use state-of-the-art satellite data to detect and identify notable greenhouse emission events and notify concerned stakeholders. This data will also be used for supporting and tracking the progress of the mitigation efforts.
- If requested, MARS partners will provide technical or advisory services like assessing mitigation opportunities available in specific regions.



About methane and its role in climate change

- Methane accounts for only a minuscule portion of human-induced greenhouse gas emissions. However, it is 80 times more potent than carbon dioxide in trapping atmospheric heat.
- According to the study by the United States' National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), there are 50 "super-emitters" of methane gas in central Asia, west Asia and the southwestern United States.
- The Global Methane Pledge aims to bring down methane emissions by at least 30 per cent by 2030 to maintain the 1.5°C temperature limit.
- Participants of this pledge have set a global emissions target to voluntarily take actions to minimise methane emissions by at least 30 per cent from 2020 levels by the end of this decade. This could eliminate some 0.2°C warming by 2050.

1.108. ICELANDIC MODEL A KEY TOPIC AT 'DRUG-FREE CHILDHOOD' GLOBAL MEET IN THIRUVANANTHAPURAM.

- The increasing relevance of the Icelandic Model (IM) of intervention in bringing teenagers affected by drug use disorders back to normal life through alternative pursuits will be a key topic of deliberations at the three-day International Forum on 'Right to Drug-free Childhood'.
- The UN-backed conclave, opening here on November 16, featuring prominent voices against drug abuse from India and abroad, is organised by Fourth Wave Foundation (FWF) in partnership with United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and World Federation Against Drugs (WFAD). 'Children Matter-Right to a Drug-Free Childhood' is the central theme of the meet.

- Dr. Harvey Milkman, Emeritus Professor, Metropolitan State University of Denver, U.S., who has been actively campaigning for the implementation of IM in communities across the world; and Margaret Lilja, chief knowledge officer, Planet Youth, will speak at different sessions at the meet. IM seeks to give a new lease of life to drug-addicted children by channelising their energy to creative pursuits like sports and other avenues through a collaboration of numerous stakeholders like parents, teachers and sports clubs.
- Around 30 years ago, Iceland was the hotspot of teenage drug consumption in Europe. Today, the country stands first on the European list of de-addicted teenagers.
- Fourth Wave Foundation's initiative against substance abuse named 'VENDA' (No to Drugs), strongly advocates the 'alternative pursuit' model in Kerala on the lines of IM. Major activities of 'VENDA' include empowerment programmes for children, football training, summer camp, football tourney 'Venda Cup' and awareness classes for parents, teachers, counsellors, police and excise officers.
- 'VENDA' is active in districts that have a very high number of drug-addicted teens found by the National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR) survey conducted by the Narcotic Control Bureau. Currently, it is focused on Ernakulam, Kozhikode, Malappuram, Kollam, Thiruvananthapuram, Idukki and Thrissur districts.



1.109. 3RD MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON COUNTERING FINANCING OF TERRORISM - NO MONEY FOR TERROR TO BE HELD IN NEW DELHI ON NOVEMBER 18 AND 19.

- It is organised by Union Ministry of Home Affairs.
- It aims to progress the discussions on combating terrorist financing held by the international community in the previous two Conferences in Paris (2018) and Melbourne (2019).
- It also intends to include discussions on technical, legal, regulatory and cooperation aspects of all facets of terrorism financing.
- It attempts to also set the pace for other high level official and political deliberations, focused on countering terrorist financing.
- The Conference intends to bring together representatives of 75 countries and international bodies for extended deliberations over two days.



Focus areas:

- Discussions at the 3rd 'No Money For Terror' Conference will be focussed on global trends in terrorism and terrorist financing, use of formal and informal channels of funds for terrorism, emerging technologies and terrorist financing and requisite international co-operation to address related challenges.

Other global events:

- India was host to two global events in October, 2022 - the annual General Assembly of the Interpol in Delhi and a special session of the UN Counter Terrorism Committee in Mumbai and Delhi.

1.110. THE PANDEMIC FUND OFFICIALLY LAUNCHED AT G20 MEETING.

- The **G20 Presidency of Indonesia** is hosting the **official launch of the Pandemic Fund** on the margins of the G20 Joint Finance and Health Ministers' Meeting in **Bali, Indonesia** in the presence of **Joko Widodo, President of Indonesia**.

Objective Of the Initiative:

- At the launch, the Pandemic Fund, now with new name and logo, **will provide the latest progress the Governing Board** has made since its establishment on September 8, 2022, to get operational – an important step toward strengthening global health architecture.

Need of The Initiative:

- Drawing on lessons from COVID-19, which exposed huge weaknesses and **under investment in pandemic prevention, preparedness and response (PPR)**, particularly in **low- and middle-income countries**, the Pandemic Fund is intended to strengthen the capacity of these countries to mitigate the risks of future global health threats.
- It will provide a dedicated stream of long-term financing for PPR and address critical gaps through investments and technical support at the national, regional, and global levels. The Pandemic Fund is also expected to **incentivize countries to prioritize this agenda and increase their own efforts.**

**What Has Been Said:**

- This is the first time the international community has come together around a funding mechanism dedicated to investing in pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response in developing countries – a testament to multilateralism, said **Dr. Chatib Basri, co-Chair of the Pandemic Fund Governing Board.**
- “The Pandemic Fund has a unique and vital role to play in making the world safer. PPR is a global public good that benefits all. Every dollar we mobilize to **invest in PPR now in low- and middle-income countries** will save lives and financial costs and lead to a more resilient world for years to come.”

More About the Initiative:

- Developed with **Indonesia’s and Italy’s leadership during their respective G20 presidencies**, the **Pandemic Fund has US\$1.4 billion in seed funding already committed by 24 donors.**
- The World Bank and WHO engaged with a wide range of stakeholders including partner countries, **civil society organizations (CSOs)**, and potential implementing entities to create the Pandemic Fund.

Technical Advisory Panel (TAP):

- The TAP, under the leadership of its new Chair **Dr Michael Ryan**, will assess and make recommendations to the Governing Board on the technical merits of proposals for funding, ensuring linkages to the **International Health Regulations (2005)** and other internationally endorsed legal frameworks, consistent with a **One Health approach**, as part of the broader global PPR architecture.

1.111. INDIA, AUSTRALIA CONVENE FIFTH BILATERAL CYBER POLICY DIALOGUE IN NEW DELHI.

- India and Australia convened their fifth bilateral Cyber Policy Dialogue in New Delhi.
- The Cyber Policy Dialogue was held under the auspices of the India-Australia Framework Arrangement on Cyber and Cyber-Enabled Critical Technology Cooperation and Plan of Action 2020-2025 for a comprehensive and deeper cyber cooperation.
- The dialogue was co-chaired by Joint Secretary (Cyber Diplomacy Division) Muanpuii Saiawi from Ministry of External Affairs.
- The Indian delegation consisted of senior officials from National Security Council Secretariat, Home Ministry, Ministry of Electronics and Information technology, Department of Telecommunications, CERT-In and National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre. The Australian delegation comprised of senior officials from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Department of Home Affairs, Department of Industry Science and Resources, and the Australian Federal Police.
- The Cyber Policy Dialogue provides a bilateral platform to discuss a range of high-profile issues of mutual interest. Discussions at this Dialogue included strategic priorities, cyber threat assessment, next generation telecommunications (including 5G technology) capacity building and cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region, and the latest developments in cyber at the United Nations.
- Australia and India agreed to explore opportunities for further collaboration with the private sector and academia.



- Both countries will jointly conduct a Cyber Bootcamp, as well as Cyber and Tech Policy Exchanges, in collaboration with Indo-Pacific partners.
- The sixth India-Australia Cyber Policy Dialogue will be held next year.

1.112. 3-DAY EXPO ON INDIAN MEDICAL DEVICES FROM 17 JANUARY 2023.

- The India MedTech Expo (IMTE), the first-ever Expo of Indian Medtech Industry by the Union Government, is rescheduled and now will be held from 17 to 19 January 2023 at Aerocity Grounds.
- The three days Expo was earlier scheduled from 9 to 11 December 2022. On 30 September 2022, the website of India MedTech Expo (IMTE) was launched and the flyer was released for the event.
- IMTE, a three-day long event is the first edition of India MedTech Expo, organized by Dept. of Pharmaceuticals, Government of India, in close association with all the Medical Devices Industry Associations.
- The Expo is planned around the theme “Future of Device, Diagnostics & Digital”.
- According to the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, the event is organized with an objective to create opportunities to network and explore collaborations both for the sector’s growth in India and its potential contribution globally, by bringing together all the stakeholders.
- These includes PLI participants, start-ups, MSMEs, Innovative entrepreneurs, R&D facilities, Incubators, public and private hospitals, Industry at large, Academia, Research institutions, Investors, State governments, MedTech parks and key Government officials for taking the sector on a forward growth trajectory.
- So far, about 150+ Start-ups, 275+ Indian & International Medical Device companies and MSME units, 50+ Research Institutions, etc. have confirmed their participation in the Expo. Over 376 foreign buyers entries have been received out of which selected 200+ foreign buyers will be hosted for B2B engagement.
- The current market size of the medical devices sector in India is estimated to be 11 Bn USD and the sector in India is at a growth stage with CAGR of 10-12% over the last decade and has the potential to reach \$ 50 bn by 2030.
- The proposed Expo will create visibility of medical devices ecosystem to the world and build a brand identity for the Indian MedTech sector.
- IMTE-23 would offer a unique platform to meet and interact with Start-ups, Indian & International Medical Device companies, MSME units & Research Institutions.
- IMTE-23 would feature special Government Regulators, State MedTech Parks, Future Healthcare, R&D and Innovation, Make in India & Start-ups Pavilion, along with parallel thematic Conference sessions.
- Details of the National MedTech Expo 2023 are available.



1.113. JAL SHAKTI MINISTER GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT INAUGURATES GEO SMART INDIA 2022 SUMMIT IN HYDERABAD.

- Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat said the country is spearheading a new wave of socioeconomic prosperity fueled by cutting-edge technology and innovation.
- Speaking after inaugurating the GeoSmart India 2022 Summit in Hyderabad, he said the country is advancing towards an era of sustainable development right from the grassroots level and aimed at eradicating poverty, combating climate change, and improving business and living standards.



- The theme for this year's conference is **#geospatialbydefault: Empowering Billions**, and is being co-hosted by the Indian Society of Remote Sensing and the Indian Society of Geomatics.
- Stating that Geospatial information, has emerged as a key tool for development in the country, he said the government released the guidelines for geospatial data paving way for its usage across various sectors of the economy.
- Stating that the need for water, especially clean water, is at an all-time high, the minister said the country is facing severe water crisis that is becoming a critical issue and the Government has taken numerous steps to address the issue.
- About 2500 representatives from about 500 government, private, organisations working on geospatial technology and data have attended the three-day summit.

About GeoSmart India

- GeoSmart India is an interactive and collaborative platform that demonstrates the collective and shared vision of the Indian geospatial community.
- It showcases how geospatial and emerging technologies can have a disruptive impact on Indian businesses, government, and society.

1.114. 4TH EDITION OF INDIAN CHEMICALS COUNCIL (ICC) SUSTAINABILITY CONCLAVE RECENTLY STARTED IN NEW DELHI.

About:

- **Theme:**
 - Theme of the two-day event is 'boardrooms to Community-ESG, Carbon Neutrality, Operational Safety, Greener Solutions'.
- The Conclave aims to promote sustainability in the management of the entire life cycle of chemicals.
- **Initiative:**
 - It is being organized jointly with United Nations Environment Program and International Council of Chemical Associations with support of Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers and Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.



सत्यमेव जयते

**MINISTRY OF
CHEMICALS AND
FERTILIZERS**

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP):

- The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is the leading environmental authority in the United Nations system.
- It was established in 1972.
- The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has been the global authority that sets the environmental agenda, promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the UN system and serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment.

Indian Chemicals Council (ICC):

- It was established in 1938.
- It is the apex national body representing all branches of the Chemical Industry in India such as Organic & Inorganic Chemicals, Plastics & Petrochemicals & Petroleum Refineries, Dyestuffs & Dye-intermediates, Fertilizers & Pesticides, Specialty Chemicals, Paints etc.
- The Indian Chemical Council is dedicated to the growth of the Indian Chemical Industry.
- The Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India, has authorised all ICC offices (Mumbai, New Delhi, Kolkata and Chennai) to issue the CERTIFICATE OF ORIGIN for the exporters.
- ICC also has two initiatives - Responsible Care and Nicer Globe.

1.115. INDIA TO TAKE OVER CHAIR OF GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE.

- After assuming the G20 Presidency, India will take over the Chair of Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence, GPAI.

- Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology Rajeev Chandrasekhar will represent the country at the GPAI meeting to be held in Tokyo for the symbolic takeover from France.
- GPAI is an international initiative to support responsible and human-centric development and use of Artificial Intelligence (AI).
- GPAI is a congregation of 25 member countries, including the US, UK, European Union, Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, South Korea and Singapore.
- India had joined the GPAI in 2020 as a founding member. The Artificial Intelligence is expected to add 967 billion US dollar to Indian economy by 2035 and 450-500 billion dollar to India's GDP by 2025.
- It is expected to account for 10 per cent of the country's 5 trillion-dollar GDP target.
- India occupying the chair also signifies how the world today perceives it as a Trusted Technology partner and one that has always advocated for the ethical use of technology for transforming citizens lives.



1.116. INDIA LAUNCHES OFFICIAL WEBSITE AND THEME OF SCO 2023.

- India has launched the official website of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) as it will host the next SCO summit as a chairman of organisation in 2023.
- The website highlights the events that will be undertaken under the chairmanship of India next year.



Theme Of the Event:

- The theme of the event is **"For a SECURE SCO"**. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had floated the concept of SECURE at the **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in China in 2018**.
- Explaining the SECURE concept, the Prime Minister said **'S' for security for citizens**, **'E' for economic development**, **'C' for connectivity in the region**, **'U' for unity**, **'R' for respect of sovereignty and integrity**, and **'E' for environment protection**.

What is Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)?

About:

- SCO is a **permanent intergovernmental international organization**.
- It's a **Eurasian political, economic and military organization** aiming to maintain **peace, security and stability** in the region.
- It was created in 2001.
 - The SCO Charter was signed in 2002, and entered into force in 2003.

Genesis:

- Prior to the creation of SCO in 2001, **Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Russia and Tajikistan** were members of the **Shanghai Five**.
- Shanghai Five (1996) emerged from a series of border demarcation and demilitarization talks which the four former Soviet republics held with China to ensure stability along the borders.
- Following the **accession of Uzbekistan to the organization in 2001**, the Shanghai Five was renamed the **SCO**.
- India and Pakistan became members in **2017**.
- On 17th September, **2021**, it was announced that **Iran would become a full member of the SCO**.

1.117. UNION MoS BHARATI PRAVIN PAWAR TO PARTICIPATE IN 'THIRD GLOBAL HIGH-LEVEL MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE' IN OMAN.

- Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, Dr Bharati Pravin Pawar will participate in the 'Third Global High-Level Ministerial Conference on Antimicrobial Resistance' to be held in Muscat, Oman on 24th and 25th of this month.
- She will deliver India's national statement during the opening session of the conference for the heads of the delegation.
- During the conference, Dr Pawar will also have extensive discussions with other leaders, policymakers, key global experts, representatives from the private sector, civil society, research institutions and multilateral organizations on antimicrobial resistance, AMR.
- It is one of the greatest threats to global public health preventing the treatment of bacterial diseases using antibiotics.
- The conference under the theme 'The AMR Pandemic: From Policy to One Health Action' will enhance international cooperation to tackle AMR and build on the success of the two previous high-level ministerial conferences held in the Netherlands in 2014 and 2019.
- The conference is also expected to pave the way for nations to come out with bold and specific political commitments in the 2024 UN General Assembly High-Level Meeting on AMR.



1.118. QUAD PARTNERS INDIA, AUSTRALIA STAY AWAY FROM CHINA-LED MEET ON INDIAN OCEAN.

- Quad members Australia and India did not participate in a conference on the Indian Ocean organised by China last week. Maldives, a close security partner of India, also did not participate though the organisers of the "China-Indian Ocean Forum on Development Cooperation".
- Analysts see the move as an attempt to challenge India's traditional presence in the region as also a move to politicise the Indian Ocean region. It is also being seen as a move to counter New Delhi-led Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) and Indian Ocean Navies Symposium (IONS) under the "Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR)" policy.
- The event saw participation from about 18 countries from the region and was held in hybrid format in Kunming along with several parallel events such as the 6th China-South Asia expo, and the China-Indian Ocean region thinktank forum. Sources said a few of the participants were individuals or groups whom China claimed represented their countries.
- Australian High Commissioner Barry O'Farrell specifically denied that Canberra had sent a representative to Kunming and said the IORA is the "only ministerial-level forum for Indian Ocean". Its Ministerial Council meeting last week here was attended by Australian Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs Tim Watts who has been elected its Vice Chair.
- Maldives Ministry of Foreign Affairs also denied participating in the Forum and said it had communicated to Beijing on November 15. A joint press statement released by the China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA) said Maldives had participated in the "China-Indian Ocean Forum on Development Cooperation".



- CIDCA is headed by former Ambassador to India Luo Zhaohui which claimed that there was representation from 19 countries, including Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Mauritius, Indonesia, Myanmar, Maldives, Iran, Oman, South Africa, Kenya, Mozambique, Tanzania, Seychelles, Madagascar, Mauritius, Djibouti and Australia.

1.119. SEVENTH EDITION OF GLOBAL TECHNOLOGY SUMMIT TO BEGIN TODAY; EAM S JAISHANKAR TO SPEAK AT INAUGURAL SESSION.

- The seventh edition of the Global Technology Summit will begin on 29th November 2022, in New Delhi in hybrid format.
- The three day Summit is India's annual flagship event on Geotechnology, and is co-hosted by the Ministry of External Affairs and Carnegie India.
- External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar will speak on geo-digital and its effects during the inaugural session of the Summit.
- External Affairs Ministry said, over the course of three days, the world's leading minds in technology, government, security, space, startups, data, law, public health, climate change, academics and economy will gather and debate the vital questions related to technology and its future.
- The theme for this year's Summit is 'Geopolitics of Technology'.
- The Summit will see participation from more than 100 speakers across over 50-panel discussions, keynote addresses, book launches, and other events.
- Ministers and senior government officials from the US, Singapore, Japan, Nigeria, Brazil, Bhutan, the European Union, and other countries will also participate in the Summit.
- More than 5000 participants from all over the world have registered to attend the Summit.
- A large number of participants would be joining the conversations through the GTS Summit website and Carnegie India's YouTube and social media pages.



1.120. OVER 160 NATIONS AGREE TO REGULATE TRADE IN 500 NEW WILD SPECIES.

- Representatives of more than 160 governments, parties to the Convention on International trade in Endangered Species of Wild fauna and flora (CITES) have reaffirmed their commitment to address the biodiversity crisis by adopting proposals to regulate international trade in more than 500 new species.
- CITES CoP-19 closed in Panama on Friday after two weeks of negotiations on the most important issues facing the trade in endangered species of animals and plants.
- The Conference of the Parties (CoP) adopted 46 proposals of the 52 put forward. This will bring species of, among others, sharks, lizards, turtles, fish, birds, frogs and more than a hundred tree species under CITES regulations, designed to ensure the sustainability of these species in the wild, while allowing their international trade and also contributing to the conservation of ecosystems and global biodiversity.
- The CoP also reached a record number of 365 decisions as they worked to safeguard threatened wildlife species, while at the same time allowing the international trade that underpins human well-being and contributes to conservation efforts. The decisions will shape CITES' work for the years to come.
- The meeting — also known as the World Wildlife Conference — opened on November 14 and on four days ran until 10 p.m. as the details of these decisions and resolutions were worked through and agreed.



- More than 2,500 people have attended the event; the ultimate decision-making body of CITES, which takes place every three years. This year the meeting was held in Panama, the first time for 20 years that a CITES CoP has returned to Latin America.
- A first for the meeting was the adoption of a resolution on gender, to try to address inequality as it relates to the trade in wildlife. The meeting heard that women are more likely to lose out on the benefits of wildlife trade and work will now be done to suggest ways to tackle this issue.
- The meeting also decided to work towards becoming a more inclusive forum by increasing the number of languages it works in for key meetings. Future CoPs are likely to be run in Arabic, Chinese and Russian, in addition to the current working languages of Spanish, French and English.
- The contribution that CITES can make to reducing zoonotic diseases is also to be investigated. Seventy per cent of emerging diseases are estimated to be transferred from wild animals to humans. CITES is to look at the role it could play in reducing the likelihood of this transfer.
- The new species that will be listed on CITES and their international trade consequently regulated, include nearly 100 species of sharks and rays, more than 150 tree species, 160 amphibian species, including tropical frogs, 50 turtle and tortoise species and several species of songbirds. All these species have seen decline in their population over recent years.
- The parties to CITES also agreed a joint approach to support Mexico as it fights to save a species of porpoise from extinction.
- Numbers of vaquita in the Gulf of Mexico are believed to have dropped to fewer than 20. It is endangered through fishing for a different species, the totoaba. Parties have agreed to a coordinated approach, designed to limit fishing in totoaba and consequently reduce the threat to the vaquita.
- CITES regulates the world's trade in threatened species of animals and plants, 183 countries and the European Union are parties to the convention and every three years, they take part in a meeting of the CoP. This is the 19th time they have met in the past 50 years, since the convention was adopted in 1973.
- CoP-19 has taken place at a crucial moment. This year has seen a number of significant scientific reports which have highlighted the need to halt, and reverse, biodiversity loss, if our planet and human well-being is to be sustained.
- **The three main threats to wild plants and animals are habitat loss, climate change and overexploitation.**
- It is hoped that the decisions taken in Panama will contribute to addressing these crises and pave the way for CoP-15 of the Convention on Biological Diversity, which is taking place in Montreal in December.
- That meeting is expected to agree a framework to address the loss in biodiversity, to which a number of multilateral environmental agreements, CITES included, will contribute.

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POLICY AND PROGRAMME

1.121. UNION MINISTER OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE AND CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS WILL INAUGURATE THE INDIA CHEM 2022 ON 2ND NOVEMBER 2022.

About:

- Theme: “Vision 2030: Chemicals and Petrochemicals Build India”.
- India Chem 2022 will showcase the Government’s policy for sustainable growth in the sector and provide a platform for national and international players to interact, exchange knowledge and forge alliances.
- The event will also highlight the investment opportunities especially in Petroleum, Chemical and Petrochemical Investment Regions (PCPIRs) and focus on the “Make in India” initiative for making the country Atmanirbhar in sector.
- India Chem, the flagship event of the Department, is one of the largest composite events of the industry in the Asia-Pacific region and this comprises of an International Conference and Exhibition.
- Department is organizing the 12th edition of INDIA CHEM in association with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).



Indian Chemicals and Petrochemicals industry:

- The Indian Chemicals and Petrochemicals industry is the backbone of the Indian economy and plays a vital role in the growth of various key sectors like automotive, construction, electronics, health care, textiles and FMCG.
- Export of Indian Chemicals has registered an overwhelming growth of 106% in 2021-22 over 2013-14.
- India’s export of chemicals for 2021-22 has hit a record at US\$ 29,296 Million, whereas in 2013-14, India’s chemical export was US\$ 14,210 Million.

1.122. CABINET APPROVES MECHANISM FOR ETHANOL PROCUREMENT BY PUBLIC SECTOR OIL MARKETING COMPANIES UNDER ETHANOL BLENDED PETROL PROGRAMME.

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, CCEA approved mechanism for ethanol procurement by public sector oil marketing companies under Ethanol Blended Petrol programme.
- It approved higher Ethanol price derived from different sugarcane based raw materials under the programme for the forthcoming sugar season.
- Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri informed that the government has advanced the target for 20 per cent ethanol blending in petrol by Five years to 2025.
- The target was previously to be met by 2030. He said the target of 10 per cent ethanol blending has already been achieved in May this year.

Cabinet Decisions
02-11-2022

Revision of Ethanol Price for Ethanol Supply Year (ESY) 2022-23

Cabinet approves Mechanism for procurement of ethanol by Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) under Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme - Revision of ethanol price for supply to Public Sector OMCs for (ESY) 2022-23 from 1st December 2022 to 31st October, 2023

Sugarcane Based Raw Materials	Old Prices (per litre)	Revised Prices (per litre)
Ethanol from C heavy molasses route	Rs 46.66	Rs 49.41
Ethanol from B heavy molasses route	Rs 59.08	Rs 60.73
Ethanol from sugarcane juice/sugar/sugar syrup route	Rs 63.45	Rs 65.61

Additionally, GST and transportation charges will also be payable

1.123. HIV, AIDS POLICY 2022 NOTIFIED FOR WORKPLACES TO PROTECT EMPLOYEES.

- Aiming to ensure legal protection for persons afflicted with HIV at the workplace, the Union Health Ministry has notified the HIV and AIDS Policy for Establishments, 2022 as provided under Section 12 of the HIV and AIDS (Prevention & Control) Act, 2017. The policy is applicable to all establishments as defined in the Act to eliminate HIV & AIDS-related stigma and discrimination in various workplace settings.

- The Model Policy needs to be adopted by all establishments that have carried out the production, supply, or distribution of goods or services for a period of twelve months or more. It is non-discrimination against people infected with and affected by HIV and AIDS and provides confidentiality to a person's HIV status and related data. The establishment has also been mandated to set up a redressal mechanism in the form of a complaints officer.
- "The Model Policy imposes strict obligations on the establishment and the complaints officer to adopt data management policies and establish data management committees where the establishment collects HIV-related data," said an official from the Ministry about the key features of the policy.
- "As per the policy, establishments with 100 or more staff must appoint a complaints officer to handle any grievances under the policy and appoint additional complaints officers for each office of such establishment having 100 or more staff. The model policy also imposes certain obligations on the complaints officer such as publishing annual reports, filing half-yearly action reports to the appropriate authorities, etc," added the official.
- The Model Policy requires every State Government to appoint a state-level Ombudsman who will take care of all complaints made under the act while it will be mandatory on the establishments to conduct annual workshops and awareness programmes for all employees and orientation training for complaints officer(s).
- "So far 18 States/UTs have already notified the State Rules under the HIV and AIDS (Prevention & Control) Act 2017 and 25 States/UTs have appointed Ombudsman. Besides, over 1000 Complaints Officers have been designated at establishments in States/UTs", informed Nidhi Kesarwani, Director of National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) under the Union Health Ministry.
- India is committed to 'Ending the AIDS epidemic as a public health threat by 2030 in line with Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). Sustained commitment and action are required at all levels to address the challenges ahead and achieve desired outcomes, added Alok Saxena, Additional Secretary & Director General, NACO.



1.124. ENTREPRENEURSHIP BURSTS FORTH IN INDIA, TIER 2 AND TIER 3 DISTRICTS TO LEAD THE NEXT WAVE.

- The Covid-19 pandemic in 2020 put the entire world on a halt. It's no secret that employment hit the rock bottom, GDP growth went crashing, thereby, translating to India's worst economical performance since its independence.
- Well, it was also a time when corporate workers, who suffered financially, due to losing their jobs, started their own ventures.
- India jumping from 471 recognised startups in 2016 to 72,993 in 2022 is a testimony to the fact that Indians, coming from all walks of life, are leaping at the opportunity to become an entrepreneur.
- While it's a common sight in Tier 1 cities where people are transitioning towards adopting entrepreneurship as a career option, the government has lately been vocal that the next wave of entrepreneurship will come from Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities in India.
- Rags to riches stories are often fascinating. And making them possible, at one of the humblest geographies in Eastern UP, is the Jagriti Enterprise Centre – a non-profit organisation working as an incubator to help boost entrepreneurship in the Deoria region.
- At present, over 35 enterprises are benefiting from JEC's on-ground efforts, which has helped establish a host of renowned entrepreneurs in the region from scratch. Further, in a city where employment

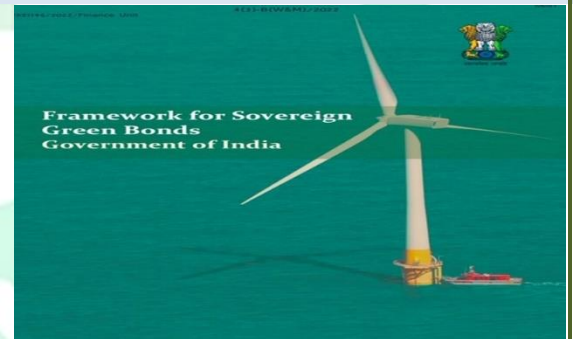


opportunities are scarce, over 2,000 individuals have been employed by enterprises dealing in different domains such as handicrafts, agro-processing, and pharma.

- For instance, Pooja Shahi, who started a small-scale handicraft venture in 2008, is now employing over 400 women from her village as her products were included in the state government's ODOP (One District One Product) programme, which has also helped her scale her production capacity from 50 pieces a day to 500 at present.
- Similarly, RC Kushwaha, the founder of a sanitary pads firm in the remote area, has not only generated employment for over 900 local women, but has also worked towards spreading awareness about menstrual hygiene in 900 nearby villages, meanwhile establishing an enterprise, accelerated by JEC.
- Shashank Mani Tripathi, Founder, JEC said, "Starting from Deoria, we want to further expand to other Tier 2, Tier 3 cities in India and ensure that we promote entrepreneurship in these cities and help them contribute to the country's economy. We aim to generate over 10,000 local jobs in this area in a 5-year period and create a district ecosystem that can be replicated in other Tier 2 and Tier 3 districts".

1.125. UNION FINANCE MINISTER SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN APPROVES INDIA'S FIRST SOVEREIGN GREEN BONDS FRAMEWORK.

- Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman approves the final Sovereign Green Bonds framework of India. This approval will further strengthen India's commitment towards its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDCs) targets, adopted under the Paris Agreement, and help in attracting global and domestic investments in eligible green projects. The proceeds generated from issuance of such bonds will be deployed in Public Sector projects which help in reducing carbon intensity of the economy.
- The Framework comes close on the footsteps of India's commitments under "Panchamrit" as elucidated by the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, at COP26 at Glasgow in November, 2021. The approval is fulfillment of the announcement in the Union Budget FY 2022-23 by the Union Finance Minister that Sovereign Green Bonds will be issued for mobilising resources for green projects.
- Green bonds are financial instruments that generate proceeds for investment in environmentally sustainable and climate-suitable projects. By virtue of their indication towards environmental sustainability, green bonds command a relatively lower cost of capital vis-à-vis regular bonds and necessitates credibility and commitments associated with the process of raising bonds.
- In the above context, India's first Sovereign Green Bonds framework was formulated and as per the provisions of the framework, Green Finance Working Committee (GFWC) was constituted to validate key decisions on issuance of Sovereign Green Bonds.
- Further, CICERO, an independent and globally renowned Norway-based Second Party Opinion (SPO) provider, was appointed to evaluate India's green bonds framework and certify alignment of the framework with ICMA's Green Bond Principles and international best practices. After due deliberation and consideration, CICERO has rated India's Green Bonds Framework as 'Medium Green' with a "Good" governance score.



1.126. UNION MINISTER BHUPENDER YADAV LAUNCHES ONLINE PORTAL FOR ESIC MATERNITY BENEFITS.

- Union Minister for Labour and Employment Bhupender Yadav launched an online portal for ESIC Maternity benefits claim facilities for insured women in New Delhi.
- The portal was launched at the 102 birth anniversary of Dattopant Thengadi, a social reformer and the founder of Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh, organized by the National Labour Education and Development Board.
- Speaking at the event the Minister said Dattopant Thengadi wanted to develop India and Indian workers not as followers but as leaders on the world stage.

- He said that the public needs to be made aware of all government programmes at the local level in order to benefit the most from them.
- Talking about the e-SHRAM Portal, Mr. Yadav said that as of now 29 crore people who are working in unorganized workers have been registered and the government is working to take it to 38 crores.
- The e-SHRAM portal was launched on August 26 2021 to improve the implementation efficiency of the social security services for unorganized workers.



1.127. GOVT TO CONTINUE TO FUND BIO ENERGY PROG TILL 2025-26.

- Against the backdrop of COP27 climate change meet which opened on Sunday in Egypt, the Government announced that it will continue the Bio Energy Programme till 2025-26, indicating its commitment to continue with the measures to mitigate its carbon footprints.
- The Union Ministry of New & Renewable Energy said that a budget outlay of Rs 858 crore has been allocated for the first phase of the programme that will aid the use of huge surplus biomass, cattle dung, and industrial and urban biowaste available in the country for energy recovery.
- On November 2, the National Bioenergy Programme was notified. It will include the three Sub-schemes: Waste to Energy Programme, Biomass Programme and Biogas Programme.
- The Waste to Energy Programme (Programme on Energy from Urban, Industrial and Agricultural Wastes /Residues) will support the setting up of large Biogas, BioCNG and Power plants (excluding MSW (municipal solid waste) to power projects).
- Biomass Programme (Scheme to Support Manufacturing of Briquettes & Pellets and Promotion of Biomass (nonbagasse) based cogeneration in Industries) will support the setting up of pellets and briquettes for use in power generation and non-bagasse-based power generation projects.
- The biogas programme will also support the setting up of family and medium size Biogas in rural areas. According to a team of researchers from IIT-Delhi and Mumbai, clean energy transition via utilizing biomass resources has been projected as an important climate change mitigation strategy.
- A vital characteristic of biomass is its localized nature; therefore, bioenergy utilization should follow decentralized planning.
- Agrarian countries like India can take advantage of its large agricultural biomass waste pool to produce clean renewable energy, they said in their study.
- “Sustainable utilization of biomass resources for decentralized energy generation and climate change mitigation: A regional case study in India,” published in the journal Environmental Research.



1.128. NATIONAL PRESS DAY 2022 OBSERVED ON 16 NOVEMBER.

- National Press Day is observed on November 16 every year to acknowledge and honour the Press Council of India (PCI). The day marks the presence of an independent and responsible press in the country. The Press Council of India also examines the quality of reportage of the Indian press and keeps a check on journalistic activities.

Significance of Press Freedom

- Independent Press is often called the voice of the voiceless, a connecting link between the all-powerful rulers to the downtrodden ruled. It brings out the ills and malaise of the system and helps the government find the solutions to these, in the process strengthening the values of the democratic system of governance. No

wonder why it's called one of the four pillars of a strong democracy, and the only one where commoners directly participate. The other 3 are the Executive, Legislative, and Judiciary – a gang of select few.

- The council is extremely important to India as it was inherently constructed to protect the fourth pillar of a democracy, that is, the free press. Hence, it works consistently to ensure that the credibility of journalism is not compromised.



History:

- In the year 1956, the First Press Commission decided to form a body with statutory authority which has the responsibility of maintaining the ethics of journalism. The Commission felt that a managing body was required in order to connect with the people of the press and also to arbitrate on any issues that arose.
- In 1966 on 16 November, the PCI was formed. The National Press Day of India is since then celebrated on November 16 every year to commemorate the establishment of the council.
- According to the Press Council of India's official website, the council is traditionally chaired by a retired Supreme Court Judge and 28 additional members of which 20 are members of the media outlets operating in India.
- Five members are nominated from the Houses of the Parliament and the remaining three represent cultural, legal and literary fields.

1.129. NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR WOMEN (NCW) LAUNCHES 4TH PHASE OF DIGITAL SHAKTI CAMPAIGN

- National Commission for Women, NCW Chairperson Rekha Sharma has said that Digital Shakti Campaign has been accelerating the digital participation of women and girls.
- Digital Shakti Campaign is a pan-India project on digitally empowering and skilling women and girls in the cyberspace.
- It aims to train women and girls to use technology to their advantage and to keep themselves safe online.
- Ms. Sharma launched the fourth phase of the Campaign on Tuesday. She highlighted the continuous efforts of the Commission for empowering women in every sphere across the nation.
- In line with its commitment to create safe spaces for women and girls online, Digital Shakti 4.0 is focused on making women digitally skilled and aware to stand up against any illegal or inappropriate activity online.
- The NCW launched it in collaboration with CyberPeace Foundation and Meta.



1.130. INDIA- NORWAY JOIN HANDS TO FOR A GREEN MARITIME SECTOR.

- MoPSW (Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways) is working diligently to develop the Maritime Sector as a goal of MIV 2030. In this regard 8th Norway-India Joint Working Group Maritime meeting was held on 17th November, 2022 in Mumbai.
- India-Norway Joint Working Group on Maritime meetings are being held on a regular basis. The 7th JWG on Maritime was held in Oslo in November, 2019. During the 7th Meeting issues regarding cooperation in Shipbuilding, enhancing skills of seafarers and environment friendly ships were discussed.



- In 8th JWG Maritime Meeting held on 18.11.2022 discussion was held on use of alternative fuels like green ammonia and hydrogen for futuristic shipping. Norwegian Green Shipping Programme has been successful and the experience and expertise was shared in the meeting. Norway stated that it is committed to India for zero emission solutions.
- India Norway is part of Green Voyage 2050 project, both parties agreed on willingness, devotion, partnership and capacity building for achieving common goals.
- India is a signatory to Hongkong Convention for Recycling of Ships. In today's meeting India requested that EU regulation should not hinder to recycling non-European countries which is compliant as per International Convention. Norway was requested not to prolong Ship recycling to India as lot of investment has been made by Indian recyclers.
- India has pressed upon cooperation in the field of Maritime Training in latest maritime technology eg. MASS etc. The Indian side has requested Norway to extend Ship Board training and Ship Board training in the area of Polar Water Navigation.
- "Ministry of Ports Shipping and Waterways has prepared Maritime India Vision 2030 identified more than 150 initiatives across various maritime sectors like ports, shipping and waterways focusing on capacity augmentation, operational efficiency improvement, growth in sectors related to Ship building, recycling and repair, quality maritime education and also supporting growth of nascent sectors like cruise tourism in the country" said Addl. Secretary, MoPSW.
- The Norwegian delegation will also take part in INMARCO, the Green Shipping Conclave, and the Maritime ShEO conference. The Maritime ShEO conference is supported by Norway and focused on maritime diversity and sustainability, including gender equality in the maritime industry.

1.131. NESTS & 1M1B SIGNS MOU TO CONDUCT TRAINING & CAPACITY-BUILDING PROGRAMS FOR TEACHERS & STUDENTS OF EMRSs.

- National Education Society for Tribal Students (NESTS) and 1 Million For 1 Billion Foundation (1M1B) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to conduct training and capacity-building programs for teachers and students of Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRSs).
- In a statement the Ministry of Tribal Affairs said, that the program will also capacitate the teachers and students with Augmented Reality (AR) and Virtual Reality (VR) skills using the AR-VR skills curriculum launched by CBSE.
- It said the programme is being implemented as pilot based in EMRSs of 2 states, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand.
- The MoU was signed on 7th of this month (November) at NESTS headquarters, New Delhi, an autonomous organization established under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
- The Ministry said it is a social innovation and future skills initiative aligned to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- 1 million for 1 billion (1M1B), is a Bengaluru based Not for Profit Company accredited to the United Nations Organization with special consultative status to the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).



1.132. CENTRE LAUNCHES FRAMEWORK FOR SAFEGUARDING AND PROTECTING CONSUMER INTEREST FROM FAKE AND DECEPTIVE REVIEWS IN E-COMMERCE.

- Centre has launched framework for safeguarding and protecting consumer interest from fake and deceptive reviews in e-commerce. Secretary, Department of Consumer Affairs, Rohit Kumar Singh launched the framework in New Delhi.
- The standards will be applicable to every online platform which publishes consumer reviews. The standard will initially be voluntary for compliance by all e-commerce platforms.

- Bureau of Indian Standards will also develop a Conformity Assessment Scheme for the standard within fifteen days to assess compliance.
- Violation of the standards by any entity may be considered as an unfair trade practice or violation of consumer rights. A consumer may submit such grievances to the National Consumer Helpline, Consumer Fora or the Central Consumer Protection Authority.
- The standard provides for responsibilities of organization including developing a code of practice, and necessary stipulations for terms and conditions like accessibility, criteria, and ensuring content does not contain financial information.



1.133. UNION HEALTH MINISTRY ROLLS OUT COUNTRY'S FIRST SUICIDE PREVENTION POLICY.

About:

- It is the first of its kind in the country, with **time-bound action plans and multi-sectoral collaborations to achieve reduction in suicide mortality by 10% by 2030.**
- The strategy broadly seeks to establish effective surveillance mechanisms for suicide within the next three years.
- It aims to establish **psychiatric outpatient departments** that will provide suicide prevention services through the **District Mental Health Programme in all districts** within the next **five years.**
- It also seeks to integrate a **mental well-being curriculum** in all educational institutions within the next eight years.
- It envisages developing guidelines for **responsible media reporting of suicides**, and restricting access to means of suicide.
- The stress is on developing **community resilience and societal support** for suicide prevention.
- While the strategy is in line with the **WHO's South East-Asia Region Strategy for suicide prevention**, it says it will remain true to India's cultural and social milieu.



Suicides in India:

- In India, **more than one lakh lives are lost every year** to suicide, and it is the top killer in the 15-29 years category.
- In the past three years, **the suicide rate has increased from 10.2 to 11.3 per 1,00,000 population.**
- The most common reasons for suicide include family problems and illnesses, which account for 34% and 18% of all suicide-related deaths.

1.134. PRE-LAUNCH OF INDIA'S YEAR-LONG GRAND CELEBRATION OF INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF MILLETS 2023 TO BE HELD IN DELHI.

- A pre-launch of India's year-long grand celebration of 'International Year of Millets 2023 will be held in New Delhi. External Affairs Minister Dr. S Jaishankar and Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar will be attending the event.
- During the event, the two Ministers will share the vision of the government for successful celebration of International Year of Millets 2023.
- High Commissioners and Ambassadors to India from more than 60 countries are expected to attend the pre-launch celebration.
- The key objective is to spread awareness about Indian millets and engage with other nations for a successful global celebration of International Year of Millets 2023.

- Recently at G-20 summit in Bali, Prime Minister Narendra Modi highlighted the benefits of millets saying that millets can solve the global malnutrition and hunger problem.
- He has also highlighted that India is promoting natural farming and re-popularising nutritious and traditional food grains like millet for sustainable food security. He had urged all to celebrate the International Year of Millets with great enthusiasm next year.
- The year 2023 will be celebrated as International Year of Millets. The primary aim of this initiative is to increase the awareness of millet's health benefits among the public.
- According to the United Nations estimates, the global population is projected to reach 8.5 billion by 2030 and 9.7 billion by 2050. In such a situation, there is a need for more production of food grains, especially millet, to meet the food needs of the rapidly growing global population.
- Estimates show that more than 90 million people in Africa and Asia depend on millet for their diets.
- Millets are being increasingly recognized as climate-smart crops with enormous nutritional and health benefits.
- Millets are a rich source of protein, fiber, minerals, iron, and calcium.
- India is a major producer of Millet, accounting for 80 percent of Asia's production and 20 percent of global production.



1.135. SONOWAL INTRODUCES FIRST-EVER CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR GREEN PORT AND SHIPPING IN INDIA.

- Sarbananda Sonowal, India's Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, reportedly declared the country's first-ever National Centre of Excellence for Green Port and Shipping an initiative by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping for greener solutions.
- India is working on increasing the share of renewable energy to 60% of the power demand of each of the major ports from a share of below 10%. This will be via wind- and solar-generated generated power.
- The authorities of Paradip Port, Deendayal Port Kandla, Paradip, Thoothukudi and Cochin Shipyard Limited, and V.O Chidambaranar Port have decided to extend their support to the ministry in setting up this centre. The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) is going to be the implementation and also the knowledge partner for the project.
- The Minister also mentioned that the centre would provide policy and regulatory support to the Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways to develop a regulatory framework and facilitate the adoption of an alternate technology roadmap for Green Shipping. This will help foster a circular economy (CE) and carbon neutrality in India's shipping sector. He then thanked the project stakeholders for hedging the resources toward a critical aspect of the industry.
- By 2030, the major ports have aimed to lower Carbon emissions per ton of cargo, reportedly handled by 30%.
- The Maritime Vision Document 2030, released by India's prime Minister Narendra Modi, is a 10-year blueprint of India's vision of a vibrant blue economy and sustainable Maritime sector.
- India got selected as the first nation under the IMO Green Voyage 2050 assignment to conduct a pilot project on Green Shipping.



1.136. DPIIT LAUNCHES STARTUP APPLICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION ON MAARG PORTAL.

- The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) launched startup applications for registration on the MAARG portal, the National Mentorship Platform by Startup India.
- The purpose of the application is to provide further boost the startup ecosystem by catalysing the startup culture and building a strong and inclusive ecosystem for innovation and entrepreneurship in India.
- MAARG portal, (Mentorship, Advisory, Assistance, Resilience and Growth) is a one stop platform to facilitate mentorship for startups across diverse sectors, functions, stages, geographies, and backgrounds.
- The MAARG is being operationalized in three phases which include, Mentor Onboarding, Startup Onboarding, and MAARG Portal Launch and Mentor Matchmaking.
- According to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the final launch where the mentors will be matched to the startups has initiated onboarding process of startups under Phase II.
- All interested startups can apply on MAARG.STARTUPINDIA.GOV.IN

#startupindia

1.137. PM TO LAUNCH E-COURT PROJECT.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will launch a slew of initiatives under the e-court project when he will be attending the Constitution Day celebrations in the Supreme Court in New Delhi.
- The project aims at providing better services to litigants, lawyers and the judiciary through ICT-enabled courts. These include virtual justice clock, JustIS mobile App 2.0, digital court and S3WaaS websites.
- The virtual justice clock is an initiative to exhibit vital statistics of the justice delivery system at the court level with the details of the cases instituted, cases disposed and pendency of cases on a day/week/month basis at the court level.
- The effort is expected to make the functioning of the courts accountable and transparent by sharing with the public the status of disposed cases. The public can have access to the virtual justice clock of any court establishment on the District Court's website.
- JustIS Mobile App 2.0 is a tool available to judicial officers for effective court and case management by monitoring the pendency and disposal of not only his court but also individual judges working under them. This App is also made available to high court and Supreme Court judges who can now monitor the pendency and disposal of all the states and districts under their jurisdiction.
- The digital court is an initiative to make the case records available to the judge in digitised form to enable the transition to paperless courts.
- Similarly, S3WaaS Website is a framework to generate, configure, deploy and manage websites for publishing specified information and services related to district judiciary.
- S3WaaS is a cloud service developed for government entities to generate Secure, Scalable & Sugamya (Accessible) websites. It is multilingual, citizen-friendly and divyang (physically challenged)-friendly.



1.138. 'RAILWAYS TO EXPORT VANDE BHARAT TRAINS BY 2025-26': OFFICIALS SAY

- According to railway officials, the railways are aiming to become a major exporter of Vande Bharat trains by 2025-26 to markets in Europe, South America and East Asia.
- The latest version of the indigenous trains with sleeper coaches will be operational by the first quarter of 2024.

- The official also said the railways is planning to clock 10-12 lakh kilometers on 75 Vande Bharat trains over the next few years, for these to be export ready.
- The ecosystem to export trains has to be created over the next two to three years. We are on track to manufacture 475 Vande Bharat trains in the next three years.
- Speaking about these trains, he stated these have a rider index of three, which means no or minimal jolts for passengers; and noise level of 65 decibel which is 100 times less than the sound produced in aircraft, further adding that while the present Vande Bharat trains are suitable for broad gauge, the railways' manufacturing units will modify the trains to run on standard gauges used by other countries.
- In fact, the national transporter is constructing a 59 km testing track between Gudha-Thathana Mithri in Jodhpur Division (about 70 Km from Jaipur) for carrying out tests/trials of various rolling stocks. This track can test trains running at a maximum speed of 220 kmph, maneuvering a variety of curves. The track will be ready by January 2024 and trains which will be exported will be tested here for prospective clients, officials said.
- They also said that sleeper Vande Bharat trains will be ready by the first quarter of 2024 and will be manufactured by the Integral Coach Factory, Chennai.
- A decision is yet to be taken on whether these trains will replace the existing Rajdhani and Duronto trains on routes like Delhi-Mumbai, Delhi-Howrah and other major routes or run parallel.
- In another development, the officials said India will get its first tilting trains by 2025-26, with 100 Vande Bharat trains being manufactured using this technology which enables trains to maneuver curves at higher speeds, just as a motorbike on a winding road.
- They said 100 of the 400 Vande Bharat trains to be manufactured by 2025 will have this technology.



1.139. HIMALAYAN YAK GETS FSSAI'S FOOD ANIMAL TAG.

- The Food Safety and Standard Authority of India (FSSAI) has approved the Himalayan Yak as a 'food animal'.
- The move is expected to help check decline in the population of the high-altitude bovine animal by making it a part of the conventional milk and meat industry, an official at the National Research Centre (NRC) on Yak at Dirang in West Kameng district of Arunachal Pradesh said.
- Food Animals are those that are raised and used for food production or consumption by humans.
- The NRC-Yak had in 2021 submitted a proposal to the FSSAI, for considering the yak as a food animal. However, The FSSAI responded with an official approval recently after a recommendation from the department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, NRC-Yak Director Dr Mihir Sarkar informed.
- The animal play multi-dimensional socio-cultural-economic role for the pastoral nomads who rear yaks mainly for earning their nutritional and livelihood security due to virtual inexistence of other agricultural activity in the high reaches of Himalayan region.
- Traditionally, yaks are reared under transhumance system which is primitive, unorganized and full of hardship.
- "FSSAI's recognition of Yak as food producing animal will help farmers benefit economically for rearing the animal and it will open up several vistas of economic benefits for both farmers and food processors," Dr Sarkar said.
- He said the Centre has developed a semi-intensive model of yak rearing in which yaks are maintained in open area as well as in paddock round the year. It is widely believed that declaration of yak as a food animal



by FSSAI will pave the way for its commercial rearing and consumption by adopting the yak rearing model developed by NRC-Yak.

- Dr Sarkar said that the Yak population in the country is decreasing at an alarming rate over the years.
- As per the latest census carried out in 2019, India has 58,000 yaks which is around 25 per cent drop from last livestock census carried out in 2012.
- “This drastic decline in yak population in India has become a cause of concern to the local users, government officials and those who promote conservation for animal genetic diversity,” Dr Sarkar said.
- Yak milk is highly nutritious, rich in fat, contain essential minerals and have medicinal value.
- Yak farmers produce various traditional meat products. These products are confined to local community level, produced and sold locally, the director said, adding that Yak meat is known to be very lean and it is better than beef.
- “The decline in yak population could be attributed to less remuneration from yak and so the younger generations are reluctant to continue with nomadic yak rearing. It is mainly because yak milk and meat are not a part of the conventional dairy and meat industry; their sale is limited to local consumers,” he said.
- However, commercialization of these milk and meat products will lead to entrepreneurship development. But for that it has to enter into conventional meat industry, Dr Sarkar said.

1.140. INDUSTRY URGES GOVT. TO ESTABLISH ‘INDIA RARE EARTHS MISSION’ TO REDUCE RELIANCE ON CHINA.

- To counter India’s reliance on China for imports of critical rare earth minerals, industry has urged the government to encourage private sector mining in the sector and diversify sources of supply for these strategic raw materials.
- “Set up an ‘India Rare Earths Mission’, manned by professionals, like the India Semiconductor Mission and make their exploration a critical component of the Deep Ocean Mission plan of the government,” the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has submitted, suggesting steps to encourage private players to mine such minerals.
- Though India has 6% of the world’s rare earth reserves, it only produces 1% of global output, and meets most of its requirements of such minerals from China, the industry grouping pointed out in a memorandum of suggestions for the Union Budget recently submitted to the Finance Ministry.



‘Broad-base supply’

- In 2018-19, for instance, 92% of rare earth metal imports by value and 97% by quantity were sourced from China. “Clearly there is a need to build domestic capability and broad-base supply sources for such an important and strategic raw material,” the CII said, making a pitch for harnessing the potential of the country’s own rare earth reserves.
- Suggesting that such minerals should not be held captive to India’s civil nuclear programme, the industry body has recommended that the public sector firm Indian Rare Earths Limited (IREL), administered by the Department of Atomic Energy, should be split into two entities.
- While IREL primarily focuses on Thorium mining, CII has suggested that the second entity could pursue other minerals.
- The industry group has also mooted making rare earth minerals a part of the ‘Make In India’ campaign, citing China’s ‘Made in China 2025’ initiative that focuses on new materials, including permanent magnets that are made using rare earth minerals. China offers state support for the industry.

1.141. BIRTH CERTIFICATE TO BE MADE MANDATORY FOR JOBS, DRIVING LICENCE, PASSPORT, VOTING RIGHT.

- The Central Government proposes to make birth certificates mandatory documents for jobs, education, voter list registration and others for appointment in Central and state government jobs.
- The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) proposes to amend the Registration of Birth and Death Act (RBD), 1969; bill in the upcoming winter session on December 7.
- “The birth certificates used to prove the date and place of birth of a person born on or after the date of Amendment for admission into educational institutions; issuance of driving licence; preparation of voter list; registration of marriage; appointment in central government, state government, local bodies and public sector undertakings, statutory bodies, autonomous bodies under Central and State government; Issuance of passport and other cases as prescribed by rules,” the MHA proposes.
- The government’s new amendment bill proposes hospitals and medical institutions make a copy of death certificates mandatory and also state the cause of death while submitting them to the local registrar.
- Moreover, the database will be linked to the electoral roll. Hence when a person turns 18 or dies, the database will add or delete respectively.
- “The draft Bill was placed in the public domain for suggestions last year. The comments have been received from state governments and the required changes have been incorporated.
- The legislative department is examining the Bill, and it will then be presented for the Union Cabinet’s approval.



1.142. NAI CHETNA: JAN ANDOLAN TO ADDRESS GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE.

- “The idea is to bring the issue of gender-based violence in focus and make women aware of their rights and mechanism available to help redress their grievances,” said the Union Minister Giriraj Singh.
- The Minister was addressing the launch of the month-long campaign “Nai Chetna”, launched on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women on 25th November 2022.
- It’s a campaign to raise awareness about the institutional mechanisms available for women to fight gender-based violence.



Aware, Reach and Redress:

- ‘Nai Chetna’, the month-long campaign is envisioned as a ‘Jan Andolan’ (people’s movement). The campaign is launched by the **Ministry of Rural Development** and involves sensitizing women, especially in rural areas.
- It seeks to enable women to acknowledge, prepare and take support in situations of compromise. The Union Minister described that the campaign’s focus is women in rural areas. Often, women in rural areas are unaware of the various mechanisms available to raise their concerns.
- In his address, the Union Minister highlighted the sensitivity of the issue. He said, “It is sad that a large number of men and women still consider gender-based violence normal. Such a perspective needs to be changed.”

Denormalizing discrimination with community support:

- Women are often unable to identify various forms of violence occurring around them. Violence and discrimination are normalized and there are thin boundaries between what can be compromised and what should be flagged.
- The Ministry has established around 1,200 Gender Resource Centres across the country. As a part of the campaign, 160 more such centres were launched. Even if they want to seek support, they are unaware of

redressal mechanisms and service providers and lack legal awareness. Hence, they rarely seek support and continue to suffer in silence.

- The month-long campaign seeks to enable women to acknowledge situations of violence and guide them to take support from various institutional mechanisms available to them.

1.143. NITI AAYOG LAUNCHES CCUS POLICY FRAMEWORK AND ITS DEPLOYMENT MECHANISM IN INDIA.

- Niti Aayog has launched the carbon capture utilisation and storage (CCUS) policy framework and its Deployment Mechanism in India.



- The report was launched by Vice Chairman Niti Aayog Suman Bery, in the presence of Power secretary Alok Kumar, Dr V Saraswat, member Niti Aayog and other officials in New Delhi. The report was prepared on the valuable inputs provided by the various stakeholders from the Energy and Power Sector (E&P).
- Earlier the government had put the draft policy titled '2030 Roadmap for CCUS for Upstream E&P companies in the public domain for suggestions from all the stakeholder's holders in the country.
- The purpose of CCUS policy framework is to develop and implement a practicable framework to accelerate research and development on carbon capture, utilisation and storage in India.
- As India is the third largest emitter of CO₂ in the world after China and the US about 2.6 gigatonne per annum, carbon capture utilisation and storage is an essential imperative for India to reach its Decarbonisation Goals.
- At COP 26 late year in Glasgow, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced panchamrit to mitigate climate change including achieving net zero by 2070.
- **The government of India has also committed to reducing CO₂ emissions by 50 percent by 2050.**
- According to Vice Chairman of Niti Aayog Suman K. Bery that CCUS has an important and critical role to play for India to achieve net zero by 2070.

ENORONOMET

1.144. ARUNACHAL PRADESH TO GET NORTHEAST'S FIRST FISH MUSEUM.

- A fish museum, the first of its kind in the Northeast, would soon be built in Arunachal Pradesh, Fisheries Minister Tage Taki.
- The museum in the NorthEast region (NER), with all fish species across the district from Tawang to Longding, to attract tourists, fish lovers and the museum will also serve as a training centre for fish farmers.
- The fish museum would be a part of India's first Integrated Aqua Park (IAP), sanctioned by the Union Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying (MoFAHD).
- The existing Tarin Fish Farm (TFF), located at high-altitude Bulla village, would be upgraded as the IAP where the museum would come up. It will have all fish species of the state and serve as a training centre for fisherfolk.
- An amount of Rs 43.59 crores was sanctioned for the project in the current financial year as the first instalment.



1.145. INDIA, GCC GROUP LIKELY TO START FREE TRADE PACT NEGOTIATIONS NEXT MONTH.

- India and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member countries are expected to start negotiations for a free trade agreement next month with an aim to boost economic ties between the two region.
- GCC is a union of six countries in the Gulf region — Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar, Kuwait, Oman and Bahrain.
- Terms of reference for the agreement are being finalised and we expect to launch the negotiations next month," the official said.
- India has already implemented a **free trade pact with the UAE** in May this year.
- According to experts, the GCC region holds huge trade potential and a trade agreement would help in further boosting India's exports to that market.
- Rakesh Mohan Joshi, Director, Indian Institute of Plantation Management, Bangalore, said the GCC market is unexploited by domestic exporters and it holds huge potential.
- "GCC is a major import dependent region. We can increase our exports of food items, clothing and several other goods. Duty concessions under a trade agreement will help in tapping that market. It will be a win-win situation for both sides," Mr. Joshi said.
- Mumbai-based exporter and founder chairman of Techno-craft Industries India, Sharad Kumar Saraf said the GCC has emerged as a major trading partner for India and there is huge potential for increasing investments between the two regions.
- "FTA will have a major benefit for both the sides," Mr. Saraf said.
- Federation of Indian Exports Organisation (FIEO) Vice Chairman Khalid Khan said sectors like chemicals, textiles, gems and jewellery and leather will get a major impetus by this agreement.
- India imports predominately crude oil and natural gas from the Gulf nations like Saudi Arabia and Qatar, and exports pearls, precious and semi-precious stones; metals; imitation jewellery; electrical machinery; iron and steel; and chemicals to these countries.
- India's exports to the GCC increased by 58.26% to about \$44 billion in 2021-22 against \$27.8 billion in 2020-21, according to data of the Commerce Ministry.
- The share of these six countries in India's total exports has risen to 10.4% in 2021-22 from 9.51% in 2020-21. Similarly, imports rose by 85.8% to \$110.73 billion compared to \$59.6 billion in 2020-21, the data showed.



- The share of GCC members in India's total imports rose to 18% in 2021-22 from 15.5% in 2020-21.
- Bilateral trade has increased to \$154.73 billion in 2021-22 from \$87.4 billion in 2020-21.
- Besides trade, Gulf nations are host to a sizeable Indian population. Out of about 32 million non-resident Indians (NRIs), nearly half are estimated to be working in Gulf countries.
- These NRIs send a significant amount of money back home.
- According to a November 2021 report of the World Bank, India got \$87 billion in foreign remittances in 2021. Of this, a sizeable portion came from the GCC nations.
- Saudi Arabia was India's fourth-largest trading partner last fiscal. From Qatar, India imports 8.5 million tonnes a year of LNG and exports products ranging from cereals to meat, fish, chemicals, and plastics.
- Kuwait was the 27th largest trading partner of India in the last fiscal, while the UAE was the third-largest trading partner in 2021-22.

1.146. THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION (WHO) HAS PUBLISHED THE FIRST-EVER LIST OF FUNGAL "PRIORITY PATHOGENS".

- The World Health Organisation (WHO) has published a report highlighting the first-ever list of fungal "priority pathogens" – a catalogue of the 19 fungi that represent the greatest threat to public health.
- The WHO fungal priority pathogens list (FPPL) is the first global effort to systematically prioritize fungal pathogens, considering the unmet research and development (R&D) needs and the perceived public health importance. This report is based on research led by the University of Sydney in Australia.
- Emerging evidence indicates that the incidence and geographic range of fungal diseases are both expanding worldwide due to global warming and the increase of international travel and trade.
- During the COVID-19 pandemic, the reported incidence of invasive fungal infections increased significantly among hospitalized patients. As the fungi that cause common infections (such as candida oral and vaginal thrush) become increasingly resistant to treatment, risks for the development of more invasive forms of infections in the general population are also growing.
- "Emerging from the shadows of the bacterial antimicrobial resistance pandemic, fungal infections are growing, and are ever more resistant to treatments, becoming a public health concern worldwide" said Dr Hanan Balkhy, WHO Assistant Director-General, Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR).



Three priority categories

- The WHO FPPL list is divided into three categories: critical, high and medium priority.
1. The critical group includes *Candida auris*, which is highly drug resistant and has caused a number of outbreaks in hospitals worldwide, as well as *Cryptococcus neoformans*, *Aspergillus fumigatus*, and *Candida albicans*.
 2. The high group includes a number of other fungi from the *Candida* family as well as others such as *Mucorales*, a group containing the fungi that causes mucormycosis or "black fungus", an infection which rose rapidly in seriously ill people - particularly in India - during COVID-19.
 3. The medium group lists a number of other fungi, including *Coccidioides* spp and *Cryptococcus gattii*.

Fungal infection treatment

- Fungal pathogens are a major threat to public health as they are becoming increasingly common and resistant to treatment with only four classes of antifungal medicines currently available, and few candidates in the clinical pipeline, WHO said.

1.147. THE INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR BIOSPHERE RESERVES.

- The first 'The International Day for Biosphere Reserves', celebrated on **November 3, 2022**.
- The UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR) was formed in 1971.

- WNBR covers **internationally designated protected areas**, known as **biosphere reserves**, which are **meant to demonstrate a balanced relationship** between people and nature (e.g. encourage sustainable development).
- They are created under the **Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB)**.

About the biosphere reserves:

- All biosphere reserves are internationally recognised sites on land, at the coast, or in the oceans.

There are 738 biosphere reserves in 134 countries, including 22 transboundary sites. They are distributed as follows:

- 90 sites in 33 countries in Africa
- 36 sites in 14 countries in the Arab States
- 172 sites in 24 countries in Asia and the Pacific
- 308 sites in 41 countries in Europe and North America
- 132 sites in 22 countries Latin America and the Caribbean.

India has 12 internationally recognised BRs. They are as follows:

- Nilgiri
- Gulf of Mannar
- Sunderban
- Nanda Devi
- Nokrek
- Pachmarhi
- Similipal
- Achanakmar-Amarkantak
- Great Nicobar
- Agasthyamala
- Khangchendzonga
- Panna

Nomination & approval of biosphere reserves:

- Governments alone decide which areas to nominate.
- Before approval by UNESCO, the sites are externally examined.
- If approved, they will be managed based on a plan, reinforced by credibility checks while remaining under the sovereignty of their national government.



1.148. COP27: PARTIES AGREE TO INTRODUCE LOSS AND DAMAGE FUNDING AS AGENDA AT CLIMATE CONFERENCE.

- For the first time since the adoption of the UN climate convention, Parties have agreed to introduce Loss and Damage funding as an agenda item at the climate conference.
- UN Climate Conference COP27 President and Foreign Minister of Egypt Sameh Shoukry commended the sense of responsibility and commitment that parties showed, as well as the collective keenness on preserving the credibility and relevance of the climate process.
- In his remarks, Mr. Shoukry called on countries to show faith in multilateralism over the next two weeks as they negotiate to deliver on the goals of the Climate Convention and the Paris Agreement.



- Loss and damage funding refers to financial compensation that directly addresses unavoidable climate change catastrophes that developing countries are particularly vulnerable to.

1.149. 2015-22 COULD BE WARMEST PERIOD ON RECORD: UN AGENCY

- The global mean temperature in 2022 is estimated to be 1.15 degree Celsius above the pre-industrial (1850-1900) average, likely making the eight years from 2015 the warmest on record, the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO), a UN agency, said in a report.
- The report titled “WMO Provisional State of the Global Climate 2022” released at the 27th Conference of Parties to the UNFCCC stated the rate of sea level rise had doubled since 1993 and had risen by nearly 10 mm since January 2020 to a new record high this year.
- The past two-and-a-half years account for 10 per cent of the overall rise in sea level since satellite measurements started nearly 30 years ago, the report stated.
- The figures used in the provisional 2022 report are till the end of September this year. The final version will be issued next April.



1.150. HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS MINISTER HARDEEP SINGH PURI LAUNCHES TRANSPORT 4 ALL CHALLENGE STAGE-2 AND CITIZEN PERCEPTION SURVEY 2022.

- Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri virtually launched the Transport 4 All Challenge Stage-2 and Citizen Perception Survey 2022.
- The Transport 4 All Challenge is an initiative aims at enhancing the mobility experience of citizens.
- The Challenge focuses on digital innovation and invites cities, citizens, and innovators to join hands to develop contextual digital solutions to improve public transport to better serve the mobility needs of all citizens.
- The Stage-2 is opened to Startups for developing solutions to Transport problems in 46 participating cities.
- The Citizen Perception Survey is launched under Ease of Living Index-2022 for 264 cities to capture citizens feedback about their city.
- It is an initiative to undertake a transparent and comprehensive assessment of cities based on cross-city outcomes across major sectors. This survey will continue till 23rd of next month.



1.151. ATAL INNOVATION MISSION LAUNCHES WOMEN CENTRIC CHALLENGES UNDER ANIC PROGRAM.

- Atal Innovation Mission of NITI Aayog launched the Women centric challenges under the 2nd edition of Atal New India Challenge (ANIC).
- The Woman centric challenges address the major issues faced by women from all spheres of life. These include driving women hygiene through innovation, innovations to improve women’s safety, professional networking opportunities for women, innovations that make working mothers’ life better, and easing the life of Rural Women.



- CEO NITI Aayog Parmeswaran Iyer said that these challenges are thought provoking and can lead to major innovations and solutions. He said that NITI Aayog and AIM focus on women empowerment.
- The Aayog highlighted that ANIC aims to seek, select, support and nurture technology-based innovations that solve sectoral challenges of national importance and societal relevance through a grant-based mechanism of up to one crore rupees.

1.152. UNION MINISTER SARBANANDA SONOWAL TO INAUGURATE TWO DAY PM GATI SHAKTI MULTIMODAL WATERWAYS SUMMIT ON NOV 11.

- Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal will inaugurate the two day PM Gati Shakti Multimodal Waterways Summit.
- The summit will be held at the Deendayal Hastkala Sankul (Trade Centre and Museum) Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh. The primary object of the summit is to bring about greater awareness about the PM Gati Shakti National Masterplan with focus on infrastructure development in the waterways.
- Speaking about the Summit, Mr Sonowal said the PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan is a transformative approach for improving logistics efficiency and reducing logistics cost to ensure first and last mile connectivity.
- He said, the Ministry had identified 101 projects estimated to cost around over 62 thousand crore rupees under GatiShakti which are aimed to be completed by 2024.
- PM Gati Shakti was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi which aims at providing Multimodal connectivity infrastructure to various Special Economic Zones and enhancing logistical efficiency.



1.153. STAGE 3 OF GRADED RESPONSE ACTION PLAN TO CONTINUE IN DELHI-NCR, ADJOINING AREAS.

- In view of the increasing trend in the Air Quality Index, the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) in Delhi-NCR and Adjoining areas has decided that ongoing actions implemented under Stage 3 of the Graded Response Action Plan- GRAP will continue.
- The Commission decided that stage- 3 of the GRAP should not be withdrawn as wind conditions have not been very favorable and accordingly dispersion of air pollutants has not been very effective.
- The Sub-Committee of the Commission for invoking actions under GRAP took the decision after comprehensively reviewing the air quality scenario following the significant spike in Delhi's overall Air Quality Index from 260 to 346 in the last two days.



Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM)

- **Formed by** an ordinance, "Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas Ordinance 2020", in October 2020.
- The Commission will be a **statutory authority**. It will supersede bodies such as the central and state pollution control boards of Delhi, Punjab, Haryana, UP and Rajasthan.
- **Composition:** The new 18-member Commission brings together the Centre, states, and other stakeholders on one collaborative platform.
 - Chaired by a government official of the rank of Secretary or Chief Secretary. The chairperson will hold the post for three years or until s/he attains the age of 70 years.

- It will also have five ex officio members who are either Chief Secretaries, or Secretaries in charge of the department dealing with environment protection in the States of Delhi, Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh.
- Three full time technical members.
- **Powers & Jurisdiction:** It will have the powers to issue directions to these state governments on issues pertaining to air pollution.
 - Exclusive jurisdiction over the NCR, including areas in Haryana, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan, in matters of air pollution, and will be working along with CPCB and ISRO, apart from the respective state governments.
 - The Commission will have the power to impose a fine of up to Rs 1 crore and imprisonment of up to 5 years in case its directions are contravened.

1.154. U.S.A RECENTLY UNVEILED A NEW CARBON OFFSET SCHEME CALLED ENERGY TRANSITION ACCELERATOR (ETA) FOR CLIMATE FINANCE.

About:

- It will be developed by the US along with the Bezos Earth Fund and the Rockefeller Foundation and receive inputs from public and private sectors.
- It is a new carbon offset plan that will allow companies to fund clean energy projects in developing countries and gain carbon credits that they can then use to meet their own climate goals, at least partly.
- According to U.S.A, the concept is to put the carbon market to work, deploy capital otherwise undeployable, and speed up the transition from dirty to clean power, for two purposes- to retire unabated coal fired power and accelerate renewables.
- The ETA is expected to deliver deeper and earlier emissions reductions, help developing countries achieve and strengthen their nationally determined contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement, and help them advance broader sustainable development goals, including expanded energy access.
- The ETA is expected to operate through 2030, possibly extending to 2035.



1.155. PAKISTAN AND BANGLADESH FIRST TO RECEIVE G7 'GLOBAL SHIELD' CLIMATE FUNDING.

- **Pakistan, Ghana and Bangladesh** will be among the first recipients of funding from a **G7 'Global Shield' initiative** to provide funding to countries suffering **climate disasters**, the programme announced at the **COP27 summit in Egypt**.

What Is Global Shield Funding:

- The Global Shield(GS), coordinated by **G7 president Germany**, aims to provide rapid access for climate-vulnerable countries to insurance and disaster protection funding after floods or drought.
- It is being developed in collaboration with the **'V20' group of 58 climate vulnerable economies**. **Germany has contributed \$175.17 million** in funding to Global Shield while other countries including **Denmark and Ireland have contributed a little over \$41 million**.

Objective Of the Fund:

- The **GS will close urgent protection gaps** in countries by designing, funding, and facilitating interventions.
- The GS aims to rapidly provide **pre-arranged insurance** and **disaster protection funding** after events such as floods, droughts and hurricanes hit.
- **The Global Shield aims** to complement, not replace, the progress on **'loss and damage'**.



Who Are the Beneficiaries:

- **Bangladesh, Costa Rica, Fiji, Ghana, Pakistan, the Philippines and Senegal** as some of the initial recipients of Global Shield packages. Those packages would be developed in the coming months.

1.156. INDIA CLIMBS TWO SPOTS TO RANK 8TH IN CLIMATE GOALS.

- Indicating that India's green measures like cutting on emissions and the increasing use of renewable energy are delivering results, a new study has noted that the developing nation climbed two spots to rank eighth out of 63 in the Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) 2023.
- India also earned a high rating in the GHG Emissions and Energy Use categories, while it got a medium rating in Climate Policy and Renewable Energy sections, as per the report prepared by three environmental non-governmental organisations that track climate performance of the European Union and 59 countries, which together account for over 92 per cent of the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in the world.
- The rankings by German watch, New Climate Institute and the Climate Action Network are based on how well the countries are doing to halve their emissions by 2030 — an essential aspect to keep the 1.5-degree Celsius goal within reach and prevent dangerous climate change.
- The CCPI, which has been published since 2005, aims to enhance transparency in international climate politics and it enables comparison of individual countries' climate protection efforts and progress.
- The report leaves the first three places empty as "no country performed well enough in all index categories to achieve an overall very high rating". It puts Denmark in fourth place, followed by Sweden and Chile.
- China, which is the world's biggest polluter now, fell 13 places to 51st in this year's CCPI and received an overall very-low rating due to plans for new coal-fired power plants.
- The US rose by three ranks to the 52nd place. Iran (63rd), Saudi Arabia (62nd) and Kazakhstan (61st) fared the worst. The report said India is "on track" to meet its 2030 emissions targets, compatible with a well-below 2-degree-Celsius scenario.
- Since the last CCPI, India has updated its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) and announced a net-zero target for 2070. Net zero means achieving a balance between the greenhouse gases put into the atmosphere and those taken out.
- The NDCs are national plans to limit global temperature rise to well below 2 degrees Celsius, preferably to 1.5 degrees Celsius in accordance with the Paris Agreement.
- In August, India released its updated NDCs and now stands committed to reducing emissions intensity of its GDP by 45 per cent by 2030 from the 2005 level.
- It aims to achieve about 50 per cent cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel-based energy resources by 2030. These NDCs are, however, contingent on delivery of finance and technology transfer.
- Despite India's medium rating in the Renewable Energy category, the country has included renewable targets in its updated NDC.
- The report noted that India is among the nine countries responsible for 90 per cent of global coal production and it also plans to increase its oil, gas, and oil production by over 5 per cent by 2030.
- "This is incompatible with the 1.5 degree Celsius target," the CCPI experts said.

**1.157. INDIA, CHINA, BRAZIL, SOUTH AFRICA OPPOSED 'CARBON BORDER TAX' PROPOSED BY EUROPEAN UNION IN THE 27TH EDITION OF THE CONFERENCE OF PARTIES (COP) IN SHARM EL SHEIKH, EGYPT.**

About:

- The European Union has proposed a policy — called the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism — to tax products such as cement and steel, that are extremely carbon intensive, with effect from 2026.
- BASIC, a group constituting Brazil, India, South Africa and China, and therefore large economies that are significantly dependent on coal, has reiterated their right to use fossil fuel in the interim during their countries' eventual transformation to clean energy sources.



What is a carbon border adjustment tax?

- It is a duty on imports based on the amount of carbon emissions resulting from the production of the product in question. As a price on carbon, it discourages emissions. As a trade-related measure, it affects production and exports.
- There is the risk that it becomes a protectionist device, unduly shielding local industries from foreign competition in so-called 'green protectionism'.
- If implemented as planned, EU importers will have to buy carbon certificates corresponding to the carbon price that would have been paid in the EU, if the goods had been produced locally.
- The price of the certificates would be calculated according to the auction prices in the EU carbon credit market. The amount of certificates required would be defined yearly by the quantity of goods and the embedded emissions in those goods imported into the EU.

1.158. FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE JOINING THE CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES OF FLORA AND FAUNA (CITES) IN 1976, INDIA DID NOT VOTE AGAINST A PROPOSAL SEEKING TO RE-OPEN THE IVORY TRADE.

About:

- The proposal, to allow a regular form of controlled trade in ivory from Namibia, Botswana, South Africa and Zimbabwe, was defeated at the 19th meeting of the CITES (CoP19) in Panama City.
- India's abstention — a break from its past stand — was in tune with what Namibia had asked for when it agreed to transfer cheetahs this summer.



Ivory trade Ban

- The ivory trade was **globally banned in 1989** when all African elephant populations were put in CITES Appendix I.
- No trade is allowed in species listed in CITES Appendix I while trade is strictly regulated in those under Appendix II.

What is CITES?

- It is an international agreement to which States and regional economic integration organizations adhere voluntarily.
- It was drafted as a result of a resolution adopted in 1963 at a meeting of members of IUCN (The World Conservation Union). It entered into force in July 1975.
- Its aim is to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten the survival of the species.
- Although CITES is legally binding on the Parties – in other words they have to implement the Convention – it does not take the place of national laws.
- The CITES Secretariat is administered by UNEP and is located in Geneva, Switzerland. The Conference of the Parties to CITES is the supreme decision-making body of the Convention and comprises all its parties.

1.159. KORONIVIA JOINT WORK ON AGRICULTURE.

- India opposed the Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture that sought to minimize greenhouse gas emissions from the agriculture sector.

What is Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture?

- The Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture (KJWA) is a special decision under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) that aims to recognize the unique potential of the agriculture sector in addressing the climate change.
- It addresses 6 interrelated topics on soil, nutrient usage, livestock, water, methods for gauging adaptation and socio-economic and food security dimensions of climate change across the agriculture sector.
- This decision is in line with the core mandate of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) – elimination of hunger, food insecurity, and malnutrition; reduction of rural poverty; and increase productivity and sustainability of agriculture, forestry and fisheries sectors.
- The KJWA proposes many approaches that have a high potential for adaptation, adaptation co-benefits, and mitigation related to land and food systems. These include the conservation and restoration of ecosystems, improving the sustainability of agricultural practices, and minimizing food wastage and losses.



Why has India opposed the KJWA?

- India held that emissions from the agricultural sectors are not “luxury” emissions but “survival emissions” of the poor. It blamed the developed countries’ historic emissions for the current climate crisis.
- Currently, agricultural tasks are the livelihood of small and marginal farmers who will find it difficult to make a rapid transition to sustainable agricultural practices.
- Developed countries are proposing sustainable agriculture to become a site for countering their excessive emissions.
- India pointed out that developed countries owe the world a carbon debt of 790 gigatonnes of carbon dioxide, which is worth 79 trillion USD even at the modest pricing of 100 USD per tonne. South Asia’s historic total carbon emissions from the pre-industrial period until 2019 are less than 4 per cent despite hosting a quarter of the global population. India’s per capita yearly emissions are about one-third of the global average. If the entire world emits carbon at the same per capita level as India, climate crisis can be addressed.

1.160. INDIA JUMPS TWO SPOTS TO RANKS 8TH ON CLIMATE CHANGE PERFORMANCE INDEX.

- India is amongst the top five best-performing countries on Climate Change. The latest report of Climate Change Performance Index- 2023, released at COP 27, shows Denmark, Sweden, Chile and Morocco as the only four small countries that were ranked above India.
- Power Ministry said, India has jumped two spots higher and now ranks 8th as per Climate Change Performance Index.
- The first, second and third ranks were not awarded to any country. The Ministry said, India has earned a high rating in the global greenhouse gas Emissions and Energy Use categories.
- The CCPI is an independent monitoring tool for tracking the climate protection performance of 59 countries and the European Union.



1.161. IN ARITTAPATTI, TAMIL NADU GETS ITS FIRST BIODIVERSITY HERITAGE SITE.

- The Tamil Nadu government issued a notification declaring the Arittapatti village near Melur in Madurai district as a biodiversity heritage site under Section 37 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002.
- The site is situated in an area of 193.21 hectare and is the first Biodiversity Heritage Site (BHS) to be notified in the state.
- According to a statement, the Arittapatti village is surrounded by a chain of seven barren granite hillocks that act as a watershed and support close to 72 lakes, 200 natural spring pools and three check dams. The Anaikondan lake built during the reign of the Pandiyas in the 16th century is one among them.
- The village has a rich biological and historical significance with the presence of around 250 bird species, including three flagship raptor species – Laggar Falcon (*Falco jugger*), Shaheen Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) and Bonelli's Eagle (*Aquila fasciata*) and wildlife such as Indian Pangolin (*Manis crassicaudata*), Python (*Python molurus*) and Slender Loris (*Loris spp*).
- The site also features various megalithic structures, Tamil Brahmi Inscriptions, Jain Beds and 2200-year-old rock-cut temples adding to its historical value.
- According to an order issued by Supriya Sahu, Additional Chief Secretary, Environment, Climate Change and Forest, the notification will strengthen the biodiversity and conservation efforts with the participation of local communities. It was added that the initiatives will also help preserve the rich biological and historical repository of the area.



1.162. MUMBAI BECOMES THE FIRST CITY IN SOUTH ASIA TO TOP CDP'S CLIMATE ACTION LIST.

- As Egypt hosted COP27, Mumbai has become the first Indian city to be added to the A-list in the 5th Annual Cities Report published by The Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP), a non-profit organisation that runs the world's environmental disclosure system for companies, cities, states, and regions – recognises the important role that cities play in taking bold actions to mitigate and adopt to climate change.
- The organisation says that Mumbai was able to attain despite the challenging global economic situation. Designed to encourage and support cities to ramp up their climate action and ambition, CDP's Cities A-List is based on environmental data disclosed by cities to CDP-ICLEI Track.
- In fact, 122 cities across the globe have been named as leaders in environmental action and transparency in 2022 by CDP. For the first time, this includes cities from several countries in the Global South, including Mumbai; cities that are often among those most affected by the impacts of climate change.



India's financial hub

- Mumbai is the most populous city in India, and, globally, the 7th largest in terms of population. Surrounded by the sea on three sides, Mumbai is separated from the mainland by Thane Creek and Harbour Bay. The city is vulnerable to climate change-induced hazards, such as sea level rise, heavy rainfall, storm surges, increasing heat, and tropical cyclones. It is also susceptible to landslides, due to heavy rain that causes many fatalities and physical damage each monsoon season.
- The city has recently released its first-ever Climate Action Plan in 2022, 'Towards a Climate Resilient Mumbai'. It outlines the aims to reach net-zero carbon neutrality by 2050 – the most significant step taken in its climate journey thus far.
- The Climate Action Plan has laid down a 30-year roadmap for the city to tackle the challenges of climate change, by adopting inclusive and robust mitigation and adaptation strategies. The action plan sets short,

medium, and long-term climate goals aimed at achieving zero emission of greenhouse gases or a net-zero target for 2050.

- Recent CDP data shows that 80 percent of cities face climate hazards, from drought to floods, which are expected to be more intense and frequent by 2025 for 25 percent of cities. Hence the need for strong climate action is urgent. A-List cities are demonstrating their climate leadership through concerted and effective action; just as national governments have been asked to do at COP27. They are taking more than three times as many mitigation and adaptation measures as non-A List cities.
- For the first time, over 1,000 cities (1,002 in total) received a rating for their climate action from CDP in, a rise on the 965 cities scored in 2021. In 2022, just over one in ten cities scored by CDP (12% of such cities) received an A. What is clear is that a momentum in city climate disclosure and action is gradually building up. In this context, Mumbai is setting an example in India by showing how emission reduction targets and adaptation plans can change the face of the city.
- Other cities from Global South that have also made it onto the A-List for the first time are: Lima (Peru), Quito (Ecuador) and Yaounde IVth Commune (Cameroon). The Middle East also sees its first A-List cities, including Amman (Jordan) and Kadikoy in (Turkey). Brazil, Chile, and the Philippines have returned to the cities A-List for the first time since 2020.

1.163. INDIA REITERATES ITS COMMITMENT ON CONSERVING TORTOISES AND FRESH WATER TURTLES AT COP19 IN PANAMA

- India reiterated its commitment on conserving tortoises and fresh water turtles in the country during the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP 19) at the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change said this in a press release. The 19th Meeting is being held at Panama City from 14th November to 25th November 2022.
- At CoP 19, India's proposal for induction of fresh water turtle Batagur kachuga earned wide support of the parties in CoP 19 of CITES. It was widely appreciated by the parties and well accepted when introduced.
- CITES lauded and recorded the works done by the India in the area of conservation of tortoises and fresh water turtles and efforts made in combating wildlife crime and illegal trade of turtles in the country.
- The resolution documents submitted by the CITES Secretariat on tortoises and fresh water turtles specifically mentioned the commendable result achieved by the country in operations such as those initiated by the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau namely Operation Turtshield, which resulted in nabbing many criminals involved in poaching and illegal trade of fresh water turtles and substantial seizures made by the agencies in different part of the country.



Ministry of Environment,
Forest and Climate Change
Government of India



1.164. INDIA'S PROPOSAL FOR ENHANCED PROTECTION TO LEITH'S SOFTSHELL TURTLE ADOPTED AT WILDLIFE SUMMIT IN PANAMA.

- India has strengthened protection to Leith's Soft-shelled Turtle under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, CITES. India's proposal for transferring Leith's Softshell Turtle from Appendix II to Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of wild fauna and flora, has been adopted by the Conference of Parties to CITES in its 19th Meeting at Panama.
- This will ensure that legal international trade in the species does not take place for commercial purposes. It will also ensure that international trade in captive-bred specimens



only takes place from registered facilities and higher penalties are provided for illegal trade of the species.

- The proposal was introduced by Director General of Forests and Special Secretary in the Environment Ministry, Chandra Prakash Goyal on 23rd November when the Committee I of CoP took up the proposal for consideration.
- Leith's Softshell Turtle is a large fresh water soft-shelled turtle which is endemic to peninsular India and it inhabits rivers and reservoirs. The turtle species has been subject to intensive exploitation over the past 30 years.
- It has been poached and illegally consumed within India. It has also been illegally traded abroad for meat.
- The population of this turtle species is estimated to have declined by 90 percent over the past 30 years. The species is now difficult to find.
- It is classified as 'Critically Endangered' by the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

1.165. SCIENTISTS DISCOVER NEW SPECIES OF BLACK CORALS NEAR THE GREAT BARRIER REEF.

- Using a remote-controlled submarine, researchers at Smithsonian Institution, Washington, discovered five new species of black corals living as deep as 2,500 feet (760 metres) below the surface in the Great Barrier Reef and Coral Sea off the coast of Australia.
- Black corals can be found growing both in shallow waters and down to depths of over 26,000 feet (8,000 metres), and some individual corals can live for over 4,000 years.
- Many of these corals are branched and look like feathers, fans or bushes, while others are straight like a whip. Unlike their colourful, shallow-water cousins that rely on the sun and photosynthesis for energy, black corals are filter feeders and eat tiny zooplankton that are abundant in deep waters.
- In the past, corals from the deep parts of this region were collected using dredging and trawling methods that would often destroy the corals.
- The researchers first sent a robot down to these particular deep-water ecosystems, allowing the team to actually see and safely collect deep sea corals in their natural habitats. Over the course of 31 dives, the researchers collected 60 black coral specimens.
- They then removed the corals from the sandy floor or coral wall using the rover's robotic claws, placed the corals in a pressurised, temperature-controlled storage box and then brought them up to the surface.
- The researchers then examined the physical features of the corals and sequenced their DNA.
- Among the many interesting specimens were five new species – including one that was found growing on the shell of a nautilus more than 2,500 feet (760 metres) below the ocean's surface.
- Similarly to shallow-water corals that build colourful reefs full of fish, black corals act as important habitats where fish and invertebrates feed and hide from predators in what is otherwise a mostly barren sea floor.
- For example, a single black coral colony researchers collected in 2005 off the coast of California, United States, was home to 2,554 individual invertebrates.



1.166. INDIAN SCIENTISTS RECENTLY RECEIVED INTERNATIONAL AWARD ON BEHALF OF SNOW LEOPARD CONSERVATION ALLIANCE.

About:

- Indian snow leopard experts received the Madrid-based BBVA Foundation's **Worldwide Biodiversity Conservation Award** on behalf of a 12-nation intergovernmental alliance -**The Global Snow Leopard Ecosystem Protection Program (GSLEP)**.

What is The Global Snow Leopard Ecosystem Protection Program (GSLEP)?

- The GSLEP is a first-of-its-kind **intergovernmental alliance for the conservation of the snow leopard** and its unique ecosystem.

- It is led by the environment ministers of 12 countries in Asia that form the home range of the snow leopard. These are Afghanistan, Bhutan, China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. The total range spans two million square kilometres.
- The GSLEP Program's secretariat is based in Bishkek, and is hosted by the Ministry of Natural Resources, Ecology and Technical Supervision of the Kyrgyz Republic.
- GSLEP was created in 2013 when officials, politicians and conservationists arrived at a common conservation strategy enshrined in the Bishkek Declaration (2013) to cooperate in the conservation of this species and its habitat.



1.167. KVIC CHAIRMAN INAUGURATES THE AMBITIOUS RE-HAB PROJECT IN NAINITAL.

- KVIC Chairman Shri Manoj Kumar inaugurated the ambitious Re-Hab Project (Reducing Human Attacks using Honey Bees) by Khadi and Village Industries Commission (Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Government of India) at village Chausla, in Forest Range Fatehpur, Haldwani, District Nainital, where he also distributed 330 Bee-boxes, bee-colonies and toolkits along with the honey extractors to the rural beneficiaries in Chausla village, free of cost.
- On this occasion chairman of KVIC informed the gathering that Khadi & Village Industries Commission (KVIC), under the valuable guidance of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, is running this project called Re-Hab in 7 states of the country, namely in Karnataka, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Assam and Orissa, where attacks of the elephants is more common, and under this project fencing of bee boxes is installed in such areas from where elephants move towards the human settlements and farmers' agriculture.
- Fencing of Bee-boxes on the routes of movement of elephants blocks the path of wild elephants. In this way, through honey-bees, elephants can be prevented from attacking humans and destroying farmers' crops.
- As a new initiative, the Re-Hab project will be run by KVIC at selected locations for a period of one year.
- Chairman also informed that in order to realize the call of "Sweet Revolution" by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and to provide self-employment opportunities to the unemployed youth of the country, and to increase the income of the farmers, the Honey Mission program is implemented under the Khadi and Gramodyog Vikas Yojana, in the entire country from the year 2018-19.
- The beneficiaries of this scheme are provided with 10 bee-boxes, bee-colonies and toolkits after completion of the beekeeping training provided by KVIC.
- Under the Honey Mission program in the state of Uttarakhand, from the year 2018-19 to 2021-22 a total of 7120 Bee-boxes, Bee-colonies and toolkits, and other equipments have been distributed to a total of 712 unemployed and farmers, out of which 3910 Bee-boxes have been distributed to 391 Scheduled Caste beneficiaries, 790 Bee-boxes to 79 Scheduled Tribe beneficiaries, and 2420 Bee-boxes to 242 general category beneficiaries.



1.168. JEYPORE GROUND GECKO (CYRTODACTYLUS JEYPORENSIS), HAS BEEN RECENTLY INCLUDED IN APPENDIX II OF THE CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES (CITES).

About:

- The proposal to include the gecko in Appendix II was made by India at the recently-concluded 19th Conference of Parties (COP19) to CITES in Panama City. The proposal was adopted by the members of the Working Group.

CITES Appendix II:

- The animals listed under Appendix II may not necessarily be threatened with extinction, but trade in such species should be controlled to ensure it does not threaten their existence.

International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN):

- In 2019, the Jeypore Ground Gecko was assessed for the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)'s Red List of Threatened Species and **was listed as 'endangered'**.

Distribution:

- This reptile is endemic to India.
- The wild reptile species is found in the **Eastern Ghats and is known to be present in four locations including southern Odisha and northern Andhra Pradesh.**
- Its occurrence is estimated in less than 5,000 square kilometres of fragmented geographical area.
- The species resides below rock boulders in high forested hills at an altitude of 1,100-1,400 metres.
- Habitat loss and degradation, forest fires, tourism, quarrying and mining activity among the reasons for the species' decline.



GEOGRAPHY

1.169. UP'S RANIPUR TIGER RESERVE BECOMES 53RD TIGER RESERVE OF INDIA.

- **Uttar Pradesh** is set to have its **fourth Tiger Reserve** and 53rd tiger reserve in India. The tiger reserve is spread across over **529.36 sq km** out of which the core area is 230.32 sq km and the buffer area is 299.05 sq km. **Union Minister for Environment, Forest, and Climate change** Bhupendra Yadav confirmed the development.



Key Points:

- Apart from Ranipur, Uttar Pradesh has three tiger reserves, Dudhwa, Pilibhit, and Amangarh.
- **Uttar Pradesh government** approved the development of the first tiger reserve in the Bundelkhand region of the state on 28th September 2022.
- The **UP government** also approved the notification of the Ranipur **Wildlife Protection Act 1973**.
- Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has also decided to establish the **Ranipur Tiger Conservation Foundation** along with sanctioning of requisite posts.
- Ranipur Tiger Reserve is covered by northern tropical dry deciduous forests and is home to mammals like **megafauna tiger, leopard, bear, spotted deer, sambhar, and chinkara among others**.
- According to the state government, the establishment of the Tiger Reserve in Ranipur will lead to the opening up of **eco-tourism** in the area and create immense employment opportunities.

1.170. GOVT. APPROVES RS. 51,875 CRORE SUBSIDY FOR P&K FERTILISERS FOR RABI SEASON.

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved ₹51,875 crore subsidy for phosphatic & potassic fertilisers for the rabi season.
- "This will enable smooth availability of all P&K fertilizers to the farmers during Rabi 2022-23 (October-March) at the subsidized / affordable prices of fertilizers and support the agriculture sector. The volatility in the international prices of fertilizers and raw materials has been primarily absorbed by the Union Government," said a, official release.
- The subsidy on P&K fertilisers, which includes support for indigenous fertiliser through freight subsidy, will be provided based on the nutrient based subsidy rates approved by the CCEA to ensure smooth availability of these fertilisers to the farmers at affordable prices.



The nutrient based subsidy scheme:

- The nutrient based subsidy scheme is being implemented since April 2010.
- Under the NBS policy, a fixed rate of subsidy (in ₹per Kg basis) is announced on nutrients namely Nitrogen (N), Phosphate (P), Potash (K) and Sulphur (S) by the government on annual basis.
- The per kilogram subsidy rates on the nutrients are converted into per tonne subsidy on the various P&K fertilisers covered under the policy.
- Government is making available fertilizers, namely Urea and 25 grades for P&K fertilizers to farmers at subsidized prices through fertilizer manufacturers/importers. The subsidy on P&K fertilizers is being governed by NBS Scheme w.e.f. 01.04.2010.
- In view of steep increase in the international prices of fertilizers & inputs i.e. Urea, DAP, MOP and Sulphur, Government has decided to absorb the increased prices by increasing subsidy on P&K fertilizers including DAP.

1.171. A NEW SPECIES OF ENDEMIC HONEYBEE HAS BEEN DISCOVERED IN THE WESTERN GHATS.

- A new species of endemic honeybee has been discovered in the Western Ghats. The finding has been published in the September issue of Entomon, a peer-reviewed journal brought out by the Association for Advancement of Entomology.



About:

- The new species has been named *Apis karinjodian* and given the common name Indian black honeybee.
 - It is after a gap of more than 200 years that a new species of honeybee has been spotted in the Western Ghats.
 - The last honeybee described from India was *Apis indica* in 1798 by Fabricius. Although Fabricius named the Indian bee *Apis indica*, it was not considered a valid species till now.
 - The research team restored the status of *Apis indica* based on a new measure for species discrimination in honeybees termed 'Radio-Medial Index (RMI)'.
 - While proving the distinct identity of *Apis indica*, led to the discovery of *Apis karinjodian*.
 - *Apis karinjodian* has evolved from *Apis cerana* morphotypes that got acclimatised to the hot and humid environment of the Western Ghats.
- The distribution of *Apis karinjodian* ranges from the central Western Ghats and Nilgiris to the southern Western Ghats, covering the States of Goa, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu.

1.172. CENTRE FORMULATES ACTION PLAN TO PROMOTE EXPORTS OF MILLET.

- Centre has formulated an action plan to promote exports of millets. The government has planned to facilitate participation of exporters, farmers, and traders in 16 international trade expos and Buyer Seller Meets for exports and promotion of Indian millets across the globe.
- According to the action plan, Indian missions in abroad would be roped in branding and publicity of Indian millets. This include, identification of potential buyers such as departmental stores, supermarkets, and hypermarkets for organizing business-to-business meetings and direct tie-ups.
- As part of the promotion of Indian millets, Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority has planned to showcase millets and its value-added product at various global platforms.
- The United Nations has declared 2023 as the International Year of Millets. India is one of the leading producers of millets in the world with an estimated share of around 41 percent in global production.
- The country recorded 27 percent growth in millet production in 2021-22 which stood at 15.92 million metric tonnes. Country's top five millet-producing states are Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh. It is estimated that the millets market is set to grow to 12 billion US dollar by 2025 from the current 9 billion dollars.



1.173. PRIME MINISTER SHRI NARENDRA MODI DEDICATES TO THE NATION THE 600 MW KAMENG HYDRO POWER STATION IMPLEMENTED BY NEEPCO LTD., A MINI RATNA POWER PSU UNDER MINISTRY OF POWER.

- Commissioning of the sixth hydro power plant in the North East i.e. 600 MW Kameng Hydro Power Station in Arunachal Pradesh will be a major step towards fulfilling Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) of the Government of India pledged under Paris Agreement 2015. The project will form part of projected hydro capacity addition of 30000 MW by 2030.

- The project will form part of projected hydro capacity addition of 30000 MW by 2030.
- The project stretches over more than 80 kilometers in West Kameng District of Arunachal Pradesh at a cost of approx. Rs 8200 Crore.
- This will make Arunachal Pradesh a power surplus state with huge benefits to the National Grid in terms of grid stability and integration and balancing of solar and wind energy sources in the grid.



1.174. ACCORDING TO SCIENTISTS, THE SHIVELUCH VOLCANO IN RUSSIA'S FAR EASTERN KAMCHATKA PENINSULA MAY BE GEARING UP FOR ITS FIRST POWERFUL ERUPTION IN 15 YEARS.

About:

- Shiveluch is one of the largest and most active volcanoes in **Kamchatka**, having erupted at least 60 times in the past 10,000 years.
- **It has two main parts:**
 - **Old Shiveluch**, which tops 3,283 metres (10,771 ft), and
 - **Young Shiveluch** – a smaller, 2,800-metre peak protruding from its side.
 - Young Shiveluch lies within an ancient caldera – a large crater-like basin that likely formed when the older part underwent a catastrophic eruption at least 10,000 years ago.
 - The volcano has been continuously erupting since August 1999, but occasionally undergoes powerful explosive events, including in 2007.



Kamchatka:

- Kamchatka is home to 29 active volcanoes, part of a vast belt of Earth known as the “Ring of Fire” which circles the Pacific Ocean and is prone to eruptions and frequent earthquakes.
- Most of the peninsula’s volcanoes are surrounded by sparsely populated forest and tundra.
- Six volcanoes in Russia’s northeast are currently showing signs of increased activity, including Eurasia’s highest active volcano Klyuchevskaya Sopka.

Civiltap Hlmachal

HEALTH

1.175. ASIAN CONFERENCE ON DIARRHOEAL DISEASE AND NUTRITION (ASCODD).

- The 16th Asian Conference on Diarrhoeal Disease and Nutrition (ASCODD) was held at Kolkata.
- **Theme:** "Prevention and control of cholera, typhoid and other enteric diseases in low and middle-income countries through community participation: beyond the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic".

Focus Areas:

- Epidemiology of cholera and typhoid
- **Roadmap** to end Cholera by 2030, Cholera vaccine development and rapid diagnostics,
- Contemporary perspectives of **antimicrobial resistance of enteric bacteria:** new Initiatives and challenges,
- **Enteric bacterial infections,** including Shigella spp, epidemiology, burden, and vaccines against other viral infections, including Hepatitis,
- **Lessons** learned about diarrhoea research during the COVID pandemic.

**Achievements of India:**

- India successfully ran a free vaccination program with record break vaccination of more than 219 crores.
- India provided vaccinations to other nations so that it can win over the pandemic together. Effective use of safe and affordable vaccines,
- **Various Health initiatives under Digital India initiative:**
 - Online Registration System,
 - eHospital for hospital management,
 - eSanjeevani telemedicine app

Diarrhoea

- **Gastrointestinal infection** leading to Loose, watery and possibly more-frequent bowel movements
- **It is caused by** a Variety of bacterial, viral and parasitic organisms, Infection is spread through contaminated food or drinking-water, or from person to person as a result of poor hygiene.
- **Associated with other symptoms:** nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain or weight loss.

1.176. UNION MINISTER DR JITENDRA SINGH DEDICATES TO THE NATION, INDIA'S FIRST NATIONAL REPOSITORY FOR LIFE SCIENCE DATA-'INDIAN BIOLOGICAL DATA CENTER' (IBDC) AT FARIDABAD, HARYANA

Life Science data:

- Science and Technology Minister Jitendra Singh on November 10, 2022, unveiled India's first national repository for life science data, generated from publicly-funded research in the country.
- The Indian Biological Data Centre (IBDC) which is established at the Regional Centre of Biotechnology has a data storage capacity of four petabytes.
- It is also home to the 'Brahm'- High-Performance Computing Facility. As per Union Minister Jitendra Singh, the Indian Biological Data Centre (IBDC) is committed to the spirit of data sharing as per FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable) principles.

**Indian Biological Data Centre (IBDC): Why it is significant for India?**

- The Executive Director of IBDC, Prof Sudhanshu Vрати while talking about the significance of the Centre said that the life sciences data was till now stored in data repositories in the United States and Europe and a need was felt to house the data within the country.

Indian Biological Data Centre: Key Points

- India's first national repository for life science data, the Indian Biological Data Centre (IBDC) has been established in Faridabad, Haryana.
- As per the BIOTECH-PRIDE guidelines of the Government of India, IBDC is mandated to archive all life science data generated from publicly-funded research in India.
- The Centre, supported by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), has been established at the Regional Centre of Biotechnology, Faridabad with a data disaster recovery site at the National Informatics Centre (NIC), Bhubaneswar, Odisha.
- The Centre also hosts an online Dashboard for the genomic surveillance data generated by the INSACOG labs that provide customized data submission, access, data analysis services, and real-time SARS-CoV-2 variant monitoring across India.
- The data submission and access portals for other data types are under development and will be launched shortly.

Indian Biological Data Centre (IBDC): Functions

- The Union Science and Technology Minister Jitendra Singh informed that the Indian Biological Data Centre (IBDC) has started nucleotide data submission services via two data portals- the 'Indian Nucleotide Data Archive (INDA)' and 'Indian Nucleotide Data Archive- Controlled Access (INDA-CA)'. It has accumulated over 200 billion bases from 2,08,055 submissions from more than 50 research labs across India.
- The computational infrastructure at IBDC has also been made available for researchers interested in performing computational-intensive analysis.

What is life sciences data?

- Life Science refers to the study of living organisms, including humans, microbes, plants, animals, and fungi.
- Life Sciences generates massive amounts of data, which can be extracted and analyzed.

1.177. FROM 130 DEATHS PER LAKH LIVE BIRTHS TO 97 DEATHS, INDIA'S MATERNAL MORTALITY RATIO SEES HUGE FALL IN 6 YEARS.

- India has recorded an impressive decline in maternal mortality ratio (MMR) which has fallen from 130 maternal deaths per one lakh live births to 97 deaths per one lakh live births over six years.
- "It is heartening that the Maternal Mortality Ratio in India has declined over the years to 97 in 2018-20 from 103 in 2017-19 and 130 in 2014-2016," Registrar General of India's latest Special Bulletin on MMR in India released on 29 November 2022 said.
- Maternal death is defined as death of a woman while pregnant or within 42 days of termination of pregnancy, irrespective of the duration and site of the pregnancy, from any cause related to or aggravated by the pregnancy or its management but not from accidental or incidental causes.
- Among the states mapped by the bulletin, MMR is the lowest in Kerala at 19 deaths and the highest in Assam at 195.
- MMR in Punjab and Haryana continues to be higher than the national average of 97.
- In Punjab, it is 105 deaths per one lakh live births and in Haryana it is 110 deaths.
- The highest number of maternal deaths nationally -- 32 pc—happened in the 20 to 24 year age group followed by 30 pc in 25-29 years and 20 pc in 30 to 34 years.
- Even at the adolescent level 15 to 19 years, the bulletin has revealed 6 pc of all maternal deaths, indicating child marriages remain rampant.



SPORTS

1.178. FIFA WORLD CUP: SPAIN WON THE FIFA U-17 WOMEN'S WORLD CUP.

- Defending champions Spain won the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup with a 1-0 victory over first-time finalists Colombia whose campaign ended in a heartbreak after an own goal in the summit clash.
- Spain emerged the winners after an own goal by Colombian defender Ana María Guzmán Zapata in the 82nd minute of the final at the D Y Patil Sports Stadium. FIFA president Gianni Infantino, alongside top officials from the Asian Football Federation (AFC) and All India Football Federation (AIFF), was in attendance at the venue as Spain eked out a solitary goal win and retained the title they also claimed in 2018.
- In the third-place classification match, Nigeria beat Germany 3-2 on penalties. Two missed penalties by Germany's Paulina Platner and Loreen Bender and a save by goalkeeper Omilana Faith off Paulina Bartz's shot paved the way for Nigeria's first-ever medal in the tournament. Hosts India failed to clear the group stage after losing all their three matches.



1.179. SHARATH KAMAL ACHANTA TO RECEIVE MAJOR DHYAN CHAND KHEL RATNA AWARD.

- Youth Affairs and Sports Ministry announced the National Sports Awards 2022. The awardees will receive their awards from the President of India at Rashtrapati Bhavan on the 30th of this month. Table Tennis player Sharath Kamal Achanta has been chosen for Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award.
- Arjuna Awards will be given to 25 sportspersons including Seema Punia, Lakshya Sen, Nikhat Zareen, R Praggnanandhaa, Deep Grace Ekka, Sushila Devi, Sagar Kailas Ovhalakar, Omprakash Mitharval, Vikas Thakur, Manasi Girishchandra Joshi among others. Five coaches have been chosen for Dronacharya Award in the regular category and three coaches in the lifetime category. Dhyan Chand Award for Lifetime Achievement in Sports and Games will be given to four sportspersons including Ashwini Akkunji C, Dharamvir Singh, B.C Suresh and Nir Bahadur Gurung.
- Three entities including TransStadia Enterprises Private Limited, Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology and Ladakh Ski and Snowboard Association have been recommended for Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar. Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Trophy 2022 will be given to Guru Nanak Dev University of Amritsar.
- National Sports Awards are given every year to recognize and reward excellence in sports. Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award is given for the spectacular and most outstanding performance in the field of sports by a sportsperson.
- Arjuna Award for outstanding performance in Sports and Games is given for good performance over a period of the previous four years and for showing qualities of leadership, sportsmanship and a sense of discipline. Dronacharya Award for outstanding coaches in Sports and Games is given to coaches for doing outstanding and meritorious work.
- Dhyan Chand Award for Lifetime Achievement in Sports and Games is given to honour sportspersons who have contributed to sports. Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar is given to corporate entities in the private and public sectors, Sports Control Boards, NGOs, including sports bodies at the State and National levels, who have played a visible role in the area of sports promotion and development.



1.180. 2ND EDITION OF NORTH EAST OLYMPIC GAMES CONCLUDES IN SHILLONG.

- The 2nd edition of the North East Olympic Games concluded in Shillong, Meghalaya with Manipur emerging as the overall team champion with a total of 240 medals which included 88 gold medal 75 silver and 77 bronze medals.
- Assam took the second spot with a total of 203 medals which included 79 gold medals, 61 silver and 63 bronze medals.
- Arunachal Pradesh got the third spot from the host State with a total of 112 medals which included 39 gold, 36 silver and 37 bronze medals.
- Host State Meghalaya won a total of 149 medal consisting of 36 golds, 35 silver and 78 bronze medals and secured the fourth spot.
- Nagaland secured the fifth spot with a total of 78 medal comprising of 18 gold medals while Mizoram was at the sixth spot with a total of 106 medal including 16 gold medals. Tripura and Sikkim grabbed the 8th and 9th spots with four gold medals and three gold medals respectively.
- Nagaland will host the next edition of the Northeast Olympic Games.



CivilsTap Hlmachal

AWARDS

2. UNION HOME MINISTER'S SPECIAL OPERATION MEDAL" FOR YEAR 2022 AWARDED FOR 4 SPECIAL OPERATIONS.

- The "Union Home Minister's Special Operation Medal" for the year 2022 have been awarded for 4 Special Operations.
- The medal was constituted in 2018 with the objective to recognize those operations, which have high degree of planning, high significance for the security of the country/State/UT and have significant impact on the security of larger sections of the society.
- The award shall be conferred for Special Operation in the areas such as counter terrorism, border action, arms control, prevention of narcotics smuggling and rescue operations. It is announced on 31st of October every year.
- In a year, normally 3 Special Operations are considered for the award and in extra ordinary circumstances, the award may be given up to 5 Special Operations to encourage State/UT Police.



1.181. BANGLADESH PM SHEIKH HASINA CONFERS 'FRIENDS OF LIBERATION WAR' HONOUR ON EDWARD M KENNEDY.

- Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina conferred the prestigious 'Friends of Liberation War' honour on former US Senator Edward M Kennedy posthumously on Monday in Dhaka for his contribution to the liberation of Bangladesh.
- The honour was handed over to his son Edward M Ted Kennedy Junior.
- She said that Kennedy Senior took a bold stand against the genocide committed by Pakistan on innocent Bengali people despite the US government role during the 1971 liberation war. Recalling the strong opposition mounted by Kennedy Senior against the US government policy of supplying arms to Pakistan, Prime Minister Hasina said that Kennedy worked hard to stop US military and economic aid to Pakistan till the end of the war.
- She recalled that Kennedy visited the refugee camps in West Bengal where a large number of people from the then East Pakistan had fled to escape from Pakistan army brutality.
- Earlier, Kennedy Junior with his family called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Sunday at her official residence in Dhaka. Ted Kennedy Junior, is a former member of Connecticut State Senate, USA.
- He is currently on a seven-day visit to Bangladesh to join the yearlong celebration of the 50th anniversary of US-Bangladesh relations.



1.182. IN 82-YEAR HISTORY OF THE AWARD, DR SUBASH BABU BECOMES FIRST INDIAN SCIENTIST TO GET BAILEY K ASHFORD MEDAL FOR WORK IN TROPICAL MEDICINE.

- The world's largest scientific organisation in tropical medicine, the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, has awarded the prestigious 2022 Bailey K Ashford Medal and 2022 Fellow of the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (FASTMH) award to an Indian physician-scientist.
- Dr Subash Babu, Scientific Director of the ICER-India programme at the ICMR-National Institute for Research in Tuberculosis, Chennai, was given the award on October 30 at the annual ASTMH meeting held in Seattle, the US.

- The medal is awarded annually to one or more mid-career investigators for distinguished work in tropical medicine, a press statement issued by ICER, India, said.
- In the 82-year history of the award, it has never been given before to an Indian scientist or for work done at an Indian institution.
- In addition to the Bailey K Ashford award, Dr Babu was also awarded with FASTMH for “committed work” in tropical medicine since 1995.



1.183. KERALA TOURISM WON “RESPONSIBLE TOURISM GLOBAL AWARD” AT THE WORLD TRAVEL MART.

- The Kerala Tourism has bagged the prestigious Responsible Tourism Global award at the World Travel Mart held in London. State Tourism Minister PA Mohammed Riyas received the award on behalf of the department at London.
- The award was given for the STREET project implemented by the Responsible Tourism Mission under the Kerala Government. The Jury made special remarks about the water street project implemented at Maravanthuruthu in Kottayam district.



About the STREET project:

- STREET is an acronym for Sustainable, Tangible, Responsible, Experiential, Ethnic, and Tourism hubs, which was implemented by the Responsible Tourism Mission under the Government of Kerala on March 31, 2022. The STREET Project is an initiative that promotes water conservation and protection with public participation.
- Under the project, the deepening and cleaning of canals and other water bodies take place to promote tourism, as Kerala is famous for its backwaters and also preserve the water bodies to be maintained in good condition.
- The ‘street’ initiative is a water protection and conservation project in Tourism sector implemented with public participation. The project aims to deepen the canals and various waterbodies and clean them for the purpose of tourism activities, the tourism department.
- As part of it, eco-friendly coir cloth is draped over the banks of waterbodies. The ‘Coir Bhoovastra’, as it is called, is a natural earth cover made from coconut fiber and will stop erosion during monsoon season.

1.184. INDIA WINS EXCELLENCE IN LEADERSHIP IN FAMILY PLANNING (EXCELL) AWARDS-2022 AT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON FAMILY PLANNING.

- In a significant development and recognition to the country’s efforts in improving access to modern family planning methods, India is the only country to have received the Leadership in Family Planning (EXCELL) Awards-2022 in the 'country category' at the International Conference on Family Planning held in Pattaya city, Thailand.
- India has made outstanding progress not only in improving access but also adoption of modern contraceptive methods enabling couples to make informed choices about family planning. These are reflected in the National Family Health Survey (NFHS) – 5 data. As per NFHS-5 data, overall Contraceptive Prevalence Rate (CPR) has increased substantially from 54 percent to 67 percent in the country, from NFHS-



4. Similarly, unmet needs of family planning have witnessed a significant decline from 13 per cent to 9 per cent. The unmet need for spacing has also come down to less than 10 per cent.

- The total 'demand satisfied' for family planning among currently married women aged 15-49 in India increased from 66 percent in 2015-16 to 76 percent in 2019-21 which has already crossed the SDG target of 75 set globally for 2030. The government's focus on improving easy and affordable access to modern contraceptives are reflected in the fact that 68% modern method contraceptive users obtain their method from the public health sector, as per NFHS-5 data. Mission Parivar Vikas, one of the government's flagship programmes, to reduce unmet needs in family planning, has also been a critical factor in the overall improvement.
- India's efforts in improving family planning demonstrate the progress the country is making towards achieving the SDG targets on women and maternal health.
- The International Conference on Family Planning (ICFP) has served as a strategic inflection point for the global reproductive health community, providing a global stage for more than 120 countries worldwide, organizations, and individuals to make important commitments and celebrate achievements as the world's largest scientific conclave on family planning and reproductive health. The event was attended by more than 3500 delegates physically and tens of thousands on the virtual platform.

1.185. TWO LADAKHI TRIBAL GIRLS CONFERRED TATA'S SAMVAAD FELLOWSHIP.

- Two girls from the Union Territory of Ladakh are among eight tribals who have been conferred Samvaad Fellowship 22 by the Jamshedpur-based Tata Steel Foundation's Samvaad.
- Sarah Batool and Rashida Kousar, received the prestigious Samvaad Fellowship. This is the first time that the coveted fellowship was conferred on girls from Ladakh.
- Sara Batool from Turtuk along the LOC represents the Balti tribe of Ladakh. She will work on the "revival and preservation of ethnic Balti cuisine in Ladakh".
- Similarly, Rashida Kousar's proposed area of research is "Study of Traditional kitchen (Thab-tshang/Byan-sa) and ethnic foods in Ladakh".
- This year drew more than 2,000 participants of 200 tribes from 23 states and four union territories. Outstanding tribal artists, healers, home cooks, cultural crusaders, experts, and leaders from various tribal communities around the country are among the participants.
- In an era of rapid development and industrialisation, Samvaad, which is observed since 2014, has developed into an ecosystem where tribal tribes from throughout the nation come together to celebrate their cultures and start discussions about issues that are important to their communities.
- Over the past five years, the Samvaad Fellowship has been conferred to 30 fellows from 13 states and 27 tribes in India. This year, the organizers received 176 applications from 68 tribes throughout 22 states and 3 UTs. These applications were scrutinized and evaluated internally, after which 28 of them were given to the jury members, who scored them and chose the top 18 to present their projects to the panel. Eight candidates have been chosen by the jury members after two days of pitches.
- The Samvaad Fellowship is an initiative that was launched in 2017 to address one of the ecosystem's core objectives "to document and hence, preserve a body of knowledge and a world view that runs the risk of being obliterated". The Fellowship envisions supporting initiatives and ideas which are aligned towards conservation of lesser-known indigenous practices from tribal cultures which are vulnerable and are not part of a large conservation effort and thus run the risk of being lost.
- Dr. Sonam Wangchok, founder of the Himalayan Cultural Heritage Foundation (HCHF) and one of the jury members for the Samvaad Fellowship, has thanked the Tata Steel Foundation for establishing the fellowship in order to inspire youth from tribal communities to work for the urgent need of revitalizing, preserving, and promoting their cultural and natural heritage.



1.186. FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING MINISTRY ANNOUNCES NATIONAL GOPAL RATNA AWARDS 2022.

- Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Ministry announced the National Gopal Ratna Awards 2022.
- The awards will be given to the winners on 26th of this month which will be celebrated as National Milk Day.
- The Award has been given in three categories. These categories are, Best Dairy Farmer Rearing Indigenous Cattle and buffalo Breeds, Best Artificial Insemination Technician and Best Dairy Cooperative, Milk Producer Company, Dairy Farmer Producer Organization.
- The award consists of a cash prize of 5 lakh rupees for first rank, 3 lakh rupees for second rank and 2 lakh rupees for third rank.
- National Gopal Ratna Award is one of the highest National Awards in the field of livestock and dairy sector.



1.187. MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS ANNOUNCES TENZING NORGAY NATIONAL ADVENTURE AWARDS FOR YEAR 2021.

- President Droupadi Murmu will give away the Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Awards for the year 2021, at the Rashtrapati Bhawan on 30th of this month.
- The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, on Wednesday announced the National Adventure Awards for the year 2021.
- The award will be given in four categories, Land Adventure, Water Adventure, Air Adventure and Life Time Achievement.
- Group Capitan Bhawani Singh Samyal will be conferred with Life time Achievement award, Shubham Dhananjay Vanmali with Water Adventure, and Naina Dhakad with Land Adventure.
- They will receive statuettes, certificates and award money 15 lakh rupees each.
- Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Awards are given every year to recognize the achievements of persons in the fields of adventure, to encourage young people to develop the spirit of endurance, risk-taking and to provide incentive to the young people for getting exposed to adventure activities.



1.188. INDIA'S PURNIMA DEVI BARMAN HONOURED WITH U.N.'S HIGHEST ENVIRONMENTAL AWARD.

- Indian wildlife biologist Dr Purnima Devi Barman was recently awarded with Champions of the Earth award in the Entrepreneurial vision category, UN's highest environmental honour. She is the founder of the Hargila Army and senior project manager of the Avifauna Research and Conservation Division, Aaranyak.
- The Champions of the Earth is an appreciation for innovative ways implemented by the awardees across the world to support nature's extraordinary capacity for renewal.

Who is Purnima Devi Burman?

- Barman is an Indian wildlife biologist working in Assam to protect storks. Her love for birds was born when was sent to live with her grandparents on the banks of



the Brahmaputra River in Assam at the age of five. Barman's grandmother, a farmer, started taking her to nearby paddy fields and wetlands to teach her about the birds there, which cultivated her passion.

- After gaining a Master's degree in Zoology, Barman started a PhD on the greater adjutant stork. She decided to delay her thesis after seeing that many of the birds in the region were nearing extinction and decided to focus on keeping the species alive.
- She began campaigning to protect the stork in 2007, focusing on the villages in Assam's Kamrup district, where the birds were most concentrated.

Why is Burman's work important?

- The greater adjutant stork is the second-rarest stork species in the world. Their population has dropped to 1,200 today, less than 1 per cent of what they numbered a century ago, due to the destruction of their natural habitat. The urbanisation of rural areas is speeding up and wetlands where the storks thrive have been drained, polluted and degraded, replaced by buildings, roads and mobile phone towers.

How is Burman saving the storks?

- Barman had to change perceptions of the bird as a bad omen, bad luck or a disease carrier among people in Assam. She assembled a group of village women to help her and named the group as the 'Hargila Army' after the stork, known as 'hargila' in Assamese (meaning 'bone swallower').
- In 2017, Barman began building tall bamboo nesting platforms for the endangered birds to hatch their eggs and a couple of years later the first greater adjutant stork chicks were born.
- The Hargila Army has helped communities plant 45,000 saplings near stork-nesting trees and wetland areas to support future stork populations and they are planning to plant 60,000 saplings next year. Hargila Army also works to reduce pollution in rivers by organising cleaning drives on the banks of rivers and in wetlands.
- The number of nests in the villages of Dadara, Pachariya, and Singimari in Kamrup District have increased from 28 to more than 250 after Burman started her conservation programme, making this the largest breeding colony of greater adjutant storks in the world.

1.189. VICE PRESIDENT DHANKHAR TO PRESENT SHILP GURU, NATIONAL AWARDS FOR MASTER CRAFTSPERSONS ON NOVEMBER 28, 2022.

- Ministry of Textiles will give away Shilp Guru and National Awards to master craftspersons for 2017, 2018 and 2019 in New Delhi on 28th November 2022.
- Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar will be the Chief Guest of the award ceremony. Textiles Minister Piyush Goyal will preside over the function.
- The Office of the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts) has been implementing the scheme of National Awards for master craftspersons since 1965.
- The Shilp Guru Awards was introduced in 2002.
- These Awards are being conferred every year to legendary master craftspersons of handicrafts whose work have contributed to the preservation of rich and diverse craft heritage of the country.
- The main objective is to give recognition to outstanding craftspersons in the handicrafts sector.
- The awardees represent almost all states and UTs of the country, as well as different craft styles of different locations. Due to the pandemic, the awards for the last three years are being conferred together.



STATE NEWS

1.190. MEGHALAYA CM LAUNCHES “CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION PROGRAMME” AT TURA, WEST GARO HILLS DISTRICT

- In Meghalaya, the “Citizen Engagement and Communication Programme” was launched by Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma at Tura, West Garo Hills district.
- Launching the programme, the Chief Minister said that the Government has initiated various welfare programmes and the information should be disseminated for the larger benefit of the public.
- This programme aims for grassroots penetration of all schemes so that governance is improved in all aspects.
- The programme will also aim to create much-needed awareness amongst the masses so that people will have the right information to avail benefits of the schemes being launched by the Government.
- He further encouraged the team to sensitize themselves so that they can in turn sensitize the public regarding all the available schemes.



1.191. THE UNION CABINET HAS RECENTLY APPROVED THE NAMING OF HOLLONGI GREENFIELD AIRPORT IN ITANAGAR OF ARUNACHAL PRADESH AS “DONYI POLO AIRPORT, ITANAGAR”.

About:

- The name reflect the people’s reverence of the Sun as Donyi and the Moon as Polo to symbolize the traditions and rich cultural heritage of the State.
- In January,2019, the Central government granted in-principle’ approval for development of Hollongi Greenfield Airport.
- The project is being developed by Airports Authority of India with the help of Central Government and the State Government of at a cost of ₹646 crore.
- With a 2,300metre runway, the greenfield airport is the first in Arunachal Pradesh to have the capacity to land big aircraft.
- The Hollongi airport is the state’s third after Pasighat and Tezu airports and only airport in the capital city.
- The central government had earlier accorded its approval for setting up of the “greenfield airport” under the `Capital Connectivity Scheme` to build up fixed wing air connectivity facility to the state capital.
- The Donyi Polo airport in Itanagar is northeast India’s 16th airport.



1.192. RAJASTHAN LAUNCHES ENTERPRISE PROMOTION SCHEME FOR DALIT, TRIBAL ENTREPRENEURS.

- Rajasthan has launched an Enterprise Promotion scheme-2023 to ensure effective participation of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the industrial development of the state.
- The Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar Rajasthan Dalit, Tribal Enterprise Promotion Scheme-2022 will play an effective role and the objectives of this scheme is to ensure effective participation of SC and ST in the development of non-agricultural sectors (manufacturing, service and trade) of the state, said Industries Minister Shakuntala Rawat.

- Rawat further said that it will also help in the development of skill and entrepreneurship for the deprived and weaker sections of the society and prevent the migration to the cities by creating self-employment opportunities for the educated youths of the targeted classes.
- This scheme provides entrepreneurs with a 9% interest subsidy on loans up to Rs 25 lakh and a 7% interest subsidy on loans up to Rs 5 crore, as well as a provision for margin money of up to 25% of the project cost up to Rs 25 lakh, the Minister said.
- As a result, investors from Scheduled Castes and Tribes will be encouraged to establish new industries and conduct business in the service sector, she added.
- Under the scheme, an incubation centre costing Rs 100 crore will be set up in collaboration with DICCI and CII, in which all necessary residential training facilities will be provided to the youth of these categories, including setting up, and operating an enterprise.
- The rate of reservation payable to these categories of entrepreneurs in RIICO industrial areas has also been increased from 5 to 6 percent. Apart from this, the prescribed limit of plots to be allotted has been increased from 2000 square metres to 4000 square meters.
- According to the Minister, in the Rajasthan Investment Promotion Scheme 2019, the minimum investment limit for thrust sectors has been increased to 50 percent for these entrepreneurs, so that more and more enterprises can benefit.
- Apart from all this, all types of guidance and cooperation will be provided by the Industries Department to such entrepreneurs before and during the establishment of the industry. For this, the application process will be made easy, transparent, and online. In the next 5 years, a loan of about Rs 1200 crore will be made available to the entrepreneurs.
- A resident of Rajasthan origin who belongs to the Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe category and is above 18 years of age at the time of application.



1.193. UNION EDUCATION MINISTER INAUGURATES INDIA'S SECOND NATIONAL MODEL VEDIC SCHOOL IN PURI

- Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan inaugurated India's second Rashtriya Adarsh Veda Vidyalaya (RAVV) in Puri.
- The Rashtriya Adarsh Veda Vidyalaya has been launched to spread knowledge of the Vedas among people. Rashtriya Adarsh Veda Vidyalaya which is also called the National Model Vedic School.
- Maharishi Sandipani Rashtriya Ved Vidya Pratisthan is the first such school in Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh.
- In the Rashtriya Adarsh Veda Vidyalaya, students will also get the opportunity to opt for science, english, mathematics, social science, computer science, and agriculture.
- Admissions will be based on merit in the 'Veda Bhusan' fourth (class 9), 'Veda Bhusan' fifth (class 10), 'Veda Vibhushan' first (Class 11), and 'Veda Vibhushan' second (class 12).
- The courses will begin in the 2022-23 academic year.
- Four more such schools will come up at Badrinath in Uttarakhand, Sringeri in Karnataka, Dwarka in Gujarat, and Guwahati in Assam.



1.194. HARYANA FOREST DEPARTMENT AND USAID LAUNCHED TOFI PROGRAM.

- The Haryana Forest Department and US Agency for International Development (USAID) launched the "Trees Outside Forests in India (TOFI)" program in the state. The "Trees Outside Forests in India" program will

enhance carbon sequestration, support local communities, and strengthen the climate resilience of agriculture.

- This initiative will bring farmers, companies, and other private institutions together to rapidly expand tree coverage outside of traditional forests in the state.

About Haryana Forest Department and USAID Launched TOFI Program.

- The Trees Outside Forests in India (TOFI) program will take Haryana's State Action Plan on Climate Change forward and will build on Haryana's progress and harness agroforestry to bolster the resilience of farming systems.
- The program will leverage India's private sector to promote and scale tree-based enterprises and the sale of carbon credits, helping to create jobs and boost incomes.
- Haryana Chief Minister, Manohar Lal Khattar informed that the TOFI program will further spur agroforestry and plantation campaigns outside of forests and help raise the income of the farmers while enhancing the green cover in the state.
- It will also support India's Roadmap toward Carbon Neutral Economy by 2070.
- The Trees Outside Forests in India program was launched in September by Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change Secretary Leena Nandan and U.S. Chargé d' Affaires Patricia Lacina.
- The program will allocate up to \$25 million over five years in seven states including Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Odisha, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, and Uttar Pradesh.
- There will be implementation support from the Center for International Forestry Research and World Agroforestry (ICRAF).



1.195. BUMPER SAFFRON CROP CHEERS UP FARMERS IN KASHMIR VALLEY.

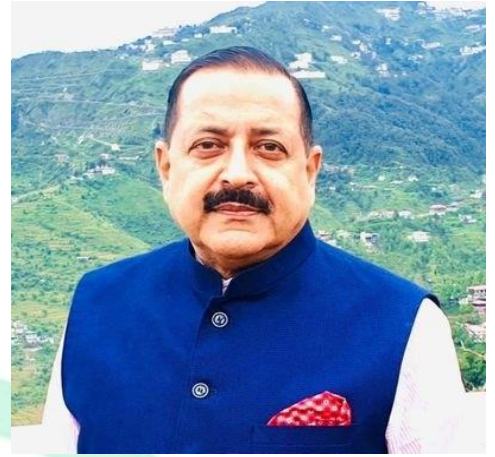
- In the Kashmir Valley, farmers are happy with the bumper Saffron crop this year. The GI Certification of Kashmiri Saffron by Geographical Indications Registry would prevent adulteration into it.
- The GI Certification will also put an end to the marketing of Saffron cultivated in other countries under the garb of being produced in Kashmir.
- Kashmiri Saffron is cultivated and harvested in the Karewas (highlands) of Jammu and Kashmir and has been assigned Geographical Indication (GI) tag by the Geographical Indications Registry.
- The spice is grown in Pulwama, Budgam, Kishtwar, and Srinagar regions of Jammu & Kashmir.
- Iran is the largest producer of saffron in the world and India is a close competitor.
- However, with the GI tag of Kashmir saffron, India becomes the only Saffron producing Country for which GI has been assigned which will result in more prominence in the export market thereby boosting exports as well as helping the farmers to get the best remunerative price for economic sustainability.
- Kashmir is having the distinction of producing one of the best saffron in the world, therefore it should be our individual, collective and moral responsibility to preserve this golden spice not only for a large number of families directly associated with the cultivation of saffron but for generations to come.



1.196. UNION MINISTER JITENDRA SINGH TO INAUGURATE 3-DAY KASHMIR EXPO START-UPS FOR LIVELIHOOD IN SRINAGAR.

- Union Minister of State for Prime Minister's Office and Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions Dr. Jitendra Singh will inaugurate the three-day 'Kashmir Expo Start-ups for Livelihood' event in Srinagar.

- The Expo is being organised under the aegis of the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India at Sher-e-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC) Srinagar in association with National Innovation Foundation-India. Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha will represent the Jammu and Kashmir governments at the event.
- About 55 start-ups from across the country are participating in this start-up exhibition being organised in the Convention Centre. In this three-day exhibition, youth who have started with innovation in various fields will also come to display their products, technology, and services.
- It is worth mentioning that the Central government is making continuous and effective efforts towards creating employment opportunities in the rural areas of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and providing better employment to the local people.
- To meet this objective, the three-day 'Kashmir Expo Start-up for Livelihood' is being organised in Srinagar.



1.197. UMEED SCHEME EMPOWERS RURAL WOMEN OF J&K.

- The UMEED scheme of Jammu and Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKRLM) is providing wings to the aspirations of rural women in the Union territory, who dream of becoming economically independent.
- The Mission aims to reduce poverty by building strong grass-root institutions for the poor in Jammu and Kashmir, engaging them in gainful livelihood interventions and ensuring appreciable improvements in their income on a sustainable basis.
- AIR Correspondent reports, Through UMEED, hundreds of women are not only scripting their success stories in Jammu and Kashmir but are motivating others to come out of poverty and become successful entrepreneurs.
- UMEED is immensely helping women entrepreneurs to exhibit and market their products.
- Jammu Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKRLM) is turning the wheel of transformation for J&K women to become progressive and self-employed entrepreneurs.
- The UMEED programme under JKRLM is a centrally sponsored scheme to encourage women to be self dependent and self-sufficient.
- It also encourages women to make small savings so that their Self-Help Groups (SHGs) eventually become bankable at reduced rate of interest.



1.198. RAJASTHAN ACCOUNTS FOR 70% OF COUNTRY'S STONE PRODUCTION'.

- Rajasthan accounts for 70 per cent of the country's stone production and more than 10 lakh people are getting employment, Chairman of RIICO (State Industrial Development and Investment Corporation) and CM's Principal Secretary Kuldeep Ranka claimed.
- Speaking at India Stonemart-2022, the largest international exposition on the stone industry and a showcase of the world of natural dimensional stones, Ranka said, "There are abundant deposits of marble, sandstone, granite, cotstone, slate, etc. By adopting their scientific exploitation and processing, the stone industry has made a special identity in the last decades."



- “There are 4,920 mining leases in the state. Rajasthan produces 90 percent of the marble and sandstone in the country. About 10 lakh people of the state are getting employment directly from this sector”, he claimed.
- Earlier in his inaugural speech, Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot said the recently-held Investment Rajasthan summit had signed a major chunk of MoUs worth Rs. 800 crore related to the stone industry.
- Elaborating on the state’s investment friendly environment, Gehlot said, “Infrastructure with mineral reserves, efficient human resources and implementation of effective policies has increased the possibilities of investment on a large scale in the state”.
- Rajasthan Investment Promotion Scheme-2022 (RIPS) has recently been launched in the sequel to the environment that the state government has created for employment and economic development by implementing NERIPS-2019.

About India Stone Mart

- India Stone Mart is being organized biennially by Centre for Development of Stones (CDOS) with FICCI as co-organiser and is supported by the Government of Rajasthan and other reputed institutions.
- Rajasthan State Industrial Development & Investment Corporation Ltd. is the Principal Sponsor of the event.
- The mart is a brainchild of Ashok Gehlot, in the year 2000 when he served his first tenure as the Chief Minister of the state. It was conceptualized for developing the domestic and overseas markets for Indian stones.

1.199. NIHON KOHDEN TO BUILD ITS LARGEST MANUFACTURING FACILITY OF INDIA AT MET CITY, HARYANA.

- Model Economic Township (MET City), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Reliance Industries (RIL) said it was developing a world-class greenfield smart city near Gurugram, Haryana. In this industrial township, manufacturer of medical devices Nihon Kohden will build its largest facility of India.
- MET City is a Japanese Industrial Township (JIT) and houses four leading Japanese companies in its integrated industrial township. Nihon Kohden, one of the four Japanese companies and manufacturers of medical devices, said it recently did a ground-breaking ceremony on their plot at MET City.
- This facility of Nihon Kohden will be their largest manufacturing facility in India, and it will further enhance the position of MET City as a leading location for setting up companies in Haryana and North India, according to a statement from MET City. Panasonic, Denso, and T-Suzuki are other Japanese companies in MET City.
- S V Goyal, chief executive officer, and whole-time director, MET City, said, “We are very happy to have the facility of Nihon Kohden starting construction at MET City. With 400+ industrial customers, walk-to-work masterplan, and world-class infrastructure, MET City today is one of the fastest growing Greenfield Smart City in North India.”
- “The plug-n-play infrastructure of MET City is an added advantage for any company coming to us for their requirement.
- ‘Plug and play’ concept normally refers to ready facilities in terms of building, power-water-sewage connectivity, road connectivity, beside other basic things including clearances in hand required to start the industry.



1.200. WANGALA DANCE OF ‘GARO TRIBES’ IN MEGHALAYA.

- Wangala Festival, also known as the festival of ‘100 drums’, is a harvest festival celebrated by the ‘Garo Tribes’ in Meghalaya.

About

- The Wangala Festival is usually celebrated for two days but sometimes it can also go up to a week. The celebrations include serving **local rice beer to the Sun God**, dressing up in colourful traditional attires and dancing to the beat of 100 drums.

- The dance form has a popular pattern where two parallel lines are formed, one of the women, and the other of the men. With the beating of the drums, the lines move in rhythm.

History of Wangala Festival

- Wangala Festival is the winter harvesting festival for the people of the Garo Tribe in Meghalaya. During this festival, people pay their respects to **'Misi Sanljong' or 'Pattigipa Ra'rongipa' or the Sun God!**
- The popular belief is that the dance form performed during the Wangala festival was initially performed by water creatures.



Significance of Wangala Festival

- The celebrations of the Wangala Festival honour the Sun God and also mark the end of the long harvest season.
- It also signifies the onset of the winter season. For the Garo tribe in Meghalaya, the festival of 100 drums is also a way of preserving and promoting their cultural identity. They also showcase their culture and traditions to the rest of the world during the Wangala Festival.

1.201. CM ANNOUNCES ODISHA TO BE MADE SLUM-FREE BY THE END OF 2023

- Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik announced that the Odisha government aims to make Odisha slum-free by the end of 2023. The CM of Odisha has launched a survey using drones to facilitate a process to provide land deeds to slum-dwellers in five municipal areas across Odisha.
- The land survey was taken in Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Berhampur, Rourkela, and Sambalpur civic body areas under the state government's 'Jaga Mission program'.



Odisha to be made slum-free by 2023 end- Key Points

- Naveen Patnaik has declared Hinjili and Digapahandi towns in the Gajman district as 'Slum Free' and dedicated 707 'Biju Adarsh Colonies' in 33 urban areas.
- All the slums in Odisha will be converted into model colonies and Odisha will be made slum-free by December 2023.
- Naveen Patnaik also stated that land rights will be given to 2.5 lakh slum families in the state by the next year.
- The authorities of 'Jaga Mission' signed an MoU with Tata Steel Foundation to identify slum dwellers and areas under the jurisdiction of the five municipal corporations for the land survey of Odisha.
- Tata Steel Foundation will provide technical support for the purpose.
- Over 1.70 lakh families of slum areas in 105 cities and towns have so far been given land rights under the program.

About Jaga Mission

- The state government of Odisha launched the Jaga Mission in 2017 and the slum development associations have been assigned to manage the 'Biju Adarsh Colonies' a provision has been made to allocate 25 percent of the municipal budget to these bodies for the development of infrastructure.
- Jaga Mission in Odisha will also provide social and economic justice to the poor as they have an equal right to the benefits of development and growth.

1.202. HARYANA NOTIFIES ELECTRIC VEHICLE POLICY 2022

- The Haryana government notified the Electric-Vehicle Policy, under which 12 schemes have been made to encourage electric vehicles (EVs).

- The additional chief secretary of the industries and commerce department, Anand Mohan Sharan, said that the aim of the Electric-Vehicle Policy is to promote the manufacturing of electric vehicles and their components in the state. With the formulation of this policy, research and development in the field of electric vehicles will be encouraged.
- In addition to strengthening the infrastructure, provisions have been made in the policy to reduce the upfront cost of electric vehicles. In this, the buyers of Hybrid EVs will also get incentives.
- Sharan said the department has notified the Haryana Electric-Vehicle Policy-2022, under which 12 schemes have been made live on the website (www.investharyana.in) so that people could take advantage of it.
- The 12 schemes that have been made live to encourage electric vehicles in the Electric-Vehicle Policy include purchase incentives for buyers, charging and battery swapping station scheme, state goods and services tax reimbursement scheme, capital subsidy scheme, employment generation subsidy scheme, electricity duty exemption scheme, stamp duty reimbursement scheme, patent fee reimbursement scheme, r & d incentives, human capacity building excellence centre of excellence scheme, seed, and conversion fund scheme.
- All eligible buyers willing to take advantage may visit the website, check details, and may apply for incentives within 45 days from the date the portal has been made live. The policy document and scheme document detailing the terms and conditions for claiming the incentive can be downloaded from the website.



1.203. CABINET APPROVES ODISHA STATE POLICY FOR CHILDREN-2022.

- The Department of Women and Child Development, in collaboration with other state departments and civil society, has framed a policy document for children in the State called “PRARAMBH- the Odisha State Policy for Children, 2022 “.
- The state cabinet chaired by the Chief Minister on Friday approved the State Policy for Children, 2022 that pledges to ensure and fulfill the rights of children, particularly in the areas of protection, survival and health, education and development.
- The policy envisions the best interest of children by means of a blueprint which focuses on children’s right to survival, protection, physical health, including mental health, upholding the right to education, participation and other milestones required to achieve their optimal development. For this policy, and in line with United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), childhood includes the period from conception till 18 years of age, the statement issued by the government said.
- The policy will further strengthen the state’s commitment to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by ensuring rights of children in the state and will significantly improve the overall wellbeing of children.
- The Policy for Children will stimulate, systematise and coordinate actions between the related departments and organizations working for children.
- One of the guiding principles of the policy also emphasises the protection and well- being of children from adverse or exceptional circumstances, affected by climate-induced natural disasters, orphaned, disabled, or with special needs, require additional protection, care and support from the state and society to lead a dignified life and to realise their full potential.



1.204. AYUSHMAN BHARAT: CHIRAYU HARYANA LAUNCHED TO ADD 29 LAKH BENEFICIARIES.

- Taking yet another historic step to ensure the benefit of health facilities to every needy person in the state, the Manohar Lal-led government has launched the 'CHIRAYU Haryana' (Comprehensive Health insurance of Antyodaya Units) scheme aimed to expand the Ayushman Bharat benefits to 29 lakh beneficiaries having in annual income limit of Rs.1.80 lakh.
- The scheme was launched during a state-level programme held at Manesar, Gurugram.
- After the launch, Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar distributed golden cards to as many as 12 beneficiaries.
- With the launch of this scheme, eligible families will now not run from pillar to post for making financial arrangements to get better treatment facilities.
- CHIRAYU Haryana is expected to give new lease of life to the 1.25 crore Antyodaya population, which means that 50 per cent of residents of the state will be availing of the scheme benefit.
- The Chief Minister said that now the scope of this scheme has also been extended to Persons With Disabilities (PwD).

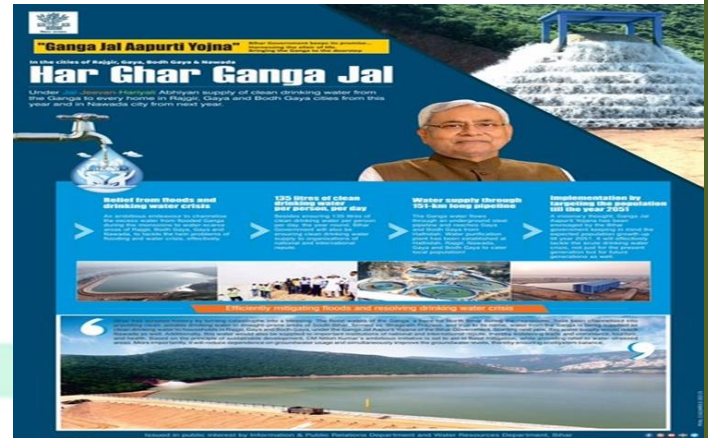
**1.205. CHHATTISGARH SOON TO HAVE DRONE AND UAV MANUFACTURING UNIT.**

- The Chhattisgarh government has signed two MoUs (Memorandum of Understandings) at the Chhattisgarh Business Summit 2022 at India International Trade Fair-2022 in New Delhi.
- The MoUs were signed for setting up ethanol production plant and drone and an UAV manufacturing unit.
- Business delegates and entrepreneurs from across the country participated in the summit organised for business, entrepreneurs and exporters from electronics, minor forest produce and handicrafts and handloom.
- A MoU has been signed between the state government and Rajesh Gautam of NKJ Biofuel, Durg for setting up ethanol production plant in cooperative sector with an investment of Rs 140 crores, while another MoU was inked with Manish Bajpai of Daybest Research Private Ltd for setting up 4500 drone and UAV manufacturing units at the investment of Rs five crore.
- Labor Minister Shiv Dharaiya encouraged entrepreneurs to invest and said that Chhattisgarh is a progressive state full of possibilities. He maintained that under the new industrial policy of the state government, many types of concessions and facilities are being given to the entrepreneurs.
- The state government has provisioned special packages and concessions to prioritize agriculture and forest based industries as well as to create a better environment for investment. Besides, the rules for establishment and operation of industries have also been simplified.
- Government has come up with various exemptions, incentives and benefits to the manufacturers interested in setting up a unit in the state.

**1.206. BIHAR CHIEF MINISTER NITISH KUMAR LAUNCHES HAR GHAR GANGAJAL PROJECT IN RAJGIR**

- Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has launched the Har Ghar Gangajal project in Rajgir.
- It is a unique and ambitious initiative to provide Ganga water on tap in the parched areas of the state.
- The scheme will help to harvest the excess water of the Ganga during the monsoon season.
- The water will be stored in reservoirs in Rajgir and Gaya before being channelled to three treatment-and-purification plants, from where it will be supplied to the public.

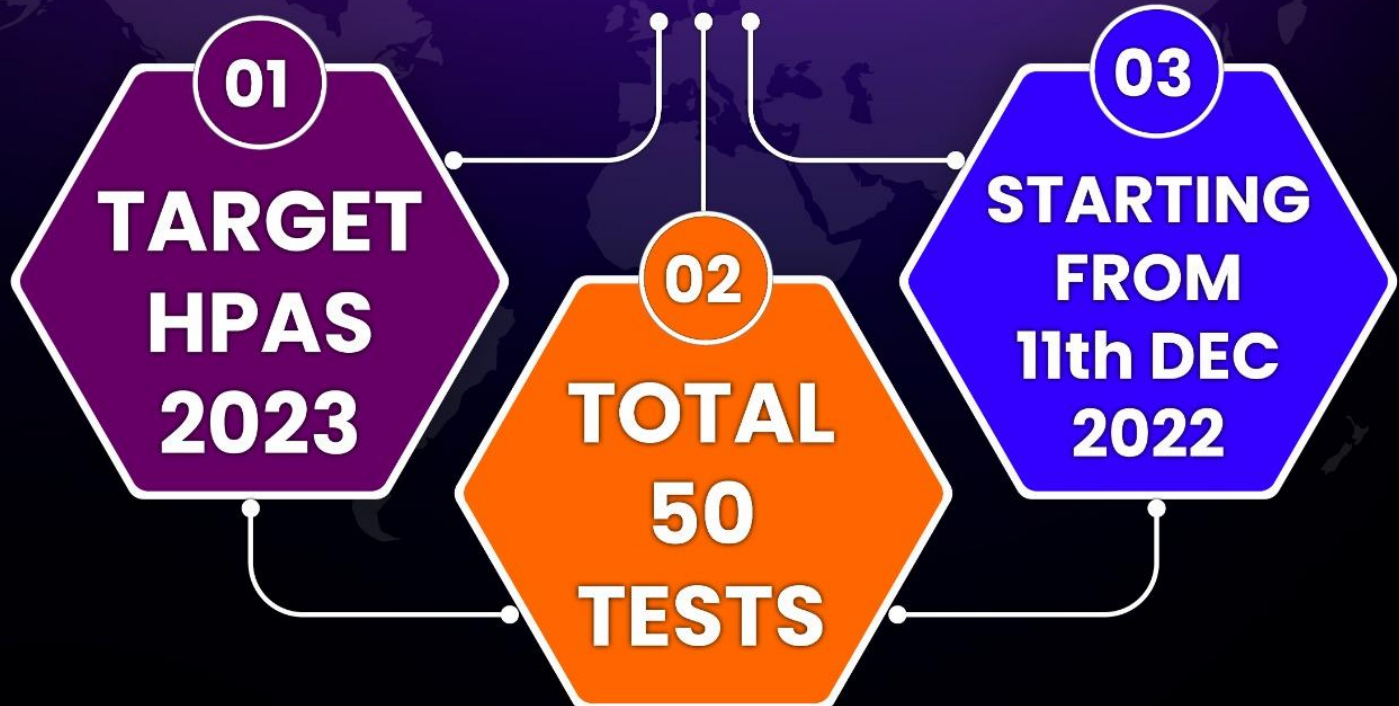
- Har Ghar Gangajal is part of the Bihar government's Jal, Jeevan, Hariyali scheme.



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HIMACHAL PRADESH NEWS

1.207. NOTA STILL AN OPTION FOR SOME VOTERS IN HIMACHAL PRADESH ELECTION.

- Just a few days before the Himachal Pradesh assembly elections and thousands of voters are showing their interest to press NOTA (none of the above) while exercising their voting right.
- This time also we can see this type of grievance in the various constituencies where some of the voters are expected to reject the electing candidates.
- The option of NOTA was first used in the year 2013 during assembly elections of Mizoram, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Delhi.
- The NOTA option would be made available for voter this time in Himachal Pradesh as well.
- According to reports, in the 2017 Vidhan Sabha elections in the state, 34,232 voters pressed NOTA and rejected all the candidates. Joginder Nagar received the highest 1,162 NOTA, and the second highest NOTA button was pressed in Shahpur where 1,010 voters rejected all the candidates.
- Voting is a conventional manner of will or opinion in an electoral procedure. The right to reject suggests that a voter while voting can reject all the contenders contesting the election. Such a right signifies a choice to remain nonpartisan. This may happen when a voter feels that none of the candidates has the right to be elected. It transpires by the way of the voter's choice, belief, thinking and expression. The right to reject has its genus in freedom of speech and expression.
- NOTA is a popular choice amongst the people of Himachal Pradesh as 29,155 voters pressed NOTA in the 2014 Lok Sabha election which increased by 33,008 in the 2019 Lok Sabha election, where Dharmshala 11,327, Mandi 5,298, Hamirpur 8,026 and Shimla 8,357 people showed their disapproval to all the candidates.
- As BJP won this election from all four seats the percentage of people who chose NOTA option was 0.87 percent out of total 38,01,793 votes polled in the state. This shows that the people of Himachal Pradesh are aware of their fundamental rights and honest with their choices.
- Recently, voters got a chance to press NOTA during the November 2021 by-elections for Mandi Lok Sabha seat along with Arki, Jubbal Kotkhai and Fatepur Vidhan Sabha seat where 14,852 voters disapproved of the candidates.
- Shockingly, in Mandi Lok Sabha seat, 12,661 votes pressed NOTA to reject all the candidates. For this particular seat, Congress Himachal Pradesh President Pratibha Singh fought the election against Brigadier Khushaal Thakur where Singh won the elections by 7,490 votes.
- Having only two major parties in power for such a long period is making people search some other political options where parties like Aam Admi Party could find a footing into the state.



1.208. INDIAN ARMY WINS INTER-SERVICES PARAGLIDING CHAMPIONSHIP.

- Indian Army has won the inter-services paragliding championship held at Bir Billing.
- Col PS Chauhan, a spokesperson for the event, said that it was for the first time that the Indian Army has organized a para-gliding championship. It was held at
- Bir Billing which is among the top 10 paragliding sites of the country.
- The event started from October 29. The prizes to the winners would be distributed by the Lt Gen Oupender Duvedi GOC-in-C, Northern Command, he said.

- The first Zorinmawia Inter-services Paragliding X- Country Championship was named after Late Sep Zorinmawia, an ace army paragliding pilot, who sacrificed his life during validation paragliding flying training, he said.
- A total of 25 experienced paragliding pilots from the Indian Army and Indian Navy showcased their flying
- skills and manoeuvres during long X-country flight lasting many hours. The competition will not only augment operational preparedness of the armed forces but will also provide wide publicity to the sport, he said.
- Col Chauhan said that it would also help promote adventure tourism in the Himachal.



1.209. EIGHT ELEPHANTS REACH NATIONAL PARK IN PAONTA.

- Following coordinated efforts of the Forest Department, a herd of eight elephants successfully reached Colonel Sher Jung National Park, Simbalbara, in Paonta Sahib.
- Divisional Forest Officer Kunal Angrish said historically, solitary elephants have been found on western side of Paonta-Nahan National Highway (NH).
- However, this new group of eight elephants had crossed the NH and travelled about 20 km east toward Paonta Sahib, exploring the new forest areas of Girinagar, Byas and Khara on their way.
- The department had constituted block-level teams to safely drive the herd as their presence might have caused commotion among the residents of the area, which have hitherto remained unexposed to elephant movement.
- “The teams tracked the daily movement of the heard and drove them in a planned direction by co-ordinated blockading and use of firing sound gun.
- Finally, covering a distance of approximately 60 km in nine days, the herd reached Simbalbara national park.
- Thirty officials of the department were involved in the operation, which also met support and collaboration from the locals.



1.210. DR NEELAM KAUR BAGS PRESTIGIOUS ‘EXCELLENCE IN SCHOOL EDUCATION AWARD’.

- Dr Neelam Kaur, advisor, Healthcare and Education, Akal Academy, Baru Sahib, has been conferred with the prestigious ‘Excellence in School Education Award’ by the Republic of Mauritius for her contribution and dedicated services in the field of education and women empowerment in Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.
- Dr Kaur has contributed to the formal education of girls from economically-challenged families for the past 25 years.



1.211. HIMACHAL ELECTIONS: PM PRAISES SHYAM SARAN NEGI FOR EXERCISING HIS RIGHT TO FRANCHISE FOR 34TH TIME.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has praised 106-year-old Shyam Saran Negi for exercising his right to franchise for the 34th time.
- The 106-year-old Shyam Saran Negi, the first voter of Independent India, exercised his right to franchise for the 34th time for the Himachal Pradesh assembly elections through a postal ballot at his residence in Kalpa.
- Negi, who has been witness to the election process starting from putting the stamp on ballot paper to EVM to VVPAT, has never missed his date with the poll and voted in all panchayat, Assembly and Parliament elections.
- Till now, he had cast his vote in all the elections at the booth and this was the first time he cast his vote through postal ballot.
- Negi had expressed his willingness to cast vote at the booth this time also but his health is not good and so he decided to vote at home, said Deputy Commissioner, Kinnaur, Abid Hussain Sadiq, who honoured Negi with a cap and a shawl.
- Postal booth was set up in the compound of his house and Negi, a teacher by profession, was brought on a red carpet till the booth amid traditional music.



1.212. HIMACHAL PRADESH AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY PROF GETS BEST TEACHER AWARD.

- Prof Janardan Singh, Head of Department of Organic Agriculture and Natural Farming, CSK Himachal Pradesh Agricultural University (HPU), here, was recently conferred with the Best Teacher Award.
- The former Deputy Director General (DDG) (Education) of the ICAR, Dr NS Rathore, presented him the award during the national conference on 'Natural Farming for Sustainable Agriculture and National Prosperity' held at Sardarkrushinagar Dantiwada Agricultural University (SDAU), Sardarkrushinagar, Gujarat.
- Singh was awarded for his significant contribution to the field of teaching and research conducted in various national and international institutions during his service career of more than 30 years.
- He also presented an invited lead paper on natural farming in the conference. He has bagged a number of national and international awards, besides professional visits to various countries.

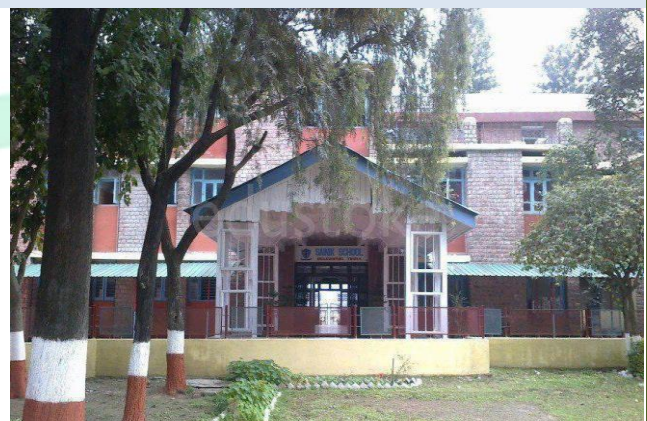


1.213. SAINIK SCHOOL, SUJANPUR TIRA, CELEBRATES RAISING DAY.

- Sainik School, Sujanpur Tira, celebrated its 45th Raising and Annual Day at Sujanpur. The school was set up to cater to the needs of the people of the state and was inaugurated by Neelam Sanjeeva Reddy, then President, on November 2, 1978.
- Hamirpur Deputy Commissioner (DC) Debasweta Banik said the administration and staff members had done painstaking efforts to make this school a premier institution.

About:

- Sainik School Sujanpur Tira is 18th in the series of 33 Sainik Schools in the country.



- Sujanpur Tira is located 24 Kms from its district HQ Hamirpur and is connected to all other places in the State by road.
- Its nearest broad-gauge rail head is located 99 Kms away at Una. A narrow gauge train operates between Pathankot and Maranda (Palampur) which is 45 Kms away. Kangra Airport at Gaggal is located 75 Kms from Sujanpur Tira.
- Sainik School Sujanpur Tira admits students in class VI and IX on the basis of All India Entrance Examination conducted on 1st or 2nd Sunday of January every year.
- The school has extensive playground with lush green silken grass, which looks splendid against the Dhauladhar ranges and Baradari hill.
- The school has independent NCC unit and NCC is compulsory for all students from VI to XI standards. Sports facilities exist in Football, Hockey, Volleyball, Handball & Basketball besides other minor & indoor games.
- The school has three Service Officers i.e. Principal, Vice Principal and Administrative Officer deputed by Ministry of Defence and 50 experienced set of teaching and administrative staff together with 52 support staff for effective management of school activities.
- In addition, one JCO and three NCO's from Army are appointed for NCC & Sports activities in the school.

1.214. WREATH LAYING CEREMONY HELD IN HONOUR OF MAJOR SOMNATH IN SRINAGAR.

- A wreath laying ceremony was held by the Indian Army in the honour of Major Somnath, PVC (Posthumous), at Saviours of Kashmir War Memorial located at Srinagar International Airport.
- Major Somnath of the 4th Battalion, the Kumaon Regiment led 'D' Company of his battalion at Budgam against the raiders approaching Srinagar from North on November 3, 1947.
- Despite being heavily outnumbered and coming under heavy fire, 'D' Company under his leadership foiled the enemy's advance towards Srinagar airfield during the crucial hours.
- In this decisive battle of 1947, Major Somnath along with one Junior Commissioned Officer and 20 other ranks made the supreme sacrifice, defending the motherland against all odds.
- For his ultimate courage, leadership and dedication, Major Somnath was conferred with the country's first and highest war time gallantry award – the Param Vir Chakra – posthumously.
- On behalf of Lt General ADS Aujla, General Officer Commanding, Chinara Corps, Colonel Manoram Yadav, Officiating Commandant, Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry Regimental Centre, laid the wreath at the Saviours of Kashmir War Memorial as a mark of respect to Major Somnath.
- Somnath Sharma was born on January 31, 1923, in a military family.
- He was the native of Dadh village in Kangra district of Himachal Pradesh.
- His father, Major General (ret'd) Amarnath Sharma, who headed the Army Medical Corps, set up a charitable dispensary in 1955 in memory of his son.



1.215. NAAC TEAM TO ASSESS HIMACHAL PRADESH UNIVERSITY DURING 3-DAY VISIT.

- A seven-member National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) team today visited the Himachal Pradesh University (HPU) for physical verification of the self-study report submitted by the university.
- The team, which is headed by Arun K Pujari and includes Santa Ram Joshi, Telagam Chetty Tripura Sundari, Vijaya Bhaskar Raju K, Ajitava Raychaudhuri, Balabhim Biradar and Krishnan Krishnan, is on a three-day visit to the HPU.
- It will evaluate the performance of the university on the basis of curriculum, faculty, infrastructure, e-governance, research and patents, and best teaching practices.

- The team inspected Sanskrit, English, History, Visual Arts, Commerce, Tribal Studies, Journalism, Vocational Studies, Geography, Bio-technology, Physics, Maths, Chemistry, Hindi and Sociology departments. The assessment is based on 70 per cent self-study report and 30 per cent physical evaluation.
- After a drop in the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) last year, the HPU management had issued instructions to all the departments to fill the gaps and rectify the shortcomings to improve NAAC grading from A to A+.
- One of the reasons for which the HPU was awarded Grade A was to become the first university in the country in implementing the semester system under Rashtriya Uchchattar Shiksha Abhiyan. However, the state government and the university has reverted back to the annual examination system, creating several problems for the students and other stakeholders.



Performance criteria

- The team will evaluate the performance on the basis of curriculum, faculty, infrastructure, e-governance, research and patents, etc
- After a drop in the NIRF rank last year, the HPU instructed its departments to rectify gaps to improve grading from A to A+

1.216. VIGILANCE AWARENESS WEEK BEING OBSERVED BY THE STATE VIGILANCE BUREAU (SVB) AND THE ANTI-CORRUPTION BUREAU.

- Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar stressed the need to march ahead in the interest of the nation with discipline and the 'swadeshi' spirit in life.
- He said an anti-corruption approach should become a part of the lifestyle to eradicate the menace.
- The Governor was presiding over an award ceremony during Vigilance Awareness Week being observed by the State Vigilance Bureau (SVB) and the Anti-Corruption Bureau.
- "We need to be aware of corruption and it should not be a part of etiquette. There is a need to put an end to wrong practices, for which we all should participate," he added.
- Arlekar said corruption comes from human nature. "From the day we have separated religion from our public and personal life, we have started getting corrupted as we have misdefined religion," he added.
- The Governor said religion was not restricted to the system of worship. It was a part of the way of life and conduct. "Dharma teaches us what to do and what not to do in life."
- On the occasion, Arlekar also released the website of the State Vigilance Department.



1.217. 94 CANDIDATES OF VARIOUS POLITICAL PARTIES ARE FACING CRIMINAL CASES IN HIMACHAL PRADESH.

- The number of candidates facing criminal cases, fielded by political parties this time, has gone up from 18 to 23 per cent as compared to the 2017 elections.
- The Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) has released the data on the criminal record, assets, educational qualification and performance of 412 candidates, including the sitting MLAs, who are in the fray. As far as giving tickets to women is concerned, the figure stands at mere 5.8 per cent, which makes it 24 out of 412.

- “A total of 94 candidates in the fray have criminal cases against them with the highest number of 36 being from the Congress,” said Dr OP Bhraitia, Director, State Resource Centre, ADR.
- A total of 12 candidates each from the BJP and AAP were facing criminal cases.
- Seven CPM candidates out of 11 were facing criminal charges. CPM MLA Rakesh Singha (Theog) faces the highest number of 30 cases, 20 cases by Kuldeep Singh Tanwar (CPM) from Kasumpti, 19 by AAP candidate Manish Thakur from Paonta Sahib, 11 cases by Vikramaditya Singh and eight by Kuldeep Rathore.
- In most cases, these cases pertain to dharnas and demonstrations.
- As far as the wealth of the candidates is concerned, 21 per cent (86) have assets more than Rs 5 crore while 55 per cent (226) are crorepatists. The richest candidate in the fray is Balbir Verma (Rs 128.45 crore), the BJP MLA from Chopal, followed by Shimla Rural MLA Vikramaditya Singh (Rs 101.39 crore) and then RS Bali, Congress candidate from Nagrota Bagwan with assets worth Rs 92.36 crore. While 90 per cent of the Congress candidates are crorepatists, the BJP nominees are a close second with 82 per cent.
- While 84 of the 412 candidates are graduates, 83 are postgraduates. There are 68 graduate with professional degrees while 11 hold a doctorate degree, 69 are matriculate, 66 are Class XII pass, 13 have cleared Class VIII and six have completed Class V.

94 NOMINEES FACING CASES

Congress	36
BJP	12
AAP	12
CPM	7

1.218. SHYAM NEGI, INDIA'S FIRST VOTER, DIES AT 106.

- The first voter of Independent India, Shyam Saran Negi (106), died. He had cast vote through postal ballot on November 2 due to his frail health for the 34th time for the upcoming Vidhan Sabha poll scheduled for November 12.
- Saran, who had been a symbol of democracy, died in the wee hours at Kalpa, his native place in Kinnaur. He was cremated with state honours.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who addressed a rally at Sundernagar and Solan, paid tributes to Negi. “His spirit towards strengthening democracy was admirable and this time too he did not miss the opportunity to cast his vote. He always motivated everyone, especially the youth, to exercise their right to franchise,” said Modi in his address. Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur too condoled his death.
- He earned the distinction of becoming the first voter of Independent India by virtue of being part of a polling team which cast its vote before others on October 25, 1951. Since elections could not be held simultaneously in Kinnaur with rest of the nation in February 1952 due to extreme cold and snow, polling was held before the onset of winters in the tribal areas, including Kinnaur.
- This time, too, he was keen to take part in the November 12 poll but due to his frail health, he cast postal ballot at his home in Kalpa on November 2.
- Negi would vividly recount that he cast his first vote at the Shonthong polling station as part of the polling party which had to trek long distances to conduct polling at Purvani, Ribba, Moarang and Nesong villages.



1.219. CYCLOTHON AT LAWRENCE SCHOOL, SANAWAR.

- The Lawrence School, Sanawar, along with its alumni association, The Old Sanawarian Society, is organising a Cyclothon Tour De Sanawar 2022, on the school premises on November 6.
- More than 150 cyclists, including students, amateurs, professionals and mountain bikers, from across North India will participate in the cyclothon sponsored by Hero Cycles.

- The first edition of the Tour-De-Sanawar cyclothon was held in 2018.

About The Lawrence School, Sanawar:

- Founded by **Sir Henry and Lady Honoria Lawrence**, Sanawar is believed to be the first co-educational boarding school in the world. On the **15th of April 1847**, a group of 14 boys and girls camped at the top of the foothills of the Himalayas.
- The tradition of military training at Sanawar has always been strong and of such a high standard that several contingents of boys were enlisted from the School and sent straight to the battlefields of the Great War. In appreciation of this, the School was re designated in 1920 as the "**Lawrence Royal Military School**".



1.220. PM MODI TO GIFT ART, HANDICRAFT ITEMS FROM HIMACHAL TO WORLD LEADERS AT G20.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will gift several unique art and handicraft items from Himachal Pradesh to various world leaders during the upcoming G20 summit in Indonesia.
- This would give a boost to the spread of Himachal Pradesh's art and culture globally, they said.
- The prime minister will gift items such as Chamba 'rumals', Kangra miniature paintings, Kinnauri shawl, Kullu shawl and Kanal brass set to various world leaders, officials said.
- The art and culture of Himachal Pradesh would travel far and wide to various countries, they said.
- The G20 comprises Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the UK, the US and the European Union (EU).
- The G20 summit is taking place on November 15 and 16 in Bali and Prime Minister Modi is set to be among the top leaders attending it.
- The G20 is the premier forum for international economic cooperation representing around 85 per cent of the global GDP, over 75 per cent of the global trade, and about two-thirds of the world population.



1.221. HIMACHAL PRADESH ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS: OF TOTAL 412 NOMINEES.

- Out of 412 candidates in the fray for the upcoming assembly elections in Himachal Pradesh, 24 are women and 388 are men.
- A total of 55,92,828 voters of the state will elect their representatives among these candidates, for which a total of 7,881 polling stations have been set up.
- Of the total voters, 28,54,945 are male electors, 27,37,845 female, and 38 third gender voters.
- So far, 1,93,106 new voters in the age group of 18-19 years have been added. There were 1,21,409 voters above 80 years, while 56,501 were in the persons with disability (PwD) category.
- According to the officials of the state election department, BJP and Congress are contesting on all the 68 assembly constituencies, while AAP on 67 assembly constituencies.



- Similarly, BSP is contesting on 53 assembly constituencies, Rashtriya Devbhoomi Party on 29 assembly constituencies, CPM on 11 assembly constituencies, Himachal Jan Kranti Party on six assembly constituencies, Hindu Samaj Party and Swabhiman Party on three assembly constituencies each, and Himachal Janata Party, Bhartiya Veer Dal, Sainik Samaj Party, Rashtriya Lok Niti Party and Communist Party of India on one constituency each. The number of independent candidates is 99.

1.222. PARAGLIDING ACCIDENTS IN BIR BILLING.

- Billing in Kangra district is among the top paragliding sites in the world. The place has been regularly hosting the prestigious Paragliding World Cup. But as rules to govern the sport are normally overlooked, it has started courting controversies. In the absence of proper check from the state tourism department, the number mishaps has gone up in the past few years.



As per the rules laid down in 2004,

- It is mandatory for a pilot to have a licence which is issued by the Aero Sport Society of India, he should carry internationally homologated design parachute with helmet, have two-way radio communication system with instrument panel, altimeter, barometer and compass with speed indicator and two first aid kits equipped with medicines and bandages.
- Besides, there should be ground support with a retrieval vehicle, insurance cover for two persons in tandem flights and insurance support for arranging helicopter in the case of emergency

Various Mishaps happened in past:

- An Army jawan from Mizoram was killed when his para glider crash-landed near Billing. He was flying solo when the tragedy occurred. He had no knowledge of the topography of Dhauladhar ranges which led to the mishap.
- In another mishap, a Ghaziabad tourist and his helper were killed while taking off from Billing. In another mishap, a resident of Nagrota Bagwan was killed when the co-pilot failed to tighten safety belts.
- In February 2020, a 24-year-old para glider Akshya and co-pilot Shyam Lal were killed. Both had taken off from Billing and were untrained.
- In 2018, a Singaporean pilot Kok Chang had died after his glider crash-landed in high mountains of Dhauladhar hills after he took off from Billing. His body was spotted by rescue teams after many days. Earlier, two Russian pilots were killed in similar mishaps
- Two years back, Max Kent McGowan, a US pilot, remained stranded in snow-covered mountains for nearly 60 hours after taking off from Billing when his glider moved in wrong direction bordering Chamba district. Though he was able to land at Bir after two hours heavy rain, snowfall and high velocity wind forced his landing in high mountains. He had neither insurance cover nor permission from the administration to fly.

HC seeks govt reply on Bir Billing mishaps

- Taking a strong note of the issue of regular mishaps at the paragliding site at Bir Billing, the HP High Court has sought response from the state govt and the Shimla administration
- The Bench comprising Justice Tarlok Singh Chauhan and Justice Virender Singh took cognizance of the news report in The Tribune on November 9 under the headline, "Navy officer killed in paragliding mishap in Himachal's Billing."

1.223. THE UNIFORM CIVIL CODE IN HIMACHAL PRADESH.

- The BJP announced its manifesto, the saffron party, out of 11, declared the implementation of the Uniform Civil Code as its first promise, as shown in the "Sankalp Patra." But in the context of the Himachal state, here over 95% of the people are Hindu, 2.18 % are Muslims, 1.16% are Sikhs, and 0.1% practise Christianity.
- While reacting to this, Senior Congress leader Mukesh Agnihotri said that there is no point in UCC in the context of Himachal. Since the state is very law-abiding & peaceful state.

- The announcement on the Uniform Civil Code does not make sense now, with one week left for the Assembly elections the issues as a result of government failure. The Center has the authority to put the Uniform Civil Code into effect, if they want he continued.

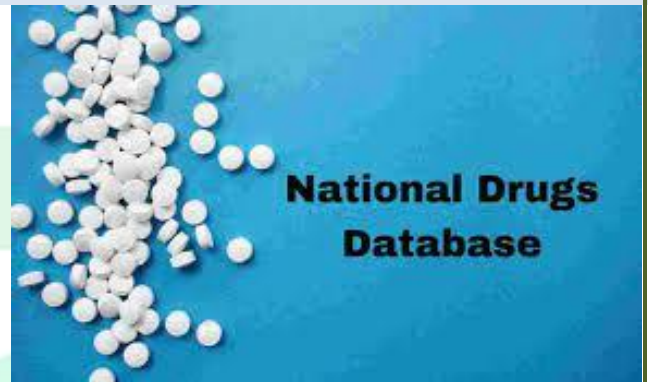
What is Uniform Civil Code?

- According to the Uniform Civil Code (UCC), all religious communities in India would be subject to one legislation that would govern issues including marriage, divorce, inheritance, and adoption. The law is mandated by Article 44 of the Constitution, which states that the state must work to establish a uniform civil code for its residents across the whole Indian subcontinent.



1.224. COMMITTEE TO PREPARE NATIONAL DRUG DATABASE.

- The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has constituted a seven-member committee to prepare a national drugs database to strengthen the monitoring mechanism for quality drugs and create a uniform regulatory mechanism.
- State Drugs Controller Navneet Marwaha is enlisted as a member of the committee, which was notified by the Drugs Controller General of India on October 2.
- Marwaha said the committee would prepare a database on drugs that would include information such as their dosage form, strength, details of manufacturer, marketer, importer, etc.
- Himachal has been given representation in the committee as it houses the pharmaceutical hub of Asia in the Baddi-Barotiwala-Nalagarh (BBN) industrial belt with every third drug in the domestic market being manufactured in the BBN region.
- The state has around 650 manufacturing units with an investment of about Rs 8,000 crore. It contributes 7 to 9% in the nation's exports and 45 per cent to the exports of the northern region. The existing database available with various states and drug control departments, manufacturers, marketers, importers will also be examined by the committee, which is supposed to submit its report within three months.



1.225. APPLE GROWERS DIFFER WITH FM ON IMPORT DUTY.

- Responding to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's assertion that the import duty on apple had been levied at a maximum of 50% as agreed under the WTO pact, growers said the cess on the US produce was 70% since 2019.
- "If the import duty on apple from the US could be enhanced to 70%, why it can't be done for the produce being imported from other countries, especially Iran," said Sanyukt Kisan Manch convener Harish Chauhan.
- The apple growers have been demanding the increase of the import duty on apple to 100 per cent, especially on the cheap produce coming from Iran that's hurting the domestic farmers a lot. "If the government wants, it can put apple in the special category status. It can then easily raise the duty," said Lokinder Bisht, president, Progressive Growers' Association.
- Apple growers have been constantly demanding that central and state governments raise duty on imported apples. It is imported to India from 44 countries across the world, but the ones eating into our profits the most are from Chile and Iran.



- Not just fruit growers from Himachal, but also those from Jammu & Kashmir, Uttarakhand and other apple-growing states are facing huge losses,” said Harish Chauhan, president of the Fruit, Vegetables and Flower Growers’ Association, Himachal Pradesh.
- The ₹60,000 crore apple market is the source of sustenance for around 1.75 lakh families in Himachal. The fruit is grown in seven of HP’s 12 districts with Shimla, Kullu and Kinnaur being the largest producers.

1.226. HIMACHAL PRADESH: RESIDENTS OF TASHIGANG WORLD'S HIGHEST POLLING STATION TO VOTE FIRST TIME.

- In Himachal Pradesh, Tashigang is the world's highest polling station situated at 15256 feet.
- The residents of Tashigang will vote for the first time in assembly election tomorrow. Tashigang, the world's highest polling station, was set up in 2019 and voters have exercised their franchise once in the Lok Sabha and second in the Lok Sabha by-elections but this time voters will vote in the assembly elections for the first time.
- Earlier this year, in the Mandi Lok Sabha by-election, this polling station witnessed 100 percent voting.
- Tashigang village has 52 registered voters, including 30 men and 22 women.
- This remote village is located in Lahaul-Spiti district which falls under the Mandi parliamentary seat.
- Earlier, Hikkim had the status of being the highest polling station.



1.227. HIMACHAL GOVERNOR RAJENDRA VISHWANATH ARLEKAR INAUGURATES LAVI FAIR.

- Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar inaugurated the International Lavi Fair at Rampur Bushahr in Shimla district.
- He said the four-day fair was not only a commercial festival, but also a symbol of cultural richness of Himachal Pradesh. He said every effort should be made to preserve cultural heritage and restore the old glory of traditional fairs and festivals.
- He lauded the efforts of the organisers for making sincere efforts to carry forward the rich traditions of the Lavi fair. “The woollens, dry fruits and other traditional crafts and products exhibited in the market are unique.
- The fair provides a good opportunity for their promotion and sale and benefits the traditional craftsmen and farmers.
- He also inaugurated the ‘Kinnauri market’ and exhibition put up by various organisations.
- Deputy Commissioner and Chairman of the International Lavi Fair Organising Committee, Aditya Negi, spoke about various activities to be held during the fair. A cultural programme was also presented on the occasion.



1.228. THE RECORD POLLING PERCENTAGE OF 75.60 IN HIMACHAL PRADESH VIDHAN SABHA ELECTIONS.

- The record polling percentage of 75.60 in Himachal Pradesh’s recently concluded Vidhan Sabha Elections.
- Despite the two main parties, who were locked in a direct contest for political supremacy in the hill state, claiming victory post-polling, the fact remains that both are apprehensive of the outcome.
- The present polling percentage of votes cast through EVMs stands at 75.6, but with an additional 2 per cent postal ballots yet to be received, this figure is likely to go up further,” said Maneesh Garg, Chief Electoral Officer.
- The counting of votes will be taken up on December 8.

- Himachal has 68 Assembly segments, including 17 reserved for the Scheduled castes and three for the Scheduled Tribes. Two Independents had won in the 2017 poll.
- Initial reports have indicated that some of these rebels such as Hoshiyar Singh (Dehra), Indu Verma (Theog), Sanjay Prashar (Jaswan Pragpur), KL Thakur (Nalagarh), Tejwant Negi (Kinnaur), Gangu Ram Musafir (Pachhad) and Jagjivan Pal (Sullah) may win.
- Interestingly, the polling percentage in most of the segments which are witnessing a multi-cornered or triangular contest, invariably due to the presence of a rebel from either of the two parties, has been very high. This is visible in Nalagarh (81.40), Pachhad (78.30), Sundernagar (77.80), Bilaspur (76.48), Arki (75.17), Theog (74.96), Mandi (74.0) and Kinnaur (72.56).
- Former CM Virbhadra Singh had formed a minority government for a mere 18 days with the support of Independent MLA Ramesh Dhawala in 1998. However, Dhawala, a BJP rebel, chose to return to the BJP, resulting in the Congress government falling within a few days.
- Following this, the BJP formed a coalition government with the Himachal Vikas Congress (HVC), an outfit floated by former Congress leader Sukh Ram. The HVC had managed to win five seats in the 1998 poll and thus helped in formation of the BJP-HVC combine in which Dhawala also became a minister. As such, a situation where Independents could play a crucial role in government formation in case no party gets a clear majority, cannot be ruled out.



1.229. LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FOR RENOWNED HIMACHALI FOLK SINGER DR KRISHNA LAL SEHGAL.

- The Himalaya Sahitya Sanskriti and Paryavaran Manch has decided to honour Dr Krishna Lal Sehgal with the 'Lifetime Achievement Award' for his outstanding contribution to the field of Himachali folk music.
- The honour will be conferred on him at a folk music event in the state capital. "This programme of Himachali folk music will be especially dedicated to Dr Sehgal.
- Sehgal had devoted his whole life to Himachali folk music and was still active at the age of 73 years.
- "He has sung more than 100 of his own compositions through Akashvani, Doordarshan and many other mediums. Many audio and video cassettes of his songs have also been released.
- He has been honoured with the district and state-level honours by many organisations. His book titled 'Geet Meri Mati Re' containing folk songs of Sirmaur district in 'Swaralipi' was published recently.
- Sehgal was a PhD in vocal music and had obtained the degrees of Sangeet Visharad in Vocal and Instrumentation from Prachin Kala Kendra, Chandigarh, and Sangeet Praveen in Vocal Music from Allahabad.
- Sehgal is one of the top performers of the All India Radio, Shimla, and Doordarshan. He retired as an Associate Professor of Vocals from the Himachal College Cadre in 2008.
- Senior writers who have been honoured with the Lifetime Achievement Award by the organisation include Srinivas Shrikant, Dr Mouluram Thakur, Saroj Vashisht, Satyen Sharma, Ramdayal Neeraj, Sundar Lohia, Ramesh Chandra Sharma and Om Prakash Handa.
- **This is the first time that the honour will be given to a Pahari folk artiste.**



1.230. HIMACHAL PRADESH AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY PROF GETS BEST TEACHER AWARD.

- Prof Janardan Singh, Head of Department of Organic Agriculture and Natural Farming, CSK Himachal Pradesh Agricultural University (HPU), here, was recently conferred with the Best Teacher Award.
- The former Deputy Director General (DDG) (Education) of the ICAR, Dr NS Rathore, presented him the award during the national conference on 'Natural Farming for Sustainable Agriculture and National Prosperity' held at Sardarkrushinagar Dantiwada Agricultural University (SDAU), Sardarkrushinagar, Gujarat.
- Singh was awarded for his significant contribution to the field of teaching and research conducted in various national and international institutions during his service career of more than 30 years.
- He also presented an invited lead paper on natural farming in the conference. He has bagged a number of national and international awards, besides professional visits to various countries.



1.231. SHIMLA: SJVN'S PROFIT AFTER TAX UP BY 42%.

- The profit after tax (PAT) of Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam (SJVN) Limited has increased by 42 per cent to Rs 1,058.86 crore from Rs 745.61 crore in the first half of the current fiscal year.
- "In the first half of the current fiscal year, the revenue from operations has surged by about 22 per cent to Rs 1,886.99 crore from Rs 1,547.44 crore during the corresponding period of previous fiscal year," said SJVN chairman Nand Lal Sharma.
- He said the SJVN had upped its earning per share (EPS) to Rs 2.70 in the first half of the fiscal as compared to Rs 1.90 of the previous fiscal. Besides, the company's net worth has increased to Rs 13,970.52 crore from Rs 13,349.21 crore as on September 30 last year.
- Apprising about recent developments, Sharma said during the second quarter of the current fiscal year, SJVN had added two more floating solar projects of 105 MW and 83 MW capacity in Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh, respectively, to its kitty.
- The 1500 MW Nathpa Jhakri Hydro Power Station achieved the highest ever daily generation of 39.526 MU on August 30, and the 412 MW Rampur Hydro Power Station generated the highest ever monthly power generation of 290.409 MU in September this year," he said.
- Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam (SJVN) Limited has secured an 83 MW floating solar project in Madhya Pradesh.
- "This project has been secured at Rs 3.70/unit on build, own and operate basis in an e-reverse auction organised by REWA Ultra Mega Solar Limited (RUMSL)," said SJVN chairman Nand Lal Sharma.
- Sharma said the SJVN would develop the project in India's largest floating solar park at Omkareshwar in Khandwa district of Madhya Pradesh. "The cost of developing the project will be approximately Rs 585 crore. After commissioning, the project will generate 187 million units in the first year and 4,410 million units over a period of 25 years. The commissioning of the project is expected to reduce approximately 2,16,074 tonnes of carbon emission in 25 years," he added.
- The power purchase agreement will be signed between the RUMSL and the SJVN for 25 years. The project shall be commissioned within a period of 21 months from the date of the signing of the PPA.
- "This is our second floating solar project bagged through the tariff-based competitive bidding process from the RUMSL. We are already developing a 90 MW floating solar project in Madhya Pradesh," Sharma added.
- The SJVN is implementing the project along with other renewable ones of 4,090.5 MW capacity through its wholly owned subsidiary SJVN Green Energy Limited.



1.232. 30K CASES TO BE TAKEN UP DURING LOK ADALAT IN HIMACHAL PRADESH.

- The Himachal Pradesh Legal Services Authority has identified 30,000 cases to be taken up during the upcoming National Lok Adalat to be held in all the courts in the state on November 27.
- Justice Sabina, Executive Chairperson, Himachal Pradesh State Legal Services Authority (HPLSA), interacted with all the judicial officers of the state through video conferencing to take the stock of preparations being made for the upcoming National Lok Adalat.
- “So far, 30,000 cases have been identified, which will be taken up at the Lok Adalat,” said Prem Pal Ranta, District and Sessions Judge. A special Online Lok Adalat with technical support of SAMA, an online dispute resolution organisation, for Motor Vehicle Challans and Petty Offences (both at pre-litigation and post-litigation Stage), will be held on November 27, he added.
- The HPLSA has coordinated with the HP Police Department and the Department of Transport for maximum identification and effective settlement of MV challans and petty offences at the pre-litigation stage. These departments have notified their Nodal and Compounding Officers for better coordination and successful organisation of the special online Lok Adalat.
- The offenders under the MV Act will receive summons or notice through an SMS on their registered mobile number or their address to settle their case in the Lok Adalat.
- Facilities like ePay (eCourts Digital Payment) for online payment of compounding fee/fine will be provided to the general public, enabling them to settle their cases at home by paying the compounding fee or fine without any physical appearance before the compounding authority or the court.
- A special drive is also being undertaken for mass awareness about the National Lok Adalat by associating local bodies, police, financial institutions, banks, NGOs, stakeholders, representatives of PRIs, PLVs, Asha/Anganwari workers, Public Transport, etc.
- Regular meetings are taking place with local bar associations, insurance companies, banks, other financial institutions, local bodies, police, NGOs and other stakeholders for effective identification and settlement of cases. Targets have been given to Judicial Officer for effective identification and settlement of cases.



1.233. IIT-MANDI SIGNS MOU WITH HITACHI.

- The IIT-Mandi, has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Hitachi India Private Ltd (HIL) for collaborative research in artificial intelligence (AI).
- Laxmidhar Behera, Director, IIT-Mandi, said, “The MoU is aimed at collaborative research by the IIT-Mandi and Hitachi India in the area of artificial intelligence using novel methods leading to solutions that are scalable and can be used by HIL across multiple-used cases.”
- The MoU with Hitachi will strengthen collaboration, entrepreneurship and innovation.”



1.234. KANGRA VULTURE PROJECT TO BE EXTENDED TO NINE DISTRICTS.

- The wildlife wing of the Forest Department has decided to extend the project for protecting the nesting and roosting sites of white-backed vultures, considered natural scavengers, being run in Kangra to nine other districts as well.
- The project being run only in Kangra district has shown positive results; there has been far more sightings of vultures. “We have decided to extend the project for protecting the nesting and roosting sites of vultures

to nine other districts except Kinnaur and Lahaul and Spiti,” says Rajiv Kumar, Principal Chief Conservator, Wildlife, Forest Department.

- It was over two decades ago that the Wildlife Department had embarked on the project to preserve vultures, mentioned as one of the critically endangered species in the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List. The number of vultures, estimated to be merely 35 in 2004, has risen considerably over the years, as feeding stations have been set up in pine forests in Nagrota Suriyan area of Kangra.
- “The population estimation of vultures in Kangra and its adjoining areas has not been undertaken but the annual count of their nests and fledglings indicated that their number has gone up considerably to over 400,” says Rajiv Kumar. Vultures have been frequently sighted in several other parts of the state, including Nalagarh in Solan and Paonta Sahib in Sirmaur.
- The wildlife wing has adopted the strategy to protect natural habitats of vultures rather than undertake their in-situ breeding and conservation. “Some other states like Haryana have also undertaken their in-situ breeding and conservation at Pinjore but we have adopted a different strategy where focus is on protecting their nesting and roosting sites,” he adds.
- The money for the project will come from funds for the development and protection of natural habitats from various hydroelectric power projects like the Kol Dam. Besides, there are several Central agencies that can provide funds for the project.
- It is based on the encouraging results of the project launched in Kangra district that prompted the wildlife wing to extend it to nine other districts. A major component of the project will be to undertake an exhaustive survey to identify roosting and nesting sites so that a congenial habitat can help in increasing the number of vultures.
- Wildlife officials have managed successful fledging off of newborn in Kangra district. The main reason for the sharp dip in the population of vultures was over use of anti-inflammatory veterinary drug diclofenac, which proved fatal for vultures, which feed on carcasses. The use of this medicine has now been banned.



1.235. PROJECT TO REVIVE DRIED DAL LAKE IN DHARAMSALA AWAITS NOD.

- A Rs 20-crore project, submitted by the Irrigation and Public Health (IPH) Department to the Urban Development Department for the revival of the dried Dal lake here, is awaiting approval.
- Kulbhash Sharma, a resident of Naddi, said the lake used to retain water throughout the year. However, a few years ago, PWD officials dug up the base of the lake with JCBs to deepen it and remove silt. Since then, the lake had lost its capacity to retain water.
- Kangra DC Nipun Jindal said a Rs 20-crore proposal, submitted by the IPH Department to save the lake, was awaiting the approval of the Urban Development Department. Superintending Engineer, IPH Department, Dharamsala, Deepak Garg said the proposal was submitted under the AMRUT scheme of the Centre for its revival. The Rs 20-crore cost, given in the project report, was tentative. It was proposed to plug the leakage on the floor of the lake and it would be beautified as tourist destination. The approval was awaited, he said.
- The lake, located at a distance of about 11 km from Dharamsala in Tota Rani village near Naddi, though small, is a natural water body, vital for the ecosystem of the surrounding hills.
- The lake is located at a height of 1,775 metre and is surrounded by deodars. There is a Shiva temple on its banks. However, silt from the adjoining mountains had reduced its depth.



- About half of the lake area is filled with silt which has been converted into grassland. A massive operation with the help of the locals was launched in 2011 for removing the silt from the lake. The silt was used to create a parking near the temple area.
- Since then, the lake dries up rapidly. Sources said the district administration had called the geological experts to study the reasons as to why the lake was losing water. They had opined that the unscientific digging might have created aquaducts at the base of the lake, which was leading to draining of water. The sources said no solution had been found to the problem.

1.236. 27,371 MIGRATORY BIRDS OF 70 SPECIES THROUG PONG WETLAND.

- As many as 27,371 birds have been found in the general fortnight counting of migratory birds in the Pong wetland on the foothills of the district.
- The wildlife wing of the state Forest Department completed its counting last evening and estimated the arrival of 70 species.
- The department has deployed two wildlife teams in each wildlife range along with experts in bird counting, monitoring and research.
- As per official information, the annual count will be held at the end of January when it is believed that the highest number of birds are at the wetland, also known as Maharana Pratap Sagar.
- The bar-headed species is the largest in number that throngs the Pong wetland from other countries. Migratory birds from Siberia, Mongolia, Tibet, China, Pakistan and Iraq throng the wetland on the onset of every winter making this man-made water body eco-friendly. These birds return to their native countries in March on the onset of spring season. The wildlife authorities used to undertake an estimation count of these winged visitors fortnightly.
- According to Reginald Royston, Divisional Forest Officer, Wildlife, Hamirpur, the main five species of migratory birds which arrived till November 16 in the Pong Wetland are bar-headed goose (4,271), common coot (5,656), northern pintail (3,531), common teal (3,102) and common pochard (1,802). He said that the samples for bird flu were being collected to check symptoms of bird flu but, no mortality had been found in the wetland so far.
- "Drone surveillance is being undertaken to monitor birds and to check poaching. Apart from this, preparations for the Pong Bird Festival will start next month which will include bird counting exercise, bird ringing and awareness camps," he said.



1.237. PM MODI GIFTS THE HIMACHAL PRADESH ART TO WORLD LEADERS AT G20 SUMMIT.

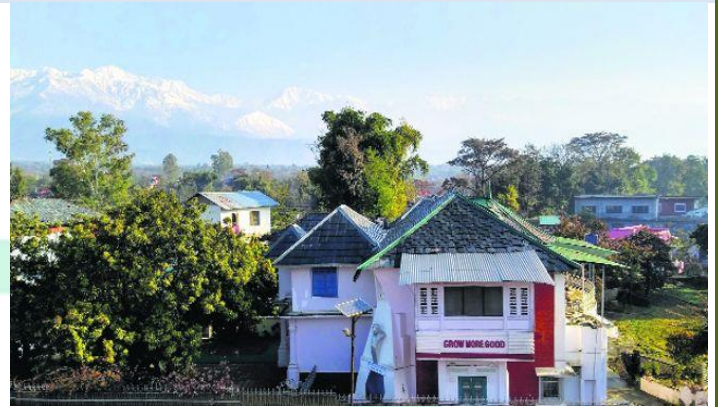
- The PM gifted Kangra miniature paintings to US President Joe Biden; Kinnauri shawl to the Indonesian President and a Kanal brass set, an art typical to Mandi and Kullu in Himachal, to Spain.
- Kangra miniature paintings generally depict 'Shringar Rasa' (love) on a natural, organic backdrop. The art originated in a small hill state 'Guler' in the first half of the 18th century when a family of Kashmiri painters trained in the Mughal Style of painting sought shelter at the court of Raja Dalip Singh of Guler.
- The Kanal brass set he presented to Spain is a large, straight brass trumpet, over a metre long, played in parts of the Himalayan India.



An art from Mandi and Kullu, it is used on ceremonial occasions, such as the processions of village deities.

1.238. SOBHA SINGH ART FESTIVAL TO BEGIN FROM NOV 27 IN PALAMPUR.

- To commemorate the 123rd birth anniversary of eminent artist Sobha Singh, a three-day Sobha Singh Art Festival will be organised by Sobha Singh Memorial Art Society at art village Andretta (Palampur) from November 27 to 29.
- Hirdya Pal Singh, convener of the Art Society, said that the local handicraft exhibition will be inaugurated on November 27. Handmade products like bamboo and pine needle craft, grass, wood and stone craft, crochet and embroidery and products made by self-help groups will be displayed and sold by rural women.
- Regular slide shows and documentaries on Sobha Singh and daily interactive talks on miniature paintings, local folk arts and demonstrations on extinct folk art Likhnu will be held during the festival. The visitors will be able to taste Mithroo, Sancholu and other homemade delicacies of the Kangra valley during this festival. A poetic symposium has also been planned, he said.
- On the concluding day, a month-long exhibition on miniature paintings by well known artist Gurpreet Singh Mankoo from Jagraon (Ludhiana) will be inaugurated at Artist Residency. A set of 18 view cards on well-known and lesser-known artworks of the artists like landscapes, watercolor works, Persian poet Ommar Khyaam, Greek mythology and hill brides will be released to mark the occasion.
- Besides the awards to winners of competitions, 'Sobha Singh Kala Puraskar' will be awarded to well-known art historian and art connoisseur Kishori Lal Vaidya.
- This prestigious award carrying a citation, a shawl and Rs 21,000 is conferred by the Sobha Singh Memorial Art Society to artists, art critics and others who propagate 'Grow More Good' philosophy of saint artist Sobha Singh.
- The festival is being organized after a gap of two years due to the pandemic. Other organizations will also celebrate the birth anniversary of the artist at Chandigarh, Jagraon and Bathinda, Hirdya Pal Singh said.

**1.239. HAMIRPUR: NIT GETS RS 41 LAKH GRANT FOR E-WASTE MANAGEMENT PROJECT.**

- The Centre for Energy Studies of National Institute of Technology (NIT) received a grant of Rs 41 lakh for the e-waste management project under the Swachhata Action Plan of the Ministry of Education.
- Project's principal investigator Dr Mamta Awasthi said the project aims to develop a scalable small-scale business model for e-waste management through a deep learning system and creating a market chain in the NIT.

**1.240. GANDHI MANDELA AWARD, 2022 FOR DALAI LAMA.**

- Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar felicitated Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama with the Gandhi Mandela Award at McLeodganj in Dharamsala.
- The award was presented to him at a function organised by the Gandhi Mandela Foundation, which has been promoting the values and ideals of Mahatma Gandhi and Nelson Mandela in the interest of global peace and freedom.
- The award serves to recognise the global leaders who inspire citizens for peace, unity and freedom.

- The Dalai Lama said non-violence and compassion were essential for world peace and both these had been ingrained in the Indian culture for thousands of years. “Problems cannot be solved through war but through dialogue and peace,” he added.
- He asserted, “For world peace, we have to adopt non-violence and compassion as these are the guiding force for existence.”
- The Governor said the Dalai Lama was perhaps the most deserving person in the world today for this award as he was a universal ambassador of peace, who was carrying forward the Indian culture and ideas. “The Dalai Lama has given two principles — non-violence and compassion — which have become most relevant in today’s times. They are far more powerful than even an army,” he said.
- The Governor said ancient Indian culture lays stress on goodwill, compassion and love towards others which the Dalai Lama has taken forward. “After great personalities like Mahatma Gandhi and Nelson Mandela, it is the Dalai Lama, who has the potential to become a world citizen, not bound by physical boundaries of the countries,” he said.
- Earlier, Justice KG Balakrishnan, Jury Chairman and former Chief Justice of India, said the younger generation must follow the teachings of the Dalai Lama. Justice Gyan Sudha Misra, Jury Vice-Chairman and former Supreme Court Judge, said the Dalai Lama had shown the path of peace to the whole world.



1.241. CHAMBA'S GADDI DANCE THIRD IN NATIONAL TRIBAL FESTIVAL.

- The gaddi dance has got the third place in the category of crop harvesting in a competition organised during the National Tribal Festival at Raipur, Chhattisgarh.
- The participants of 52 cultural troupes of the country participated in the competition and presented a glimpse of varied culture of their regions.
- Deputy Commissioner DC Rana congratulated the artistes of the Saraswati Lok Kala Sangam of Chamba for getting the third position in the Gaddi.
- Lauding the cultural troupe, Rana said it was a matter of pride for Himachal that Gaddi dance of Chamba district had got the national recognition. He also asked the cultural troupe to enhance the talent.
- The DC presented a reward of Rs 2 lakh to the cultural troupe as prize.
- District Language Officer Tukesh Sharma lauded artistes Atul Sharma, Himanshu, Ramesh Kumar, Karam Chand, Uttam, Vinod, Neeraj, Vivek, Tilak, Tek Chand, Naresh, Sanjay, Neelam, Meenakshi, Pinky, Anita, Rekha, Vandana.



1.242. ENROLMENT PER SCHOOL IN HIMACHAL 3RD LOWEST IN COUNTRY.

- The enrolment per school in Himachal Pradesh is the third lowest in the country.
- As per the Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+) report for 2021-22, the average enrolment count is 80 in the state, way lower than the national average of 178. Only Ladakh (61) and Mizoram (79) have lower enrolment per school than the state.

- Amarjeet Sharma, Director, Higher Education, blamed the demographic and topographic features of the state for the low enrolment. “As compared to other states, the density of population of the school-going children in the state is quite low. And that gets reflected in the low enrolment per school,” Sharma said.
- “Another reason for the low enrolment per school is the mushrooming of private institutions with little infrastructural facilities. Several private schools are running from just two-three rooms. They have low enrolment, which pulls down the overall enrolment per school,” he added.
- The low enrolment reflects in the pupil-teacher ratio as well, which is among the lowest in the country at 14. It’s exactly half the national average, which stands at 28. Only Ladakh (10), Mizoram (13) and Sikkim (10) have the lower pupil-teacher ratio than the state.
- “As per the Right to Education Act, there has to be a primary school within 1.5 km for children. So, many schools that have been opened to comply with this direction have meagre enrolment,” Sharma added.
- “There are several schools in interior areas where we have just a couple of children. The topography is such that children can’t access a school a little further away from their homes,” he said.
- Sharma further said the real-time data could be quite different from that offered by the report. “It has data until September 2021. In the past one year, several indicators would have improved.”



1.243. HAMIRPUR 3RD CLEANEST RURAL DISTRICT IN COUNTRY.

- Hamirpur has been ranked the third cleanest district in the country in the rural category and the first district in the state in the Swachh Bharat Mission rankings declared by the Union Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation today.
- The Jal Jeevan Mission envisages to provide safe and adequate drinking water through individual tap connections to all households in rural India by 2024.
- Deputy Commissioner Debasweta Banik said under the drinking water and sanitation programme, all gram panchayats of the district had implemented source sustainability measures as mandatory elements. She said these included recharge and reuse water sources through management, conservation and rainwater harvesting.
- She said under the Jal Jeevan Mission, community participation was ensured and elements such as information, education and communication were best used for the success of the programme in the district. “During the survey, every aspect of the mission was evaluated and was based on the feedback of people of the respective gram panchayats,” the DC added.
- She said this was a challenge, which was accomplished with relentless efforts of officers, staff and representatives of the panchayati raj institutions.



1.244. IN A FIRST, 'NATTI' DANCE PERFORMED IN CANADA.

- For the first time in history, ‘natti’ of Himachal Pradesh was performed in Canada at Parliament Hill in Ottawa by the Himachali Pravasi Global Association (HPGA) during celebration of Hindu Heritage Month.
- Sanjay Verma, High Commissioner of India to Canada, attended the event that was facilitated by Canadian MP Chandra Arya.

- 'Natti' is the folk dance of Himachal Pradesh.
- The HPGA is a non-profit organisation with an aim to help the Himachal-based immigrants and students to understand the culture of the new country which they have chosen as their new home.
- Also, it aims to promote Himachali and Indian culture and contribute to the development of the diaspora.



1.245. 3 HIMACHAL PRADESH STAFF SELECTION PANEL MEMBERS SWORN IN.

- The Himachal Pradesh Staff Selection Commission (HPSSC) got three new members of the governing body.
- The three positions in the five-member commission were vacant for a long time and a chairman and a member were running it. The appointment of members was done with prior permission of the election commission.
- All three members, namely Prof PK Vaid, Piar Chand Akela and Rakesh Bhardwaj, were administered the oath of office at the HPSSC.
- Prof PK Vaid had served in Himachal Pradesh University for over 32 years before retirement. Piar Chand Akela, a retired HAS officer, had served the Himachal Government on various positions like Deputy Commissioner, ADC and the administrative officer at the PGI, Chandigarh. Engineer Rakesh Bhardwaj had served with Satluj Jal Vidhut Nigam Limited for over 34 years.
- Dr Sanjay Thakur, chairman of the commission, administered the oath of office to all three members. Deputy Commissioner Deba Sweta Banik, SP Akriti Sharma, Additional DC Jitender Sanjta and Secretary of the HPSSC Jitender Kanwar were present on the occasion.



1.246. ANAEMIA AMONG SCHOOLKIDS ON THE RISE IN HIMACHAL PRADESH.

- With the increase in the number of anaemic children in Himachal by almost 2 per cent, 11 lakh children from six months to 10 years will be screened and given iron-rich syrup and tablets as per their age group.
- As per the recently released National Family Health Survey-V data, the prevalence of anaemia among children between five months and 59 months has increased from 53.7 to 55.4 per cent as compared to the previous National Family Health Survey (NFHS).
- The children found moderate and severe anaemic during the campaign will be given therapeutic dose of supplements.
- The number of total children screened till today is 3,45,002, studying in 14,081 schools. The number of children suffering from mild anaemia is 87,691 and those with severe anaemia is 2,247. All children are being managed as per the guidelines for the Anaemia Mukht Himachal.



- The Anaemia-Mukt Himachal is being implemented in all blocks of all districts. Children will be tested for anaemia through digital hemoglobinometer at schools, Anganwadi centres and medical officers at Primary Health Centres.
- Himachal stood at the third place with 56.9 per cent coverage in 2020-21 and in 2022-23 (up to June 2022) Himachal was on eighth rank with a coverage of 59.4 per cent.
- At present, Himachal is conducting Test-Treat and Talk (T3) camps being organised by the Health Department. The campaign is being observed in coordination with the Department of Women and Child Development and Education Department.
- There are many causes of anaemia of which iron deficiency accounts for about 50 per cent of anaemia in schoolchildren and 80 per cent in children between two and five years of age. The reduction of anaemia is one of the important objectives of the Poshan Abhiyaan launched in March 2018.

1.247. SHIMLA GETS WASTE-TO-ENERGY PLANT.

- Shimla has joined the league of cities having a waste-to-energy plant.
- In the pipeline for many years now, the plant located on the outskirts of the city has started generating power from the garbage.
- The plant has been set up by Elephant Energy, an Australian company, in Private Public Partnership mode with Shimla Municipal Corporation," said Municipal Commissioner Ashish Kohli.
- "We are providing roughly 100-ton garbage to the plant every day and the plant will generate 1.7MW electricity from it," said Kohli.
- Apart from generating electricity, the plant ensures the cash-strapped MC doesn't have to pay anything for disposing of the garbage it collects from within the Municipal limits and nearby areas. "We just gave land to the company for setting up the plant.
- The company has set up the plant on its own and is disposing our waste free of cost. Other ULBs pay close to Rs 2,000 per to waste management plants for disposing of one ton garbage," said Kohli, adding that Shimla MC was the only ULB in the state to have a waste-to-energy plant.
- The MC collects around 80 ton waste every day from Shimla and around 20 ton waste is gathered from the neighbouring places. All this waste, both dry and wet, is transported to the plant in Bhariyal, a few km away from the city.
- While the dry waste is most suitable for the producing energy, the MC is giving both dry and wet waste to the company.
- "The company has installed dryers to dry up the wet waste and use it for producing energy," said Project Coordinator DP Singh. He further said that disposing garbage through waste-to-energy plant is relatively environment friendly.
- "If the waste is burnt at low temperatures, it releases carcinogenic gases into the environment. In the waste-to-energy plants, the waste is burnt at 700 to 800 degree temperatures, converting it into synergic gases," said Singh.
- The project coordinator further said that the plant would start transmitting power to the nearby electricity grid.
- "There's a power purchase agreement in place with the Electricity Department. The department will purchase power at over Rs 7 per unit. That's how the company will recover its investment and recurring cost," said Singh, adding that the transmission of power to the grid would start in the next couple of days



1.248. AVERAGE TEMP UP BY 1.5°C IN 120 YEARS IN STATE: IMD

- With concern being echoed on the increasing impact of global warming, the latest findings by the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) only reaffirm this fear with the average annual mean temperature of Himachal increasing significantly by 1.5°C between 1901 and 2021.
- During the period, the state's average maximum temperature showed a significant increasing trend of 2.2°C while the minimum temperature showed a relatively lower increasing trend of 0.8°C over the same period. The year 2016 was the warmest year since 1901 followed by 2017, 2010, 2021 and 2018.
- The rise in the maximum temperature by 1.5°C is a major cause for concern as its impact is already visible in the form of accelerated global warming, erratic rainfall pattern and a change in the ago-climatic zoning. What is worrisome is that the adverse impact of global warming and climate change will be far more severe in mountainous regions like Himachal, Uttarakhand and Jammu and Kashmir.
- The winter season (January-February) recorded the highest maximum temperature anomaly of 2.4°C, second warmest since 1901. The minimum temperature anomaly was recorded at 1.5°C while mean temperature anomaly was 1.9°C. These anomalies are based on the Long Period Average for 1981-2010.
- Among the months, the highest state average monthly mean temperature anomaly was recorded in March (2.4°C), followed by February (2.1°C). The annual maximum and minimum temperatures averaged over the state during 2021 was warmer than average with anomaly of 0.80°C.
- "The severe weather analysis could be an important input for the state for planning and policy formulation, disaster management issues, economic sustainability and growth," said KS Hosalikar, Head, Climate Research and Services, IMD, Pune.
- With the continuous projections of climate scientists indicating the possibility of increase in the severe weather events along with its severity, both at global and regional level, this report would be very useful, he added.
- As far as the annual departure of rainfall in different districts of Himachal Pradesh for 50 years between 1961-2010 is concerned, eight districts received normal rainfall, one received excess rainfall and the remaining three received deficient (-59% to -20%) rainfall.
- The IMD also shared data regarding the total loss of life due to heavy rain, floods and snowfall in 2021. There were 56 deaths in the monsoon, mainly in the districts of Chamba, Kangra, Kinnaur, Kullu and Lahaul Spiti. There were 12 deaths in the winter of 2021 in Chamba, Kinnaur and Lahaul Spiti due to heavy snow.
- The highest rainfall of 229.6 mm occurred at Dharamsala and 210.2 mm in Palampur on July 13 in 2021. The highest rainfall of 230 mm took place in Palampur on July 19, 2021.



1.249. CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF HIMACHAL PRADESH TO PROMOTE BUDDHIST STUDIES, CULTURE.

- Sat Prakash Bansal, Vice-Chancellor of the Central University of Himachal Pradesh (CUHP), said that the university and the International Buddhist Confederation (IBC) would soon organise an international conference on "Promotion of Buddhist Studies and Culture across Buddhist Circuit". Its aim is to promote Buddhist culture in India and in Buddhist circuit.
- "If we promote this type of tourism in Buddhist circuit, it will create a lot of opportunities for tourism promotion in India, particularly in Himachal," said Bansal during a meeting with IBC's adviser Rajesh Kumar Raina.



- He said that the central university and the IBC would jointly organise the conference in February next year.
- The Dalai Lama, Chief Minister, Governor and the Union Culture Minister were expected to attend it. Bansal said that the representatives of seven countries with whom they wanted to promote relations would also be invited. "There will be an inaugural session on the first day. Later, there will be technical sessions chaired by distinguished representatives. The next day, there will be an open session where discussions will be held," he added.
- He said that a proposal for Buddhist culture promotion would be submitted to the Union Government.

1.250. IIT-MANDI RESEARCHERS DEVELOP VISUAL-BASED METHOD TO ASSESS EARTHQUAKE-PRONE STRUCTURES IN HIMALAYAN REGION.

- Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Mandi, have developed a method that will make it simple to assess and prioritise strengthening and repairs to enhance the earthquake-resistance capabilities of buildings in the Himalayan region.
- The Himalayas is among the most earthquake-prone regions and witnesses periodic tremors.
- The findings of the research, conducted by Sandip Kumar Saha, an assistant professor at IIT-Mandi's School of Civil and Environmental Engineering and his PhD student Yati Aggarwal, have been published in the 'Bulletin of Earthquake Engineering'.
- Explaining his research, Saha said, "We have devised an effective method to screen reinforced concrete buildings in the Indian Himalayan region so that repair work may be prioritised according to the condition of the buildings and the risk from impending earthquakes can be minimised."
- Through extensive field surveys, a large cache of data was collected on the types of buildings in the Mandi region and the typical attributes that are connected to their vulnerability to earthquakes, he said.
- A numerical study was also carried out to establish guidelines to count the number of stories in hilly buildings for their rapid-visual screening (RV). Based on the buildings' vulnerable characteristics, an improved RVs method was also proposed, he added.
- The methodology developed to screen the buildings is a simple single-page RVs form that does not require much expertise to fill.
- It takes into account the various vulnerability attributes that are unique to the buildings in the region, Saha explained, and said calculations made using these observations produced a seismic vulnerability score for buildings to differentiate vulnerable buildings from more robust ones and allow better decision-making for maintenance and repair.
- The computation process is designed such that it minimises the possibility of human bias or subjectivity of the assessor in scoring a building, he said.
- Talking about the benefits of the research, Aggarwal said, "We have shown that the proposed method is useful for segregating reinforced concrete buildings in hilly regions according to the damage that they are expected to experience in the event of an earthquake."



1.251. THE NYINGMA SECT, ONE OF THE OLDEST BUDDHIST SECTS, IDENTIFIED A BOY FROM HIMACHAL PRADESH'S SPITI AS THE REINCARNATION OF THE LATE TAKLUNG SETRUNG RINPOCHE.

Who was Taklung Setrunga Rinpoche?

- Taklung Setrunga Rinpoche was a famous scholar known for his expertise in Tibetan Tantric School.
- He was the Supreme Head of the Nyingma School of Tibetan Buddhism.
- He was born in 1926 in central Tibet near Yamdrok Lake. He was believed to be the reincarnation of the great master Ngok Chöku Dorje.

- He was the head of the Dorje Drak affiliated Taklung Tse monastic center – a Tibetan Buddhist monastery and one of the Nyingma school's "Six Mother Monasteries" in Tibet.
- Rinpoche received the highest Dzogchen teachings from Polu Khenpo Dorje – the direct disciple of Khenpo Ngakchung.
- He lived in exile in Shimla (Himachal Pradesh), and Ladakh (Jammu and Kashmir) and passed away on December 23, 2015.



About Nyingma Sect of Buddhism

- The term "Nyingma" literally means old school. It is the oldest of the four major schools of Tibetan Buddhism, with others being Kagyu, Sakya and Gelug.
- The Nyingma was founded in the 8th century following the translations of Buddhist scriptures from Sanskrit into Tibetan during the reign of King Trisong Detsen.
- Its teachings can be traced back to the first Buddha Samantabhadra and Indian mahasiddhas.
- Its traditions were founded at Samye – Tibet's first monastery. They are practiced under the Vajrayana School of Buddhism.
- The followers of Nyingma Sect are currently spread across Tibet, Bhutan, Ladakh, Sikkim and other Himalayan regions.

Vajrayana School of Buddhism

- Vajrayana School of Buddhism was developed in India and its neighboring countries, especially in Tibet. It is prominent mainly in Himalayan nations of Bhutan, Nepal Tibet and Mongolia. This school of tantric Buddhism is part of Mahayana Buddhism. Its name is derived from the Sanskrit term Vajra, which translates to diamond or the thunderbolt.
- Followers of Vajrayana Buddhism believe that it is possible to reach enlightenment in a single lifetime instead of practicing ethics, morality, compassion and meditation through many lives.

1.252. HIMACHAL GOVERNOR RAJENDRA VISHWANATH ARLEKAR ADOPTS ROHRU BLOCK UNDER TB-FREE DRIVE.

- Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar has decided to adopt Tikkar block of Rohru subdivision in Shimla district by becoming Nikshay Mitra under the Pradhan Mantri TB Mukta Bharat Abhiyan.
- He has taken the responsibility of looking after all the identified 49 tuberculosis patients of this block.
- The government has set a target to make Himachal Pradesh a tuberculosis-free state by the end of the year 2023.
- He appealed to the people to come forward to be a part of this campaign and cooperate in making Himachal TB-free and adopting the patients as Nikshay Mitra so that they could be given better health care.



1.253. SET IN SHIMLA, SIDDHARTH CHAUHAN'S 'AMAR COLONY' WINS SPECIAL JURY PRIZE AT TALLINN BLACK NIGHTS FILM FESTIVAL.

- Debutant director Siddharth Chauhan's feature film "Amar Colony" has won the special jury prize at the 26th Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival.
- The movie is the only Indian title which was showcased in the 'First Feature Competition' at the festival, held annually in Estonia's capital Tallinn.
- Starring Nimisha Nair, Sangeeta Agrawal and Usha Chauhan, the Shimla-set "Amar Colony" revolves around three women going through their mundane lives, representing the human condition, in a chawl.

- Therese Malvar, the co-juror for the 'First Feature Competition', said the jury presented the honour to "Amar Colony" for originality of vision.
- "This film delighted us with a bold and innovative presentation of a small town community whose frank sensuality and unabashed pursuit of urges, both human and divine, are set against the resonant backdrop of a culturally rich and deeply personal setting.
- "The director daringly takes us by the hand and leads us on a journey to his world, introducing us to his characters and their lives with affection and often with humor," Malvar said.
- "'Amar Colony' winning the Special Jury Award is a dream come true. Siddharth Chauhan is a filmmaker to watch in the years to come," added producer Nisheeth Kumar of Indie Film Collective.
- The film is produced in association with 'Goopy Bagha Productions'.
- "Amar Colony" will have its India premiere in the 'Indian Cinema Now' section at the 27th International Film Festival of Kerala (IFFK), which will be held from December 9-16 in Thiruvananthapuram.



1.254. SHIMLA: RECORD NUMBER OF CASES SETTLED AT LOK ADALAT.

- A National Lok Adalat for pre-litigation and pending matters was organised under the patronage of Justice Amjad A Sayed, Chief Justice, High Court, and Justice Sabina, Judge, High Court, and executive chairperson, Himachal Pradesh State Legal Services Authority (HPSLA), in the state.
- The HPSLSA also organised a special online Lok Adalat with technical support of SAMA (an online dispute resolution organisation), for MV challans cases at the pre-litigation stage along with National Lok Adalat. The initiative was taken to facilitate the compounding of motor vehicle challans by the violators from their home to save their time and expenses.
- The National Lok Adalat was celebrated all over the state as large footfall of the litigants was registered in all 133 Lok Adalat Benches.
- The public was made aware of the National Lok Adalat through SMS messages, jingles and distribution of IEC material.
- In the special online Lok Adalat for MV challan cases, the response was not good as only 11,629 cases were settled online and the amount of compounding fee collected was Rs 1,16,89,200 till 4 pm.
- Besides, 1,06,376 cases were taken up in the National Lok Adalat before different benches for settlement of which about 47,472 cases were settled/disposed of, and approximately Rs 75,56,73,919 was recovered/awarded to the claimants. A record number of cases were settled in this National Lok Adalat.



1.255. 128-YEAR-OLD BANTONY CASTLE SET TO GREET VISITORS IN SHIMLA.

- The 128-year-old Bantony Castle complex, the summer palace of the erstwhile Maharaja of Sirmour, is all set to be a major attraction for tourists as the restoration of the heritage property has been completed under the Rs 26-crore funded Asian Development Bank (ADB) project.
- The sprawling lawns of Bantony Castle now house two open air theatres, besides a provision for a light, sound and music show behind the main structure.
- The light and sound facility has been created to help visitors trace the history of Shimla and its strong British link.
- The main structure has been restored, which has gallery halls that can be used for setting up a museum. Walking trails will also be developed on the expansive property.

- The provision has been made to set up a cafeteria, where Himachali cuisine will be served. Public facilities like toilets and drinking water have been created for the convenience of visitors.
- As Bantony Castle likely to be inaugurated after the formation of the new government, the entire stretch right from The Ridge, Gaiety Theatre and Town Hall will become a heritage zone, which will be of immense interest of tourists.
- It was on January 4, 2016, that the government finally decided to acquire Bantony Castle, following several failed attempts over the last two decades.
- The government, with the consent of its owners, decided to acquire Bantony Castle for Rs 27.84 crore.
- The Himachal Institute of Public Administration (HIPA) prepared a social impact assessment report of the prime property before the decision on its acquisition was taken.
- The entire property spread over 19,436.83 sqm, including the main wooden structure, expansive lawns and thick deodar forests, has now been converted into a vibrant heritage zone, which will showcase Himachal's rich culture and traditions.
- The restoration work to convert Bantony Castle into a vibrant place and promote the concept of night tourism has been executed by Kavita Jain, a conservation architect from Jaipur.
- She has the experience of similar conservation projects in Uttarakhand, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, though in different architectural styles.



Was Sirmaur Maharaja's summer palace

- The 128-year-old Bantony Castle was the summer palace of the Maharaja of Sirmaur. The main building is a double-storey structure constructed in the mock Tudor style, part chalet and crowned with a sloping roof with mini-towers.
- The building is said to have been designed by TEG Cooper. Before its construction began in 1880, the site had a cottage belonging to Cap A. Gordon which housed army officers.
- It had the office of the Himachal Police since 1957. It was after the owners won the legal battle that the police vacated the building.

1.256. CYBERCRIME POLICE STATIONS PROPOSED IN 10 DISTRICTS OF HIMACHAL PRADESH.

- Considering the exponential increase in online scams, the Himachal Pradesh Police have sought the setting up of cybercrime police stations in all districts, barring Kinnaur and Lahaul-Spiti.
- The HP Police have submitted a proposal to the state government for setting up cybercrime police stations in 10 districts. The proposal sent by the HP Police to the state government excludes the tribal districts of Kinnaur and Lahaul-Spiti.
- At present, there are three cybercrime police stations in Shimla, Mandi and Dharamsala. These police stations have succeeded in getting Rs 75.36 lakh refunded to the victims and put on hold a transaction of Rs 1.53 crore in cybercrime cases this year.
- "A total of 2,129 complaints pertaining to financial frauds committed across the state have been received for far this year," said Director General of Police (DGP) Sanjay Kundu.
- The state alone registers an average of 5,000 calls per month of the victims on the National Crime Recording Portal (NCRP) through toll-free number 1930, he added.
- The DGP further said the exponential increase in cybercrime being witnessed in the state had become a major challenge for the law enforcement agencies. Citizens are reporting complaints on the NCRP and the



helpline. The state cybercrime control room established in Shimla is receiving -crime calls from 9 am to 6 am on a daily basis.

- Police officers said once the complaint was reported on the NCRP or in the financial module, an acknowledgement was sent to the complainant's jurisdictional police station and to the respective banks, e-wallet and e-commerce websites. Based on the complaints reported in the cybercrime police station, the financial intermediary concerned follows the fraud money trail and takes action in terms of debit freezing or lien working of the suspect accounts and the same information was updated on the NCRP of the Ministry of Home Affairs, the police added.
- During this process, the suspect's multiple bank accounts and other financial intermediaries are frozen in each case.

1.257. CHAMBA 'RUMAL' ARTIST BAGS NATIONAL AWARD.

- Dinesh Kumari from Nurpur, Kangra district has bagged the national award for promoting the art of Chamba 'rumal'.
 - Union Textile and Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal conferred the award on Kumari during the Shilp Guru and National Awards ceremony held at Vigyan Bhawan in Delhi.
 - Dinesh Kumari had earlier bagged the state award in 1994-95 by the HP Handicraft and Handloom Corporation. She is also a recipient of Dr BR Ambedkar National Award-2017.
 - In 2018, Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur had conferred the Art and Culture Shikhar Samman on her.
 - Giving details of the artwork, she said its specialty is that the same pattern is seen on both sides of the cloth. "Chamba 'rumals' are exquisitely embroidered art pieces, which depict scenes from epics such as Geet Govind, Bhagavata Puran or simply Radha-Krishna and Shiva-Parvati," Kumari added.
 - To popularise the Chamba 'rumal' and pass on this handicrafts talent to the next generation, she is also training girls in the art.
 - Significantly, the craft came to be associated specifically with Chamba due to the patronage given by the rulers of the area.
- Historically, the craft mainly flourished during the reign of Raja Umed Singh of Chamba from (1748-68), a patron of miniature artists.



CivilsTap Himachal

OTHER IMPORTANT ONE LINERS

1. The PMAY-U Award for Implementation and Innovation was instituted under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban, by the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs in 2019. The 2021 PMAY-U Awards were conferred at the event organized in Rajkot, Gujarat. The PMAY-U was launched in 2015 to address the housing shortage in India's urban areas.
2. The sixth High Level Dialogue on Migration and Mobility (HLDMM) between India and European Union (EU).
3. Mengtian", the final module of Tiangong space station, was successfully launched on October 31.
4. The United States has recently launched its National Security Strategy (NSS). All U.S. Presidents are mandated by the 'Goldwater-Nichols Department of Defense Reorganization Act of 1986' to bring out their NSS.
5. Over 140 people including 40 women and 34 children were killed in the collapse of a 135-year-old suspension bridge on Machchhu river in Morbi. The 754-foot bridge on the Machchu river was built during British rule in the 19th Century.
6. Ministry of Defence, Government of India, has approved to set up the 'DRDO Industry Academia-Centre of Excellence' (DIA-CoE) at Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee (IIT Roorkee). The Facility will receive financial assistance from the DRDO, Government of India. Key research areas include, Smart Infrastructure and Hardened Structures for Defence Applications, Energy Storage Devices, Landslide, Snow, and Avalanche Studies, Pulsed Laser and Specialty Fiber, among others.
7. Jamshed J Irani, also known as the "Steel Man of India", passed away aged 86 at Tata Main Hospital in Jamshedpur. He was born on June 2, 1936, in Nagpur to Jiji Irani and Khorshed Irani, Irani completed his BSc from Science College, Nagpur in 1956 and M.Sc in Geology from Nagpur University in 1958. Irani retired from the Board of Directors at Tata Steel in June 2011.
8. Uttar Pradesh is set to have its fourth Tiger Reserve and 53rd tiger reserve in India. The tiger reserve is spread across over 529.36 sq km out of which the core area is 230.32 sq km and the buffer area is 299.05 sq km. Union Minister for Environment, Forest, and Climate change Bhupendra Yadav confirmed the development.
9. Lula da Silva defeats Bolsonaro to return as Brazil's President for third time.
10. The 1st ASEAN-India Start-up Festival (AISF) was inaugurated by Dr. Srivari Chandrashekar, Secretary, Department of Science and Technology on 27th October 2022 in Bogor, Indonesia.
11. Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister and Home Minister Devendra Fadnavis informed that a dedicated cyber intelligence unit will be set up in Maharashtra to curb cyber and financial crimes.

- 12.**Chenab White Water Rafting Festival was inaugurated by Deputy Commissioner Doda Vishesh Paul Mahajan and SSP Doda Abdul Qayoom at the Shibnote area of Prem Nagar (J AND K).
The Chenab White Water Rafting Festival aims to promote adventure tourism around the year in the Doda district. The district administration started Chenab White Water Rafting Festival under 'Back to Village Phase-4'.
- 13.**Assam's eminent artist, Neel Pawan Baruah has passed away after a prolonged illness. He was 84.
- 14.**Union Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurial Minister Shri Dharmendra Pradhan signed an MoU with FIFA and the All-India Football Federation for the 'Football4Schools' initiative in India.
FIFA President, Mr. Gianni Infantino, and President, of All India Football Federation, Shri Kalyan Chaubey signed MoU on behalf of the respective organizations.
- 15.**World Cities Day is observed on October 31 to promote international cooperation in the promotion of global urbanization and address related challenges. The theme for World Cities Day has been the same since the inception. It is "Better City, Better Life"
- 16.**ICAR-Sugarcane Breeding Institute (ICAR-SBI) got its first-ever woman director in over a century of the Institution's existence. Dr. G Hemaprabha was appointed as the Director of the ICAR-Sugarcane Breeding Institute up to 2024 on the recommendation of the Agricultural Scientists Recruitment Board, New Delhi under the Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare.
- 17.**Union Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology Rajeev Chandrasekhar announced that an Electronics Manufacturing Cluster is to be developed in the Ranjangaon area of Maharashtra. The Electronics Manufacturing Clusters will be developed for ₹500 crores.
- 18.**Chhattisgarh celebrates its 23rd State Foundation Day on 1st November 2022 and as a part of the celebrations, Raipur will host the 3rd National Tribal Dance Festival. The National Tribal Dance Festival will be celebrated from 1st November 2022 to 3rd November 2022.
- 19.**SpaceX's Falcon Heavy, the world's most-powerful active rocket, lifted off for the first time in more than three years, from Florida's Cape Canaveral, with Elon Musk's company sending a group of satellites into orbit for the U.S. Space Force.
- 20.**A fish museum, the first of its kind in the Northeast, would soon be built in Arunachal Pradesh, Fisheries Minister Tage Taki. The museum in the NorthEast region (NER), with all fish species across the district from Tawang to Longding, to attract tourists, fish lovers and the museum will also serve as a training centre for fish farmers.
- 21.**India's Satwiksairaj Ranki Reddy and Chirag Shetty clinched the French Open Super 2022 badminton tournament men's doubles title after defeating Chinese Taipei's Lu Ching Yao and Yang Po Han in straight games 21-13, 21-19 in the final, in Paris.

- 22.**Seven states – including Chhattisgarh, Punjab, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh and Union territories of Chandigarh, Lakshadweep and Puducherry are marking their anniversaries on November 1.
Chhattisgarh, which was carved out of Madhya Pradesh, hosted a National Tribal Dance festival to celebrate its 22nd state anniversary.
- 23.**Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the ‘Mangarh Dham ki Gaurav Gatha’ programme at Mangarh Dham in Rajasthan.
He paid homage to the sacrifices of unsung tribal heroes and martyrs of the freedom struggle. Mangarh is considered as a shared heritage of the people of Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat.
- 24.**Operation Vigilant Storm’ is a Defence exercise conducted between USA and Republic of Korea (South Korea).
- 25.**On the occasion of the 66th foundation day of Kerala, the state government kicked off a digital resurvey to ensure speedy delivery of land-related services to people.
- 26.**On November 1, 2022, the Climate Policy Factbook was released by BloombergNEF and Bloomberg Philanthropies. The G20 countries continued to provide substantial financial aid for fossil fuel production and consumption in 2021.
- 27.**The UN’s nuclear watchdog International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) recently initiated investigations on Russia’s allegations accusing Ukraine of producing dirty bombs.
- 28.**The united nations educational, scientific and cultural organization (unesco) warned that several world heritage sites may become glacier-free by 2050.
- 29.**Adani new industries ltd. Has constructed a wind turbine in mundra in gujarat as part of its growth plans for renewable energy that is taller than the statue of unity and has blades that are broader than the wingspan of a jumbo jet. Adani new industries limited (anil) has announced the installation of the largest wind turbine generator (wtg) in the nation in mundra, gujarat.”
- 30.**Kerala is set to host the track asia cup 2022 cycling tournament. Track asia cup is one of the biggest cycling events and will be held at Incepe outdoor velodrome from 25th november 2022 to 28th november 2022. In the track asia cup 2022, around 200 cyclists will participate from over 25 countries in asia. The event is being conducted outside delhi for the first time.
- 31.**Ministry of jal shakti is organizing ganga utsav- the river festivals 2022 on 4th november 2022 at the major dhyan chand stadium in new delhi in two separate sessions. The ganga utsav- the river festivals 2022 is being organized by the collaboration of the national mission for clean ganga (nmcg), the department of water resources, river development and ganga rejuvenation, and the ministry of jal shakti.
- 32.**Two books on the achievements and legacy of Prime Minister Narendra Modi were released by Minister of State for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Rajiv Chandrashekhar in Dubai. These “Modi@20: Dreams Meet Delivery” and “Heartfelt: The Legacy of Faith”.

- 33.**The Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a \$40 million financing package with GreenCell Express Private Limited (GEPL) to develop 255 electric battery-powered buses (e-buses) to serve 5 million people a year on 56 intercity routes in India and enhance the safety of passengers, especially women, through improved security features including panic buttons connected to command controls for immediate response.
- 34.**The central government appointed chairperson and members of the Law Commission over two and a half years after it was constituted. Retired Karnataka High Court Chief Justice Rituraj Awasthi appointed as the chairperson of the commission.
- 35.**Rising Sun Water Fest 2022 culminated with a grand Closing Ceremony at Umiam Lake, Meghalaya. The Rising Sun Water Fest 2022 was a three-day watersport and it was held from 3th to 5th November 2022. Rising Sun Water Fest 2022 was the first of its kind in the North East and aimed at encouraging the sports-loving youth of North East to take up water sports like Rowing and Sailing.
- 36.**Star Indian batter Suryakumar Yadav has become the first Indian player to score 1,000 T20 International runs in a calendar year.
- 37.**Surpassing traditional suppliers Saudi Arabia and Iraq, Russia has emerged as the top oil supplier to India in October. This comes amid an ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine that has also seen many Western nations issue sanctions against Russian Federation.
- 38.**Every year, November 7 is celebrated as Infant Protection Day. This day is celebrated with the sole purpose of raising awareness about the safety of newborn lives and giving them proper care.
- 39.**The International Cricket Council (ICC) announced the winners of the ICC Player of the Month awards for October 2022. India veteran batter Virat Kohli has been named as the ICC men's Player of the Month for October. Meanwhile, Pakistan's veteran all-rounder Nida Dar has been selected as ICC Women's Player of the Month.
- 40.**November 8, World Radiography Day is observed to honour the discovery of X-radiation, also known as X-rays. This day in 1895 saw the completion of German scientist Wilhelm Conrad Rontgen's discovery of X-radiation, or X-rays. For this accomplishment, he was awarded the first Nobel Prize in Physics in 1901.
- 41.**The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) presented the brand-new AI/ML chatbot Aadhaar Mitra in order to facilitate citizens' usage of the services. Both Hindi and English are available for the chatbot.
- 42.**Asian Hockey Federation (AHF) CEO, Mohammad Tayyab Ikram of Macau was elected as the new president of the International Hockey Federation (FIH), succeeding India's Narinder Batra as its full-time chief
- 43.**Guyana President, Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali will be the chief guest at the 17th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention. It will be held from 8th to 10th January next year in Indore, Madhya Pradesh. The theme of the 17th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas is Diaspora: Reliable Partners for India's Progress in Amrit Kaal. Member of Parliament of Australia, Zaneta

Mascarenhas will be the guest of honour at the Youth Pravasi Bharatiya Divas which will be held on 8th January next year.

44. Justice Chandrachud will be the 50th Chief Justice of India.
45. The 53rd International Film Festival of India (IFFI) to be held in Goa will open with Austrian film Alma and Oskar. The IFFI will be held from the 20th to the 28th of this month.
46. Punjab CM announces implementation of Mann Anand Marriage Act which was notified in 2016.
47. Kerala becomes first state to introduce uniform gold price based on bank rate.
48. NIIT acquires US-based St. Charles Consulting Group for \$23.4 mn.
49. 6.3 magnitude Earthquake hits Nepal; 5.7 magnitude tremors felt in Delhi-Noida.
50. The Anamalai Tiger Reserve (ATR) has opened the doors for an elephant adoption programme through which non-governmental organisations, institutions, trusts or individuals can sponsor the expenses of Forest Department's camp elephants.
51. Bharat Electronics and DMRC jointly announced to develop technology for unmanned operation of trains.
52. Asian Hockey Federation CEO Tayyab Ikram of Macau elected as new FIH president.
53. Global industry body GSMA elects Bharti Airtel Group CEO Gopal Vittal as Deputy Chair.
54. Aruna Miller becomes first Indian American to be elected as Lieutenant Governor of Maryland.
55. India to host third 'No Money for Terror' ministerial conference in November 2022 after France and Australia.
56. One-third of the world's glaciers will melt by 2050, UNESCO warns.
57. World Radiography Day 2022 observed on 08 November.
58. World Science Day 2022 for Peace and Development celebrated on 10 November.
59. Odisha anthropologist Kishor Basa to head National Monuments Authority.
60. MT Vasudevan Nair becomes first recipient of Kerala State's highest civilian award 'Kerala Jyothi'.
61. Mathura-Vrindavan to become a carbon-neutral tourist destination by 2041.
62. Subhrakant Panda appointed as President of Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).
63. The high-profile Malabar exercise involving navies of India, US, Japan and Australia commenced in Japan off the coast of Yokosuka Island near the East China sea.
64. More than 82% of business executives in India foresee an increase in cybersecurity budgets in 2023, with 77% of them viewing cybercriminal activity as the biggest organisational threat, according to a PwC survey.
65. New Delhi to host 2023 IBA Women's World Boxing Championships.
66. The government has amended Aadhaar rules, specifying that supporting documents need to be updated at least once by Aadhaar holders on completion 10 years from enrolment date.

67. Indian Army has launched a single window facility-Veerangana Sewa Kendra, VSK for welfare and grievances redressal of Veer Naris. Taking yet another step in leveraging technology, the Indian Army with a motto of "Taking Care of Our Own, No Matter What" launched this facility.
68. Digi Locker users can now digitally store health records, link them with Ayushman Bharat Health Account.
69. According to the World Health Organization at least 15,000 people have died in Europe because of hot weather in this year so far.
70. BWF Para-badminton World Championships in Tokyo: Pramod Bhagat defends singles title; bags doubles silver.
71. About 2,500 domestic and foreign exhibitors from countries including the UK and UAE will showcase their products during the 14-day India International Trade Fair 2022, beginning November 14 at Pragati Maidan.
72. Symbolic act: Ukraine inks peace accord with ASEAN.
73. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), New Omicron subvariants have led to increasing Covid-19 cases in the US, with BQ.1 and BQ.1.1 accounting for over 35 per cent of the new infections this week.
74. PM Modi, French Prez Macron to address 25th edition of Bengaluru Tech Summit on Nov 16, 2022.
75. India's Namita Thapar, Ghazal Alagh and Soma Mandal among 20 Power Business Women in Asia released by Forbes.
76. IT-giants Google launches 'FloodHub', a platform to forecast flood.
77. Netherlands Turns Top Buyer of Indian Petro-Products amid Ukraine War.
78. Ladakh set to roll out 5G to counter China's high-speed connectivity. In a bid to counter China's high-speed cellular connectivity in areas along the Line of Actual Control (LAC), the Ladakh administration has amended the Communication Connectivity Infrastructure Rules 2020 (LCCIR) to accelerate upgradation and expansion of telecom networks and speed up the rollout of 5G services.
79. IndiGo announces Itanagar as 75th domestic destination. The airline will commence flights between Mumbai-Kolkata-Itanagar from November 28 from Itanagar's newly-opened Donyi Polo Airport.
80. PhonePe first player to enable UPI activation with Aadhaar. PhonePe is the first UPI Third Party Application Provider (TPAP) App to roll out the Aadhaar-based UPI onboarding flow that will now enable several crore Indians to become a part of the UPI ecosystem, seamlessly and securely for the first time.
81. For every rupee depreciation, software exports increase by \$250 mn: SBI Chief Economic Advisor.
82. National Fisheries Development Board receives "India Agribusiness Award 2022".

83. The Prime Minister unveiled the 108-feet high bronze statue of Bengaluru founder Nadaprabhu Kempegowda. It is installed at the Kempegowda International Airport.
84. Deccan Odyssey, a luxury train launched to promote Maharashtra tourism, may start ferrying tourists again next year. India has four luxury trains — Palace on Wheels, Deccan Odyssey, Golden Chariot and Maharaja Express.
85. Indian Army recently organised Walong Mela in continuation of Diamond Jubilee celebrations of Battle of Walong. Walong is one of India's easternmost villages in Arunachal Pradesh. The Battle of Walong was the only counterattack India could manage in the war.
86. Sumit and Govind secure bronze at the 2022 ASBC Asian Elite Boxing Championships in Amman.
87. MP aims to contribute USD 550 billion to India's GDP by 2026, says CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan.
88. Gujarat Polls: 1st randomization of EVM-VVPAT completed; Chatbots to be used for 1st time in state elections.
89. The 11th Session of the India-Belarus Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation was held in New Delhi.
90. Greg Barclay re-elected as chairman of ICC.
91. SAIL becomes the first Maharatna PSU to get Anti-Bribery Management System (ABMS) Certification. ABMS is a Management System that is designed in line with ISO 37001:2016 to help an organization prevent, detect and respond to bribery.
92. Crypto exchange FTX files for bankruptcy, CEO Sam Bankman-Fried resigns.
93. Rajasthan approves automated e-Stamping for bank guarantees.
94. SRK receives Global Icon of Cinema and Cultural Narrative award at Sharjah Int'l Book Fair.
95. Public Service Broadcasting Day was celebrated on November 12.
96. T20 World Cup 2022 Final: England beats Pakistan by 5 wickets.
97. Bhopal Railway Station awarded 4-star rating 'Eat Right Station' certification. The Food Safety and Standard Association of India (FSSAI) awarded Bhopal Railway Station a 4-star 'Eat Right Station' certification for providing "high-quality, nutritious food to passengers"
98. Switzerland Tourism: Neeraj Chopra becomes 'Friendship Ambassador' of Switzerland.
99. PM flags off south India's first Vande Bharat Express train between Mysuru and Chennai.
100. 18th International Telemedicine Conference held in Kochi, Kerala.
101. Uttar Pradesh to host "Khelo India University Games" 2023-24.
102. Shlok Mukherjee wins India's 2022 Doodle for Google.
103. Spanish Film Director and writer Carlos Saura to be given Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award at 53rd IFFI.
104. Senior IAS officer Gaurav Dwivedi appointed CEO of Prasar Bharati
105. Kabaddi World Cup 2025 to be Hosted by West Midlands in England.
106. 7th Edition of Amur Falcon Festival Celebrated in Manipur.
107. World Diabetes Day observed on 14th November.

- 108.** Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) agrees in principle to accept East Timor as the 11th member.
- 109.** India's Mehuli Ghosh bags gold in Asian Airgun Championship 2022, won gold in 10m air rifle
- 110.** Sri Lanka to host U19 Men's Cricket World Cup 2024, Malaysia and Thailand to stage U19 Women's T20 World Cup 2025.
- 111.** Nobel Laureate Venki Ramakrishnan Awarded UK's 'Royal Order of Merit'.
- 112.** Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) is going to develop India's first multi-modal logistics park (MMLP) near Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
- 113.** A three-day National Workshop on Localization of Sustainable Development Goals in Gram Panchayats through Adopting Thematic Approaches: Theme 1: Poverty Free and Enhanced Livelihood Gram Panchayats is being organised during 14 – 16 November, 2022 at CIAL Convention Centre, Kochi, Kerala.
- 114.** The world's three largest rainforest nations — Brazil, Democratic Republic of Congo and Indonesia formally launched a partnership to cooperate on forest preservation after a decade of on-off talks on a trilateral alliance. Representatives of the three countries, which represent 52% of the world's tropical rainforest, signed the joint statement.
- 115.** Indian-origin Sikh Amar Singh has been honoured with the New South Wales Australian of the Year award for supporting the community impacted by floods, bushfires, drought and the Covid pandemic. Singh, 41, is the founder and president of 'Turbans 4 Australia' — a charity organisation that assists people facing financial hardship and those impacted by natural calamities.
- 116.** Marwari horses exported for first time; to serve in Bangladesh President escort.
- 117.** India's National Grid Operator "Power System Operation Corporation Limited (POSOCO)" announced that POSOCO has changed its name to "Grid Controller of India Limited".
- 118.** The 25th edition of Bengaluru Tech Summit will begin in Bengaluru. The three-day event will attract international and national level players in the areas of Technology. Naveen Tiwari, the Founder and CEO of Immobi, India's first unicorn will be present during the event. For the first time, startups from 16 states are participating in the event.
- 119.** India becomes the world's second largest producer of steel.
- 120.** Madhya Pradesh govt implements Panchayat Extension to Scheduled Areas Act to preserve tribal population from exploitation.
- 121.** Mary Kom elected Chairperson of 'Athletes Commission' of IOA, Achanta Sharath Kamal elected vice-chairperson.
- 122.** MoS Meenakshi Lekhi takes part in 'largest ever yoga festival' in Central America. The yoga festival was organized by the Indian Embassy in Guatemala with the participation of more than 2500 people in Guatemala City.
- 123.** Chhattisgarh: 1.28 lakh slum women treated under Dai Didi scheme. The scheme is being run by the Urban Administration and Development Department of the state government.

- Free-of-cost treatment facilities for various diseases are provided to needy women and adolescent girls through well-equipped mobile medical units with an all-women staff.
- 124.** President Murmu will inaugurate the three-day international Gita Seminar at Kurukshetra University, Haryana.
 - 125.** Sparsh, a teenager from Patna has won first prize among five finalists for the Children's Climate Prize 2022 from hundreds of nominations from all over the world for his innovation, thermal floater, which converts thermal energy from the sun into electrical energy. The Children's Climate Prize is an international prize annually awarded to children aged 12-17, who make an extraordinary contribution to the protection of the environment.
 - 126.** Bharat Electronics signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) for jointly developing the Indigenous Communication-based Train Control System (i-CBTC).
 - 127.** Switzerland beat Australia to win Billie Jean King Cup Championship for the first time.
 - 128.** Financial Services Secy Vivek Joshi nominated as director on RBI's central board.
 - 129.** Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goya addresses the Consumer Electronics and Appliances Manufacturers Association, (CEAMA's) 43rd annual function.
 - 130.** For the first time, six women officers clear Defence Services Staff College examination.
 - 131.** Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD) initiates process for integration of its various infrastructures with PM Gati Shakti-National Master Plan.
 - 132.** Uttarakhand HC to be shifted to Haldwani from Nainital.
 - 133.** Achanta Sharath Kamal has become the first player from India to get elected in the Athletes' Commission of the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF).
 - 134.** HPCL bags 12 prestigious Awards at 12th PRCI Excellence Awards 2022. PRCI is the premier body of communication comprising PR, media, advertising, and professionals and has 40 Chapters, Pan-India, and 6 Chapters under World Communicators Council.
 - 135.** India, France review cooperation in defence, civil nuclear, trade, investment and new areas of economic engagement.
 - 136.** The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) of the United States is set to launch the Artemis-1 mission, which will take humans back to the Moon.
 - 137.** The Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare (DOPPW) organizes camp for promotion of digital life certificate in Hyderabad. Over 100 Central Government pensioners have enthusiastically participated in a camp organized to familiarize the Face Authentication and Jeevan Pramaan App and expressed pleasure and satisfaction at the introduction of this new technology.
 - 138.** Natasa Pirc Musar elected as the first Female President of Slovenia.
 - 139.** UAE hosts 1st Global Media Congress in Abu Dhabi.
 - 140.** National Epilepsy Day 2022 observed on 17 November.

141. Indian Army celebrates 242nd Corps of Engineers Day. The Corps of Engineers has three groups, i.e. Madras Sappers, Bengal Sappers and Bombay Sappers which were amalgamated into the Corps on 18 Nov 1932.
142. Minister of State (MoS) for Finance, Bhagwat Karad presents 8th FICCI higher education excellence Awards 2022.
143. National Museum, New Delhi and Kolding Museum, Denmark to open joint exhibition "Silver treasures from Denmark and India" in March next year.
144. India participates in 4th meeting of Moscow Format Consultations on Afghanistan held in Moscow.
145. Retired BPCL chairman Arun Kumar Singh to be next head of ONGC.
146. C V Ananda Bose appointed West Bengal Governor.
147. International Tourism Mart 2022 kicks off in lush green hills of Aizawl, the capital of hilly State Mizoram.
148. Sandhya Devanathan Appointed as Meta's New India Head. Devanathan will transition to her new role on 1 January 2023. Devanathan currently serves as vice president of gaming for Meta's Asia-Pacific (APAC) division.
149. FIFA President Gianni Infantino to stand unopposed for third term.
150. Sports Ministry's TOP Scheme Funds Wrestler Vinesh Phogat's High Altitude Training Camp In Bulgaria.
151. Tokyo Olympic Bronze Medallist Bajrang Punia to take part in the Bill Farrell International Wrestling Championship, which would be held in New York, USA from 18-19th November 2022.
152. VP Jagdeep Dhankhar to be on a two-day visit to Qatar from November 20. He will represent India at the inauguration of the FIFA World Cup 2022.
153. Rural Development Minister Giriraj Singh inaugurates SARAS AAJEEVIKA MELA, 2022 at India International Trade Fair in New Delhi.
154. A 6.8-magnitude undersea earthquake hit western Indonesia's Bengkulu province, without causing damages or casualties, the country's weather agency.
155. 100 start-ups registered with ISRO to work in spacetech domains: Chairman ISRO.
156. The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has sanctioned Rs 220.50 crore to the Odisha government under the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF).
157. Sebi plans to introduce new SCORES system with revamped website, app. SCORES (SEBI Complaints Redressal System) is an online platform designed to help investors lodge their complaints pertaining to the securities market, mainly against listed companies and registered intermediaries.
158. Phrygian cap-shaped Phryges unveiled as official mascot of Paris 2024 Olympics and Paralympics.
159. Cambridge Dictionary announces "homer" its 2022 word of the year, Inspired By Wordle.

- 160.** Union Minister for Tribal Affairs Arjun Munda has said the government has decided to set up 100 archery academies in the country to promote talent amongst tribal children by nurturing their archery skills.
- 161.** Arun Goel, a retired IAS officer has been appointed as the new Election Commissioner. The post of 3rd Election Commissioner remained vacant after the then Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar took the charge of Chief Election Commissioner in May this year.
- 162.** An annual show, Air Fest 2022 showcasing maneuvers of planes & helicopters in the arsenal of the Indian Air Force (IAF) is organised at Head Quarters Maintenance Command, Vayusena Nagar in Nagpur. The Surykiran Aerobatic Team (SKAT) also displayed exciting formations in the sky.
- 163.** Indian Navy's Anti-Submarine Warfare School in Kochi celebrated its 67th anniversary on November 18, 2022.
- 164.** North Korea has launched an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) from near the North Korean capital Pyongyang.
- 165.** Manika Batra First Indian Female to Win Bronze At Asian Table Tennis Event.
- 166.** The union government's Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, and National Fisheries Development Board, is celebrating 'World Fisheries Day' on 21 November. The event will be celebrated at Swami Vivekanand Auditorium, Daman.
- 167.** Nancy Pelosi, the first and so far only woman to be Speaker of the US House of Representatives and the face of the House Democrats for two decades ended her historic term on Thursday announcing she will stay on as just a member.
- 168.** The Indian Space Research Organisation will launch PSLV-54/ EOS-06 mission with Oceansat-3 and eight nano satellites on board from Sriharikota spaceport on November 26. EOS-06 (Oceansat-3) plus eight nano satellites (BhutanSat, 'Anand' from Pixxel, Thybolt two numbers from Dhruva Space, and Astrocast - four numbers from Spaceflight USA).
- 169.** Recently, the former Vice-President Hamid Ansari presented the Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development of 2021 to Pratham, an NGO functioning in the field of education.
- 170.** On November 16, events to commemorate the martyrdom of Uda Devi, a freedom fighter from the Pasi community, were held at various places in Uttar Pradesh.
- 171.** November 18, 2022, is the 60th anniversary of the Battle of Rezang La (in eastern Ladakh region), one of the few bright spots in the War of 1962 with China. 120 brave soldiers of Charlie Company of 13 Kumaon Regiment led by commanding officer Major Shaitan Singh had delivered the heaviest blow to the Chinese People's Liberation Army, by killing over thousand Chinese soldiers in the fight.
- 172.** First Unani Medicine Regional Center of Northeast Inaugurated in Silchar, Assam.
- 173.** Author Khalid Jawed's "The Paradise of Food", translated by Baran Farooqi from Urdu, won the fifth JCB Prize for Literature.

174. SBI signs loan agreement with German bank KfW for solar projects.
175. India finishes with 25 gold medals in 15th Asian Airgun Championship held in South Korea.
176. International Paralympic Committee suspends Russia, Belarus with immediate effect.
177. UGC to implement four-year UG programme framework in higher education institutions from academic session 2023-24. The Four Year Undergraduate programme will be implemented in all the 45 Central Universities and most of the state and private universities from the next academic session.
178. India to take over Chair of Global Partnership on AI from France.
179. Black-Naped Pheasant-Pigeon was rediscovered after 140 years.
180. Pakistan issues 100 visas to Indian Hindu pilgrims for visit to Shadani Darbar, Sindh. The group of Indian Hindu pilgrims is visiting Pakistan to participate in the 314th birth anniversary celebrations of Shiv Avtari Satguru Sant Shadaram Sahib, at Shadani Darbar Hayat Pitafi, Sindh, from November 22 to December 3.
181. US Navy delegation concludes two-day visit to Southern Naval Command in Kochi.
182. South Western Command of the Indian Army conducted Integrated Fire Power Exercise, "SHATRUNASH" at MFFR in Thar desert of Rajasthan.
183. National Anti-profiteering Authority(NAA) is the anti-profiteering watchdog of GST and it is all set to be subsumed into the Competition Commission of India (CCI).
184. National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration, NIEPA, celebrated the Diamond Jubilee anniversary of its establishment in New Delhi. The Institution is one of the first institutions established in the world in the area of education and planning.
185. Shrikrishna Rajagopala appointed as chief of Joint Academic Chair of Ayurveda at Western Sydney University.
186. India and Cambodia to co-chair maiden India-ASEAN Defence Ministers' meeting. The meeting will be presided over by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh at Siem Reap, Cambodia.
187. Novak Djokovic wins sixth ATP Finals title, matches Roger Federer's record. The 35-year-old Djokovic is the oldest player to win the title.
188. Film Bazaar, the largest South Asian film market, was inaugurated in Goa by Union Minister Anurag Singh Thakur. The initiative organised on side-lines of 53rd International Film Festival of India(IFFI), encourages creative and financial collaboration between the South Asian and International film communities.
189. The Walt Disney Company has announced that Robert A. Iger (Bob Iger) is returning to head the company, as Bob Chapek has stepped down as CEO amid the company's plans to reduce workforce to navigate the rough global conditions.
190. Renowned economist and former vice-chairman of the NITI Aayog Dr. Rajiv Kumar has joined advisory board of the leading luxury property consultant firm India Sotheby's International Realty (ISIR). He will advise the firm on the policy and advocacy matters with an objective to promote transparency and professionalism in the real estate sector.
191. New Zealand court rules voting age of 18 is discriminatory.

192. Hyderabad to host the first-ever Formula E World Championship race in India which will be held on February 10 and 11, 2023.
193. Narayan Jagadishan made world record by scoring five consecutive centuries in Vijay Hazare Trophy 2022.
194. Arez Pirojshaw Khambatta, founder of popular beverage Rasna, dies of heart attack at the age of 85.
195. World Television Day 2022 celebrated on 21 November.
196. The 13th edition of bilateral exercise between the Indian and the Royal Oman navies, Naseem Al Bahr-2022, commenced off the coast of Oman on 20 November 2022. The exercise is being conducted in two phases: the Harbour Phase and the Sea Phase.
197. 9th India-EU Foreign Policy Security Consultations held in New Delhi.
198. The 3 day-long celebrations of 400th birth anniversary of great Ahom general Lachit Barphukan was held in New Delhi.
199. QatarEnergy recently announced a 27-year natural gas supply deal with China.
200. Prof. Venu Gopal Achanta Elected as a Member of International Committee for Weight and Measures (CIPM).
201. Axis Bank has launched the seventh edition of 'Evolve' for MSMEs with the theme of 'Indian SMEs: Shifting Gears for Next Level Growth'. 'Digitalisation to Building Indian SMEs' and 'Export Opportunities for SMEs in the New World Order' were some of the other key themes at the launch.
202. Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) and the Department of Science and Technology (DST) of the Government of India have collaborated to create a platform to support the development of new electric vehicle (EV) batteries.
203. Mata Mansa Devi temple area to be declared Holy Complex. There will be a complete ban on the sale of liquor in an area of about 2.5 kilometers from the temple. He also directed to complete the work of National Institute of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy and Sanskrit Gurukul to be built at Shri Mata Mansa Devi Temple at the earliest.
204. UNICEF and National Film Development Corporation (NFDC) have joined forces to screen and promote films with a child rights perspective at the 53rd edition of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI), this year in Goa.
205. The Live pangolin rescued in Odisha from wildlife smuggler. The Indian pangolin is a solitary, shy, slow-moving, nocturnal mammal. It is a Schedule-I protected animal under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. The Schedule-I provides absolute protection and offences under these are prescribed for the highest penalties.
206. Iran has recently begun producing uranium enriched to 60 percent at the Fordo underground facility.
207. Pranay Sharma becomes first Indian to win Gold medal at Karate 1 Series A in Jakarta, Indonesia.
208. Karnataka's groundnut festival 'Kadalekai Parishe' returns after a gap of two years.

- 209.** Cyber attack: AIIMS-Delhi digital services down for second day. The Indian Computer Emergency Response Team and NIC was being taken to restore digital services which were down. The attack comes close on the heels of AIIMS announcing complete digitisation of all Hospital services by April 2023.
- 210.** The authorities of United Arab Emirates told trade partner IndiGo airlines that passengers with a single name on passport who are travelling on tourist, visitor or any other type of visa shall not be allowed to/from UAE.
- 211.** RTI portal to help people access information about Supreme Court operationalised.
- 212.** Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar will address the valedictory session of The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) India Africa Hackathon 2022 as a Chief Guest at Gautam Buddha University, Uttar Pradesh.
- 213.** DRDO carries out successful training launch of Intermediate Range Ballistic Missile, Agni-3 from APJ Abdul Kalam Island.
- 214.** The government has given in-principle approval for 95 more ethanol projects under the new window of Ethanol Interest Subvention Schemes. The decision is expected to add an annual ethanol production capacity of around 480 crore liters in the country.
- 215.** November 24 is commemorated as the Shaheedi Divas of Guru Tegh Bahadur. Guru Tegh Bahadur (1621 – 1675) was the ninth of ten Gurus of the Sikh religion.
- 216.** Anwar Ibrahim named as new Malaysian PM.
- 217.** ISRO conducts 200th consecutive successful launch of RH200 sounding rocket.
- 218.** IIT Guwahati director TG Seetharam gets appointed as the new chairman of the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE).
- 219.** Japanese Tyre maker company Bridgestone appoints Stefano Sanchini as head of India operations.
- 220.** The City of Lakes, Udaipur is gearing up to host the first G20 Sherpa Meeting in India from 4 to 7 December, 2022.
- 221.** Recently, The National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG) received high praise from Maldives Government for its capacity building programme for Maldivian Civil Servants.
- 222.** The Rajasthan Housing Board (RHB) bagged the prestigious SKOCH 'Gold' Award-2022 for the second consecutive year for innovations, rejuvenation and achievements in the housing category.
- 223.** Sikkim set to host its first ever Ranji Trophy match this December. Sikkim and other eight new states made its way into Ranji Trophy and other premier domestic cricket tournaments in 2018.
- 224.** India invites Egypt President El Sisi as Chief Guest on Republic Day.
- 225.** Elon Musk announces gold, gray and blue badges for Twitter accounts. Accounts for companies will have the gold check, government accounts will have the grey check and all individual accounts will have the blue check and all verified accounts will be manually authenticated before check activates.

226. Telangana to have first Integrated Rocket Facility of country by Skyroot Aerospace.
227. India won the International Electrotechnical Commission, IEC Vice Presidency and Strategic Management Board (SMB) Chair for the 2023-25 term. Mr. Vimal Mahendru will be the IEC Vice President representing India.
228. Former ISI head Asim Munir appointed as next Army chief of Pakistan.
229. NPCI and IDFC First Bank launches 'FIRSTAP', country's first sticker-based debit card.
230. Uttar Pradesh cabinet approves creation of Police Commissionerates in Agra, Ghaziabad and Prayagraj.
231. Sangeet Natak Akademi selects 102 artists of India for the Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar for the years 2019, 2020 & 2021. The Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar, given to artists below the age of 40 years. The Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar carries a purse money of Rs. 25,000/- (Rupees twenty-five thousand only).
232. Union Health Ministry appoints Dr. Deepa Malik as Nikshay Mitra ambassador. It is an initiative under Pradhan Mantri TB Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan.
233. India & Colombia review bilateral relations & discusses cooperation in international fora.
234. Union Education & Skill Development Minister Shri Dharmendra Pradhan released the book 'India: The Mother of Democracy' prepared and published by Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR) in New Delhi.
235. NCC Celebrating 74th anniversary of its Raising today. This largest uniformed youth organisation in the world was raised in 1948.
236. The Clean-a-thon is being organized at the Miramar Beach, Goa. The event is a collaborative effort by Government of Goa, IFFI, Divyaj Foundation and Bhamla Foundation. This clean up mission is a reflection of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision and mission "Swachh Sagar, Surakshit Sagar".
237. In boxing, reigning Asian champion Ravina won gold in her final bout as India ended the Youth Men's and Women's World Championships with 11 medals in La Nucia, Spain.
238. Indian Navy takes delivery of second destroyer of Project 15B Mormugao. The second ship of Project 15B stealth guided missile destroyers, Y 12705 (Mormugao), being built at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL), was handed over to the Indian Navy.
239. US scientists develop mRNA-based vaccine against all types of influenza. Scientists from the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania in the US have developed an mRNA-based vaccine against all 20 known subtypes of influenza virus, which provided broad protection from otherwise lethal flu strains in initial tests.
240. Legendary sprinter P T Usha becomes first woman president of Indian Olympic Association (IOA).
241. Canada beat Australia to win first Davis Cup title.
242. Power Ministry launches scheme for procurement of aggregate power of 4500 MW for five years.
243. India's pharma exports witness 138% growth since 2013.

- 244.** The High Commission of India in Male congratulated Maldives on securing World's leading destination title for 2022 at the world travel awards earlier this month. India has retained its lead as the top tourism market of Maldives this year. Close to two lakh Indian tourists visited Maldives in 2022 so far.
- 245.** Cristiano Ronaldo of Portugal makes history as first male player to score at 5 World Cups.
- 246.** Team Purple's 'Dear Diary' wins IFFI's '75 Creative Minds of Tomorrow' challenge to make a film in 53 hours.
- 247.** India's SARAS radio telescope provides astronomers clues to the nature of Universe's first stars and galaxies.
- 248.** Gujarat becomes first Indian state to get Reliance Jio 5G in all districts.
- 249.** Govt extends term of Vinay Mohan Kwatra as Foreign Secretary. The IFS officer's term has been extended beyond the date of his superannuation on 31st December of this year up to 30th April 2024 or until further orders.
- 250.** SEBI approves Sundararaman Ramamurthy as MD & CEO of Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE).
- 251.** First science documentary Film made in Sanskrit 'Yanam' screened at 53rd edition of the International Film Festival at Goa
- 252.** India's first private launchpad and mission control center has been established within the ISRO campus at Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) in Sriharikota. The launchpad is designed and operated by Chennai-based space-tech startup AgniKul Cosmos.
- 253.** RBI Imposes Rs 1.25 Crore Penalty on Zoroastrian Co-operative Bank.
- 254.** Odisha, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has launched AMLAN- 'Anaemia Mukta Lakhya Abhiyan' in the state.
- 255.** November 29 is marked as the International Day of Solidarity with Palestinian People every year.
- 256.** Tamil writer Imayam chosen for Kuvempu national award.
- 257.** India has provided financial assistance of 100 million US dollars to the Maldives. The assistance is in the form of budgetary support to tide over the difficult economic situation in the archipelago nation. The assistance is being extended without any conditions and Maldives is free to use it in its economic recovery as it deems fit.
- 258.** Vistara airlines to be merged with Tata-owned Air India by March 2024.
- 259.** World's first Intranasal vaccine iNCOVACC gets DCGI approval for Covid booster doses.
- 260.** Meghalaya cabinet approves mental health and social care policy.
- 261.** International Lusophone Festival to be held from 3rd to 6th December in Goa. Lusophones are people that speak Portuguese as a native or as a common second language.



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