

❖ Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra granted 14-month extension

- The appointments committee of the Union cabinet extended Foreign Secretary Vinay Mohan Kwatra's term by 16 months, "up to April 30, 2024 or until further orders, whichever is earlier.
- Kwatra, who belongs to the 1988 batch of the Indian Foreign Service, was the ambassador in Nepal when he was called home to succeed Harsh Vardhan Shringla on May 1, 2022.
- He was formerly ambassador to France and was joint secretary in the Prime Minister's Office from October 2015 to August 2017.
- Kwatra is known to have extensive expertise in dealing with India's neighbourhood as well as the US, China and Europe.

❖ Ministry of Health bags award for Outstanding Contribution towards Public Communication at ITFF 22

- The Health and Family Welfare Ministry pavilion has won the Outstanding Contribution towards Public Communication and Outreach award at 41st India International Trade Fair 2022 at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.
- The health pavilion was one of the most popular pavilions at the trade fair with a huge daily footfall over the fortnight starting November 14.
- The Health Pavilion was the centre of various screenings, and counselling on different public health issues, along with imparting skills such as life-saving skills by experts, in the main venue and three off-site camps at Pragati Maidan.
- As many as 37,887 screenings, investigations, counselling and training were conducted at the pavilion.

❖ **Shilp Guru and National Awards**

- 30 Shilp Guru Awards and 78 National Awards for the year 2017, 2018 and 2019 were presented to master crafts persons.
- The Shilp Guru Awards are given to legendary master crafts persons in recognition of excellent craftsmanship, product excellence and the role played by them as gurus in the continuance of crafts to other trainee artisans as a vital part of traditional heritage.
- The Awards were started in 2002, to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of the resurgence of Handicrafts in India.
- The Award consists of a gold coin, 2.00 lakhs prize money, a Tamrapatra, a shawl and a certificate.
- The National Awards are being awarded since 1965 for outstanding craftsmanship in different craft categories.
- The main crafts for which the Awards have been given are Metal Engraving, Chikan Hand Embroidery, Khurja Blue Pottery, Mata Ni Pachedi Kalamkari, Bandhani, Tie & Dye ,Hand Block Bagh Print, Warli Art, Stone Dust Painting , Sozni Hand Embroidery, Terracotta, Tanjore Painting, Sholapith, Kantha Hand Embroidery, Palm leaf Engraving, Brass wire inlay on wood, Wood Tarkashi, Madhubani Painting, Gold Leaf Painting , straw craft etc.
- The Award consists of 1.00 lakh prize money, a Tamrapatra, a Shawl and a certificate.

❖ **Tamil writer Imayam selected for Kuvempu national award**

- Rashtrakavi Kuvempu Prathishtana Kuppali has selected Tamil poet V Annamalai aka Imayam for the Kuvempu National award for the year 2022 at the Kuvempu's 118th birth anniversary program on December 29 at Kuppali in Thirthahalli taluk.
- 'Kannada National Poet Kwembu Rashtriya Puraskar Award is presented annually in memory of the late poet Kwembu has been announced to Writer Institute for the Tamil language. The award carries a cash prize of Rs 5 lakh, a silver medal and a citation.

❖ **'Nai Chetna' gender campaign launched**

- The National Rural Livelihood Mission's Nai Chetna gender campaign has launched in the Kerala state under the leadership of Kudumbashree.
- The nationwide campaign, organised by the Union government, aims to enable women to acknowledge gender-based violence, prepare them to raise their voices against it, and provide them with knowledge about their rights.
- '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.

❖ **'Harimau Shakti-2022'**

- India-Malaysia joint military Exercise 'Harimau Shakti -2022' commenced at Pulai, Kluang, Malaysia and will culminate on December 12.
- The exercise is an annual training event between the Indian and Malaysian Armies which is being conducted since 2012.
- Exercise HARIMAU SHAKTI" will enhance the level of defence cooperation between Indian Army and the Malaysian Army, which in turn will further foster the bilateral relations between the two nations.

❖ **World's largest active volcano 'Mauna Loa' erupts in Hawaii**

- The world's largest active volcano has erupted in Hawaii for the first time in nearly four decades.
- It was the first eruption since 1984.
- Mauna Loa is located inside Hawaii Volcanoes National Park which covers half of the US state's Big Island.
- The volcano rises 13,679ft (4,169m) above sea level and spans an area of more than 2,000 sq miles (5,179 sq km).

❖ Global Technology Summit

- The seventh edition of the Global Technology Summit will be held from November 29, 2022 till the 1st of December in New Delhi in a hybrid format.
- The Summit is India's annual flagship event on Geotechnology and is co-hosted by the Ministry of External Affairs and Carnegie India.
- The theme for this year's Summit is 'Geopolitics of Technology'.
- During the summit, the world's leading minds in technology, government, security, space, startups, data, law, public health, climate change, academics, economy will gather and debate the vital questions related to technology and its future.
- They will discuss the advantages and challenges of technologies, sustainability, emerging geopolitics in the technology sector, and data for development and ideas for India's G20 Presidency.

❖ India's first private launch pad unveiled at Sriharikota

- The Indian Space Research Organization (Isro) unveiled the first privately designed and operated rocket launchpad and mission control centre in India.
- The facility, unveiled by S. Somanath, chairman of Isro and secretary Department of Space (DoS), is designed and will be fully operated by homegrown space startup Agnikul Cosmos.
- Agnikul Cosmos is expected to launch its first rocket called Agnibaan.
- Agnilet is the world's first single-piece 3D printed engine fully designed and manufactured in India and was successfully test-fired in early 2021.
- Agnikul had then become the first company in the country to test its engines at Isro.

❖ 53rd edition International Film Festival of India concludes

- The 53rd edition of International Film Festival of India (IFFI) has concluded with Spanish film 'I Have Electric Dreams' directed by Valentina Maurel winning the prestigious 'Golden Peacock' for the best film of the festival.

- ‘Yaanam,’ a non-feature film,(The first science-sanskrit film in the history of world cinema) was screened under the Indian Panorama section at the 53rd edition of the International Film Festival at Goa. It is based on the autobiographical book “My Odyssey: Memoirs of the Man Behind the Mangalyaan Mission” by former space chairman Padma Bhushan Dr K. Radhakrishnan.
- Vahid Mobasseri, lead actor of ‘No End’, was honoured with Silver Peacock for Best Actor (Male)
- Daniela Marin Navarro, lead Actor of Best Film ‘I Have Electric Dreams’ is honoured with Silver Peacock for Best Actor (Female).
- Iranian writer and director Nader Saeivar gets Silver Peacock for Best Director for No End,
- Filipino filmmaker Lav Diaz bagged Special Jury Award for ‘When the Waves are Gone’.
- Award for Best Debut Feature Film of a Director has been snatched by Asimina Proedrou for Behind The Haystack and Praveen Kandregula has received Special Mention for ‘Cinema Bandi’.
- Celebrated Spanish film Director Carlos Saura was honoured with the prestigious Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement award.
- Actor Producer Chiranjeevi Konidela was conferred with the IFFI Indian Film Personality of the Year Award for 2022.
- France was the ‘Spotlight’ country this year.
- The opening film of the festival was Austrian Director Dieter Berner’s film Alma and Oskar and the closing film was the Polish film ‘Perfect Number’, directed by Krzysztof Zanussi.
- The first International Film Festival of India (IFFI) was held in the cities of Bombay (now Mumbai), Delhi, Calcutta (now Kolkata), Madras (now Chennai) from 24 January to 1 February 1952.
- Since 2004, starting from the 35th edition, Goa has become the permanent venue of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI).

❖ IBA Youth Men's and Women's World Championships 2022

- More than half of 73 participating countries earned at least one medal at the IBA Youth Men's and Women's World Boxing Championships in La Nucía, Spain.
- In total, 100 athletes from 38 countries won medals, and among them, 25 boxers from 14 nations earned at least one gold in 13 men's and 12 women's weight categories.
- Uzbekistan leads the medal standings with 5 gold, 3 silver and 2 bronze medals. India finished the second with 4 gold, 3 silver and 4 bronze, and Kazakhstan and England shared the third place with 2 gold, 2 silver and 3 bronzer.

❖ Rituraj Gaikwad smashes 7 sixes in an over to make world record

- Rituraj Gaikwad hit a world record seven sixes in the 49th over of Maharashtra's Vijay Hazare Trophy quarter-final against Uttar Pradesh in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.
- He became the first batsman in List-A cricket to hit 7 sixes in an over
- Batsmen who have hit six sixes in an over include Sir Garfield Sobers, Ravi Shastri, Herschelle Gibbs, Yuvraj Singh, Ross Whiteley, Hazratullah Zazai, Leo Carter, Kieron Pollard and Thisara Perera.