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English Medium

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## Current Affairs



**FIFA World Cup 2022**

Argentina wins the FIFA World Cup 2022 championship after defeating France 4-2 on penalties.



**RBI's Bi-monthly Monetary Policy of 2022-23**

The MPC raised repo rate by 35 basis points to 6.25% from 5.90% in Decr 2022. Real GDP growth for FY23 is projected at 6.8% from 7%.



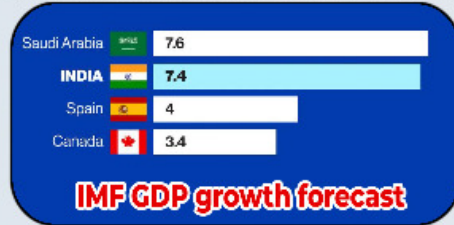
**Mrs World 2022**

India's Sargam Koushal wins Mrs World 2022 title.



**Hurun Global 500 rankings**

India ranked 5th in the list of valuable companies, US topped.



**IMF GDP growth forecast**

IMF reduced India's growth prediction for FY23 from 7.4% forecasted in July to 6.8%.



**Exercise "Veer Guardian 23"**

Indian Air Force and Japanese Air Force are set to hold their maiden bilateral air exercise, "Veer Guardian 23", from January 16 to 26 in Japan.



**'Sindhuja-1'**

IIT Madras Researchers developed 'Sindhuja-1' Ocean Wave Energy Converter.



**KV Shaji**

KV Shaji Appointed as the New Chairman of NABARD.



**Jiang Zemin**

Former President of China Jiang Zemin Passes Away.

Best Coaching for

**BANK | SSC | RRB**

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CURRENT  
 AFFAIRS  
**DIGEST**  
 January-  
**2023**

**IACE**



# FIFA World Cup 2022

Argentina won their third World Cup in extraordinary style on 18th December, beating France 4-2 in a penalty shootout after Lionel Messi scored twice in a 3-3 draw that featured a hat-trick for Kylian Mbappe as the holders recovered from 2-0 down after 80 minutes. The 22nd FIFA Men's World Cup 2022 was held from November 20, 2022 – December 18, 2022 in Qatar. It was the first World Cup held in the Middle Eastern country and the second held entirely in Asia after the 2002.

## Highlights of 22nd FIFA Men's World Cup 2022

- The Qatar 2022 World Cup also introduced new rules and new technology including the 'Semiautomated offside technology' to detect whether the ball has crossed the goal line. Held quadrennially, it saw the participation of 32 nations.
- It was organized by the International Association Football Federation (Federation Internationale de Football Association – FIFA)
- It was also the most expensive World Cup. It costs reportedly around USD 220 billion, the biggest amount splurged by any of the organizers for the FIFA World Cup.
- It was hosted at the following 8 stadiums: Lusail Stadium (Lusail), Al Bayt Stadium (Al Khor), Khalifa

International Stadium (Al Khor), Ahmed bin Ali Stadium (Al Rayyan), Education City Stadium (Al Rayyan), Al Thumama Stadium (Doha), Stadium 974 (Doha), Al Janoub Stadium (Al Wakrah).

### The Winners

- ✓ Argentina wins FIFA World Cup trophy 2022. It was its 3rd title after its win in 1978 and 1986.
- ✓ The runner-up was France while the 3rd and 4th place was secured by Croatia, and Morocco respectively.
- ✓ French player Kylian Mbappe became the first player to score a hat-trick in a World Cup final since Geoff Hurst in the 1966 final and won the Golden Boot as he scored the most goals (eight) during the tournament.
- ✓ Argentina's Captain, and Seven-time Ballon d'Or winner Lionel Messi was named as tournament's best player, winning the Golden Ball.
- ✓ Lionel Messi has become the first man in history to win the adidas Golden Ball twice at the FIFA World Cup.
- ✓ Argentina's Emiliano Martinez won the Golden Glove, awarded to the tournament's best goalkeeper.

- Morocco became the first African country to reach the World Cup semifinals by beating Portugal 1-0.
- Lionel Messi became the first player to score a goal in all knockout stages of the FIFA World Cup. He also became the highest goal scorer of Argentina.
- Spain's Sergio Busquets announces his retires from international football at the age of 34.
- Belgium captain Eden Hazard announced his retirement from international football at the age of 31.
- Cameroon made history by becoming the first African country to beat Brazil at the World Cup.
- Vinay Menon, an Indian was the Wellness Coach of the Belgian National Team during the World Cup. He was responsible for various aspects like the physical and mental wellbeing of the team's players during the FIFA World Cup. He previously worked with Chelsea Football Club, one of the top clubs in England.
- The FIFA World Cup Trophy 2022 i.e. the 'Jules Rimet Trophy' arrived at the Lusail Stadium in a Louis Vuitton case and was unveiled by the **Bollywood Actress Deepika Padukone**, the brand ambassador of Louis Vuitton, along with former Spanish goalkeeper Iker Casillas. With this, she became the first Indian, and the first global actor to unveil the trophy.

**Mascot, Slogan, Emblem, Match Ball of FIFA 2022**

**Mascot:** **La'eeb** was the Official Mascot of FIFA 2022 that encourages everyone to believe in themselves as 'Now is All'. La'eeb is an Arabic word meaning super-skilled player.

**Slogan:** Now is All

**Match Ball:** The official match ball was 'Al Rihla' which means 'The journey' in Arabic. It was designed with sustainability by Adidas as a priority, making it the first ever official match ball created with water-based glues and inks.

**Emblem:** It was designed by Lisbon-based Brandia Central branding agency. It is shaped in a figure-eight, which represents the number of stadiums that are being built to host the event.

**Winners of FIFA World Cup 2022 Awards**

| Category                | Winner                 | Country   |
|-------------------------|------------------------|-----------|
| Golden Ball             | Lionel Messi           | Argentina |
| Silver Ball             | Kylian Mbappé          | France    |
| Golden Boot             | Kylian Mbappé(8 Goals) | ) France  |
| Silver Boot             | Lionel Messi(7 Goals)  | Argentina |
| Bronze Boot             | Olivier Giroud         | France    |
| Golden Glove            | Emiliano Martínez      | Argentina |
| FIFA Young Player Award | Enzo Fernández         | Argentina |
| FIFA Fair Play Trophy   | England                | -         |


**FIFA World Cup Winners from 1930-2022.**

|                   |
|-------------------|
| 2022 – Argentina  |
| 2018 – France     |
| 2014 – Germany    |
| 2010 – Spain      |
| 2006 – Italy      |
| 2002 – Brazil     |
| 1998 – France     |
| 1994 – Brazil     |
| 1990 – Germany FR |
| 1986 – Argentina  |
| 1982 – Italy      |
| 1978 – Argentina  |
| 1974 – Germany FR |
| 1970 – Brazil     |
| 1966 – England    |
| 1962 – Brazil     |
| 1958 – Brazil     |
| 1954 – Germany FR |
| 1950 – Uruguay    |
| 1938 – Italy      |
| 1934 – Italy      |
| 1930 – Uruguay    |


**FIFA World Cup 2026:** The next FIFA World Cup will be held in 2026. It will be the first edition to feature 48 teams and to be held across three countries: Canada, Mexico and the United States (US).

## INTERNATIONAL AND BILATERAL

### 3rd Global High-Level Ministerial Conference on Anti-Microbial Resistance (AMR) held in Oman

- The Third Global Ministerial Conference on Antimicrobial Resistance held in Oman, with the issue of The Muscat Manifesto, which aims to accelerate One Health actions on antimicrobial resistance to achieve the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.
- 
- Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare Bharati Pravin Pawar had participated in the 'Third Global High-Level Ministerial Conference on Antimicrobial Resistance'.
  - 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 Ambitious Target:** To reduce the total amount of antimicrobials used in the agri-food system by at least 30-50 percent from the current level by 2030.
  - To ensure that antibiotics included in the Access group make up at least 60 percent of total antibiotic consumption in humans by 2030.

### 'Bomb Cyclone' Winter Storm hits US and Canada

- Bomb Cyclone has thrashed US and Canada with extreme climate and has trapped the residents inside their houses with snow and power outages. During the Christmas season, the bomb cyclone occurred due to a low temperature of -40 degrees Fahrenheit. Thousands of flights have been canceled and several highways have been blocked. People are
- 

advised not to step outside their homes as it can be life-threatening.

- Due to Artic Blast, the US has been experiencing an extremely cold climate, heavy snow, and intense wind. The authorities have ordered to put a halt on traveling during the Christmas season because of the Bomb Cyclone.
- During the Bomb Cyclone, within a few hours, the temperature may drop by more than 11 degrees Celsius. The air pressure is predicted to drop from 1003 millibars to 968 millibars. The temperature could also drop to a certain low point which can be dangerous and life-threatening enough to frostbite in minutes.
- **What is Bomb Cyclone?**
- Bomb Cyclone is created when the air of different masses whether cold or dry comes together. The warm air rises and makes a cloud system which lowers the air pressure. These cloud system forms storms and circulates counterclockwise in the low-pressure area. A bomb Cyclone is a mid-latitude storm in which the central pressure drops fast at one millibar per hour for 24 hours.

### Spain passes new transgender law, anyone above 16 can change their gender

- The lower house of the Spanish Parliament approved a measure allowing individuals over the age of 16 to change their legally recorded gender without the need for medical supervision. According to the law, drafted by the center-left coalition government, minors between the ages of 14 and 16 must be accompanied by their parents or legal guardians and those between the ages of 12 and 13 will require a judge's permission to make the move.
  - The bill, according to transgender rights organisations, is a "before and after" for LGBT rights.
- 

## UNSC Adopts First-ever Resolution on Myanmar

- The U.N. Security Council has adopted its first ever resolution on Myanmar in 74 years to demand an end to violence and urge the military junta to release all political prisoners, including ousted leader Aung San Suu Kyi. Ms. Kyi, 77, has been a prisoner since the army toppled her government almost two years ago and violently cracked down on dissent.
- The resolution urges the junta to immediately release all arbitrarily detained prisoners, including Suu Kyi and ex-president Win Myint.
- It also demands an immediate end to all forms of violence and asks for all parties to respect human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law.
- It also urges “concrete and immediate actions” to implement a peace plan agreed upon by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and calls for the military administration to “uphold democratic institutions and processes and to pursue constructive dialogue and reconciliation in accordance with the will and interests of the people”.
- The 15-member council has long been split on how to deal with the Myanmar crisis with China and Russia arguing against strong action. They both abstained from the vote, along with India. The remaining 12 members voted in favor.
- **UNSC & Myanmar relations**
- Over the decades, Myanmar’s military has dedicated considerable resources to avoiding the passage of a resolution in the UNSC, very often relying on China to exercise the veto that it enjoys as a permanent member of the body. In 2007, the UNSC failed to adopt a draft resolution on Myanmar due to Chinese and Russian vetoes. In late 2018, following the Myanmar military’s violent assaults on the Rohingya communities in the west of the country, the U.K. made another attempt to pass a resolution, but China and Russia refused to engage in the resolution, and it decided not to table the draft for a vote.

## Iran removed From UN Commission on the Status of Women

- In an unprecedented move, Iran has been expelled from the United Nation’s Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in a vote on which India abstained. The US proposal at the UN Economic and Social Council to remove Iran from the panel received 29 votes, while there were eight votes against and 16 abstentions in the 54-member elected body.
- The vote came after intense lobbying by the US following widespread protests in Iran sparked by outrage against the edict compelling women to wear hijabs.
- The UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) was established in 1946, and has become instrumental in promoting women’s rights, documenting the reality of women’s lives throughout the world, and shaping global standards on gender equality and the empowerment of women. Its 45 members are elected by ECOSOC, based on equitable geographical distribution, and serve for four years.

## New Zealand govt passes world’s first tobacco law to ban smoking

- The New Zealand government has passed a law to completely end tobacco smoking by banning youth from buying cigarettes for life. The Smoke Free Environments and Regulated Products (Smoking Tobacco) Amendment Bill has been passed in New Zealand which aims to make New Zealand smoke free by 2025.
- The bill aims to ban the sale of tobacco to anyone born after January 1, 2009, and reduce the number of cigarette retailers in the country. The bill has received bipartisan support in New Zealand’s parliament and Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern also plans to reduce the amount of nicotine allowed in smokeless tobacco products. Passage of the bill would reduce the number of tobacco retailers nationwide to about one-tenth of the current number of 6,000.



## 20th Edition Of Kathmandu International Mountain Film Festival

- India's National Museum in New Delhi (Delhi) and the Museum Kolding in Denmark have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to host the joint exhibition "Silver Treasures from Denmark and India" in March 2023.
- The theme of the Film Fest is 'Sustainable Summits' and is going to feature documentaries, fiction, shorts as well as experimental and animated films.
- **India's Participation:** Indian film Bandhua (Bonded), directed by Shobhit Jain is also going to be featured in the International Competitive Film category along with films like Ayena, Before You were my Mother, and Matto ki Saikil.

## Opening Ceremony of International Year of Millets 2023 Held in Rome

- The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, organized an opening ceremony for the International Year of Millets – 2023 (IYM2023) in Rome, Italy. An Indian delegation led by Sushri Shobha Karandlaje, Minister of State, Agriculture & Farmers Welfare were present at the opening ceremony. During the event, India's ceremonial message by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi was conveyed by Sushri Shobha Karandlaje.

## Australia's Great Barrier Reef TO be listed as a World Heritage Site

- Ghana assumed the Presidency of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), a principal organ for the maintenance and furtherance of international peace and security from November 2022 for a two-year term.
- UN panel has recommended that Australia's Great Barrier Reef should be listed as a World Heritage site that is in danger. The UN also informed that the world's biggest coral reef ecosystem was significantly impacted by climate change and the warming of oceans.

- Australian Environment Minister Tanya Plibersek said that the government would push UNESCO to not list the reef as endangered because climate change was threatening all coral reefs across the world.
- The Australian government announced a billion-dollar package to protect the reef in January.

## India, Germany sign Migration and Mobility Agreement

- External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Germany's foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock signed a comprehensive migration and mobility partnership, which will facilitate easier access for people to study, research and work in both countries
- The deal which aims at facilitating two-way movement of students, professionals and researchers, is also set to address the challenges of illegal migration.
- The migration and mobility partnership is set to encourage increased exchange of students between the two countries. In May this year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has stated that the Indian government will facilitate admission of German students in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) under programmes like Study in India.
- Further the deal ensures an active people-to-people exchanges including among students, academia and professional work force.

## World's Largest Active Volcano Mauna Loa Erupted in Hawaii

- The world's largest active volcano erupted in Hawaii for the first time in four decades. Mauna Loa erupted at 11.30 pm according to the U.S. Geological Survey. It was the first eruption since 1984. The eruption began in Moku'aweoweo, the summit caldera of Mauna Loa, inside the Hawaii Volcanoes National Park.
- The residents at risk from Mauna Loa lava flows were advised to review preparedness and refer to Hawaii Country Civil Defence information for further guidance.

## NATIONAL

### Union Cabinet approves revision of Pension of Armed Forces Pensioners/Family Pensioners under OROP

- The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi, approved the revision of the pension of Armed Forces pensioners and family pensioners under the One Rank One Pension (OROP) scheme, effective July 1, 2019, at an annual additional expenditure of Rs. 8,450 crores and arrears of Rs. 23,638 crores.
- Pensions of former retirees would be revised based on the average of the minimum and maximum pensions of Defence Forces retirees of the same rank and service period in the calendar year 2018.
- According to the appropriate dearness relief (DR), arrears will be paid from July 1, 2019, to June 30, 2022, for a total of about Rs. 23,638 crores.
- OROP entails a uniform pension for personnel based on rank and duration of service, regardless of the date of retirement.

### Union Cabinet approves MSPs for Copra for 2023 Season

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), chaired by PM Narendra Modi, has approved Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for copra for the 2023 season. The decision was based on recommendations from the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACPC) as well as the perspectives of key coconut-growing states.
- In order to procure copra and dehusked coconut under the Price Support Scheme (PSS), the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED) and the National Cooperative Consumers' Federation (NCCF) would continue to serve as Central Nodal Agencies (CNAs).
- The MSP for fair Average Quality milling copra is Rs. 10860 per quintal for the 2023 season, and Rs. 11750 per quintal for ball copra.

- This is an increase over the previous season of Rs. 270 per quintal for milling copra and Rs. 750 per quintal for ball copra.
- This would guarantee a margin above the weighted average cost of production for all of India of 51.82% for milling copra and 64.26 % for ball copra.
- According to the announcement made by the GoI in the 2018-19 budget, the MSP for copra for the 2023 season will be fixed at a value that is at least 1.5 times all India's weighted average cost of production.

### Tentative list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites now includes Vadnagar Town, Modhera Sun Temple & Unakoti Sculptures

- According to the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), 3 new Cultural Sites in India have been added to the provisional list of United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage sites.

They are as follows:

- Sun Temple, Modhera, Gujarat and its adjoining monuments
- Vadnagar – A multi-layered Historic town, Gujarat, which is also the birthplace of Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi
- Rock-cut Sculptures and Reliefs of the Unakoti, Unakoti Range, Unakoti District, Tripura
- The UNESCO tentative list is a “inventory of those properties which each State Party intends to consider for nomination,” and it highlights India's immense natural and cultural heritage diversity.
- With this addition, India currently has 52 sites on the UNESCO Tentative List.

#### About UNESCO

- Director-General – Audrey Azoulay
- Headquarters – Paris, France



## Jyotiraditya Scindia Launches India's First Green Steel Brand "KALYANI FERRESTA"

- On 20th December 2022 Union Minister of Steel, Jyotiraditya Scindia launched India's first Green Steel Brand, "KALYANI FERRESTA" in New Delhi. This was manufactured by a Saarloha Advanced Materials (Saarloha) Pune-based Kalyani group company, by using renewable energy resources, leaving zero carbon footprints in the environment.
- India is presently leading the countries which have committed to achieving carbon neutrality, with ongoing green steel manufacturing.
- Government of India (GoI) is promoting green steel manufacturing and has framed the National Steel Policy to achieve zero carbon emissions by the steel industry.
- The steel industry produces 7 percent of Carbon-dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions globally, while the Indian steel industry accounts for 12 percent of such emissions.

## MP gets India's 1st & World's 2nd Infantry Museum at Mhow Cantonment, Indore

- On 16th December 2022, the eve of 75 years of raising of the Infantry School and to commemorate the Vijay Diwas, India's first & World's 2nd Infantry Research Centre and Museum was inaugurated in the Mhow cantonment in Indore district, Madhya Pradesh (MP).
- The world-class museum has been set up under the aegis of The Infantry School, Mhow. The Museum aims to showcase the Infantry with the theme line Infantry: The Ultimate.
- The Museum showcases the history of the Infantry Corps from 1747 to 2020 which includes the sacrifice of valour and valiant soldiers preserved in statues, murals and photo galleries of 30 theme zones.
- The museum has also preserved the history of the battles of Plassey, Saragarhi, Buxar and Indo-Pak

wars of 1965 and 1971 and also features the history of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and Subhash Chandra Bose.

## India launches 'Group of Friends' to promote accountability for crimes against peacekeepers

- India, the President of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), has launched a 'Group of Friends' to promote accountability for crimes against peacekeepers. While addressing the launch event, Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, Union Minister of External Affairs announced that New Delhi will have a database that will record all crimes against the UN Peacekeepers (Blue Helmets).
- The co-chairs of the 'Group of Friends' are India, Bangladesh, Egypt, France, Morocco and Nepal.
- **About Group of Friends**
- Peacekeeping is one of the key tools that is available with the UNSC to maintain international peace and security.
- The Group of Friends will seek to facilitate the promotion of accountability for all acts of violence against UN peacekeepers and also supports capacity building along with technical assistance.
- The Group of Friends will convene two meetings per year. They are organised by the representatives of the Permanent Missions of the co-chairs along with all interested Member States and other UN partners.

## PM lays foundation stone and inaugurates multiple projects worth over Rs. 2450 crores in Shillong, Meghalaya

- The PM attended the North Eastern Council meeting at the State Convention Centre in Shillong and took part in its golden jubilee celebrations. During the visit PM Modi laid the foundation for a number of projects totaling more than Rs. 2450 crore and officially launched them in Shillong, Meghalaya.
- **Multiple Projects**

- The inauguration of 320 finished and 890 under construction 4G mobile towers
- The new Indian Institutes of Management (IIM) Shillong campus was inaugurated in Umsawli, Shillong.
- The inauguration of the Shillong-Diengpasoh Road, which would improve access to the new Shillong satellite township.
- The inauguration of 4 other road projects in the three states of Meghalaya, Manipur, and Arunachal Pradesh.
- The PM also inaugurated 21 Hindi libraries in Mizoram, Manipur, Tripura, and Assam, as well as a Spawn Laboratory at the Mushroom Development Center and an Integrated Beekeeping Development Centre in Meghalaya.
- He laid the groundwork for six road projects in Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, and Tripura.
- He also laid the foundation for Shillong Technology Park Phase II and the Tura Integrated Hospitality and Convention Centre in Meghalaya.
- Apart from this, PM Modi launched “Grih Pravesh” programme for beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) (Urban) and PMAY -Rural.
- The programme, developed at a cost of Rs. 3,400 crore, will benefit over 2 lakh people.
- Launch of connectivity projects for the widening of Agartala bypass (Khayerpur – Amtali) National Highways (NH)-08.

### **NITI Aayog’s AIM & UNDP launches 5th ‘Youth Co: Lab’ 2022-2023 for Social Entrepreneurs**

- On 15th December 2022, the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) of the National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), India, launched the 5th edition of “Youth Co: Lab” (2022-2023) to support young social entrepreneurs. Chintan Vaishnav, AIM Mission Director and Dennis Curry, UNDP India Resident Representative launched the application for the 5th edition.

### **5th Edition of Youth Co: Lab**

- The goal of the 5th edition of Youth Co: Lab India is to find and encourage young people who are leading early-stage social companies or innovations in the fields of;
  - Digital and Financial Literacy for Youth
  - Gender Equality and Women Economic Empowerment
  - Developing FinTech Solutions focused on Biodiversity Conservation
  - Promoting Biodiversity-friendly Lifestyles through Technological Solutions in Finance
  - Accelerating Circular Economy through Upcycling Innovations
  - Behavioral Nudges for LiFE ( Lifestyle For Environment)

### **Ministry of Culture organises “Swar Dharohar Festival” in New Delhi**

- Ministry of Culture, Government of India, in collaboration with Swar Dharohar Foundation, inaugurated 3-day “Swar Dharohar Festival” under Kalanjali to showcase the iconic art & culture, rich literary Art & Heritage of Indian States, at Central Vista, New Delhi.
- Swar Dharohar festival was inaugurated by Chief Guest Mehtab Ali (Sitar Player) and Pandit Lalit Prasad (Classical Vocal). The 3 days festival was organized from the 2nd to 4th December 2022 at Central Vista, India Gate, New Delhi.
- On an inaugural day Classical Performances, Ghazal, Kavi Sammelan, Mushaira, and Sufi Performance were organised.

### **GoI grants GI tags to 9 new products, raising the total to 432; Kerala receives five**

- The Geographical Indication (GI) Tag has been granted by the Government of India (GoI) to 9 new products from different states, including the Attappady Aattukombu Avara, Alibag White Onion, Raktsey Karpo Apricot, Tandur Redgram, and Gamosa of Assam. Out of the 9 GI tags that are granted, five are for products from Kerala.

- This brings the total number of GI tags in India to 432, of which 401 are for products with Indian origin and 31 are for products with foreign origin.
- **Products That Have Received The GI Tag (December 14, 2022)**
  1. Assamese Gamocha
  2. Alibag White Onion, Maharashtra
  3. Tandur Redgram, Telangana
  4. Raktsey Karpo Apricot, Ladakh
  5. Attappady Thuvara (Attappady red gram), Kerala
  6. Kanthalloor Vattavada Garlic (Kanthalloor Vattavada Veluthulli), Kerala
  7. Kodungallur Snap Melon (Kodungallur Pottuvellari), Kerala
  8. Attappady Aattukombu Dolichos Bean [Attappady Aattukombu Avara], Kerala
  9. Onattukara Sesame (Onattukara Ellu), Kerala

### **1st G20 Finance and Central Bank Deputies held in Bengaluru**

- On December 13-14, 2022, the 1st G20 (Group of Twenty) Finance and Central Bank Deputies (FCBD) Meeting, under the Indian Presidency, was held in Bengaluru, Karnataka. It was co-chaired by Secretary Ajay Seth, Department of Economic Affairs (DEA), and Deputy Governor Dr. Michael Patra, Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- The meeting saw seven discussion sessions and two side events viz. 'Strengthening MDBs to Address Shared Global Challenges of the 21st century', and 'Role of Central Banks in Managing Climate Risk and in Green Financing'.

### **India & Finland Sign Joint Declaration of Intent on Migration and Mobility**

- India and Finland have signed a joint declaration of Intent On Migration and Mobility in order to reach a mutually beneficial agreement on migration and mobility.
- The Joint Declaration was signed by Union Minister of State (MoS) V. Muraleedharan, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Government

of India (GoI), and Tuula Haatainen, Finland's Minister of Employment.

- The declaration emphasizes the determination of both countries to collaborate in building a common framework of arrangements and cooperation. This will promote the mobility of students, academics, researchers, business people, and professionals while also assisting in the fight against irregular migration

### **239 Species from India Entered IUCN Red List; 29 are Threatened**

- According to the Latest update to the International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) Red List unveiled during the COP15 biodiversity conference in Montreal, Canada, 239 new species analysed in India have entered the list. Of these, 29 are threatened.
- White-cheeked Dancing Frog (*Micrixalus candidus*) found in Western Ghats of Karnataka has entered the Red List as endangered and the Andaman Smoothhound (*Mustelus andamanensis*) found in Andaman Sea in the Eastern Indian Ocean has been included in the Red List as Vulnerable.

### **PM lays Foundation Stone and Dedicates 11 projects worth Rs. 75,000cr in Maharashtra**

- On December 11, 2022, the Prime Minister (PM) of India, Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone and dedicated to the nation 11 projects worth more than 75,000 crores in Maharashtra.
- PM inaugurated Phase – I of Hindu Hrudaysamrat Balasaheb Thackeray Maharashtra Samruddhi Mahamarg in Nagpur connecting Nagpur and Shirdi covering a distance of 520 Kms. Its outlay is about Rs 55,000 crore.
- Samruddhi Mahamarg is also known as Nagpur-Mumbai Super Communication Expressway Project.
- The PM dedicated to the nation, AIIMS (All India Institute of Medical Science) Nagpur, a 150 acre campus which is being developed at a cost of more than Rs 1575 crore under the under the Central

Sector Scheme (CSS) Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY).

- The PM laid the foundation stone and dedicated to the nation National rail projects worth more than Rs 1500 crores which include the following:
- Flagged off Vande Bharat Express Train from Nagpur to Bilaspur. It will connect Nagpur and Bilaspur with a reduced timing of 5 hours 30 minutes from 7-8 hours.
- Dedicated Nagpur Metro Phase I to the nation Outlay more than Rs 8650 crore
- Laid the foundation stone of Nagpur Metro phase-II: Outlay more than Rs 6700 crore
- Laid the foundation stone for the redevelopment of Nagpur Railway Station and Ajni Railway Station.
- PM Modi also inaugurated Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) – Centre for Research, Management and Control of Hemoglobinopathies, Chandrapur & laid the foundation stone for the National Institute for One Health in Nagpur.

### PM Addresses Valedictory Function of 9th World Ayurveda Congress in Goa

- During his visit to Goa, PM Narendra Modi addressed the valedictory ceremony of the 9th World Ayurveda Congress (WAC). The theme of the 9th WAC & Arogya Expo was “Ayurveda for One Health.”
- The first WAC was held in 2002 at Kochi, Kerala.
- The World Ayurveda Foundation established the World Ayurveda Congress (WAC) as a platform to promote ayurveda in its purest form around the world.
- PM also inaugurated 3 National Ayush Institutes – All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA), Goa, and virtually inaugurated National Institute of Unani Medicine (NIUM), Ghaziabad (Uttar Pradesh) and National Institute of Homoeopathy (NIH), Delhi from Goa.
- These institutes, which were built at a cost of around Rs 970 crore, will enhance student enrollment by 400 and add 500 hospital beds.

### PM Inaugurates First Phase of Greenfield International Airport in Mopa, Goa

- Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi has inaugurated the first phase of the Greenfield International Airport in Mopa, North Goa, which was built at a cost of about Rs. 2,870 crore. The foundation stone for the airport was laid by the PM in November 2016.
- It is Goa’s second international airport, besides the existing airport at Dabolim, Goa. As an honor to the late Goa Chief Minister (CM) Manohar Parrikar, the airport will be named as the ‘Manohar International Airport’.
- The first phase of Mopa Airport will serve about 4.4 million passengers per year (MPPA), with a saturation capacity of 33 MPPA.

### EAM Dr S Jaishankar addresses the 7th Edition of Global Technology Summit

- External Affairs Minister (EAM) Dr S Jaishankar addressed the 7th Edition of the Global Technology Summit, a 3-day summit, in New Delhi, Delhi about the rise of India’s link with the rise of Indian technology.
- It is India’s annual flagship event on Geotechnology, which was jointly hosted by the Ministry of External Affairs and Carnegie India.
- The theme for the 7th Global Technology Summit is Geopolitics of Technology.
- Ministers and senior government officials from the United States (US), Singapore, Japan, Nigeria, Brazil, Bhutan, the European Union, and other countries attended the Summit.

### Union Minister Anurag Thakur inaugurates India’s first Drone Yatra in Chennai

- On December 6, 2022, the Union Minister Anurag Singh Thakur, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS) and Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, inaugurated India’s first Drone

Skilling and Training Virtual E- Learning Platform in Chennai, Tamil Nadu (TN).

- He also flagged off Garuda Aerospace Private Limited's Drone Yatra at Agni College of Technology in Thalambur, TN, 'Operation 777' which envisages to educate and demonstrate the efficacy of drones for different agricultural uses across 777 districts in India.
- Drone Yatra will help farmers understand more about the technology and give them a better perspective on growing crops.
- Garuda Aerospace's plan to make one lakh 'Made in India' drones by 2024 with a dual objective of empowering farmers and creating employment for Indian youth. The Indian drone market is expected to reach USD 5 billion in 2024.

### **SHE STEM 2022 held as a part of Sweden India Nobel Memorial Week 2022**

- SHE STEM 2022, the annual event organised as a part of the Sweden India Nobel Memorial Week to celebrate the women in the field of Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), was held in New Delhi, Delhi on 5th December 2022.
- This marks the 3rd edition of the SHE STEM event, a flagship event of the Sweden-India Nobel Memorial Week.
- SHE STEM is The event was organised by the Embassy of Sweden in India in partnership with the Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog, the Government of India and the German Centre of Innovation and Research (DWIH New Delhi).
- Sweden India Nobel Memorial Week is observed from 6th to 10th December 2022. 2022 marks the observance of the 15th edition of the Sweden-India Nobel Memorial Week.

### **First Silchar-Sylhet Festival 2022 held in Assam**

- On 2nd December 2022, the Silchar-Sylhet festival 2022, 1st ever festival celebrating cultural ties between the neighbouring regions of India and

Bangladesh was held in Barak Valley, Silchar, Assam from 2nd to 4<sup>th</sup> December 2022.

- The festival celebrated the linguistic and cultural ties between the Barak Valley region of Assam, India and the Sylhet segment of Bangladesh.
- The event was organised by the India Foundation under the aegis of the Ministry of Culture, Government of India (GoI), in association with the Bangladesh Foundation for Regional Studies.
- The Silchar-Sylhet festival coincides with the 75th year of India's Independence and the 50th anniversary of the liberation of Bangladesh from Pakistan.

### **President of India approves Maharashtra Housing and Area Development Act Amendment Bill**

- The President of India Draupadi Murmu approved the Maharashtra Housing and Area Development Act Amendment Bill. This amendment will pave the way for redevelopment of dangerous or dilapidated Maharashtra Housing and Area Development Authority (MHADA) owned residential buildings, or Cess buildings in Mumbai.
- With this, MHADA has been empowered to directly take over such cess buildings, where redevelopment is stalled, and redevelop them.

### **Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia Launches Digi Yatra for 3 Airports in India**

- Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia, Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) launched 'Digi Yatra' from the Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport in New Delhi (Delhi) for three airports in India, namely New Delhi, Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh), and Bengaluru (Karnataka).
- Digi Yatra was designed to use Facial Recognition Technology (FRT) to achieve contactless, seamless passenger processing at airports.
- In the initial phase, Digi Yatra will be introduced in 7 airports, starting with the first 3: Delhi, Bengaluru, and Varanasi.

- It will be followed by 4 airports by March 2023: Hyderabad (Telangana), Kolkata (West Bengal), Pune (Maharashtra), and Vijayawada (Andhra Pradesh). Currently, the service is only available to domestic flight passengers.
- With Digi Yatra, India will join the ranks of world-class airports such as Heathrow in London, the United Kingdom (UK), and Atlanta in the United States of America (USA).
- Digi Yatra platform is built on 4 key pillars: Connected Passengers, Connected Airports, Connected Flights, & Connected Systems.

### India Assumes UN Security Council Presidency for December

- On 1st December 2022 India assumed the Presidency of the United Nation Security Council (UNSC) for the month of December, the second time in its two-year tenure as an elected member of the Council in 2021-22.
- During India's Presidency, two high-level signature events will be held on 14th December 2022 on Reformed Multilateralism and 15th December 2022 on Reformed Multilateralism and will be chaired by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar.
- India had earlier assumed the UNSC Presidency in August 2021.

### 53rd Edition of International Film Festival of India hosted in Goa

- The 53rd International Film Festival of India (IFFI) was held in Goa from November 20 – 28, 2022. IFFI is an annual film festival, which has been organized with the philosophy of “Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam” (the world is one family) at its core.
- IFFI is jointly organized by the National Film Development Corporation and the Entertainment Society of Goa.
- Eight movies were shown as part of the Country Focus package, with France serving as the “spotlight” nation.
- **Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement award**  
Spanish film director Carlos Saura was awarded with the Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement award

during the opening ceremony followed by first screening of the event showcasing Austrian Director Dieter Berner's film Alma and Oskar.

### Indian Film Personality of the Year Award for 2022

- At the closing ceremony of the 53rd International Film Festival of India (IFFI), Konidela Siva Sankara Vara Prasad, better known by his stage name Chiranjeevi, was given the Indian Film Personality of the Year Award for 2022.
- He is widely regarded as the Mega Star of Tollywood and he has also received the Padma Bhushan award in 2006.
- The Iranian film “Nargesi,” directed by Payam Eskandari, was awarded the ‘ICFT-UNESCO Gandhi Medal’ at the 53rd International Film Festival of India.
- **Golden Peacock Award** :At the 53rd IFFI, ‘Tengo sueños eléctricos / I HAVE ELECTRIC DREAMS’ was awarded the coveted Golden Peacock Award for Best Film, for its electrifying portrayal of adulthood. The film is Directed by Valentina Maurel, a Costa Rican film maker.
- The 2nd edition of ‘75 Creative Minds of Tomorrow’ at IFFI in Goa concluded with the award ceremony of the “53-Hour Challenge”.
- Five short films were made in the 53-hour time frame.
- The winning movie was “Dear Diary,” a movie by Team Purple that underscores the issue of women's safety.
- **About IFFI:**  
IFFI is one of the most prominent film festivals in Asia.  
**Chairperson** (Steering Committee IFFI 2022)– Anurag Singh Thakur, Union Minister, MIB.  
**Founded** – 1952

### 41st edition of India International Trade Fair held in New Delhi

- Union Minister Piyush Goyal, Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI), inaugurated the 41st edition of the India International Trade Fair

(IITF) at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi, Delhi, on November 14, 2022.

- The theme of the IITF 2022 is “Vocal for Local, Local to Global”
- It was organized by the India Trade Promotion Organization (ITPO), a division of MoCI. The 14-day mega-event took on added significance as it coincided with the “Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav” celebrations.
- IITF 2022 featured exhibitors from 29 States/Union Territories (UTs), with Leh (Ladakh) participating for the first time this year.
- The 41st IITF also featured foreign exhibitors from 12 countries, including Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bahrain, Belarus, Iran, Nepal, Thailand, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and the United Kingdom (UK).
- The MSME Pavilion witnessed the highest percentage of women-led enterprises (74%).
- At the 41st India International Trade Fair in 2022, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoH&FW) pavilion was awarded for its “Outstanding Contribution towards Public Communication and Outreach.” The theme for the Health Pavilion was “Heal in India, Heal by India.”
- At the 41st India International Trade Fair in 2022, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoH&FW) pavilion was awarded for its “Outstanding Contribution Towards Public Communication and Outreach.” The theme for the Health Pavilion was “Heal in India, Heal by India.”
- Afghanistan was presented with the ‘Gold Medal’ in the ‘foreign sector’ at the 41st India International Trade Fair in 2022.
- Kerala was awarded a Gold Medal for the best pavilion in the ‘State and Union Territory’ category at the 41st edition of the India International Trade Fair (IITF) 2022.
- Odisha pavilion was awarded the prestigious “Special Appreciation Certificate for Excellence in Display” in the category of “State Government and Union Territory.”

## MoP launches Scheme for Procurement of Aggregate Power of 4500 to help States Facing Power Shortage

- On November 28, 2022, the Ministry of Power (MoP) introduced a scheme for Procurement of Aggregate Power of 4500 MW on competitive basis for 5 years on Finance, Own and Operate (FOO) basis under B (v) of SHAKTI Policy.
- For this scheme, the PFC Consulting Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of PFC (Power Finance Corporation) Ltd has been designated as the Nodal Agency which will be responsible for conducting the bid process for procurement of power.

## India to Receive Its First LNG Cargo from Indonesia’s Tangguh LNG

- According to a Refinitiv analyst and Refinitiv ship tracking data, India will receive its first cargo from Indonesia’s Tangguh Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) plant at the Dahej terminal in Gujarat.
- The LNG tanker “BW Helios” is transporting 132,000 cubic metres of LNG cargo. Tangguh LNG, operated by British oil firm BP, is located in Indonesia’s West Papua province and commenced production in 2009.

## FSSAI Approves Himalayan Yak as a ‘Food Animal’

- The scientific panel of the Food Safety and Standard Authority of India (FSSAI), has approved the Himalayan yak (Scientific Name- *Bos grunniens* are related to cattle), a multipurpose bovine found in high-altitude areas of the Himalayan region, as a food animal following the recommendation from the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD), Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying.

National Research Centre on Yak (NRC-Y) at Dirang, Arunachal Pradesh, submitted a proposal to the FSSAI in 2021 to consider the yak as a food animal. According to the most recent livestock census in 2019, India has 58,000 yaks, a 25% decrease from the previous livestock census in 2012.

## STATES

### Meghalaya Tops States in Average Monthly Income per Agricultural Household

- According to the 77th round of the Situation Assessment Survey (SAS) of Agricultural Households in the rural areas of India, Meghalaya tops the list of Average monthly income per agricultural household.
- Meghalaya topped the list with a monthly agriculture household income of Rs 29,348 followed by Punjab with Rs 26,701 and Haryana with Rs 22,841.
- The 77th round of the survey was conducted by the National Statistical Office (NSO) under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) from January 2019 to December 2019 with reference to the agricultural year July 2018-June 2019.

### UP Govt & Austin University Signs MoU to Build Austin Smart City of Knowledge Project in UP

- On 18th December 2022, The Uttar Pradesh (UP) government signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Austin University, Texas, United States of America (USA) for the construction of 'Austin Smart City of Knowledge Project in UP' at a cost of USD 42 billion.
- The project built on 5000 acres of land in UP will have the best universities of the world coming up inside the project.

### Tamil Nadu Introduces "Friends of Library" Scheme to Promote Reading

- Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozhi, Minister of School Education, Government of Tamil Nadu (TN), has introduced the "Friends of Library" scheme, which would personally deliver books to people who are unable to visit state-run libraries. The scheme will benefit differently abled people, senior citizens, children, and hospital in-patients, among others,

who are unable to visit a library, and the help of volunteers will be employed for this objective.

- The scheme will involve 2,500 libraries in its initial phase, including 31 district libraries. The aim of such a project was to foster a knowledge-based society.
- Apart from this, CM M.K. Stalin inaugurated the "Sanitation Workers' Development Scheme" to protect the welfare of conservancy workers in TN during a ceremony held at the Arignar Anna Complex, headquarters of Madurai Corporation, in TN.
- The CM also introduced a sanitation worker logo and launched a mobile app called SHWAS (Sanitation Workers Health Welfare and Safety) to assist in the identification and collection of sanitation worker census data.
- Tamil Nadu is the second state in India to implement such a scheme and a mobile application for sanitation workers after Odisha.

### Mangaluru International Airport received ACI accreditation

- Mangaluru International Airport (MIA) has received the certificate of accreditation from the Airports Council International (ACI) for level 2 of the airport customer experience accreditation programme.
- The accreditation was issued on 14th December 2022, and it is valid for a year. The certificate recognises the commitment of MIA to continue with its customer experience improvement.

### Tamil Nadu CM MK Stalin launches Climate Change Mission

- Tamil Nadu (TN) Chief Minister (CM) M K Stalin launched the Tamil Nadu Climate Change Mission at the 'TN Climate Summit 2022' to protect the natural resources and restore them on a long-term basis.
- Tamil Nadu is the first state to launch its own Climate Change Mission to make it a climate smart state.



- TN government also signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the World Resources Institute, Anna University and National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management on the occasion.
- This helps the TN government in establishing 10 smart villages, 25 green schools and achieve blue flag beaches.
- Tamil Nadu also introduced a single window system to provide clearances to green projects during the Tamil Nadu Climate Change Mission to attain a 1 trillion economy by 2030.
- The Tamil Nadu Climate Change Mission will coordinate initiatives such as 'meendum manjappai', e- buses, climate smart villages and green monuments projects.

### Assam CM Launches Orunodoi 2.0 DBT Scheme to Benefit over 10 Lakh People

- On 14th December 2022, Assam Chief Minister (CM) Himanta Biswa Sarma launched 'Orunodoi 2.0', the flagship scheme of the Assam government with a financial outlay of Rs.4142 crore per annum, in a virtual meet in Guwahati, Assam.
- This financial outlay of Rs 4142 crore, makes it one of the largest direct beneficiary transfer (DBT) schemes in India. The scheme aims at providing financial security to financially disadvantaged families.
- During the 1st phase of Orunodoi, around 17 lakh women have been receiving a guaranteed cash flow of Rs 1,250 each on the 10th of every month through DBT.

### Kerala CM declares Seed Farm in Aluva as India's 1st Carbon Neutral Farm

- On 10th December 2022, Pinarayi Vijayan, Chief Minister (CM) of Kerala, declared Kerala Seed Farm in Aluva, Ernakulam district, Kerala, as the 1st Carbon Neutral Farm in India.
- The farm, located near Thuruthu, Aluva, produced 43 tonnes of carbon in 2021, although its total procurement was 213 tonnes.

- Kerala Government aims to achieve 40% of its energy need from renewable energy sources by 2025.
- Carbon-neutral farms will be established in all 140 Assembly constituencies. Efforts have already begun to make 13 Kerala farms carbon-neutral.
- Compared to the emission rate, the farm obtained up to 170 tonnes more carbon, allowing it to be designated as India's 1st carbon-neutral seed farm.

### Airbnb Signs MoU with Goa to Promote Inclusive Tourism

- California based Vacation rental company, Airbnb signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Department of Tourism, Government of Goa, to jointly promote Goa as one of the high potential tourism destinations in India and around the world.
- The MoU was signed on the sidelines of the official launch of 'Rediscover Goa', a week-long celebration of Goa's vast cultural diversity beyond its beaches and dazzling nightlife.
- The MoU was signed a day after the inauguration of a new international airport at Mopa in north Goa in the presence of Rohan Khaunte, Minister for Tourism, Government of Goa, and Amanpreet

### Bhupendra Patel Takes Oath for 2nd Consecutive Time as CM of Gujarat

- Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) member Bhupendra Patel was sworn in by Governor Acharya Devvrat as the 18th Chief Minister (CM) of Gujarat during a ceremony held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- In the recently completed Gujarat Assembly Election 2022, Patel won the Ghatlodia seat with the largest margin of 1.92 lakh votes.
- He will serve as the CM of Gujarat for the second year in a row. He was sworn in as CM for the first time on September 13, 2021, replacing the Vijay Rupani-led state government.
- The ruling BJP won a record 7th term in the recently concluded Gujarat Assembly Election 2022, garnering 156 of the total 182 legislative

assembly seats. The Congress won 17 constituencies, while the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) won 5.

- According to Article 164 of the Indian Constitution, the Chief Minister (CM) shall be appointed by the Governor, and the other Ministers shall be appointed by the Governor on the advice of the CM, and the Ministers shall hold office during the pleasure of the Governor.

- Gujarat Governor – Acharya Devvrat

### Assam Cabinet approves bill to create Safai Karamchhari Commission

- The Assam Cabinet led by Chief Minister (CM) Himanta Biswa Sarma approved a bill to establish a Safai Karamchhari Commission for the first time in the state's history, at a meeting held at the historic Gandhi Mandap in Guwahati, Assam.
- Additionally, it has approved decisions directly involving providing maternity benefits, monitoring drug prices, protecting the rights of Safai Karmacharis, and filling open positions in the Forest Department.
- Apart from this, The Assam government will eventually implement a scheme under which all female students pursuing postgraduate (PG) degrees in the state will receive a yearly stipend of Rs 10,000 each.
- Female students pursuing postgraduate studies can apply for the stipend using a portal set up by the department of education for this purpose.

### Kerala to become 100% renewable energy-based State by 2040

- Chief Minister (CM) of Kerala, Pinarayi Vijayan, inaugurated the India Climate and Development Partners' Meet hosted by the Kerala Government and the World Bank and stated that the State aspires to become 100% renewable Energy based state by 2040 and net carbon neutral by 2050.
- He also released the Kerala State Action Plan on Climate Change 2023-2030 (Kerala SAPCC 2.0) during the event.

- During the event, Government of Kerala has also signed agreement with the Agence Française de Développement (AFD – French Development Agency) for a performance based loan of 100 million Euros (Rs 865.8 crore) agreement.

### Meghalaya Govt unveils Asia's first Drone Delivery Hub

- The Meghalaya government in partnership with startup TechEagle has unveiled Meghalaya Drone Delivery Network (MDDN) and hub which is Asia's first drone delivery hub and network aimed at providing universal access to healthcare for 2.7 million people of Meghalaya.
- The Jengjal Sub Divisional Hospital, which will act as the hub.
- The first official drone flight took off from Jengjal Sub Divisional Hospital (Hub) and delivered medicines to Padeldoba by TechEagle's Vertiplane X3 Drone in less than 30 mins which would have otherwise taken 2.5 hours by road.

### 'Make in Odisha Conclave 2022' (3rd edition) held at Bhubaneswar, Odisha

- The Make in Odisha Conclave 2022 (3rd edition), a biennial global investors' meet and the flagship investor summit of the Government of Odisha, took place in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, from November 30 to December 4, 2022.
- The Government of Odisha organized the Make in Odisha (MIO) Conclave 2022 in collaboration with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).
- The 'Industrial Policy Resolution 2022', which aims to make Odisha the preferred location for industrial firms both domestically and globally, was introduced at the MIO Conclave 2022.
- The first edition, held in 2016, generated Rs. 2.03 trillion in investment intentions, while the second edition, held in 2018, generated more than Rs. 4 trillion. Make In Odisha Conclave 2022 generates investment intents of Rs 10.5 lakh crore with potential for over 10 lakh jobs.

## Odisha approves seven policies to attract investment

- At its 52nd meeting, the Odisha Cabinet approved 17 proposals, including 7 policies, to attract investment and strengthen the state's economy in preparation of the MIO Conclave 2022.
- The following policies have been approved:
  - Registered Vehicle Scrapping Facility Policy-2022
  - Industrial Policy Resolution (IPR) 2022
  - Odisha Logistics Policy 2022
  - Odisha Apparel and Technical Textiles Policy-2022
  - Export Promotion Policy 2022
  - Odisha Civil Aviation Policy 2022
  - Odisha Tourism Policy 2022

## Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik launches Trophy Tour of FIH Hockey Men's World Cup 2023

- On 5th December 2022, Odisha Chief Minister (CM) Naveen Patnaik launched the Trophy tour of the FIH (Fédération Internationale de Hockey) Hockey Men's World Cup 2023 in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, and handed over the trophy to Dilip Tirkey, President of Hockey India.
- The trophy will travel to 13 States and 1 Union Territory (UT) before returning to Odisha on December 25.
- The FIH Odisha Hockey Men's World Cup 2023 will be held at Bhubaneswar and Rourkela from 13th-29th January 2023.

## Maharashtra Becomes First State to Set up Separate Divyang department

- On 3rd December 2022, on the occasion of International Day of Disabled Persons, Maharashtra Chief Minister (CM) Eknath Shinde announced the formation of a separate Divyang Welfare Department for the welfare of differently-abled people with a financial outlay of Rs 1,143 crore. Maharashtra Becomes the first State in India to launch a separate department for the welfare of differently-abled people.

## Telangana Signs Pact with Coinbase to promote Web 3.0 Community

- The Telangana Government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Coinbase Inc., an American based trading company to jointly build a strong Web 3.0 community in Telangana.
- The MoU was signed by the Principal Secretary (IT, Industries and Commerce) and director of emerging technologies wing Jayesh Ranjan and Rama Devi Lanka from Coinbase Inc.
- Coinbase will support Web 3.0 entrepreneurs of Telangana through capacity-building sessions, mentorship programs, and promoting initiatives that are conducted with the help of Telangana's innovation ecosystem partners.

## ARBL invests Rs 9,500 crore in Telangana for setting up Lithium-ion Battery Gigafactory

- Amara Raja Batteries Limited (ARBL) signed an MoU with the Telangana government to set up a lithium-ion battery gigafactory in Mahbubnagar district, Telangana with an investment of Rs 9,500 crore over the next 10 years.
- This gigafactory will be a state-of-the-art research and manufacturing facility with an ultimate capacity of up to 16 Giga Watt (GWh) and a battery pack assembly unit of up to 5 GWh.
- ARBL will establish Amara Raja Advanced Cell Technologies as its subsidiary for working towards the project.

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

- Hyderabad (Telangana)-based Goldsikka Pvt Ltd has set up India's 1st Gold Automated teller machine (ATM) and started its operations in the city at Raghupathi Chambers in Begumpet, Hyderabad. Gold ATMs will be available for 24 hours.
- Telangana women commission chairperson Sunitha Lakshmareddy inaugurated the gold ATM centre.

- Customers can use a debit or credit card to buy gold coins through the ATM.
- Gold ATM supplies in denominations ranging from a minimum of 0.5 gms to a maximum of 100 gms. The customers will also get a certificate stating their purity and weight.

### **Gol Names 21 Uninhabited A&N Islands after Param Vir Chakra recipients**

- The Government of India (GoI) has named 21 uninhabited islands in the union territory (UT) of Andaman & Nicobar (A&N) after recipients of Param Vir Chakra, India's highest wartime gallantry award with the support of Andaman administration and the Ministry of Defence (MoD).
- Out of the 21 islands, 16 are located in North and Middle Andaman district, while the remaining 5 islands are in South Andaman.
- Among the islands, some fall under reserved forest while others have great potential for water sports, creek tourism and fishing.
- The first uninhabited island numbered 'INAN370' in North and Middle Andaman was named after Major Somnath Sharma and henceforth it will be known as 'Somnath Dweep'. He was the first recipient of the Param Vir Chakra. He lost his life in the line of duty in 1947 while handling Pakistani infiltrators near Srinagar Airport.

### **23rd Hornbill Festival begins in Nagaland**

- The Hornbill Festival, the biggest and most important festival in Northeast India, is annually observed from 1st – 10th December at the Naga Heritage Village of Kisama located at a distance of 12 km from Kohima, in Nagaland.
- 2022 marks the 23rd edition of the Hornbill Festival. The 1st Hornbill festival was held in December 2000. This festival is organized by the Government of Nagaland. The festival derives its name from the bird named Hornbill. It is called the festival of festivals.

- Jagdeep Dhankhar, Vice President of India, graced the inaugural day of the festival as the Chief Guest.
- It is the main celebration of the Naga Warrior Tribes and is generally observed for 10 days.
- Nagaland also celebrated its 60th Statehood Day on the inaugural day of 23rd Hornbill Festival 2022.

### **First-ever Tribal Winter Festival held in Jammu-Kashmir**

- On 30th November 2022, Jammu-Kashmir's Bandipora hosted the 1st-ever Tribal Winter Festival of Kashmir Valley which was held at Ketson village in the Aloosa area of North Kashmir's Bandipora district.
- District administration Bandipora, in collaboration with the Department of Tourism and Tribal Affairs, Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA), Government of India (GoI), organised a one-day Tribal Winter Festival.

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

- Yogi Adityanath, Chief Minister (CM) of Uttar Pradesh (UP) launched the "One District One Sport" (ODOS) to promote indigenous sports in UP. The scheme aims to revive the indigenous sports that are losing their presence in the field.
- The Department of Sports, Uttar Pradesh is set to prepare the blueprint of the scheme and identify popular sports for each district.

### **Meghalaya Cabinet approves Mental Health and Social Care Policy**

- On 29th November 2022, Meghalaya Cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister Conrad Kongkal Sangma, approved the "Meghalaya Mental Health and Social Care Policy" to address the issues of mental health and social care through collaborative engagement with communities.
- With this Meghalaya became the 3rd state in India to have a comprehensive mental health policy. (Kerala and Karnataka are the other 2 states with such policy).

## ECONOMY AND BANKING

### IFC lends USD 400 million to HDFC to boost green affordable housing finance

- International Finance Corporation (IFC), a member of the World Bank Group, provided a loan of USD 400 million to Housing Development Finance Corporation (HDFC) Limited to boost green affordable housing finance in India, which shall support India's shift towards a more sustainable growth path, creating jobs and ensuring long-term business growth.
- This new investment would help in bridging the urban housing gap and improve access to climate-smart affordable homes in India.

### IMF Projects 6.8 percent Growth in Current Fiscal for India

- On 23rd December 2022 the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in its Article IV consultation report projected a growth rate of 6.8 percent for India in the current fiscal year (FY23) and falling to 6.1 percent in the next fiscal year (FY24).
- The IMF also called for further structural reforms, including addressing the adverse impact of climate change and to secure strong and sustainable growth.

### NSE receives SEBI's in-principle approval to set up Social Stock Exchange as a Separate Segment

- Mumbai based National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) has received in-principle approval from the Securities Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to set up Social Stock Exchange (SSE) as a separate segment of the NSE.
- SSE was proposed in the Union Budget of 2019-20 to create a platform for listing social enterprises and voluntary organizations. This exchange will enable social enterprises to raise capital through equity or debt instruments.
- To enable fundraising through SSE for not-for-profit organizations (NPOs), the government

introduced 'zero coupon zero principal' under the Securities Contracts Regulations Act, 1956.

- This instrument can be publicly or privately issued by NPOs upon registering with SSE to raise funds. Currently, the minimum issue size is Rs 1 crore and minimum application size for subscription at Rs 2 lakh.
- In October 2022, BSE had received in-principle approval for setting up an SSE. Countries like Brazil, Portugal, South Africa, the United Kingdom (UK), Canada and Singapore already have established SSE.

### Tata Power Receives Rs. 450 Crore Credit Facility from Japan's MUFG Bank

- Tata Power Company Limited (Tata Power) has acquired a Rs. 450 crore "sustainable trade finance facility" from MUFG (Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group) Bank of Japan to fund two solar projects under TP Kirnali Limited (TPKL). The two solar power projects are:
  - A 100 MW (megawatt) renewable energy project in Parthur, Maharashtra.
  - A 120 MW green energy project in Mesanka, Gujarat
- TPKL, a clean energy platform founded in 2020 and a wholly owned subsidiary of Tata Power Renewable Energy Limited (TPREL), will carry out both projects. TPREL is a wholly owned subsidiary of Tata Power.

### NTPC Ltd & GE Power Sign MoU to Reduce Carbon Intensity from Coal-Based Power Plants

- NTPC Ltd. (formerly known as National Thermal Power Corporation Limited), India's largest power generating utility, and GE Power India Limited (GE Power), a listed entity of GE Steam Power in India, inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to explore the feasibility of reducing the carbon

footprint of NTPC's existing coal-fired power plants.

- The MoU represents the commitment of NTPC Ltd. to adopt cutting-edge power technology in an attempt to decarbonize India's power generation. This is a first-of-its-kind initiative toward decarbonizing India's coal sector.

### Reliance Jio Acquires 100 % Stake in Reliance Infratel for Rs 3,725 crore

- Reliance Project and Property Management Services (RPPMSL), a subsidiary of Reliance Jio has acquired 100% stake in Reliance Infratel Limited (RITL) for Rs 3,720 crore.
- The existing paid-up equity share capital of RITL has been cancelled. Upon such cancellation RPPMSL holds 100% equity share capital of RITL
- RITL was incorporated in India on April 16, 2001, and was a subsidiary of Anil Ambani's Reliance Communications.
- Apart from this, Reliance Strategic Business Ventures Limited (RSBVL), a wholly owned subsidiary of Reliance Industries Limited (RIL), acquired a 23.3 percent stake in Exyn Technologies Inc (Exyn) for a total consideration of USD 25 million.

### PhonePe Completes Separation from Walmart Owned, Flipkart

- On 23rd December 2022, Walmart owned e-commerce platform, Flipkart and PhonePe completed their separation and both entities will continue to operate under US-based retail giant Walmart.
- With this transaction, PhonePe becomes a fully India domiciled company.
- As part of this transaction, existing Flipkart Singapore and PhonePe Singapore shareholders, led by Walmart, have purchased shares directly in PhonePe India.
- Now, Walmart will remain the majority shareholder of both Flipkart and PhonePe. Both Flipkart and

PhonePe are Indian brands with a user base upwards of 400 million each.

- In 2022, PhonePe changed its domicile from Singapore to India. PhonePe was acquired by Flipkart Group in 2016.

#### About PhonePe

- Co-Founder & Chief Executive Officer (CEO) – Sameer Nigam, Headquarters – Mumbai.

### IFSCA introduced framework to boost distribution of capital market products from Gift City

- The International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) introduced a regulatory framework for Distribution of Capital Market Products and Services under IFSCA (Capital Market Intermediaries) Regulations, 2021 from international financial services centres (IFSCs).
- With this, distributors of capital market products can register with the IFSCA, and undertake global distribution from these IFSCs and offer their services to clients in various jurisdictions.

### IRDAI to Introduce 'Bima Vahaks' to Expand Insurance Force

- The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) will soon introduce "Bima Vahaks" in each Gram Panchayat in order to strengthen the insurance force in India.
- Rakesh Joshi, an IRDAI member, made the announcement during the Business Standard BFSI Insight Summit 2022 in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- A "Bima Vahak" will be assigned to each Gram Panchayat, to sell and service the 'Bima Vistar' line of basic parametric bundled insurance policies, which provide protection against health, property, life, and personal accident.

### Karnataka Bank goes live on ICEGATE

- Karnataka Bank has enabled its clients to pay customs duty online by going live on the Indian Customs Electronic Gateway (ICEGATE), the national gateway of Indian Customs of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs.

- All of Karnataka Bank's corporate and individual customers will be able to pay customs duty at their convenience because of the bank's integration on the ICEGATE platform. This digital initiative is dedicated to the clients under the KBL-Nxt Digital Transformation project of the bank.

### **Tata Projects Signs MoU with CSIR-IIP for Clean Energy Solutions**

- Tata Projects Limited signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-Indian Institute of Petroleum (CSIR-IIP), Dehradun, Uttarakhand, to jointly work towards clean energy solutions.
- This MoU is in line with the CSIR-IIP's mandate to reduce India's energy imports and enhance national self-reliance by repurposing waste and under-utilised local renewable carbon resources.
- The Tata Project will use clean energy solutions such as room temperature biodiesel produced from CSIR-IIP for some of its ongoing sites.

### **GAIL Signs Charter with Japan's Mitsui OSK for LNG Carrier**

- State-owned Gail (India) Limited and Japanese transport firm Mitsui OSK Lines (MOL), signed a time charter contract through its wholly owned subsidiary, for a new-build Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) carrier, and also for joint ownership of an existing LNG carrier. The vessel will be built by South Korean shipbuilder Daewoo Shipbuilding & Marine Engineering with a charter period from 2023.
- This is the 2nd agreement for a LNG carrier signed between MOL and GAIL. The 1st carrier, under the agreement signed in 2019, ships LNG from the United States of America Gulf Coast to India.

### **RRVL to acquire Metro Cash & Carry India for Rs 2,850 crore**

- On 22nd December 2022, Reliance Retail Ventures Limited (RRVL), a subsidiary of Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL), signed definitive agreements to acquire a 100% equity stake in Metro Cash and Carry India Pvt Ltd (Metro India), the Indian arm of

the German Retailer Metro AG, for a cash consideration of Rs 2,850 crore.

- The transaction is scheduled to close by March 2023, subject to a few regulatory requirements and other usual closing conditions.
- RRVL will get access to METRO India's network of stores in prime locations across cities like Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Amritsar, Ahmedabad, Surat, Indore, Meerut, Lucknow, Nasik, Visakhapatnam, Guntur, Vijayawada, Tumakuru, Ghaziabad, and Hubballi.
- METRO AG started operations in India in 2003 as the first company to introduce cash-and-carry business format in India.

### **E2S Power signs agreement with IPCL for a 250 KWh pilot thermal energy storage unit**

- Framework Agreement b/w: ReNew Power Private Limited (ReNew Power), a subsidiary of ReNew Energy Global Plc ("ReNew"), one of the world's leading renewable energy firms, with the Government of Egypt.
- Switzerland-based E2S Power, a leading developer of thermal energy storage solutions, and India Power Corporation Limited (IPCL), one of the leading power utilities in India, have signed an agreement for a 250 kilowatt-hour (kWh) pilot thermal energy storage unit to be operated in India.
- The Pilot unit was engineered, built, and tested at the E2S Power facility in less than 9 months.
- The pilot thermal energy storage unit passed the Factory Acceptance Tests and is to be delivered in the 1st quarter of 2023. This is the 1st step to implementing the E2S solution globally.

### **RBL Bank & BUSINESSNEXT wins IBSi Global FinTech Innovation Award 2022**

- RBL Bank (formerly known as Ratnakar Bank), one of India's leading private sector banks, along with BUSINESSNEXT won IBS Intelligence (IBSi) Global FinTech Innovation Awards 2022 for Most Impactful Project & Best Customer

Relationship Management (CRM) System Implementation.

- The IBSi Global FinTech Innovation Awards identifies and honours technology companies and banks for their outstanding work in implementing and innovating financial technology using emerging technologies.

### **Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman Chairs 48th Meeting of the GST Council**

- The 48th Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council Meeting was conducted virtually on December 17, 2022, in New Delhi, Delhi, and was presided over by Union Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Ministry of Finance (MoF).

#### **Highlights of The 48th GST Council Meeting**

##### **Rate Revisions**

- The council has clarified the applicability of a 22 % cess on Sport Utility Vehicles (SUVs) provided four requirements are fulfilled.
- The GST on pulse husks has been decreased from 5% to NIL.
- The GST on Ethyl alcohol supplied to refineries for blending with motor spirit (petrol) was decreased from 18% to 5%.
- Since the Group of Ministers (GoM) report on GST on online gaming and casinos was recently submitted, the issue was not discussed. The GoM is chaired by Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad Sangma.

##### **Measures for Facilitation of Trade**

- In accordance with Section 132 of the Central Goods and Services Tax (CGST) Act of 2017, the GST Council suggested decriminalizing a number of offences.
- The GST law established strict penalties and guidelines that taxpayers must follow in order to ensure smooth intrastate or interstate trade of products, eliminate corruption, and maintain an effective tax collection system.

- The GST Law provides for two different types of penalties, which may be both concurrent and simultaneous.
- For violations of statutory provisions, the department authorities have the authority to levy monetary fines and seize goods.
- The CGST Act of 2017 has provisions pertaining to penalties in Sections 122 to 131 and to prosecution and compounding in Sections 132 to 138.
- The length of the prison sentence is determined by the amount of tax evaded, the amount of Input Tax Credit (ITC) improperly claimed or utilised, or the amount of refund improperly claimed.
- The recommendations for facilitating trade include lowering the compounding amount for GST and raising the threshold for tax amounts subject to prosecution to Rs. 2 crore.
- Two major recommendations include refunding unregistered persons and facilitating e-commerce for micro enterprises.

### **Nitin Gadkari launches First-ever 'Surety Bond Insurance' for Infrastructure Projects**

- Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari launched India's first-ever 'Surety Bond Insurance' product from Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Company to reduce the dependence of infrastructure developers on bank guarantees.
- The product was introduced in response to the demand identified by the Infrastructure sector and the Government of India (GoI).
- It shall be used as a substitute to bank guarantees.
- This product launch is in line with the GoI's vision to up-scale the infrastructure development in India, to increase the pace of development of upcoming projects.
- The Surety Bond Insurance is a risk transfer tool for the principal (contract awarding authority) and shields them from the losses that may arise, when the contractor fails to perform their contractual obligation.



## Paytm & HDFC ERGO Collaborates to Launch 'Paytm Payment Protect' Insurance Plan

- One97 Communications Limited (OCL), that owns the brand Paytm, in association with HDFC ERGO General Insurance Company Limited launched 'Paytm Payment Protect', a group insurance plan, to insure transactions made through Unified Payment Interface (UPI) across all apps and wallets.
- The first-of-its-kind offering comes at a cost as low as Rs. 30 per annum. With this collaboration, users can now secure themselves against mobile fraudulent transactions up to Rs. 10,000. The policy has been designed to protect customers and drive the adoption of mobile payments.

## SBI Continues to lead in Debit Cards, While HDFC Bank leads in Credit Cards

- SoftBank Group Corp sold 4.5% stake in Paytm's parent One97 Communications for USD 215 million (Rs 1,631 crore) through an open market transaction.
- According to I-Lattice (previously PGA Labs) data, State Bank of India (SBI), India's largest public sector bank, and HDFC Bank, India's largest private sector bank, continued to lead the debit card and credit card markets, respectively.
- With a de-growth of 4%, SBI continues to hold the top position in the Debit Card Segment with a whopping 30% share.
- HDFC Bank, India's largest private sector bank, continued to lead the credit Card Segment, with 21% share, registering a growth of 9%. It also recorded the most growth in the debit card segment.

## IDFC First Bank introduces zero-fee banking on savings accounts

- On 18th December 2022, On the occasion of its foundation day, IDFC First Bank has introduced zero-fee banking for savings accounts, as it waives off charges for a range of 25 frequently used customer-focused banking services that are connected to savings accounts.

- The services include cash deposits, withdrawals, demand drafts, Immediate Payment Service (IMSP), SMS alerts, third-party cash transactions, demand drafts, National Electronic Funds Transfer (NEFT), Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS), cheque books, interest certificates, insufficient balance for ATM transactions and international ATM usage.

## Indian Bank launches Special Fixed Deposit of 555 Days with returns Up to 7.15%

- Indian Bank, a public sector lender, has announced a new Special Retail Term Deposit Product, "IND SHAKTI 555 DAYS," effective December 19, 2022.
- The minimum amount for the "IND SHAKTI 555 DAYS" product is Rs. 5000, and it has a 555-day term with an interest rate of 7.00% for the general public and 7.15% for senior citizens.
- The Indian Bank has also revised its interest rates on fixed deposits (FDs) of less than Rs. 2 crore for 555 days in the form of FDs or Money multiplier deposits (MMDs) with callable options., effective December 19, 2022

## LIC Raises Stake in IRCTC to Over 7%, Buys 1.81 Crore Shares

- India's largest insurer Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC India) has hiked its shareholding in the e-ticket booking platform Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC).
- According to the most recent report made to the stock markets National Stock Exchange (NSE) and BSE, LIC has added 1,81,80,323 equity shares of IRCTC, raising its total holdings in the state-owned firm to 5,82,22,948 shares, up from 4,00,42,625 earlier.
- LIC increased its ownership stake in IRCTC from 5.005% to 7.278% by purchasing approximately 1.8 crore equity shares. On 19th December 2022, LIC shares increased 7.7%, ending the session 6.69% higher at Rs 734.6 per share, while IRCTC shares increased 0.69% to Rs 676.8 apiece.

## HDFC Securities Launches Google Search-Driven Education Platform – Roots

- HDFC Securities Limited, a stock brokerage firm, has launched “Roots”, a dedicated search-driven Education platform that provides comprehensive investor education and market analysis.
- The Unique Selling Point (USP) of the platform is that it produces content which is being searched on Google by current and prospective investors and traders.

## ESIC to Invest Up to 15% of Surplus Funds in Stock Market through ETFs

- Employees’ State Insurance Corporation (ESIC), a Government of India (GoI) social security body, has approved a proposal to invest up to 15% of its surplus funds in the stock market via Exchange-Traded Funds (ETFs).
- The decision was made at the 189th meeting of ESIC, which was chaired by Union Minister Bhupender Yadav, Ministry of Labour & Employment (MoLE). ESIC gave its approval due to the relatively poor returns on debt instruments as well as the necessity for diversification.
- The investment will begin with 5% of surplus funds and will be increased to 15% based on a review of the investment after two quarters.
- The investment will be confined to ETFs on the Nifty and Sensex and will be administered by fund managers at Asset Management Companies (AMCs).
- ESIC has a surplus of over Rs. 65,000 crore, which grows annually by over Rs. 8000-9000 crore.

## IREDA signs Rs 4444.71 cr loan agreement with SGEL for 1000 MW solar project

- On 15th December 2022, Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) Limited signed a loan agreement worth Rs. 4,444.71 crore with SJVN Green Energy Limited (SGEL), a subsidiary of SJVN Limited (formerly Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam

Ltd) for 1,000 MegaWatt (MW) Solar power project at Bikaner, Rajasthan.

- The loan agreement was signed by S.L. Sharma, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of SGEL and Pradipta Kumar Roy, Deputy General Manager (DGM) of IREDA in the presence of Pradip Kumar Das, Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of IREDA and Nand Lal Sharma, CMD of SJVN.

## Reliance group launches FMCG brand ‘Independence’ in Gujarat

- On 15th December 2022, Reliance Consumer Products, a subsidiary of Reliance Retail Ventures Ltd (RRVL), launched its made-for-India Fast-Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) brand “Independence” in Gujarat.
- The company will provide a selection of goods under the “Independence” brand in a number of categories, including staples, processed foods, and other daily essentials.
- As it gets ready for the brand’s national rollout, it also intends to make Gujarat a “go-to-market” state by fostering excellence in execution for its FMCG sector.

## IEX becomes India’s First Carbon-Neutral Power Exchange

- The Indian Energy Exchange (IEX) has become India’s first carbon-neutral Power Exchange, using market based tradable instruments to offset its carbon emissions.
- As the sustainability partner of IEX, EKI Energy provided advisory & consultancy services in this climate action exercise. EKI Energy is a global service provider in Energy, Carbon Credit & Quality Management.

## Indian Government allows Sri Lankans to hold USD 10,000 worth of Indian Rupees in cash

- The Indian Government has allowed Sri Lankan citizens to hold up to USD 10,000 (8.14 lakh Indian rupees) in Indian rupees in cash, though the Indian Rupees would not be legal tender in Sri Lanka.

- To enable this, Sri Lankan banks must enter into an agreement with an Indian bank to open INR Nostro accounts held in another bank in a foreign currency.
- This will provide much-needed monetary support to Sri Lanka, which is experiencing an economic crisis due to a lack of dollar liquidity.
- All current account transactions including exports, imports, and remittances can be undertaken between Lankan residents and non-residents.
- Sri Lankan banks' Offshore Banking Units (OBU) have been granted permission to accept non-resident savings, time, and demand deposits.

### WPI drops to 21-month low of 5.85% in November 2022

- As per the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) based inflation declined to a 21-month low of 5.85% in November 2022 due to easing prices of food, fuel and manufactured items.
- It declined to 8.39% in October 2022. The inflation was 14.87% in November 2021.
- The reason behind this is fall in prices of food articles, basic metals, textiles, chemicals & chemical products and paper & paper products as compared to November 2021.

### ADB trims Economic Growth Forecast for Developing Asia to 4.2% in 2022; retains India FY23 GDP growth at 7%

- According to the Asian Development Bank (ADB)'s 'Asian Development Outlook (ADO) Supplement, December 2022- Global Gloom Dims Asian Prospects', the Growth forecasts for Asia have been revised down from 4.3%(forecasted in September 2022) to 4.2% for 2022 and from 4.9% to 4.6% for 2023.
- The growth forecast of India for the FY2022 is retained at 7 % and the growth projection for FY2023 is unchanged at 7.2%
- India's inflation rates are forecasted at 6.7% in 2022 and 5.8% in 2023.

- ADB lowered its forecast for inflation in the developing Asia and the Pacific to 4.4% from 4.5% in 2022.
- For 2023, it will be at 4.2% from 4% due to inflationary pressures from energy and food.

### CBDT exempts NR taxpayers from mandatory Form 10F e-filing till March 31, 2023

- The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has exempted the Non-Resident (NR) taxpayers from mandatory electronic filing of Form 10F until March 31, 2023. This will be applicable to those NR taxpayers who are not having a Permanent Account Number (PAN) and not required to have a PAN as per relevant provisions of the Income-tax Act, 1961 read with Income-tax Rules, 1962.
- These taxpayers can file Form 10F till March 31, 2023 in manual form.

### HDFC Bank Partners with Startup India to launch sixth parivartan smartup grants

- HDFC Bank in partnership with the Government of India (GoI)'s flagship initiative 'Startup India', launched the 6th 'Parivartan SmartUp Grants', the annual grants program for social startups.
- This program aims to identify startups that are working towards social impact and to support them through monetary grants to their incubators.
- The grants have been offered under the aegis of Parivartan, the umbrella name for the HDFC Bank's social initiatives.

### Dalmia Cement to acquire cement assets of Jaypee Group for Rs 5,666 crore

- Jaypee Group have signed a binding agreement to sell its cement business to Dalmia Cement Bharat Limited (DCBL), wholly owned subsidiary of Dalmia Bharat Limited at an enterprise value of Rs.5666 crore. The divestment includes cement plants with an aggregate capacity of 9.4 million tonne (MnT), clinker assets with a capacity of 6.7

million tonne and 280 MW capacity thermal power plant.

- The agreement was signed by Jaiprakash Associates Ltd (JAL) and Jaiprakash Power Ventures.
- This is the second asset sale deal clinched by debt-laden Jaiprakash Associates with the Dalmia Group.
- Between 2014 and 2017, Jaiprakash Associates divested cement assets of more than 20 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) capacity to UltraTech Cement.

### **PNB HFC launched Home Loan Scheme Roshni for Tier 1 & Tier 2 cities**

- The PNB Housing Finance Limited (PNB Housing), a Housing Finance Company (HFC) introduced a low-cost home loan programme namely 'Roshni' enabling individuals from Tier 1 & Tier 2 cities to apply for loan ranging from Rs 5 lakh to Rs 30 lakh.
- Through this scheme PNB HFC is committed towards the 'Housing for All' mission of the Central Government. Loan applicants eligible for this are first-time credit borrowers, self-employed without a professional role and salaried from a low-income group with a family income as low as Rs. 10,000 to middle-income group category.

### **ADB approves USD 250 mn policy-based loan to Strengthen Logistics Sector in India**

- On December 8, 2022, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved a USD 250 million policy-based loan to strengthen the Logistics Sector in India. This funding will support the Indian Government's reforms to strengthen and modernize its logistics infrastructure, improve efficiency, reduce Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emission, and lowering cost in the logistics sector.
- The loan will finance the first subprogram of the Strengthening Multimodal and Integrated Logistics Ecosystem (SMILE), which supports the Indian government's efforts to create a comprehensive policy, planning, and institutional framework at the

federal, state, and city levels for multimodal logistics projects (MMLPs).

### **Nomura: India's GDP Expected to grow At 5.1% In FY24**

- According to Nomura, a global financial services firm, India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth could drop to 5.1 % in fiscal year 2023-24 (FY24), forcing the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to decrease the key repo rate by 75 basis points (bps) in the second half (H2) of 2023.

### **StocX.in Launches India's First Private Market Index to Monitor Values**

- StocX.in, an internet unlisted securities portal, has launched StocX Private Market Index (SPMI), India's first private market index by utilising 'Change Percentage' technique, to monitor the value actions of privately traded securities, those that are traded within the unlisted market. The index is computed utilising 1000 as the bottom worth as on 1st January 2022.

### **GoI Invests Over Rs 5,000 Crore More in 'SWAMIH Investment Fund I' To Help Homebuyers**

- The "SWAMIH Investment Fund I," which invests in distressed residential projects and is backed by SBICAP Ventures Limited (SVL), has received approximately Rs 5,000 crore investment from the Government of India (GoI), bringing the fund's ultimate value to Rs 15,530 crore. This is among the largest capital raised by any fund in India in recent years.
- The "SWAMIH Investment Fund I" was established under the Special Window for Affordable and Mid-Income Housing (SWAMIH).
- This fund intends to infuse capital into stressed projects in order to assist home buyers across India in receiving delivery of their stuck apartments.
- When the GoI pledged a capital infusion of up to Rs 5,000 crore three years ago on December 6, 2019, the fund received a commitment of Rs 10,037.5 crore.

## SIDBI & Saudi Arabia's Monsha'at signs MoU to develop MSMEs

- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) and Small and Medium Enterprises General Authority of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (also known as Monsha'at) to develop Micro, Small and Medium enterprises (MSMEs) and their ecosystem, in both the countries.

## IDFC First Bank & NASSCOM COE Partners to Promote Startup Ecosystem

- On 7th December 2022, the IDFC First Bank and National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM) Centre of Excellence (CoE) partnered to grow the innovation ecosystem and guide startups through a range of banking solutions.
- IDFC First Bank and NASSCOM COE signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for appointing the IDFC First bank as a preferred banking partner for startups, at an event held in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- Through the partnership, the Bank will offer its products and solutions for startups, including zero balance startup current account, working capital solutions for pre-profit startups, and also business credit cards

## ADB Approves USD 300 million loan to improve road and regional trade in India

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved a USD 300 million loan to upgrade more than 300 kilometres of state highways and major district roads in Assam, including six road sections in the state's western, central, and southern regions.
- The project will expand state highways and major district roads from single lane to two lanes and introduce new disaster and climate resilient structures. It will also establish pedestrian and public transport facilities, elevate highways in flood-prone areas and also include landslide prevention structures in hilly and mountainous areas.

## ADB and IIFL Home Finance Ltd organised 'Kutumb' Event in Delhi

- Asian Development Bank (ADB) and India Infoline Limited- Home Finance Ltd. (IIFL HFL) organised 'Kutumb' event in Delhi discussing scope around green affordable housing in India. The 'Kutumb' was launched on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2022 with an event titled 'Green Affordable Housing Ecosystem' in Delhi.
- Kutumb actively collaborates and consults with developers, architects, and rating agencies to promote green, sustainable, future-ready, and affordable housing. The event focuses on mainstreaming green and affordable housing in India.

## World Bank upgrades India's GDP Growth Forecast for FY23 to 6.9%; Fitch retains it at 7%

- The World Bank (WB) in its latest 'India Development Update- Navigating the Storm' raised its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth forecast for India during FY23 to 6.9% from 6.5% in its October 2022 update.
- WB declined India's FY23 forecast to 6.5% from 7.5% amid Russia-Ukraine War, rising global interest rates and high inflation.
- This is the first upgrade of India's growth forecast by any international agency amid the global turmoil.
- However, India's real GDP growth at constant market prices will be slower at 6.6% in the FY2023-24 as compared to 7% projected earlier.
- India's real GDP growth at constant factor prices will be 4% in FY2023-24. Notably, India needs to grow at the rate of 8% and above to achieve its aim to become a developed country by 2047.
- The Fitch Rating retained India's growth forecast to 7% in FY23 amid stronger-than-expected outturn in its December edition of the Global Economic Outlook 2022.
- However, it will slow to 6.2% in 2023-24 and 6.9% in 2024-25. The Fitch estimated global growth

expected to slip to just 1.4% in 2023 from its earlier projection of 1.7 percent in September 2022.

### **NSE Indices Launches New Index – Nifty Bharat Bond Index – April 2023**

- NSE Indices Limited (formerly known as India Index Services & Products Limited), a subsidiary of the National Stock Exchange of India Limited (NSE), has launched a new index – Nifty BHARAT Bond Index – April 2023, under the Nifty Bharat Bond Index within the Nifty Bharat Bond Index series.
- New tranche of the Bharat Bond ETF, India's first corporate bond exchange traded fund (ETF) has been launched for New Fund Offer (NFO) of the ETF, which will open from 2nd December 2022 to 8th December 2022.
- This new Bharat Bond ETF and Bharat Bond Fund of Fund (FOF) series will mature on 18th April 2023.
- The Bharat Bond Index series follows a target maturity date structure wherein each index in the series measures the performance of a portfolio of 'AAA' rated bonds issued by the government owned entities maturing in a specific year.

### **S&P Global Lowers India's Growth Forecast; Pegs It at 6% for 2023**

- S&P Global Ratings reduced India's real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth for the following two fiscal years by 0.5 percentage points, citing a downturn in global demand, in its report "Global Credit Outlook 2023: No Easy Way Out". GDP is expected to be 7% and 6% in fiscal years 2022 and 2023, respectively.
- S&P Global Ratings has calculated the fiscal years as: 2022 = Financial year (FY) 2022 / 23 and 2023 = FY 2023 / 24.
- S&P Global Ratings has reduced India's 2022 economic growth projection to 7%, but claims the domestic demand-led economy will be less affected by the global slowdown.

### **NPCI extends deadline to levy 30% Cap on Digital Payment Transactions till Dec 31, 2024**

- The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has extended the deadline for limiting volume cap to 30% for Third Party Payment Application Providers (TPAP) in Unified Payments Interface (UPI) by two years till December 31, 2024.
- This extension will provide relief to the UPI players like Google Pay and PhonePe, which account for a market share of about 80%. At present, there is no volume cap. The cap will avoid concentration risk, and protect the UPI ecosystem.

### **Canara Bank wins Banker's Bank of the Year Award 2022 for India at Global Banking Summit**

- Canara Bank received the Banker's Bank of the Year Award 2022 for the India segment (Under Asia Pacific Region) at the Global Banking Summit, held in London, United Kingdom (UK) from 29th November 2022 to 1<sup>st</sup> December 2022.
- The bank has been adjudged as the 'Best Bank in India for 2022'. The award was received by the Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Canara Bank, L V Prabhakar.

### **BoB's Launches Foreign Currency Loan against INR Deposits**

- Bank of Baroda (BoB) has launched Foreign Currency Loan against INR Deposits of Indian Companies for their Overseas Subsidiaries/Joint Ventures (VS) in Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City) branch in Gandhinagar, Gujarat. It provides an alternative facility for the Indian companies to raise funds for their international businesses. BoB is the first bank to offer this facility at GIFT City.
- Under the new loan scheme, BoB's International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) Banking Unit (IBU) in GIFT City will provide financial support to Overseas Subsidiaries/JVs of Indian corporates by leveraging their INR deposits.

## ICICI Bank launches STACK for Companies in Real Estate Sector

- On 1st December 2022, ICICI Bank Limited launched a STACK for companies in the real estate sector to offer solutions to their banking requirements on one platform.
- ICICI Bank is the first bank in the industry to offer real estate specific STACK to provide unparalleled convenience to the companies in the real estate sector.
- The STACK is a combination of digital and physical solutions that enables participants of the real estate sector including builders, Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) and Alternate Investment Funds (AIFs) to undertake banking transactions efficiently.

## IIFL Mutual Fund Launches India's First Passive Tax-Saver Fund – IN50

- IIFL Mutual Fund has launched India's first passive tax saver fund, IIFL Equity-Linked Savings Scheme (ELSS) Nifty 50 Tax Saver Index Fund (IN50), which will be on sale through New Fund Offering (NFO).
- Parijat Garg is the dedicated Fund Manager for the IIFL ELSS Nifty 50 Tax Saver Index Fund. The scheme was launched after the capital market regulator, Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), allowed fund houses to launch passive funds in May 2022.

## BookMyForex launches "Interbank Rate Forex Card", India's first true Zero Markup Travel Card

- Online foreign exchange marketplace BookMyForex.com launched Interbank Rate Multi-Currency Forex Card which is India's first true zero markup travel card. It is co-branded multi-currency card developed in association with Yes Bank, and M2P Fintech. It is powered by Visa.
- BookMyForex.com, a MakeMyTrip Group Company is India's very first tech initiative in the foreign exchange domain and the market leader in the online retail forex space.

## Tata Play becomes 1st firm to file confidential DRHP with SEBI for IPO

- Tata Play (formerly Tata Sky), has become the 1st company to file a confidential Draft Red Herring Prospectus (DRHP) with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) for its Initial Public Offering (IPO).
- It will be the Tata group's 1st IPO in 2 decades. The group last entered the primary market through TCS in 2004.
- On 29th November 2022, Tata group filed DRHP with SEBI, BSE (formerly Bombay Stock Exchange) and National Stock Exchange of India Ltd (NSE). On November 29, the direct-to-home (DTH) platform confidentially submitted the DRHP with the SEBI.

## India & South Korea Signs Agreement for EDCF Loan worth 1500 Crore

- On 30th November 2022 India and South Korea signed an agreement for an Economic Development Cooperation Fund (EDCF) loan of Korean Won 245.081 billion (approx. Rs. 1,495.68 crores) for the establishment of an Intelligent Transport System on the Nagpur-Mumbai Super Communication Expressway Project with a goal to improve traffic management efficiency.
- This is the first project that is funded by an EDCF loan by the Government of the Republic of Korea.

## Germany Announces 1 billion EURO for Energy Transition Projects in India

- On 30th November 2022 Germany launched a proposal to grant 1 billion EURO (8440 crore) for energy transition projects across India under a bilateral partnership for green and sustainable development volume cap. The cap will avoid concentration risk, and protect the UPI ecosystem.
- The announcement was made ahead of German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock's visit to India in December 2022.

## India's Economic Growth slows to 6.3% in Q2FY23: NSO Data

- On November 30, 2022, the National Statistical Office (NSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, (MoSPI) released the Estimates of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for the Second Quarter (July- September) 2022-23 or Q2FY23.
- As per it, India's gross domestic product (GDP) for the Q2FY23 slowed to 6.3% as compared to the expansion of 8.4% in Q2FY22. It was 13.5% in the April-June quarter of FY23 (Q1FY23).
- However, Indian economy is on track to achieve a 8-7% GDP growth in FY23.
- Real GDP or GDP at Constant (2011-12) Prices in Q2FY23 is estimated at Rs 38.17 lakh crore, as against Rs 35.89 lakh crore in Q2FY22.
- Nominal GDP or GDP at Current Prices in Q2FY23 is estimated at Rs 65.31 lakh crore, as against Rs 56.20 lakh crore in Q2FY22.
- This shows a growth of 16.2% in Q2FY23 as compared to 19% in Q2FY22.
- Real GDP in April-September FY23 (H1FY23) is estimated at Rs 75.02 lakh crore as against Rs 68.36 lakh crores during H1FY22.
- This shows a growth of 9.7% in H1FY23 as against 13.7% in H1FY22.
- Nominal GDP in H1FY23 is estimated at Rs 130.26 lakh crore as against Rs 107.47 lakh crores in H1FY22.
- This shows a growth of 21.2% in H1FY23 as against 25% in H1FY22.
- The GVA at basic price at constant terms during the Q2FY23 increased by 5.6% as compared to 8.3% in Q2FY22.
- It stood at Rs 3,505,599 crore in Q2FY23 as compared to Rs 3,319,248 crore in Q2FY22.
- The GVA at basic price at current prices rose 16.2% in Q2 2022-23 as compared to the growth of 17.9% in Q2FY22.
- It stood at Rs 5,859,890 crore in Q2FY23 as compared to Rs 5,043,357 crore in Q2FY22.

## India Extends Financial Assistance worth USD 100 million to Maldives

- India has provided financial assistance of USD 100 million in the form of Budgetary support to the Maldives government to ease its difficult economic challenges.
- A symbolic cheque was handed over by the High Commissioner of India, Munu Mahawar to the Maldives' Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdulla Shahid during the ceremony held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Maldives.
- The financial support of USD 100 million to the Maldives government will be provided through subscription in Maldives' Government Domestic Treasury bonds by SBI, Malé, Maldives.

## YES Bank Partners with Turtlefin to Launch First Comprehensive Technology Platform, 'EasyNsure'

- YES BANK partnered with TurtleFin, India's leading insurtech platform, to launch 'EasyNsure', a first-of- its-kind comprehensive technology platform, that will bring multiple insurance partners onto a common platform.
- This technology platform will allow business tracking across bank hierarchy, simplifying revenue reconciliation.

## SBM Bank & OPEN partners to launch Asia's first end-to-end Embedded Finance Platform 'Zwitch'

- On 30th November 2022, SBM Bank India partnered with Open Financial Technologies Private Limited announced a strategic partnership to launch Asia's first end-to-end Embedded Finance platform, 'Zwitch'.
- Zwitch will offer a no-code, low-code and full-stack Application Programming Interface (API) solution that enables fintechs to build their own financial products using Zwitch's technology stack, which comprises drag-drop dashboard, low-code plugins along with 300+ APIs. Zwitch is built and operated by OPEN Financial Technologies Private Limited.



## Tata group & Singapore Airlines agrees to merge Air India and Vistara

- On 29th November 2022, Singapore Airlines (SIA) and Tata Sons (Tata) agreed to merge Air India and Vistara, with SIA also investing Rs 20,585 million (SD 360 million, USD 250 million) in Air India as part of the transaction.
- As a result, SIA would hold a 25.1% share in an enlarged Air India group that would have a significant presence in all important market segments. SIA and Tata aim to complete the merger by March 2024.
- SIA intends to fully fund this investment with its internal cash resources, which amounted to SD17.5 billion as of September 30, 2022.

## SBI board approves Infrastructure Bonds worth Rs 10,000 crore

- State Bank of India (SBI), India's largest lender, approved raising Rs 10,000 crore through infrastructure bonds during the financial year 2023 (FY23) including a greenshoe option of Rs 5,000 crore.
- According to Dinesh Kumar Khara, chairman of SBI, despite higher loan growth, the lender is expected to maintain its asset quality.
- Gross non-performing assets (NPA) for SBI decreased to 3.52% in the July-September quarter from 3.91% in Q1FY23 and 4.92% in Q2FY22.
- Similarly, net NPA has dropped to 0.8% in September 2022 quarter from 1% in June 2022 quarter and 1.52% in September 2021 quarter.
- Additionally, from July to September 2022, the bank saw a 19.93% year-over-year increase in credit.

## NDTV Promoter Firm Transfers 99.5% stake to Adani-owned VCPL

- On 28th November 2022, News broadcaster New Delhi Television Ltd's (NDTV's) promoter firm RRPR Holding, transferred shares constituting 99.5% of its equity capital to Adani group-owned Vishvapradhan Commercial (VCPL).

- The transaction was done on 28th November 2022, in consonance with a conversion notice, dated August 23, 2022, issued by VCPL. It follows the expiry of the 2-year restraint imposed by the Securities & Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on November 26.
- The transfer of shares will give the Adani group control over a 29.18% stake in NDTV.
- The offer of Rs 294 per share will close on December 5. NDTV shares were locked in at a cap of 5% and closed at Rs 406.10 per share on the BSE.

## Tata Consumer Products Ltd to acquire Bisleri for Rs 7,000 crore

- Canara Bank received the Banker's Bank of the Year Award 2022 for the India segment (Under Asia Pacific Region) at the Global Banking Summit, held in London, United Kingdom (UK) from 29th November 2022 to 1<sup>st</sup> December 2022.
- Tata Consumer Products Ltd (TCPL) is set to acquire Bisleri, India's largest packaged drinking water company for an estimated Rs 6,000-7,000 crore. The current management of Bisleri will continue for 2 years as part of the deal. The management team is led by a professional team headed by CEO Angelo George.
- Jayantilal Chauhan of Parle Group acquired Bisleri, which was originally an Italian brand, in 1969.

## Interest subvention on KCC Crop Loan to continue in FY23, FY24

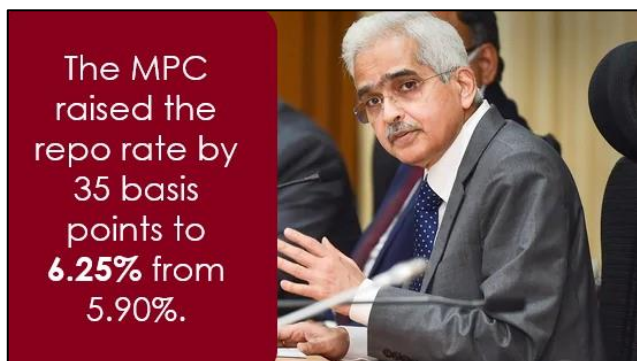
- On November 23, 2022, Government of India approved the continuation of the Interest Subvention Scheme (ISS) with modification for FY 2022-23 and 2023-24.

### What are the modifications for FY23, FY24

- The applicable lending rate to farmers will be 7% and the rate of interest subvention to lending institutions will be 1.5%. The interest subvention will be calculated on the loan amount from the date of disbursement up to the date of actual repayment of the loan by the farmer or up to the due date of the loan fixed by the banks, whichever is earlier, subject to a maximum period of one year.

## RBI UPDATES

### RBI's Minutes of the Monetary Policy Committee Meeting, December 5-7, 2022: RBI raises Repo Rate by 35 bps to 6.25% from 5.90%



- The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) met on December 5-7, 2022, and released the Monetary Policy Statement, 2022-23 Resolution of the MPC which declined India's real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth to 6.8% for FY23 from 7% (projected in September 2022) with FY23's Q3 at 4.4%; and Q4 at 4.2%.
- Real GDP growth for Q1FY24 is projected at 7.1% and at 5.9% for Q2.

#### Policy Rates

- The MPC raised the repo rate by 35 basis points to 6.25% from 5.90%. Consequently, the Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) Rate adjusted to 6% and Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) rate and Bank Rate to 6.50%.

|                                       |       |
|---------------------------------------|-------|
| Policy Repo Rate                      | 6.25% |
| Reverse Repo Rate                     | 3.35% |
| Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) Rate  | 6%    |
| Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) Rate | 6.50% |
| Bank Rate                             | 6.50% |
| Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR)              | 4.50% |
| Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR)       | 18%   |

#### Inflation

- Inflation is projected at 6.7% in FY23, with Q3 at 6.6% and Q4 at 5.9%, and risks evenly balanced.

- CPI inflation for Q1FY24 is projected at 5% and for Q2 at 5.4%, on the assumption of a normal monsoon.
- Headline inflation is expected to remain above or close to the upper threshold in Q3FY23 and Q4FY23. It is likely to moderate in H1FY24 but will still remain well above the target.

#### Domestic Economy

- India's real GDP grew by 6.3% year-on-year (y-o-y) in Q2FY23 after an increase of 13.5% in Q1.
- In October 2022, CPI (Consumer Price Index) inflation moderated to 6.8% y-o-y from 7.4% in September 2022.
- Core CPI (i.e., CPI excluding food and fuel) inflation persisted at elevated levels at 6%.
- The overall liquidity remains in surplus, with average daily absorption under the Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF) at Rs 1.4 lakh crore during October-November 2022 as compared with Rs 2.2 lakh crore in August-September 2022.
- As on November 18, 2022, on a y-o-y basis, money supply (M3) expanded by 8.9% while bank credit rose by 17.2%.
- As on December 2, 2022, India's foreign exchange reserves were placed at US\$ 561.2 billion.
- Net Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) flows rose to US \$ 22.7 billion during April-October 2022 from US\$ 21.3 billion in April-October 2021.
- During April-November 2022, non-food bank credit rose by Rs 10.6 lakh crore as compared with an increase of Rs 1.9 lakh crore in 2021.
- During April-November 2022, the total flow of resources to the commercial sector expanded by Rs 14.7 lakh crore as compared with Rs 6.8 lakh crore in April-November 2021.
- Merchandise imports expanded by 10% in October 2022
- The agricultural sector remains resilient. As on December 2, 2022, the Rabi sowing area is 6.8% higher than the normal sown area

## RBI extended the dispensation of enhanced HTM limit of 23% to March 31, 2024

- MPC extended the dispensation of enhanced Held to Maturity (HTM) limit of 23% of deposits in respect of statutory liquidity ratio (SLR) securities up to March 31, 2024 in order to provide further flexibility to banks in managing their investment portfolios.
- This will enable banks to include SLR securities (Government Securities and State Development Loans) acquired between September 1, 2020 and March 31, 2024 in the enhanced HTM limit.
- The HTM limits would be restored from 23% to 19.5% in a phased manner starting from the quarter ending June 30, 2024.

## RBI introduced single-block-and-multiple-debits functionality in UPI

- RBI has enhanced the scope of Unified Payments Interface (UPI) by equipping it with single-block-and-multiple-debits functionality. It will be introduced by National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).
- This facility will enable a customer to create a payment mandate against a merchant by blocking funds in his/her bank account for specific purposes which can be debited, whenever needed. UPI is a popular retail payments system for Person to Person (P2P) and Person to Merchant (P2M) transactions.

## RBI allows resident entities to hedge gold price risks at IFSC

- RBI has given its nod to Indian residents to hedge their exposure to gold on recognized exchanges in the International Financial Services Centre (IFSC). Resident entities in India are currently not permitted to hedge their exposure to gold price risk in overseas markets.
- Now, this measure will benefit importers/exporters of gold such as jewellers and industries which use gold as an intermediate or raw material. The detailed instructions on the same will be issued separately by the central bank

## RBI launches 'Digital Rupee – Retail segment (e₹-R)' in Four Cities; Issues Rs 1.71cr

- On December 1, 2022, the Reserve bank of India (RBI) launched its pilot on retail digital currency/rupee called 'Digital Rupee – Retail segment (e₹-R)', a Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) which is an electronic form of sovereign currency.
- In this regard, RBI issued Rs 1.71 crore to four participating banks based on their indents.
- In the first phase, four banks including State Bank of India (SBI), ICICI Bank, YES Bank, and IDFC First Bank will take part. Four more banks viz. Bank of Baroda, Union Bank of India, HDFC Bank, and Kotak Mahindra Bank will join this pilot subsequently.

In the retail pilot of the digital rupee, 8 banks have been identified for phase-wise participation in four cities of Mumbai (Maharashtra), New Delhi (Delhi), Bengaluru (Karnataka), and Bhubaneswar (Odisha).

## RBI, Financial Services Agency of Japan exchange Letters of Cooperation

- A letters of cooperation was exchanged between the RBI and Financial Services Agency (FSA), Japan in the field of Central Counter Parties (CCPs) to improve mutual cooperation. Under this both entities agreed to hold a dialogue or exchange views about matters of common interest.

## RBI holds onboarding of Online Merchants by Paytm Payments Services

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has asked Paytm Payments Services Ltd's (PPSL), the wholly-owned subsidiary Paytm, to reapply for the authorization to provide payment aggregator (PA) services to online merchants. This means, PPSL has to resubmit the application within 120 calendar days for the PA services.
- In this regard, PPSL will not onboard new online merchants till the time approvals remain pending. However, PPSL can continue to do business with existing online merchants.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### ISRO to carry US instruments on board the forthcoming Chandrayaan-3 Mission

- Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) forthcoming Chandrayaan-3 mission will carry scientific instruments of the United States of America (USA). In the last 5-years, India has signed 4 cooperative agreements to collaborate on space exploration.
- Apart from the USA, India has also signed an agreement with Japan to conduct a feasibility study for a joint lunar polar exploration mission, while the United Kingdom (UK) has an agreement to conduct a feasibility study for collaboration in future space science missions.
- The Chandrayaan-2 mission also carried American scientific instruments.

### NASA Selects SpaceX to Provide Launch Services for Sentinel-6B Mission

- The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) of the United States (US) has granted Elon Musk's Space Exploration Technologies (SpaceX) of Hawthorne, California, US, a contract for launch services for the 'Sentinel-6B mission' worth approximately USD 94 million.
- The mission aims to continue global sea level observations for at least the next 10 years.
- It is a collaboration among NASA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the European Space Agency (ESA), and the European Organization for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites (EUMETSAT).

### NASA retires Mars InSight Lander After 4 year Mission

- On 21st December 2022, National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) formally retired its Mars InSight lander after more than 4 years of collecting unique science on Mars. The last time

InSight communicated with Earth was on 15th December 2022.

- InSight was the first robotic probe that was specially designed to study the interior of Mars, the red planet. NASA declared the mission over when InSight missed 2 consecutive communication sessions with the spacecraft orbiting Mars.
- InSight was launched from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California on 5th May 2018 and landed on Mars on 26th November 2018.

### Europe's Vega C rocket Fails After its Launch and Lost in Space

- On 21st December 2022, the Vega C, developed by the European Space Agency (ESA) and operated by Arianespace, carrying 2 satellites Pléiades Neo 5 and Pléiades Neo 6 for Airbus' Pléiades Neo Earth- imaging constellation was lost in space after its launch from the spaceport in Kourou, French Guiana.
- 115-foot-tall (35 meters) Vega C, a four-stage rocket, is a more powerful version of the Vega, which first flew in 2012.
- The first stage of the rocket P120C was burned successfully But the second stage, Zefiro 40, failed.

### Dharti Agro launched World's 1st GMS based Cowpea (Lobia) Hybrids

- Dharti Agro Chemicals Private Limited launches the world's 1st Genetic Male Sterility (GMS) based Cowpea (Lobia) Hybrids in the market and released 3 hybrids in cowpea: Bubbly, Sherly and Poorvaja.

#### Hybrids of Cowpea

- iFuture food insecurity will be further worsened by factors such as a rising human population, changing climates, the loss of arable land, decreasing production, and post-harvest losses.
- With the introduction of genetic male sterility by mutation breeding in Cowpeas and a highly effective cross-pollination mechanism, Dr Manoj S. Phalak laid the groundwork for hybrids in the crop.

## US-France satellite SWOT launched successfully to map world's Oceans, Rivers, Lakes

- The United States (US)-France satellite 'SWOT aka Surface Water and Ocean Topography' was launched aboard a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket from Vandenberg Space Force Base in California, US. It will map all of the world's oceans, lakes and rivers.
- This USD 1.2 billion project is developed by NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) in collaboration with the French Space Agency Centre National d'Études Spatiales (CNES) in partnership with the Canadian Space Agency (CSA) and the United Kingdom (UK) Space Agency.
- The SWOT mission lifetime is 3 years.

## US Air Force Successfully Launches First Operational Hypersonic Missile – AGM-183A

- The United States (US) Air Force successfully tested AGM-183A Air-launched Rapid Response Weapon (ARRW or Arrow), a hypersonic missile which represents a cutting edge, strategic weapons system developed by Russia and China.
- The AGM-183A Air-launched Rapid Response Weapon (ARRW), the first full prototype operational missile was launched from a B-52H bomber off California's coast. It is an air-to-ground hypersonic missile.
- The missile was designed by Lockheed Martin, based on the previous test vehicles built by DARPA that has a maximum speed of Mach 20 or 15,000 mph (24,000 kph).
- In 2021, China had carried out a test of a hypersonic missile and Russia has used hypersonic weapons during its war in Ukraine. North Korea has also conducted test flights.

## NASA's Hubble & Spitzer Space Telescopes Discover Two Exoplanets 218 Light Years Away

- Two exoplanets, Kepler-138c and Kepler-138d, were found by National Aeronautics and Space

Administration (NASA) scientists in a planetary system known as Kepler-138, 218 light-years from Earth in the constellation Lyra.

- The exoplanets Kepler-138c and Kepler-138d are most likely water worlds, which scientists have theorized and observed with Hubble and the retired Spitzer space telescopes.
- These two twin planets are unlike any other planets in our solar system and are discovered in the ocean worlds of Europa and Enceladus, moons orbiting Jupiter and Saturn.

## India successfully carries out Night Trials of nuclear-capable Agni-V Missile

- On December 15, 2022, India successfully conducted night trials of nuclear-capable intercontinental ballistic missile Agni V from APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the Odisha coast.
- This was the 9th flight of the Agni V as a part of routine test. It was first tested in 2012. It will be inducted into the Strategic Forces Command (SFC).
- Agni V is an ingeniously built advanced long-range surface-to-surface ballistic missile developed under the Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP). It is a fire-and-forget missile, which cannot be stopped without an interceptor missile.

## ISRO Successfully Tests 160-metre Trisonic Wind Tunnel at VSSC

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) conducted the maiden blow-down test of their 160m Trisonic Wind tunnel, the all-new wind tunnel, installed at the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC), Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.
- Trisonic Wind tunnel is a system to aid the aerodynamic design of rockets and re-entry spacecraft by characterising a scaled model by evaluating forces, moments, load distribution, unsteady pressures and acoustic levels.
- Indian space agency is working on a manned spaceflight programme, on a test vehicle Reusable Launch Vehicle-Technology Demonstrator (RLV-

TD) that can be launched like a rocket and land like a plane and also various heavy-lift rockets for future use.

### **NASA Astronauts successfully Install Roll-Out Solar Array on ISS**

- The two NASA astronauts, Josh Cassada and Frank Rubio have successfully installed a Roll-Out Solar Array (ROSA) on the starboard truss structure of the International Space Station (ISS).
- After being installed on the station's Starboard-4 truss segment, the roll-out solar array successfully extended to its full length of 60
- On 27th November 2022, the array was delivered by Space X's Dragon cargo plane and will provide up to 30% more power to the ISS, totalling 120,000 watts of electricity during orbital daytime.
- On December 3, 2022, they installed their 1st ROSA on the station's Starboard-4 truss segment opposite the P4 (Port 4).

### **G7 establish an international 'Climate Club' to fight global warming**

- The Group of Seven (G7) major economies have established an open, international 'Climate Club' for countries that want to work together to combat global warming.
- Germany has held the G-7 presidency since January 1, 2022, when it took over from the United Kingdom (UK), and it will be passed on to Japan in 2023.
- The G7 consists of Germany, France, the United Kingdom (UK), Italy, Japan, Canada and the United States (US). The European Union (EU) is also represented at all G7 meetings. In June 2022, Germany hosted the "G7 Summit 2022," the annual summit of the G7 heads of state and government, at Schloss Elmau in the Bavarian Alps.

### **SpaceX Launches Private Mission to Moon;**

- On 11th December 2022, Space Exploration Technologies Corp. (SpaceX) launched a mission to carry a Japanese lander named 'HAKUTO', the

United Arab Emirates (UAE)'s Rover named 'Rashid', and NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory's Lunar Flashlight by its Falcon 9 rocket from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station in Florida, United States.

### **NASA's Orion Completes First Flight Around Moon, Returns to Earth**

- NASA's unmanned Orion spacecraft completed its first mission of the Artemis I lunar programme on 11th December 2022, travelling around the moon and back 50 years to the day after the last Apollo moon landing.
- Artemis 1 Orion spacecraft was launched from Cape Canaveral, Florida's Kennedy Space Center atop
- NASA's massive Space Launch System (SLS), the organisation's largest rocket since the Saturn V of the Apollo period and now the most potent rocket in the world.

### **NCPCR developed & launched GHAR Portal for the Restoration and Repatriation of Children**

- The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has developed and launched a designated portal for the Restoration and Repatriation of children – GHAR – GO Home and Re-Unite. It has been developed to digitally monitor and track the restoration and repatriation of children according to the protocol.

### **IISc opens India's 1st Centre of Excellence for 3D bioprinting**

- On 9th December 2022, CELLINK, the global leader in developing 3D bioprinters and the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) inaugurated India's 1st 3D bioprinting Centre of Excellence (CoE) in the Centre for BioSystems Science and Engineering (BSSE) at IISc's Bengaluru campus, Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- The CoE was inaugurated by Dr Ashwath Narayan C N, Minister of Electronics, Information Technology-Biotechnology, Science and Technology, Government of Karnataka.

### 3 Himalayan medicinal plants are added to the IUCN Red List

- Following a recent assessment by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), 3 Himalayan medicinal plants, Meizotropis peltata commonly known as “Patwa”, Fritillaria cirrhosa known as “Yellow Himalayan fritillary”, Dactylorhiza hatagirea known as “Salampanja” are added to the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.
- The assessment was done by Harsh Kumar Chauhan, a member of the IUCN Species Survival Commission, Medicinal Plant Specialist Group.

#### Status of the 3 Himalayan medicinal plants

- Meizotropis peltata – Critically Endangered under criteria B1ab(ii,iii,v)+2ab(ii,iii,v).
- Fritillaria cirrhosa – Vulnerable under criteria A2cd.
- Dactylorhiza hatagirea – Endangered under criteria A2bd.

### ISRO, IN-SPACE signed MoU with Vyom Space to Develop Space Capsule

- On 6th November 2022, The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACE), signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) Gurugram,
- Haryana-based private space firm, Vyom Space Exploration and Services Private Limited (Vyom Space), to develop niche technology in the field of space, with a focus on a “human and cargo transportation capsule programme“.

### B-21 Raider: US unveils 6th generation Nuclear Bomber

- The United States (US) Airforce has unveiled its newest nuclear stealth bomber, the B-21 Raider, which is world’s first Sixth-Generation Aircraft. The technology behind this is developed and delivered by the Northrop Grumman.
- It will cost nearly \$700m (£569m) each and can carry nuclear and conventional weapons. It is named in honour of the Doolittle Raids of World War II when 80 men, led by Lt. Col. James Jimmy”

Doolittle, and 16 B-25 Mitchell medium bombers set off on a mission that changed the course of World War II.

- The designation B-21 recognizes the Raider as the first bomber of the 21st century. US Air Force plans to buy at least 100 B-21 Raider stealth bombers which will replace the B-1 and B-2 models.

### IIT Madras develops Sindhuja-I to Generate Electricity from Sea Waves

- The researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) have developed a device called Sindhuja-I or ‘Ocean Wave Energy Converter’, that can generate electricity from sea waves. Sindhuja means “created from the ocean” in Sanskrit. The device trials were completed during the second week of November 2022.
- Sindhuja-I was funded by the Australian Government’s Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade through the ‘Innovative Research Project’ of IIT Madras, TBI-KIET under the DST Nidhi-Prayas Scheme, and the Australian Alumni Grant Scheme 2022.

### NCPCR developed & launched GHAR Portal for the Restoration and Repatriation of Children

- The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has developed and launched a designated portal for the Restoration and Repatriation of children – GHAR – GO Home and Re-Unite. It has been developed to digitally monitor and track the restoration and repatriation of children according to the protocol.

### Rolls-Royce Successfully Tests World’s first Hydrogen-Powered Aircraft Engine

- Rolls-Royce PLC, the British manufacturer of aircraft engines, and its testing programme partner easyJet, has successfully tested the hydrogen-fueled aircraft engine, the world’s first modern aircraft engine for the aviation industry.

- The ground test of the converted Rolls-Royce AE 2100-A regional aircraft engine, which used green hydrogen created by wind and tidal power from the Orkney Islands in Scotland, took place at the government test facility at Boscombe Down, England.

### **ISRO successfully launches PSLV-C54 carrying 9 Satellites; includes EOS-06 & INS-2B**

- On November 26, 2022, the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) successfully launched the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV)-C54 rocket from First Launch Pad (FLP) Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh (AP).
- This is the 56th flight of PSLV, and the 24th Flight of the PSLV-XL version with 6 PSOM-XLs.
- It carried 9 satellites viz. India's Earth Observation Satellite -06 (EOS-06), also known as Oceansat-3, and the 8 nanosatellites viz. ISRO Nano Satellite-2 for Bhutan (INS-2B), Anand Satellite, 4 Astrocast satellites, and 2 Thybolt satellites.
- ISRO is planning to have its mission to the sun with its satellite Aditya-L1, a coronagraphy spacecraft to study the solar atmosphere, with a PSLV rocket in 2023

### **SpaceX Dragon Cargo Ship Docks at ISS to Deliver Solar Arrays & Other Experiments**

- On 27th November 2022 an unmanned SpaceX Dragon cargo spacecraft successfully docked to the International Space Station (ISS) to deliver more than 7,700 pounds of research, hardware, new solar wings, and fresh supplies.
- The SpaceX freighter launched atop a Falcon 9 rocket took off from NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida, USA.
- The spacecraft contains over 3.5 tonnes (7,700 pounds) of cargo, including food, supplies for scientific experiments and hardware.
- Dragon's current mission is called CRS-26, because it is the 26th robotic cargo flight that SpaceX is flying to the ISS for NASA.

### **19th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP19) held in Panama City – 14th -25<sup>th</sup> November 2022**

- The 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP19) to CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora), also known as the 19th World Wildlife Conference took place from 14 to 25 November 2022 in Panama Convention Center, Panama City, Panama.
- **Participants:** All 184 Parties to CITES have the right to participate in the CoP of CITES, also known as the World Wildlife Conference. They also have the right to put forward proposals for the Conference to consider, and to vote on all decisions.
- CoP19 of CITES is aimed at protecting various endangered Species by prohibiting the trade of these species.
- The Indian delegations led by Chandra Prakash Goyal, Director-General of Forests & Special Secretary (DGF&SS), Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change (MoEF&CC) negotiated and deliberated on all the listed issues related to trade and conservation of endangered fauna and flora in CoP 19 of CITES.

### **China Builds its First Moon Base Powered by Nuclear Energy by 2028**

- China plans to build its first base on the Moon by 2028, followed by landing astronauts on Moon in subsequent years, as it challenges National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)'s dominance in space exploration.
- China also aims to eventually expand the base into an international research station (ISS).
- This lunar base will be powered by nuclear energy with a basic configuration of a lander, hopper, orbiter and rover, which will be constructed by the Chang'e 6, 7 and 8 missions.
- In 2019, China became the 1st country to land a rover on the far side of the moon, and later brought back its first lunar samples.



## DEFENCE

### Indian Navy gets 5th Scorpene Class Submarine 'Vagir'

- On December 20, 2022, the fifth Scorpene-class conventional submarine, "Vagir" (S25), of "Project 75", Kalvari Class submarines, Yard 11879, was delivered to the Indian Navy by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- It will be commissioned into the Indian Navy in January 2023 as "Indian Naval Ship (INS) Vagir," a fully combat-worthy submarine capable of operation in all modes and deployment regimes.
- This would enhance the Indian Navy's combat capability at a time when China is strengthening its presence in the Indian Ocean region (IOR).

#### Project-75

- Six Scorpene-class submarines are to be built indigenously under Project-75. These submarines are being built at MDL Mumbai as a part of a USD 3.75 billion contract signed in October 2005 with the Naval Group of France.
- The first submarine, "INS Kalvari," was commissioned in December 2017, followed by 2<sup>nd</sup> submarine "INS Khanderi" in September 2019, 3<sup>rd</sup> submarine "INS Karanj" in March 2021, and 4<sup>th</sup> submarine "INS Vela" in November 2021.
- "Vagsheer," the 6th and last Scorpene-class submarine, was launched into the water in April 2022 and is scheduled to be delivered to the Indian Navy by the end of 2023.

### Defence ministry approves 24 Capital Procurement Proposals worth Rs 84,328 cr

- On December 22, 2022, the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) approved Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) for 24 Capital Acquisition Proposals worth Rs 84,328 crores during the DAC meeting chaired by Union Minister Rajnath Singh, Ministry of Defence.

- The proposals include 6 for Indian Army (IA), 6 for Indian Air Force (IAF), 10 for Indian Navy (IN) and 2 for Indian Coast Guard (ICG).
- Out of 24 proposals, 21 proposals worth Rs 82,127 crore (97.4%) will be procured from indigenous sources.

### 'INS Mormugao': Stealth Guided Missile Destroyer Commissioned into Indian Navy

- On December 18, 2022, the Indian Naval Ship (INS) Mormugao (D67), the second of four "Visakhapatnam"- class destroyers, also known as the "Project 15B" class of stealth guided-missile destroyers, was commissioned at Naval Dockyard, Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- The Naval Ensign was hoisted onboard for the first time at the commissioning ceremony, which was held in the presence of Union Minister Rajnath Singh, Ministry of Defence (MOD).
- The INS Mormugao is named after Mormugao, a historic port city in Goa on the west coast. It was built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL), a Mumbai-based company, and was indigenously designed by the Warship Design Bureau, an in-house organisation of the Indian Navy.
- The INS Mormugao is 163 metres long, 17 metres wide, can carry 7,400 tonnes, and has a crew of roughly 300 personnel.

### iDEX signs its 150th Innovation Contract with Altair Infrasec Pvt Ltd

- On December 21, 2022, Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX), an initiative of Department of Defence Production (DDP), signed an innovation contract with Altair Infrasec Pvt Ltd, Pune (Maharashtra). This was the 150th contract of iDEX.

## Indian Navy launches its first anti-submarine warfare ship “INS Arnala”

- The Indian Navy launched the Indian Naval Ship (INS) “Arnala,” the first of eight indigenously built Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC) [Yard 3029], at shipbuilding facility of Larsen & Toubro (L&T) in Kattupalli, Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
- It is built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Ltd. (GRSE), Kolkata, West Bengal. Significance: ‘INS Arnala’ (Yard 3029)
- The ship’s name, “Arnala,” honours the strategic maritime significance that Maratha warrior king Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj bestowed on the island of Arnala, which is situated about 13 kilometres north of Vasai, Maharashtra.
- The “Arnala” class of ships will replace the Indian Navy’s “Abhay” class ASW ships.

## India-Nepal joint Training Exercise Surya Kiran XVI begins at Saljhandi, Nepal

- On 16th December 2022, the 16th Edition of Indo-Nepal joint training Exercise ‘Surya Kiran-XVI’ between India and Nepal began at Nepal Army Battle School, Saljhandi in the Rupandehi district of Lumbini Zone, Nepal. The exercise will be conducted till 29th December 2022.
- **Participants** – Nepal Army soldiers of Shree Bhawani Baksh Battalion and Indian Army soldiers from the 5th Gorkha Rifles (5 GR) will participate in the exercise.
- The exercise ‘Surya Kiran’ is conducted annually between India and Nepal since 2011. The exercise aims to enhance interoperability in jungle warfare and counter terrorism operations in mountainous terrain and Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) under United Nations (UN) mandate.
- The 15th edition of Indo-Nepal joint training Exercise ‘Surya Kiran-XV’ was held at Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand.

## KAZIND-22: 6th Indo-Kazakhstan Joint Training Exercise started at Meghalaya

- On December 15, 2022, the 6th edition of the India-Kazakhstan joint training exercise ‘KAZIND-22’ initiated at Umroi Military Station in Ri-Bhoi district of Meghalaya. It will culminate on December 28, 2022.

### **Participants**

- India– Indian Army soldiers from the 11 Gorkha Rifles.
- Kazakhstan– Soldiers from South-based Regional Command.

## India receives its final 36th Rafale jet from France

- On December 15, 2022, India received its final 36th Rafale aircraft with RB tail number from France that is equipped with all 13 India specific enhancements.
- This Rafale is designated as RB008 where RB stands for former Indian Air Force (IAF) Chief Air Chief Marshal R.K.S. (Rakesh Kumar Singh) Bhadauria who, as then Deputy Chief of IAF, led the Indian negotiation team for Rafale Purchase Agreement in 2016.
- India and France had signed the Inter-Government Agreement (IGA) in 2016, under which Paris agreed to provide 36 Rafale fighter jets for around Rs 60,000 crore to India. The cost of each jet was estimated to be around Rs 670 crore (7.87 billion Euro).
- The first batch of five Rafale jets had arrived on July 29, 2020 in Ambala, Haryana and became part of the 17 Squadron, the ‘Golden Arrows’. These were manufactured by Dassault Aviation.

## IAF Conducts Annual Air Exercise in Eastern Sector

- The Indian Air Force (IAF) conducts a 2-day exercise in the Eastern Sector on 15 & 16 December 2022. It involves practically all of its frontline fighter jets and other assets stationed in the region, following the recent clash between

Indian and Chinese troops in the Tawang sector of Arunachal Pradesh.

### India -China Troops Clash

- On 9th December 2022, the Indian and Chinese troops clashed along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the Tawang Sector in Arunachal Pradesh. Six Indian Army soldiers were injured in the clash, which involved soldiers from both sides.

### KRAS rolled out its 100th MRSAM mid-section Kit for Indian Armed Forces

- On 13th December 2022, Hyderabad (Telangana)-based Indo-Israeli joint venture, Kalyani Rafael Advanced Systems Pvt Ltd (KRAS) rolled out the 100th Medium Range Surface to Air Missile (MRSAM) Kit for delivery to the Indian Army and Indian Air Force.
- MRSAM, an advanced network-centric combat, is a high-response, quick-reaction, vertically launched supersonic missile, designed to neutralise enemy aerial threats: missiles, aircraft, guided bombs, and helicopters.
- The missile kit, often known as the mid-section, refers to the front end of the missile, which includes the seeker and critical electronics.
- The MRSAM missile, which is operated by the Indian Army and Air Force, has a 70km range and can knock down multiple airborne targets such as planes, drones, helicopters, and incoming missiles.

### Navies of India & Indonesia Take Part in the 39th Edition of IND-INDO CORPAT

- The 39th edition of India-Indonesia Coordinated Patrol (IND-INDO CORPAT) between the Indian Navy and the Indonesian Navy is being conducted between 8th December and 19th December 2022.
- The CORPAT will be executed along the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) from 15<sup>th</sup> December 2022 to 16th December 2022.
- The CORPAT will conclude with a debrief at Port Blair, Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

- Indian Naval Ship (INS) Karmuk, an indigenously built Missile Corvette along with L-58 (indigenously built Landing CrL-58aft Utility vessel) and Dornier Maritime Patrol Aircraft will be participating in the Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT).

### Indian & US Navies Conduct Special Forces Exercise "Sangam" In Goa

- The 7th edition of Exercise "Sangam," a joint Naval Special Forces exercise involving Indian Navy Marine Commandos (MARCOs) and United States (US) Navy Sea, Air, and Land (SEAL) Teams, has commenced in Goa on December 01, 2022 and is scheduled to last three weeks.
- The Sangam series is a bilateral exercise exclusively between the US and Indian Special Forces. The first 'Exercise Sangam' was held in 1994.
- Indian Navy MARCOs from Indian Naval Ship (INS) Abhimanyu and members of SEAL Team Five, based in San Diego, US, will collaborate during the 7th edition of Exercise "Sangam."

### INS Kochi, INS Kavaratti & INS Sumedha Participates in BN IFR-22

- Indian Navy ships (INS) Kochi, INS Kavaratti and INS Sumedha participated in BN IFR-22, the maiden International Fleet Review (IFR) conducted by the Bangladesh Navy (BN) between 6th and 9th December 2022 in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh.

### Japan to Jointly Develop 'Next-Generation' Fighter Jet With UK, Italy

- Japan has signed a deal with the United Kingdom (UK) and Italy to develop a next-generation fighter aircraft together by 2035. This enables Japan to work with countries other than the United States (US) for the first time to meet a major defence requirement. The agreement will enable the UK to have a stronger presence in the Indo-Pacific area and provide Japan with more assistance in defending against China's growing aggression.

## Ex Agni Warrior 2022 between Armed Forces of Singapore & India Concludes at Maharashtra

- The 12th edition of Agni Warrior (XAW) 2022, a bilateral exercise between the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) & Indian Army (IA) was held at Field Firing Ranges, Devlali in Maharashtra from November 13 – 30, 2022.
- The exercise culminated in a joint live-firing exercise involving the Singapore Armed Forces' (SAF) Singapore Light Weight Howitzer, Field Artillery Meteorological System, and the Indian Army's 155mm Field Howitzer 77B.

## ICG commissioned new ALH Mk-III squadron, 840 squadron, in Chennai

- On 30th November 2022, the Director General of Indian Coast Guard (ICG), VS Pathania, commissioned 840 Squadron (840 Sqn (CG)), an ICG Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) Mk-III squadron, at ICG Air Station, Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
- The commissioning of 840 Sqn (CG) highlights the achievements towards self-reliance in the field of helicopter manufacturing, in line with "Aatmanirbhar Bharat" vision.
- ALH Mk-III helicopters are indigenously manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).

## 1st edition of Austra Hind 2022: India-Australia Joint Military Exercise begins in MFFR, Rajasthan

- On November 28, 2022, the 1st edition of Austra Hind 2022, a joint military bilateral training exercise between the armies of India and Australia, was initiated at Mahajan Field Firing Ranges (MFFR) in Bikaner, Rajasthan.
- The exercise will culminate on December 11, 2022.
- MFFR, located in the desert near the Pakistan border, is the Indian Army's oldest and largest training area. This annual exercise will be held alternately in India and Australia.
- **Participants:** Indian Army is represented by the Dogra Regiment, Australian army contingent

comprised of soldiers from the 13th Brigade of the 2nd Division.

## India-Malaysia Joint Military Exercise Harimau Shakti – 2022 Commences at Pulai, Kluang, Malaysia

- On 28th November 2022 'Harimau Shakti -2022', the annual joint military exercise between India and Malaysia, commenced on 28th November 2022, at Pulai, Kluang, Malaysia. the exercise will culminate on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2022.
- Harimau Shakti has been held between the Indian and Malaysian Army since 2012. The joint exercise will enhance the level of defence co-operation between the Indian Army and the Malaysian Army, and foster the bilateral relations between India and Malaysia.
- **Participants** – Combat-experienced troops of the Garhwal Rifles Regiment of Indian Army and the Royal Malay Regiment of the Malaysian Army will participate in the exercise for the year 2000.

## Ikshak, 3rd ship of Survey Vessel (Large) project launched at Chennai

- On November 26, 2022, 'Ikshak' the third of the four Survey Vessels (Large) (SVL) Project was launched at Kattupalli, Chennai (Tamil Nadu). It is being built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Ltd (GRSE) and Larsen and Toubro (L&T) for the Indian Navy.
- SVL ships will replace the existing Sandhayak Class survey ships with new generation hydrographic equipment to collect oceanographic data.
- The SVL 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.
- The hull of these ships is made from indigenously developed DMR 249-A steel manufactured by Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL).

## AWARDS AND HONOURS

### Indian Scientist Prof. Thalappil Pradeep receives VinFuture Special Prize 2022

- Professor Thalappil Pradeep, an Indian scientist from the Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT-M) in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, was awarded the “VinFuture Special Prize 2022” in Hanoi, the capital of Vietnam.



- He received the “Special Prize for Innovators from Developing Countries” for developing a low- cost filtration system to remove arsenic and other heavy metals from groundwater.
- Professor (Prof.) Thalappil Pradeep has identified the most suitable and advanced materials for removing certain contaminants from water in the most cost-effective and sustainable manner.
- He was previously awarded the ‘Padma Shri Award in Science and Engineering in 2020’ for his work in developing affordable and safe drinking water solutions utilizing nanomaterials.
- The VinFuture Prize serves as the central core of the ‘VinFuture Foundation’, an independent, non-profit organisation.

### UIDAI gets DSCI Excellence Award for ‘Best Security Practices in Government Sector’

- Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has been honoured with the Data Security Council of India (DSCI) Excellence Award 2022 under ‘Best Security Practices in Government Sector’ category.
- The award recognises UDAO’s contribution in securing national critical ‘Aadhaar’ infrastructure which provides digital identity based welfare services to residents.



- The award was given during the 3-day Annual Information Security Summit (AISS) of Data Security Council of India (DSCI) in New Delhi, Delhi. UIDAI was the first Government organisation to be Privacy Certified on leading industry standard (ISO27701).

### Sudeep Sen & Shobhana Kumar won the Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize 2021-2022

- The Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize 2021-22 has been jointly won by Sudeep Sen for his genre and form bender “Anthropocene: Climate Change, Contagion, Consolation” published by Pippa Rann Books & Media in 2021 and Shobhana Kumar for her haibun collection “A Sky Full of Bucket Lists” published by Red River in 2021 at the Multipurpose Hall, India International Centre in New Delhi, Delhi.
- A Rabindranath Tagore statuette was chosen from a shortlist of 11. The Tagore Prize for social achievement was awarded to Sanjoy K Roy, producer of the Jaipur Literature Festival.
- The Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize was instituted in 2018 which annually recognises and honours literary and social accomplishments.



### Cyclist Swasti Singh gets 30th Ekalabya Puraskar

- On 23rd December 2022, International cyclist Swasti Singh hailing from Odisha has been honoured with the 30th Ekalabya Puraskar for the year 2022 during a programme organized by Indian Metals Public Charitable Trust (IMPACT), the charitable wing of IMFA.
- She Was Honoured For Her Performance From 1st April 2020 To 31st March 2022 At Both National And International Levels.



- Swasti Singh has won 2 gold and several silver medals at the national level representing Odisha and was credited with the best individual brilliance from 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2022.

### Sahitya Akademi Awards 2022: Anuradha Roy; M. Rajendran; Badri Narayan among winners

- On 22nd December 2022, the Sahitya Akademi announced the 2022 winners of the Sahitya Akademi Awards 2022 includes 7 books of poetry, 6 novel, 2 short stories, 3 dramas/plays, 2 literary criticism and 1 each under autobiographical essays, a collection of articles and literary history.
- The winners of the awards are recommended by the jury members in 23 Indian languages and were approved by the executive board of the Sahitya Akademi under the Chairmanship of Dr Chandrashekhara Kambar, President of Sahitya Akademi. The winner of the award for the Bengali language is yet to be announced.
- Novelist Anuradha Roy, Tamil author M. Rajendran, Telugu writer Madhuranthakam Narendra and Sanskrit Poet Janardan Prasad Pandey 'Mani' were among 23 litterateurs awarded the Sahitya Akademi Awards for 2022.

### Sahitya Akademi Bhasha Samman 2022

- Dr Udaya Nath Jha, professor and head of Sahitya Department of Central Sanskrit University, Puri, Odisha has been approved as the recipient of the Sahitya Akademi Bhasha Samman 2022 in recognition of his contribution in the field of Classical and Medieval Literature in the Eastern region. The award carries a cash prize of Rs 1 lakh, an inscribed copper plaque and a citation

### SAHITYA AKADEMI AWARD 2022 WINNERS

| Language | Title and Genre                      | Name of the Author  |
|----------|--------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Assamese | Bhool Satya (Short Stories)          | Manoj Kumar Goswami |
| Bodo     | Sansrini Modira (Poetry)             | Rashmi Choudhury    |
| Dogri    | Chhe Roopak (Drama)                  | Veena Gupta         |
| English  | All The Lives We Never Lived (Novel) | Anuradha Roy        |

|            |  |                               |
|------------|--|-------------------------------|
| Gujarati   | Gher Jatan (Autobiographical Essays)                                 | Gulam Mohammad Shaikh         |
| Hindi      | Tumadi Ke Shabd (Poetry)   | Badri Narayan                 |
| Kannada    | Bahutvada Bhaarata mattu Bouddha Taatvikate (Collection of Articles) | Mudnakudu Chinnaswamy         |
| Kashmiri   | Zael Dab (Literary Criticism)  | Farooq Fayaz                  |
| Konkani    | Amrutvel (Novel)   | Maya Anil Kharangate          |
| Maithili   | Pen-Drive Me Prithvi (Poetry)  | Ajit Azad                     |
| Malayalam  | Ashaante Seethayanam (Literary Criticism)                            | M. Thomas Mathew              |
| Manipuri   | Leironnung (Poetry)  | Koijam Shantibala             |
| Marathi    | Ujavya Sondechya Bahulya (Novel)                                     | Praveen Dashrath Bandekar     |
| Nepali     | Saino (Drama)  | K.B. Nepali                   |
| Odia       | Dayanadi (Poetry)  | Gayatri bala panda            |
| Punjabi    | Main Aynghosh Nahi (Short Stories)                                   | Sukhjit                       |
| Rajasthani | Alekhun Amba (Play)  | Kamal Ranga                   |
| Sanskrit   | Deepmanikyam (Poetry)  | Janardan Prasad Pandey 'Mani' |
| Santali    | Sabarnaka Balire Sanan' Panjay (Poetry)                              | Kajli Soren (Jagannath Soren) |
| Sindhi     | Sindhi Sahit Jo Mukhtasar Itihas (Literary History)                  | Kanhaiyalal Lekhwani          |
| Tamil      | Kaala Paani (Novel)  | M. Rajendran                  |
| Telugu     | Manodharmaparagam (Novel)  | Madhuranthakam Narendra       |
| Urdu       | Khwab Saraab (Novel)   | Anis Ashfaq                   |

## Digital India Awards 2022: MoHUA's Smart Cities Mission Wins Platinum Icon Award

- The Smart Cities Mission of the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has won the Platinum icon award in the Digital India Awards (DIA) 2022 under the Data Sharing and Use for Socio Economic Development



category for their initiative "DataSmart Cities: Empowering Cities through Data". 2022 marks the 7th edition of the Digital India Awards (DIA).

- The Digital India awards instituted in 2009 are one of a kind in India for honouring the efforts of different Government entities in the digital realm. These are conducted by the National Informatics Centre (NIC) under the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY). The seventh edition of Digital India Awards (DIA) is being held in 2022.

### Digital India Awards 2022 Winners

#### Category: Digital Empowerment of Citizens

- ✓ Platinum: e-NAM
- ✓ Gold: Transport Mission Mode Project (eTransport)
- ✓ Silver: Judgment Search Portal

#### Category: Digital Initiatives at Grassroots Level

- ✓ Platinum: e-Vivechna App (MP)
- ✓ Gold: DeGS Computer Basic Training Grassroot level (Jharkhand)
- ✓ Silver: Ksheerasree Portal (Kerala)

#### Category: Digital Initiatives for Ease of Doing Business

- ✓ Platinum: Mine Mitra (UP)
- ✓ Gold: eAbkari (Odisha)
- ✓ Silver: Invest Punjab

#### Category: Data Sharing and Use for Socio Economic Development

- ✓ Platinum: Smart Cities Mission, M/o Housing and Urban Affairs
- ✓ Gold: Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE)
- ✓ Silver: Center for e-governance (Karnataka)

#### Category: Public Digital Platforms - Central Ministries, Departments and States

- ✓ Platinum: DUARE SARKAR (West Bengal)
- ✓ Gold: e-Services Manipur

#### Category: Central Ministries, Departments

- ✓ Platinum: ICEGATE Portal
- ✓ Gold: eShram

#### Category: Digital Initiatives in Collaboration with Startups

- ✓ Platinum: Digital Workforce Management System (Kerala)
- ✓ Gold: Smart Nutrient Management of the Soil (Telangana)
- ✓ Silver: Digital Deposit Refund System (Uttarakhand)

#### Category: Best Web & Mobile Initiatives Complying with GIGW & Accessibility Guidelines

- ✓ Platinum: Bilaspur District Website (Chhattisgarh)
- ✓ Gold: Website of Kottayam District (Kerala)
- ✓ Silver: Website of Central Institute of Petrochemicals\_Engineering & Technology

## NMDC wins IEI Industry Excellence Award 2022

- On 16th December 2022, NMDC Limited (formerly known as National Mineral Development Corporation), under the Ministry of Steel, won the coveted Institution of Engineers, India (IEI) Industry Excellence Award 2022 at the 37th Indian Engineering Congress for its outstanding performance and high level of business excellence in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
- The award was given after reviewing the business operations, financial performance, environmental performance, research and development, Corporate social responsibility (CSR) and corporate governance policies of a company.

## 2022 ATP Awards Honour Roll: Alcaraz, Nadal, Murray Among Winners of 2022 ATP Awards

- Carlos Alcaraz, Rafael Nadal, Novak Djokovic, Andy Murray are featured among the winners of the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) Awards 2022. The 2022 ATP Awards were presented at the event held in Pala Alpitour in Turin, Italy.

- World No. 1 Carlos Alcaraz, a 19-year-old Spanish tennis player, received the ATP No. 1 Trophy presented by Pepperstone. He is the youngest player in history to receive the award. He also received the Most Improved Player of the Year 2022 award.
- Juan Carlos Ferrero, former World No. 1 and coach of Carlos Alcaraz, received the ATP Coach of the Year at the 2022 ATP Awards.
- The Spanish tennis player, Rafael Nadal's (36) historic 2022 ATP Tour season has come to a conclusion. He broke another record and was chosen as Fans' Favorite in the ATP Awards for the 1st time.
- Andy Murray has been named the recipient of the Arthur Ashe Humanitarian Award for a 2nd time, in recognition of his support for the humanitarian efforts in Ukraine.

### **Asian Academy Creative Awards 2022: Basil Joseph wins the Best Director for 'Minnal Murali'**

- The Asian Academy Creative Awards 2022 (AAA), Asia-Pac's (Asia-Pacific) Most Prestigious Awards For Creative Excellence, is presented over two nights on 7th and 8th December 2022 at Chijmes Hall, in Singapore.
- Netflix was the big winner on Night Two of the Asian Academy Creative Awards, which took place in Singapore alongside the Asia Television Forum and Market.
- It secured 5 wins including Best Feature Film (Japan's "Akakusa Kid") and Best Actor (Korea's Jung Hae-in for his role in "D.P.").
- Basil Joseph, an Indian film director and actor who works in the Malayalam film industry, has won the Best Director (Fiction) for his Netflix superhero film "Minnal Murali", starring Tovino Thomas.
- Shreya Dev Dube won the award for Best Cinematographer 2022 for her work in "Thar", produced by Anil Kapoor and Netflix.
- Singapore received the most wins by a nation or territory with 8 awards. Followed by India, which has won 7 awards.

### **Indian-origin teacher Veena Nair receives the 2022 Prime Minister's Prize in Australia**

- Veena Nair, an Indian-origin teacher in Melbourne, Australia, has received the Prime Minister's Prizes for Science 2022 under the Prime Minister's Prize for Excellence in Science Teaching in Secondary Schools category.
- Veena Nair, STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) Project Leader and Head of Technology at Viewbank College, Melbourne, Australia, was honoured for demonstrating the practical application of STEAM to students, and how to use their skills to make a real impact in the world.

### **'Goblin mode': Oxford Dictionaries Word of the Year 2022**

- The Oxford English Dictionary has chosen 'Goblin mode' as the word of the year 2022 by an online vote. Goblin Mode received 93% of the votes against contenders "metaverse" (2nd) and "#IStandWith"(3rd).
- For the first time, the choice of Word of the Year was opened to public voting. Around 3 lakh English speakers voted over a period of 2 weeks.

### **The Earthshot Prize 2022: UK's Prince William Unveils 5 Winners of 2nd Annual Earthshot Prize Awards**

- William, Prince of Wales, announced the winners of the Earthshot Prize 2022, the 2nd edition of the annual awards, at the awards ceremony held at the MGM Music Hall in Boston, the United States of America(USA).
- Every year till 2030, 5 Earthshot Prizes will be awarded to support the environmental innovation projects for the future.
- The prize was inspired by US President John F. Kennedy's 'Moonshot' which aimed to put a man on the moon and catalysed the development of new technology in 1960s.
- India's Greenhouse-in-a-box was among the five winners announced by the Prince of Wales, Prince



William, in Boston, United States. It is a sustainable solution for small-scale farmers developed by an Indian startup, Kheyti, in Telangana

- The Earthshot Prize is focused on 5 earthshots goals,
  - to Protect and Restore Nature
  - to Clean Our Air
  - to Revive Our Oceans
  - to Build A Waste-Free World
  - to Fix Our Climate

**Winners of The Earthshot Prize 2022**

| Category                 | Winner   |
|--------------------------|--|
| Protect & Restore Nature | Kheyti (India)   |
| Clean Our Air -          | Mukuru Clean Stoves (Kenya)                            |
| Revive Our Oceans        | Indigenous Women Of The Great Barrier Reef (Australia) |
| Build A Waste Free World | Notpla (UK)  |
| Fix Our Climate          | 44.01 (Oman)   |

**Book on Chipko Movement Wins Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay NIF Prize 2022**

- On 1st December 2022 the Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay NIF Book Prize 2022 was awarded to ‘The Chipko Movement: A People’s Movement’ (Published by Permanent Black), a book on the popular forest conservation campaign Chipko Movement written by a historian and an activist Shekhar Pathak.
- The book, ‘The Chipko Movement: A People’s Movement’, has been translated from Hindi by Manisha Chaudhry. The 2022 was the 5th edition of the Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay NIF Book Prize. The New India Foundation has been awarding the annual Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay NIF Book Prize.

**Kerala Green Start-up Tree Tag bags award in ‘Climathon-2022’**

- Tree Tag, a green start-up founded by climate-conscious individuals from Kerala, striving to reduce carbon emissions through tech-integrated afforestation projects, has won the Climathon 2022, the hackathon held at Kerala Technology

Innovation Zone (KTIZ), Kochi, Kerala from 26 to 27th November 2022.

- The Tree Tag team won the award under the category of Life On Land, addressing the problem statement such as ‘monitoring and protecting existing forest eco-systems’.

**2022 UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation**

- The “2022 UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation” (Heritage Awards) were awarded to 13 award-winning projects from 6 different countries across the Asia-Pacific region.
- The 6 nations are Afghanistan, China, India, Iran, Nepal and Thailand. Winners have been chosen in each of the recognition categories, including the Special Recognition for Sustainable Development, the Award of Excellence, the Award of Distinction, the Award of Merit, and the Award for New Design in Heritage Contexts.



**Awarded Projects**

- **Award of Excellence** :Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya Museum, Mumbai (Maharashtra), India.
- **Award of Distinction**: Stepwells of Golconda, Hyderabad (Telangana), 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**: 11 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.

# SPORTS

## Mirabai Chanu wins Silver at 2022 IWF World Championships

- Indian weightlifter Saikhom Mirabai Chanu won the Silver medal, under 49 kg Women category, at the 2022 IWF World Championships held in Bogota, Colombia from 5th to 16th December 2022.



- Jiang Huihua of China took home the gold medal with a combined weight of 206 kg.
- Hou Zhihui of China took home the bronze medal with a combined weight of 198 kg.
- 2022 IWF World Championships is the first qualifying competition for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games.

## FIFA Ranking: Brazil ranked No.1 despite Argentina's World Cup win in Qatar 2022

- On 22nd December 2022, FIFA (Fédération Internationale de Football Association) officially announced the 2022 world rankings, and Brazil hold on to their No. 1 spot and 22nd FIFA Men's World Cup 2022 Champions Argentina ranked 2nd.
- Morocco has improved from 22nd to 11th in the FIFA world ranking, following their achievements at the 2022 FIFA Global Cup.



## 3rd T20 World Cup for the blind 2022: India won the title for 3rd Consecutive time

- On 18th December 2022, the Indian National Blind Cricket Team won the 3rd T20 World Cup for the blind 2022 by defeating Bangladesh in the final held at M Chinnaswamy Stadium, Bengaluru, Karnataka.



Team India has won the title for the third consecutive time (previously won in 2012 and 2017). Indian blind cricket team was led by Ajay Kumar Reddy.

- Runner-up and winner trophies were presented by Karnataka Governor Thawar Chand Gehlot and Sunil Ramesh was awarded man of the match.

## Indian Women's Hockey Team Wins FIH Hockey Women's Nations Cup Spain 2022

- The Indian women's hockey team won the inaugural Fédération Internationale de Hockey (FIH) Hockey Women's Nations Cup 2022 by defeating Spain in the final (1-0) held in Valencia, Spain.
- The FIH Hockey Women's Nations Cup 2022 was held from 11th to 17th December 2022 in Valencia, Spain.
- Spain is in the second position followed by Japan and Ireland in third and fourth position.

## Tennis: Rafael Nadal named Men's ITF World Champions 2022 & Iga Swiatek named Women's Champion

- Rafael Nadal, Spanish Tennis Player, has been named the Men's International Tennis Federation (ITF) World Champion 2022 for the 5th time after an outstanding 2022 season.
- Polish tennis player, Iga Świątek, has been named Women's ITF World Champion 2022 for her performance in 2022 winning 2 Grand Slam titles and 8 titles.



## Tata Steel becomes Official Partner of the FIH Odisha Hockey Men's World Cup 2023

- On 13th December 2022, Tata Steel Limited signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with

Hockey India to become an Official Partner of the Fédération Internationale de Hockey (International Hockey Federation) (FIH) Men's World Cup 2023 in Bhubaneswar and Rourkela, cities in Odisha.

- The 2023 FIH Men's World Cup, the 15th edition of the event, will be held from January 13 to 29 2023. The tournament will feature 16 Nations.

### **Badminton Asia Junior Championship 2022: Unnati Hooda wins India's 1st medal in U17**


- Indian Shuttler Unnati Hooda won the silver medal Women's Singles – Under 17(U17) Category, in the Badminton Asia Junior Championships 2022 held in Nonthaburi, Thailand from 29th November 2022 to 4<sup>th</sup> December 2022.
- She became the first ever Indian to win a medal in the U17 category in an Asia meet. She lost the finals against Sarunrak Vitidsarn of Thailand.

### **WTA Awards 2022: Iga Swiatek named 2022 WTA Player of the Year for the 1st time**

- Polish tennis player Iga Swiatek, currently ranked World No.1 by the Women's Tennis Association(WTA) has been honoured with the 2022 WTA Player of the Year Award for the first time for her achievements in 2022.  She has won a total of 67 matches in the 2022 season.
- WTA has announced the 2022 WTA Player Award winners including 5 Players Awards, 3 Player Service Awards and the Coach of the Year Award.

### **HSBC BWF World Tour Finals 2022: Viktor Axelsen, Akane Yamaguchi win Singles Titles**

- Viktor Axelsen of Denmark won the Men's Singles title defeating Anthony Sinisuka Ginting of Indonesia at the HSBC Badminton World Federation(BWF) World Tour Finals 2022 held at Nimibutr Arena in Bangkok, Thailand from December 7-11, 2022.

- Akane Yamaguchi of Japan won the Women's Singles by defeating Tai Tzu-Ying of Chinese Taipei by 21-18, 22-20 in the final. 

- With this singles title, Akane Yamaguchi became the first women's singles player since Ye Zhaoying in 1997 to claim the All-England Open, World Championships and end-of-season finals all in the same year.
- Indian Shuttler Prannoy Haseena Sunil Kumar ended his BWF World Tour Finals 2022 campaign with a win over world No. 1 Viktor Axelsen in his third and final Group A men's singles match in Bangkok, Thailand.
- He did not qualify to the BWF World Tour Finals 2022 semi-finals as he lost his previous matches against Japan's Kodai Naraoka and Lu Guang Zu of China. Prannoy finished 3rd on the BWF World Tour ranking.

### **P.T. Usha elected as the 1st Woman President of Indian Olympic Association**

- Pilavullakandi Thekkeraparambil Usha (58 years) aka P.T. Usha, a retired Indian track and field athlete, has been named as the first woman president of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA). 
- She also became the First Olympian and First International Medallist to head the IOA in its 95-year- old history.
- She is also the first sportsperson after Maharaja Yadavindra Singh to serve as president of the IOA. He served as IOA President from 1938 to 1960.

### **India's Manisha Ramadass wins BWF Female Para-Badminton Player of the Year 2022**

- On 6th December 2022, Indian shuttler Manisha Ramadass(17 years old) won the BWF Female Para- Badminton Player of the Year 2022 of the BWF's annual player of the Year Awards. The

awards were presented at the Gala Awards Night hosted by BWF in Bangkok, Thailand.

- Manisha Ramadass won the gold medal in the women's singles SU5 category at the 2022 BWF Para-Badminton World Championships held in November 2022 and was nominated for the award along with two other Indians, Manasi Joshi and Nithya Sre. She has won 11 gold medals and 5 bronze in 2022.

### India's Ishan Kishan Becomes Fastest Double Centurion in ODIs; Breaks Chris Gayle's World Record

- Indian cricketer Ishan Kishan became the fastest double-centurion in One Day International (ODI) breaking the world record held by West Indies cricketer Chris Gayle.
- He is 4th Indian after Sachin Tendulkar, Virender Sehwag and Rohit Sharma to achieve this feat.
- Kishan (24 years and 145 days) is the youngest cricketer and 7th cricketer to reach the 200-run mark in ODI. Others apart from the Indians are New Zealand's Martin Guptill, West Indies' Chris Gayle and Pakistan's Fakhar Zaman.
- He scored 23 fours and 9 sixes to reach the 200-run mark in just 126 deliveries during India's 3<sup>rd</sup> ODI against Bangladesh at Chattogram, Bangladesh. He scored 210 runs off 131 balls. He completed his century in 85 balls.
- Gayle took 138 deliveries to score his double centuries against Zimbabwe in the 2015 International Cricket Council (ICC) World Cup.



### Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone & Armand Duplantis Named World Athletes of the Year 2022

- American hurdler and 2022 World champion Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone and Swedish pole vaulter and current Olympic and World champion Armand Mondo Duplantis have been named the World Athletes of the Year 2022 by Global Sports governing body the World Athletics.

- The United States (US) born Mondo Duplantis claimed this award for the second time in 3 years with 3 world records in 2022.



- McLaughlin-Levrone broke the world 400m hurdles record on two occasions and won two gold medals at the World Athletics Championships in World Athletics Championships Oregon22.
- Adriana Vilagos of Serbia (javelin throw) and Erriyon Knighton of United States of America (USA) (sprinter) have been named the Rising Stars of 2022 by World Athletics.

### Aditya Mittal Becomes India's 77th Chess Grandmaster

- The Mumbai (Maharashtra)-Player Aditya Mittal, 16-year-old, has become India's 77th chess Grandmaster (GM) during an ongoing 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of El Llobregat Open Chess Tournament in Spain. He becomes Mumbai's 2<sup>nd</sup> and Maharashtra's 11<sup>th</sup> GM. Pravin Thipsay (1997) was the 1<sup>st</sup> GM from Mumbai.
- Aditya Mittal, who had secured 3 GM norms, crossed the 2,500 Elo points mark during the 6<sup>th</sup> round of the ongoing tournament in Spain.
- To become a Grandmaster (GM), a player has to secure 3 GM norms and cross the live rating of 2,500 ELO points.



### Arjun Erigaisi & Vaishali Rameshbabu Wins Blitz Title in 2022 Tata Steel Chess India Blitz

- Indian Grand Master (GM) Arjun Erigaisi won the 2022 Tata Steel Chess India Open Blitz defeating American GM Hikaru Nakamura at the 2022 TATA Steel Chess India (TSCI) Rapid and Blitz, 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the tournament, held from 29<sup>th</sup> November to 4<sup>th</sup> December 2022 in Kolkata, West Bengal.
- Indian International Master (IM) Vaishali Rameshbabu defeated Ukrainian GM Mariya Muzychuk to win the 2022 Tata Steel Chess India

Women's Blitz title. she becomes the first-ever Tata Steel Chess India 2022 Women Blitz champion.

### Saurashtra beats Maharashtra to win Vijay Hazare Trophy 2022

- On 2nd December 2022, Saurashtra won the Vijay Hazare Trophy 2022 title by defeating Maharashtra by 5 wickets (Saurashtra – 249/5, Maharashtra – 248/9) in the final held at Narendra Modi Stadium Ground 'A', Motera, Ahmedabad (Gujarat).
- Vijay Hazare Trophy 2022, the 21st edition of the senior men's 50-over cricket tournament, was held from 12th November to 2nd December 2022 with 38 teams competing in 136 matches.
- It is the 2nd Vijay Hazare Trophy victory for Saurashtra. Saurashtra won its 1st Vijay Hazare Trophy in 2007-2008 against Bengal by 6 wickets.
- The Vijay Hazare Trophy, (officially known as Mastercard Vijay Hazare trophy for sponsorship reasons) also known as the Ranji One-Day Trophy, was started in 2002-03 as a limited-overs cricket domestic competition involving state teams from the Ranji Trophy plates organised by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).
- It is named after the legendary Indian cricketer Vijay Hazare. Tamil Nadu is the most successful team having won the trophy 5 times.



### Meltwater Champions Chess Tour 2022: Magnus Carlsen Wins finals defeating Jan-Krzysztof Duda

- World Champion Magnus Carlsen of Norway defeated Poland's Jan-Krzysztof Duda in the Meltwater Champions Chess Tour (MCCT) finals 2022 held at the SHACK15 venue in San Francisco, United States of America(USA).
- MCCT 2022 is a series of 9 online chess tournaments that started on 19th February 2022 and ended on 20th November 2022.
- Indian Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa defeated compatriot Arjun Erigaisi in the 7th & final round of the tour to finish 5th in the final standing.

### Tennis: Davis Cup 2022: Canada defeats Australia to win maiden Davis Cup title

- Canada defeated Australia (2-0) to win its first ever Davis Cup title after World No 6. Felix Auger-Aliassime and Denis Shapovalov of Canada defeated Australia's Alex De Minaur and Thanasi Kokkinakis in the Singles match in the finals of Davis Cup 2022.
- The Davis Cup 2022 by Rakuten was held from 13 to 18 September and from 22 to 27 November 2022 in Malaga, Spain. The Davis Cup 2022, the 110th Edition of the tournament, witnessed the participation of 28 countries.

### PV Sindhu World's 12th Highest Paid Female Athlete in 2022; only indian and badminton player on top 25

- According to the Forbes's World's Highest-Paid Female Athletes 2022, Indian Badminton player PV Sindhu is ranked 12th with a total earning of USD 7.1 million (0.1 million on-field and USD 7 million off-field). She is the only Indian and the only badminton player among the top 25 of the list.
- Naomi Osaka of Japan(Tennis) tops the list with USD 51.1 million(USD 1.1 million on-field and USD 50 million off-field).
- Serena Williams of United States of America(USA) (Tennis) is ranked 2nd with USD 41.3 million (USD 0.3 million on-field and USD 41 million off-field).

### Sam Curran Breaks IPL Auction Records and Become Most Expensive Cricketer

- Sam Curran breaks all the records and became the most expensive cricketer ever to be bought by any franchise of the Indian Premier League (IPL). Sam Curran is a 24-year-old English Cricketer who was bought by Punjab Kings on the first day of the IPL auction for ₹18.5 crores. The IPL auctions for the 2023 season are being held in Kerala.

## PERSONS IN NEWS

### India's Sargam Koushal crowned as Mrs World 2022

- On 18th December 2022, India's Sargam Koushal was crowned Mrs World 2022 held at the Westgate Las Vegas Resort & Casino, Nevada, United States of America(USA). She brought the crown back to India, 21 years after Aditi Govitrikar (Mrs World 2001).
- She was crowned by Shaylyn Ford, Mrs World 2021 from the United States (US). Mrs Polynesia was named the 1st runner-up, followed by Mrs Canada as the 2nd runner-up.
- Sargam Koushal, 32, is an Indian teacher and model based in Mumbai, Maharashtra. She was born on 17<sup>th</sup> September 1990 in Jammu, Jammu & Kashmir (J&K). Apart from being a model, she is a painter and content writer.
- Mrs World is the 1st beauty pageant for married women, launched in 1984 as Mrs Woman of the World and later renamed Mrs World. Aditi Govitrikar presided as a judge for Mrs India Inc. 2022–2023.



### Actress Sonakshi Sinha named as PETA India's 'Person of The Year 2022' Title

- Actress Sonakshi Sinha has been awarded PETA (People for Ethical Treatment of Animals) India's 2022 Person of the Year title for advocating Animal Adoption & Vegan Fashion.
- Sonakshi's activities helped save many animals that would have been killed for fashion, but she was given the title because of her strong support for dog and cat rights.
- According to PETA India's anti-leather campaign, more than 4 billion cows, sheep, goats, dogs, cats and other animals are killed every year for Leather accessories that no one needs.



- John Abraham and Fatima Sana Shaikh are PETA India's Most Beautiful Vegetarians of 2022.

### Gautam Adani Featured on 6th annual Bloomberg 50 list

- Businessman and philanthropist Gautam Adani, Chairman of Adani Group, has been named to the Bloomberg Businessweek's 6th annual Bloomberg 50 list "Bloomberg 50: The people who defined global business in 2022" which recognises the people in business, entertainment, finance, politics, science and technology who defined 2022.
- The list also features President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskiy; American economist Daleep Singh and others.

### last Hawaiian princess" Passed Away

- Abigail Kinoiki Kekaulike Kawānanakoa, a Hawaiian princess whose lineage included the royal family that once ruled the islands and an Irish businessman who became one of Hawaii's largest landowners, passed away at the age of 96 in Honolulu, Hawaii.
- Abigail Kinoiki Kekaulike Kawānanakoa was born on 23rd April 1926 in Honolulu, Oahu, Territory of Hawaii

### Veteran Telugu Actor Kaikala Satyanarayana Passes Away

- On 23rd December 2022, Legendary Telugu actor Kaikala Satyanarayana, known for his villain and other character roles, passed away at the age of 87 years in Hyderabad, Telangana.
- Kaikala Satyanarayana, known as Navarasa Natana Sarvabhouma, was born on 25th July 1935, in Krishna district of Andhra Pradesh.
- He had a brief political career in Andhra Pradesh. He was elected to the 11th Lok Sabha as Member of Parliament (MP) from Machilipatnam



representing the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) and withdrew from politics after 1998.

### Marathi Actress & Lavani Singer, Padma Shri Awardee Sulochana Chavan Passed Away

- On 10th December 2022, Marathi actress and renowned Lavani singer, Padma Shri Awardee Sulochana Kadam, well-known as Sulochana Chavan, passed away in Mumbai, Maharashtra. She was born on 13th March 1933 in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- 'Lavani' is a genre of music popular in Maharashtra.

### Indian Olympian & Arjuna Awardee Kenneth Powell Passed away

- On 11th December 2022, Kenneth Powell, Olympian and India's 1970 Asian Games 4x100m relay bronze-winning team member passed away at the age of 82 in Bengaluru, Karnataka. He received the Arjuna Award from the Government of India in 1965, Powell became the first sportsperson from Karnataka to win the Arjuna Award

### Padma Shri awardee Manohar Devadoss Passed Away

- On 7th December 2022, renowned artist and writer, Padma Shri Awardee Manohar Devadoss passed away in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, at the age of 85.
- Manohar Devadoss was born in 1936 in Madurai, Tamil Nadu. He was well-known for his paintings of traditional buildings. He authored many books and also made illustrations for them. In 1982, he started writing his book, Green Well Years, about his childhood in Madurai, which took him a decade to complete.
- He was awarded the Padma Shri (2020), India's 4th-highest civilian award, for his inspirational work in Art and Charity.

### Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelensky Becomes Time Magazine's 2022 Person of the Year

- Time Magazine has named Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelensky and "the spirit of Ukraine" as

its 2022 Person of the Year, an award that recognises an event or person deemed as having the most influence on global events over the past 12 months.

### 3 Indian-origin Women Scientists among Australia's 'Superstars of STEM' 2023-2024

- The 3 Indian-origin women- Neelima Kadiyala; Dr Ana Baburamani; and Dr Indrani Mukherjee, are among 60 scientists, technologists, engineers, and mathematicians who have been recognised as 'Superstars of STEM' by Science & Technology Australia (STA) for 2023-2024.
- These women will undertake a 2-year program (2023-2024) to step into media as STEM(Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) experts.

### Priyanka Chopra and 3 other Indians featured in BBC's 100 Women list 2022

- 4 Indian Women, Actress and producer, Priyanka Chopra Jonas; Sirisha Bandla, Aeronautical engineer; Booker-winning author Geetanjali Shree and Social Worker Sneha Jawale, are featured on the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC)'s 100 Women list 2022, a list of 100 inspiring and influential women from around the world for 2022.

### South Korea's Mina Sue Choi Crowned Miss Earth 2022

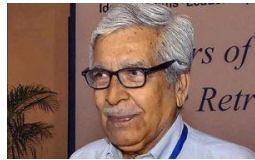
- On 29th November 2022, South Korea's Mina Sue Choi was crowned Miss Earth 2022 at the Okada Manila in Parañaque, Metro Manila, Philippines.
- It is the 1st significant pageant victory for South Korea after 20 years of participation in the Miss Earth competition.
- Miss Earth 2022 is the 22nd edition of the Miss Earth pageant.
- Mina Sue Choi succeeded Destiny Wagner of Belize, Miss Earth 2021.



- Miss Earth 2022 was hosted by Filipino-British television host and automotive journalist James Deakin for the 6th consecutive time.
- Vanshika Parmar of Nadaun, Hamirpur (Himachal Pradesh), was crowned as Miss Earth India 2022.

### Eminent Economist & Former Union Minister Y. K. Alagh Passes Away

- On 6th December 2022, noted economist and former Union Minister Yoginder Kumar Alagh (Y. K. Alagh), an emeritus professor at the Sardar Patel Institute of Economic and Social Research (SPIESR) in Ahmedabad, passed away at the age of 83 in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.
- During the 1980s, he headed the Agricultural Prices Commission (APC) and the Bureau of Industrial Costs & Prices (BICP), where he initiated the 1st round of economic reforms that involved price decontrol in steel, cement and aluminium.



### Indian billionaires Gautam Adani, Shiv Nadar & Ashok Soota Featured on Asia's 2022 Heroes of Philanthropy List by Forbes

- India's richest person Gautam Adani, Chairman of Adani Group; Shiv Nadar, Founder of HCL Technologies; and Ashok Soota, Executive Chairman of Happiest Minds Technologies along with Malaysian couple Brahma Vasudevan and his wife Shanthi Kandiah, a lawyer, were featured on Forbes' Asia's 2022 Heroes of Philanthropy list.
- The 2022 list is the 16th edition of Forbes' annual list (unranked) that highlights the region's top philanthropists who demonstrated a strong personal commitment to causes like education and the environment.



### Former President of China Jiang Zemin Passed Away

- On 30th November 2022, Jiang Zemin, former President of China who presided over more than a decade of economic growth after the 1989 Tiananmen crackdown against pro-democracy protester, passed away at the age of 96 in Shanghai, China. He died from leukemia and multiple organ failure.



### Toyota Kirloskar Motor Vice Chairperson Vikram Kirloskar Passed Away

- On 30th November 2022, Vikram S Kirloskar, Vice Chairperson of Toyota Kirloskar Motor passed away at the age of 64 in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- Vikram Kirloskar, a fourth-generation member of the Kirloskar Group, which was founded in 1888, served as Vice Chairman of Toyota Kirloskar Motor (since 1998) and Chairman and Managing Director (MD) of Kirloskar Systems Ltd.
- He played an important role in bringing Japan's Toyota Motor Corp to India in the late 1990s.



### Indian TV artist Dev Joshi to accompany Yusaku Maezawa for a trip around Moon

- The 'dream crew' for the first civilian mission to the moon has been announced and it includes Indian actor Dev Joshi. Japanese billionaire Yusaku Maezawa has informed that Indian actor Dev Joshi, K-Pop star T.O.P. will be among the eight people who will join him on a flyby around the moon on a SpaceX spaceship next year.

#### About Dev Joshi

- Actor Dev Joshi is an Indian television actor known for portraying the role of Baal Veer in Sony Sab's Baal Veer and Baalveer Returns. He has worked in more than 20 Gujarati movies and many advertisements



## APPOINTMENTS

### Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' appointe as New PM of Nepal

- On 25th December 2022, Bidhya Devi Bhandari, President of Nepal, appointed 68-year-old Pushpa Kamal Dahal, Chairman of the Communist Party of Nepal as new Prime Minister of Nepal. He was sworn in for the 3rd time as the PM of Nepal succeeding Sher Bahadur Deuba of the Nepali Congress party. Pushpa Kamal Dahal is also known as Prachanda .
- Pushpa Kamal Dahal now has the support of 169 Members of Parliament



### Prof K S Rangappa Elected as Fellow of UNESCO-TWAS

- Former Vice-Chancellor of University of Mysore Professor K.S. Rangappa has been awarded a fellowship of the World Academy of Sciences (TWAS), a programme unit of the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organisation UNESCO, headquartered in Trieste, Italy for the advancement of science in developing countries.
- This fellowship comes into effect from 1st January 2023. Prof Rangappa, being the fellow, can
- nominate young scientists from the State universities for getting research grants.
- He is listed among the top 2 percent of world scientists since 2019.



### P N Vasudevan to Continue as MD & CEO of Equitas Small Finance Bank

- On 23rd December 2022, the Board of Equitas Small Finance Bank (SFB) has decided to extended the term of PN Vasudevan as Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for a period of 3 years of with effect from 23rd July

2022, subject to approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

### Sitiveni Rabuka Returns as New Prime Minister of Fiji

- Sitiveni Rabuka, a former military commander, has been chosen as Fiji's 12th Prime Minister (PM), replacing Frank Bainimarama, who has been in office for 16 years.
- Mr. Rabuka, who served as PM of Fiji from 1992 to 1999, is being elected to the post for the second term.
- Frank Bainimarama of the Fiji First Party overthrew the government in a coup in 2006 and became Prime Minister in 2007.

### SBI Funds Management Appoints Shamsheer Singh as its New MD & CEO

- On 22nd December 2022, SBI Funds Management Limited (SBIFML), a joint venture between State Bank of India (SBI) and Amundi, Europe's largest asset manager, appointed Shamsheer Singh as its Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO).
- He will take over the charge as MD & CEO of SBIFML from Vinay M Tonse following his repatriation to the SBI. Previously he was serving as the deputy MD at SBI.

### Former Supreme Court Judge Hemant Gupta Appointed as Chief of NDIAC

- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has appointed Justice Hemant Gupta, retired Supreme Court Judge, as the Chairperson of the New Delhi International Arbitration Centre (NDIAC) and Ganesh Chandru and Anant Vijay Palli as part-time members of NDIAC.
- In February 2016 he was appointed as the judge of Patna High Court and in October 2016 he became the acting Chief Justice of the same high court.

- In March 2017, Justice Gupta was appointed as Chief Justice of the Madhya Pradesh High Court.

### Anil Kumar Lahoti Appointed as CEO & Chairman of Railway Board

- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) headed by Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi has approved the appointment of Anil Kumar Lahoti as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Chairman of the Railway board succeeding the incumbent Vinay Kumar Tripathi, who is set to retire on 31st December 2022. Anil Kumar Lahoti will assume the charge of the new role from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023.
- This is the 1st appointment of the Railway Board chief after the government notified the integrated railway service, Indian Railway Management Service (IRMS).



### Benjamin Netanyahu Sworn in as Israel's new Prime Minister

- On 29th December 2022, Benjamin Netanyahu was sworn in as Israel's 25th Prime Minister (PM) for the 6th time, leading the right-wing Likud party, and Israel is set to get its 37<sup>th</sup> government. Benjamin Netanyahu was sworn in following his presentation to the Knesset (Israeli parliament) coalition agreements signed by 6 parties on 28th December 2022.
- Benjamin Netanyahu succeeds Yair Lapid, who served briefly as PM (July 2022- December 2022).
- Israel's Capital- Jerusalem & Currency Israeli Shekel



### Ex-ITDC MD G Kamala Vardhana Rao takes charge as CEO of FSSAI

- On 29th December 2022, Ganji Kamala Vardhana Rao, a 1990 batch IAS officer from the Kerala cadre, was appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Food Safety & Standards Authority of India (FSSAI). Kamala Vardhana Rao was

previously the Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) of the Indian Tourism Department Corporation (ITDC), a Miniratna Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) under the Ministry of Tourism.

### Mette Frederiksen re-elected as the Prime Minister of Denmark

- Mette Frederiksen, Head of the Social Democratic Party, was re-elected as the Prime Minister of Denmark for 2<sup>nd</sup> Term.
  - ✓ Mette Frederiksen was elected Prime Minister of Denmark in June 2019 and became the youngest PM in Danish history, succeeding Lars Løkke Rasmussen (former PM from 2009-2011; 2015-2019).
  - ✓ She became the 2nd woman to hold this office, after Helle Thorning-Schmidt (2011- 2015).
  - ✓ Denmark: Capital- Copenhagen; Currency- Danish Krone



### Indian-Origin Leo Varadkar Elected as Ireland's Prime Minister for 2nd time

- Indian origin Leo Varadkar, Irish Deputy Prime Minister (Tánaiste) and leader of the Fine Gael party, has been elected by the Dáil Éireann as the Prime Minister of Ireland (Taoiseach) for the second time in December 2022.
  - ✓ Leo Varadkar takes over from Micheal Martin as Taoiseach, while Martin takes on Varadkar's role as tánaiste (deputy prime minister).
  - ✓ Leo Varadkar was appointed as new Prime Minister by Irish President Michael D. Higgins



### Nuclear Scientist Dinesh Kumar Shukla appointed as Chairperson of AERB

- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of Senior Nuclear Scientist Dinesh Kumar Shukla to the post of Chairperson of the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB). He has been appointed to the post for a period of 3 years.

✓ Dinesh Kumar Shukla, who has been the Executive Director of the AERB, succeeds G Nageswara Rao to the post of Chairperson.

✓ AERB: Chairman- Dinesh Kumar Shukla; HQ- Mumbai, Maharashtra; Establishment- 1983.

### Peru's VP Dina Boluarte sworn in as the 1st Female President of Peru

- Vice President of Peru, Dina Ercilia Boluarte Zegarra, was sworn in as the first Female President of Peru after Pedro Castillo, President of Peru, was ousted by Congress and arrested on a charge of rebellion.
- Republic of Peru: Prime Minister- Betsy Chávez; Capital- Lima; Currency- Sol

### IDF Named Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina as 1st Global Ambassador for Diabetes

- Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister (PM) of Bangladesh, has been named the "Global Ambassador for Diabetes" by the International Diabetic Federation (IDF) at the opening ceremony of the World Diabetes Congress 2022 held in Lisbon, Portugal. PM Sheikh Hasina is the 1st Global Ambassador for Diabetes.
- Sheikh Hasina served as Prime Minister of Bangladesh 3 times: 1996-2001, 2009- 2014, and 2014-Present. She is the longest-serving PM in the history of Bangladesh.



### New York Fed appoints Sushmita Shukla as First Vice President & COO

- Sushmita Shukla, an Indian-origin veteran of the insurance industry, has been appointed as 1st Vice President (VP) and Chief Operating Officer (COO) at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York ((New York Fed), with effect from March 2023.
- The appointment was approved by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System. Sushmita Shukla will be the New York Fed's 2nd-ranking officer as First Vice President.

### Indian-Origin Nihar Malaviya Named Interim CEO of Publishing Giant Penguin Random House

- Nihar Malaviya, an Indian-origin publishing executive, has been named Interim Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of New York-based international publishing group Penguin Random House after Markus Dohle, current CEO, announced his resignation. Nihar Malaviya will assume the role of interim CEO from 1st January 2023

### Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu took oath as the 15th CM of Himachal Pradesh

- Former Congress State Chief Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu took oath as the 15th Chief Minister (CM) of Himachal Pradesh (HP) at a ceremony held in Shimla, HP while Mukesh Agnihotri took oath as the Deputy CM of the state. Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu will succeed CM Jai Ram Thakur.



### Bhupendra Patel Takes Oath for 2<sup>nd</sup> Consecutive Time as CM of Gujarat

- Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) member Bhupendra Patel was sworn in by Governor Acharya Devvrat as the 18th Chief Minister (CM) of Gujarat during a ceremony held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- In the recently completed Gujarat Assembly Election 2022, Patel won the Ghatlodia seat with the largest margin of 1.92 lakh votes.
- He will serve as the CM of Gujarat for the second year in a row. He was sworn in as CM for the first time on September 13, 2021, replacing the Vijay Rupani-led state government



### Shaji K V Assumes Charge as Chairman of NABARD

- Shaji K V has taken the charge as Chairman of the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) with effect from 7th December 2022.

- He succeeded Suchindra Misra, Additional Secretary, Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance (MoF), who was holding additional charge.  
✓ NABARD: HQ – Mumbai, Maharashtra; Establishment – 1982



### WHO Appoints Dr Jeremy Farrar as Chief Scientist; Replacing Soumya Swaminathan

- World Health Organization (WHO) has appointed Dr Jeremy Farrar as its new Chief Scientist with effect from the 2nd quarter of 2023. He will be replacing Soumya Swaminathan, who resigned from the post after a 5-year stint.
- Soumya Swaminathan (63 years old), who has been serving as the Chief Scientist at WHO from 2019 to 2022 resigned her post. She is 2 years short of WHO's mandatory retirement age.



### Cindy Hook Appointed as CEO of 2032 Olympic Organising Committee

- American executive Cindy Hook was appointed as the inaugural Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the organising committee for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Brisbane, Queensland, Australia.
- Brisbane was confirmed as host of the 2032 Summer Olympics at the 138th IOC Session on 21 July 2021 in Tokyo, Japan. Brisbane became the first host city to be selected to host the Olympics through the new bid process.

### SEBI Approves Appointment of Sundararaman R as MD & CEO of BSE

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) approved the appointment of Sundararaman Ramamurthy as the Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of BSE Limited (formerly Bombay Stock Exchange).

- He succeeds Ashishkumar Chauhan who resigned as BSE chief in July 2022 to join National Stock Exchange (NSE) as MD & CEO.
- ✓ BSE Limited: Chairman – S.S. Mundra; HQ- Mumbai, Maharashtra ; Establishment- 1875

### Acting NDDB Chairman Meenesh Shah elevated as Managing Director

- The Board of Directors of the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) has promoted Meenesh C Shah, the acting Chairman of NDDB, to Managing Director (MD) from Executive Director.
- Meenesh C Shah's tenure as acting Chairman of NDDB ends on 30th November 2022.

### Kassym-Jomart K. Tokayev sworn in as Kazakhstan's President

- Kassym-Jomart Kemeluly Tokayev was sworn-in for 2nd time as President of the Republic of Kazakhstan. He succeeded the long-reigning Nursultan Nazarbayev as President of Kazakhstan during the 2019 presidential elections.
- He will rule for seven more years, without the possibility of another term, due to a recent constitutional amendment proposed by Tokayev himself.

### Opposition Leader Anwar Ibrahim sworn in as Prime Minister of Malaysia

- Long-time opposition leader Anwar bin Ibrahim (75-year-old) leader of Malaysia's Pakatan Harapan coalition was sworn in as the 10th Prime Minister (PM) of Malaysia.
- Malaysia's king, Sultan Abdullah Sultan Ahmad Shah, named Anwar Ibrahim as Malaysia's PM.
- Anwar Ibrahim succeeds the 9th Prime Minister of Malaysia, Ismail Sabri Yaakob.
- Malaysia's bicameral (Two-Chamber) parliament consists of the Dewan Rakyat (222 elected members) (House of Representatives or literally People's Hall) and the Dewan Negara (70 Senators) (Nation's Hall in Malay; however, it is commonly referred to as the Senate).

## REPORTS, INDICES AND RANKING

### 2022 Social Progress Index: Norway Tops Globally, India Ranks 110th; Puducherry tops in India

- The Institute for Competitiveness released the annual 2022 Social Progress Index (SPI) which was published by Social Progress Imperative. India secured a global rank of 110 with score of 60.19 in Tier 4 countries.
- The index is topped by Norway with a score of 90.74 in Tier-1 countries i.e. high income countries. Among Tier 2 countries, Spain topped with a score of 85.35, and global rank of 21st. Among Tier 3 countries, Russia topped with a score of 71.99, and global rank of 59th.
- In Tier 4, Ghana is on top with a score of 64.80 at 98th while Tier 5 is topped by Côte d'Ivoire with 54.01, and 127th rank; and Tier 6 Niger tops at 159th global rank with a score of 43.14.

### Urgent Action Needed in South Asia to Curb Deadly Air Pollution: World Bank report

- The World Bank (WB) has released its report titled 'Striving for Clean Air: Air Pollution and Public Health in South Asia' stating that South Asia is home to 9 of the world's 10 cities with the worst air pollution, and there is a requirement of urgent action to curb it.
- The concentrations of fine particulate matter such as soot and small dust (PM 2.5) in some of the region's most densely populated and poor areas are up to 20 times higher than the WHO limit (5 micrograms per cubic meter air [ $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ]).

### IEA Annual Report: India's Coal Production to Exceed a Billion Tonnes by 2025

- The International Energy Agency (IEA) in its annual report titled 'Coal 2022: Analysis and Forecast to 2025', claimed that China and India, the world's two largest coal consumers, are also the

world's largest producers and top two coal importers.

- ✓ It is projected that by 2025, India's coal production will exceed 1 billion tonnes.
- ✓ India is predicted to experience the biggest increase in coal demand, at 7%, followed by the European Union (EU) at 6% and China at 0.4%.

### Science & Engineering Indicators 2022: India Jumped from 7th To 3rd Global Ranking in Scientific Publications

- India has improved its position in the global ranking of scientific publications from 7th in 2010 to 3rd in 2020, according to the "Science & Engineering Indicators 2022" report by the National Science Foundation (NSF) of the United States (US).
- ✓ The amount of scholarly output produced in India has increased, going from 60,555 papers in 2010 to 1,49,213 papers in 2020.
- ✓ WIPO: Director General – Daren Tang; Establishment – 1967; HQ – Geneva, Switzerland.

### UI GreenMetric World University Rankings 2022: MAHE ranks No 1 in India & 121st Worldwide

- According to the UI Green Metric World University Rankings 2022 released by The Universitas Indonesia (UI) on 12th December 2022, the Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE) in Manipal (town within Udipi), Karnataka, is ranked No. 1 in India and 121st worldwide for being the most sustainable university.
- ✓ MAHE is followed by Mangalore University, Mangaluru, Karnataka, and SRM University (Institute of Science and Technology) Chengalpattu, Tamil Nadu are ranked 2nd & 3rd in India.
- ✓ Wageningen University & Research of Netherlands topped the list followed by the United Kingdom (UK)'s Nottingham Trent University and

University of Nottingham in 2nd and 3rd place respectively

### India to add 145 GW of RE Capacity by 2027: IEA Report

- The International Energy Agency (IEA) in its latest report states that India is expected to add 145 Gigawatts (GW) of Renewable Energy (RE) capacity in the next five years (2022–27) with solar energy accounting for 75%.
  - ✓ This addition is aided by consistent policy support and competitive auctions implemented to achieve the ambitious target of 500 GW of non-fossil capacity by 2030.
  - ✓ IEA: Executive Director– Dr Fatih Birol; HQ– Paris, France.

### EIU WCOL Index: Singapore & New York becomes 'Most Expensive City in the World'

- According to the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) Worldwide Cost of Living (WCOL) Index, Singapore and New York (United States of America) has been declared as joint most expensive cities in the world to live in.
  - ✓ New York has topped the rankings for the first time along with Singapore which has topped the list 8 times in 10 years. Tel Aviv of Israel which topped the list in 2021 has secured the 3rd rank in the 2022 index.
  - ✓ Indian cities like Ahmedabad, Chennai and Bengaluru are among the Bottom 10 positions of the index, ranked 165th, 164th and 161st respectively.

### Arton Capital's Passport Index 2022: India Ranked 67 in The World's Strongest Passport List; UAE Tops

- According to Arton Capital's "Passport Index 2022," India is placed 67 in the world's strongest passport list, while the United Arab Emirates (UAE) is ranked 1st in the passport ranking for 2022.
  - ✓ Travellers with a UAE passport (Rank 1) can enter 180 countries without hassles, which is 7

more than European countries such as Germany and Sweden, and 9 more than Japan.

- ✓ In 2nd rank were ten European countries: Germany, Sweden, Finland, Luxembourg, Spain, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Austria, Switzerland, along with South Korea.
- ✓ The 3rd rank on the list is the United States (US) passport, which grants visa-free access to 116 nations.

### SIPRI Report: India's HAL, BEL Rise in Rankings among Top 100 Global Arms Manufacturers

- Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), a Swedish think-tank, released a report titled 'Top 100 arms-producing and military services companies 2021', which lists companies making arms, weapons, military planes and equipment.
  - ✓ India's military equipment manufacturing companies Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) have been listed in the top 100.
  - ✓ HAL has improved to 42nd position in 2021 ranking, compared to 43rd in 2020 and BEL has secured 63rd position, showing improvement from 69th position in 2020.
  - ✓ The United States (US) has topped the list followed by China, for the second successive year.

### India to receive over record \$100 bn in Remittances in 2022: World Bank Brief

- The World Bank in its 37th Migration and Development Brief 2022 titled 'Remittances Brave Global Headwinds, Special Focus: Climate Migration' stated that India is all set to receive more than USD 100 billion (bn) in yearly remittances in 2022. [Click Here for full report](#) .
  - ✓ This means migrant workers from India will send a record USD 100 bn in 2022 to their home country (India), despite global headwinds like rising prices.
  - ✓ This is for the first time a single country will receive more than USD 100 bn in yearly remittances.

## IMPORTANT DAYS AND THEMES

| Date        | Day  | Theme/ Description   |
|-------------|--|--|
| December 25 | National Good Governance Day 2022                | Good Governance Day is annually observed across India on 25th December to mark the birth anniversary of the former Prime Minister (PM) Late Atal Bihari Vajpayee.<br><b>Good Governance Week 2022 – Dec.19th to 25th</b>   |
| December 24 | National Consumer Day 2022                       | <b>Theme of 2022:</b> “Effective Disposal of cases in Consumer Commission”.  |
| December 23 | Kisan Diwas or National Farmers Day 2022         | National Farmers Day annually observed across India on December 23 to mark the birth anniversary of Chaudhary Charan Singh, a farmers’ leader who became India’s 5th Prime Minister (PM) (1979-1980).  |
| December 22 | National Mathematics Day 2022                    | National Mathematics Day annually observed across India on December 22 to mark the birth anniversary of renowned Indian Mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan. 22nd December 2022 marks the 135th birth anniversary of Srinivasa Ramanujan   |
| December 18 | International Migrants Day 2022                  | International Migrants Day annually observed across the globe on December 18 to marks the day on which the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families in 1990. |
| December 16 | 51st Vijay Diwas                                 | Vijay Diwas annually observed across India and Bangladesh on December 16 to commemorate the victory of the Indian armed forces against the Pakistan forces in the 1971 Indo-Pak war (India – Pakistan war of 1971) also known as Bangladesh Liberation war.                          |
| December 14 | National Energy Conservation Day 2022            | National Energy Conservation Week 2022 from 14th to 20th December.   |
| December 12 | International Universal Health Coverage Day 2022 | <b>Theme of 2022:</b> “Build the world we want: A healthy future for all”.   |
| December 11 | UNICEF Day 2022                                  | UNICEF Day annually observed across the globe on December 11 to mark the creation of UNICEF by United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on December 11, 1946.  |
| December 11 | International Mountain Day 2022                  | <b>Theme of 2022:</b> ‘Women move mountains’   |
| December 10 | Human Rights Day 2022                            | <b>Theme of 2022 :</b> “Dignity, Freedom, and Justice for All”   |
| December 9  | International Anti-Corruption Day 2022           | <b>Theme of 2022 :</b> “UNCAC at 20: Uniting the World Against Corruption”.  |

|             |  |  |
|-------------|--|--|
| December 8  | Indian Army Service Corps's 262 <sup>nd</sup> Corps Day          | This day annually observed on December 08 to commemorate the rich history of the IASC and to pay homage to the Soldiers and Martyrs who served the nation.   |
| December 5  | World Soil Day 2022  | <b>Theme of 2022:</b> "Soils: where food begins".  |
| December 3  | International Day of Persons with Disabilities 2022              | <b>Theme of 2022:</b> 'Transformative solutions for inclusive development: the role of innovation in fueling an accessible and equitable world'.   |
| December 2  | National Pollution Control Day 2022                              | National Pollution Control Day annually observed across India on December 2 to honour and commemorate the people who lost their lives in the Bhopal Gas Tragedy on the 2nd and 3rd of December 1984.<br>National Pollution Control Day is also known as "National Pollution Prevention Day"  |
| December 1  | World AIDS Day 2022  | <b>Theme of 2022:</b> "Equalize"   |
| November 29 | International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People 2022 | -----  |
| November 27 | National Organ Donation Day 2022                                 | -----  |
| November 26 | National Milk Day 2022   | National Milk Day annually observed across India on November 26 to commemorate the birth anniversary of the "Father of the White Revolution in India", Dr Verghese Kurien, who was fondly known as the 'Milkman of India'.<br>National Milk Day is annually organised by the Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying, under the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying.  |
| November 26 | Constitution Day 2022  | Constitution Day annually observed across India on November 26 to commemorate the adoption of the Constitution of India by the Constituent Assembly of India on 26th November 1949.<br>✓ The Constitution Day is also known as 'Samvidhan Divas'.<br>✓ The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJE) is the Nodal agency for the celebrations organised as part of Constitution Day.<br>✓ 26th November 2022 marks the 73 <sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution of India. Indian Constitution was adopted on 26th November 1949.<br><b>Theme of 2022:</b> "India – the Mother of Democracy. |



## CURRENT AFFAIRS PRACTICE QUESTIONS

1. Which of the following points are 'correct' with respect to the Cabinet approval in December 2022?  
A) Union Cabinet approved the revision of the pension of Armed Forces pensioners and family pensioners under the One Rank One Pension (OROP) scheme, effective July 1, 2019.  
B) The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), chaired by PM Narendra Modi, has approved Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for copra for the 2023 season.  
C) The MSP for fair Average Quality milling copra is Rs. 10860 per quintal for the 2023 season, and Rs. 11750 per quintal for ball copra.  
a) Only A    b) Only A & B  
c) Only B & C    d) Only A & C  
e) All A, B & C
2. According to 2022 Forbes's World's Highest-Paid Female Athletes, (as of Dec '22), Indian Badminton player PV Sindhu became the only Indian and the only badminton player among the list of top 25 and ranked \_\_\_\_\_ in the list.  
a) 5th          b) 10th          c) 15th          d) 12th          e) 9th
3. What is the total loan amount provided by International Finance Corporation (IFC) (as of Dec '22) to HDFC Limited to boost green affordable housing finance in India?  
a) USD 200 million                                      b) USD 400 million  
c) USD 500 million                                      d) USD 800 million  
e) USD 150 million
4. \_\_\_\_\_ is the reported growth rate made by International Monetary Fund (IMF) in the current fiscal year (FY23) (as of Dec '22) for India, which will be falling to \_\_\_\_\_ in the next fiscal year (FY24).  
a) 6.8 %, 6.1 %    b) 7%, 6.8%  
c) 6.6%, 6.1 %    d) 6.5%, 6.8 %  
e) 6.1 %, 6.8 %
5. Which of the following personalities has recently (in Dec '22) won the Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize 2021-2022?  
a) Shobhana Kumar                                      b) Sudeep Sen  
c) Raj Kamal Jha    d) Both 1 & 2  
d) Both 2 & 3
6. Sania Mirza is set to become India's 1st Muslim female fighter pilot in the Indian Air Force (IAF) and \_\_\_\_\_'s 1st IAF pilot.  
a) Uttar Pradesh  
b) Madhya Pradesh  
c) Maharashtra  
d) Karnataka  
e) Bihar
7. Name the Indian weightlifter who has recently (in Dec '22) won the silver medal, under 49 kg Wome category, at the 2022 IWF World Championships held in Bogota, Colombia.  
a) Harjinder Kaur  
b) Saikhom Mirabai Chanu  
c) Kunjarani Devi  
d) Punam Yadav  
e) Bindyarani Devi Sorokhaibam
8. According to the FIFA 2022 world rankings (as of Dec '22), \_\_\_\_\_ ranked No.1 & 22<sup>nd</sup> FIFA Men's World Cup 2022 Champions Argentina ranke \_\_\_\_\_.  
a) France; 3rd  
b) Brazil; 4th  
c) Morocco; 2nd  
d) France; 4th  
e) Brazil; 2nd
9. When was Kisan Diwas/National Farmers Day 2022 observed across India?  
a) 23rd December 2022  
b) 20th December 2022  
c) 22nd December 2022  
d) 19th December 2022  
e) 21st December 2022
10. In December 2022, the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) approved the Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) for 24 capital acquisition proposals worth \_\_\_\_\_.  
a) Rs 72,678 crores  
b) Rs 84,328 crores  
c) Rs 62, 761 crores  
d) Rs 51,543 crores  
e) Rs 49,356 crores

11. Name the company that has recently (in Dec '22) launched GIXI, India's First Gas Price Index.
- Oil and Natural Gas Corporation
  - Indian Gas Exchange
  - Hindustan Petroleum Limited
  - Oil India Limited
  - Bharat Petroleum Limited
12. In December 2022, Reliance Retail Ventures Limited (RRVL) signed definitive agreements to acquire a 100% equity stake in Metro Cash and Carry India Pvt Ltd (Metro India) for a cash consideration of \_\_\_\_\_.
- Rs 2,850 crore
  - Rs 4,278 crore
  - Rs 5,879 crore
  - Rs 3,289 crore
  - Rs 1,678 crore
13. Name the personality from India who is among the 8-Member Crew for SpaceX Moon Trip on a Starship spacecraft in 2023.
- Dev Joshi
  - Anushka Sen
  - Rudra Soni
  - Vansh Sayani
  - Ashnoor Kaur
14. In December 2022, \_\_\_\_\_ passed a gender recognition reform bill, making it easier to legally change gender.
- Italy
  - Scotland
  - California
  - Ireland
  - Spain
15. Who has been recently (in Dec '22) selected to become a fighter pilot in the Indian Air Force (IAF)?
- Shivangi Singh
  - Avani Chaturvedi
  - Bhawana Kanth
  - Sania Mirza
  - Abhinandan Varthaman
16. Which bank has recently (in Dec '22) won IBS Intelligence (IBSi) Global FinTech Innovation Awards 2022 along with BUSINESSNEXT?
- HDFC Bank
  - South Indian Bank
  - RBL Bank
  - Karnataka Bank
  - ICICI Bank
17. Which of the following points are 'correct' with respect to the 7th edition of Digital India Awards (DIA) 2022 as of December 2022?
- The Smart Cities Mission of the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has won the Platinum icon award in the DIA 2022 under the Data Sharing and Use for Socio Economic Development category.
  - National Agriculture Market (eNAM) won Platinum icon award in the Digital India Awards (DIA) 2022 under the Digital Empowerment Citizens category.
  - e-Vivechna App (Madhya Pradesh) won the Platinum icon award in the Digital India Awards (DIA) 2022 under the Digital Initiatives at Grassroot Level category.
- All A, B & C
  - Only A & B
  - Only B & C
  - Only A & C
  - Only A
18. Name the Indian personality who has recently (in Dec '22) become the only Indian to feature on 50 Greatest Actors of All Time List of Empire Magazine, a British monthly film magazine.
- Amitabh Bachchan
  - Shah Rukh Khan
  - Hrithik Roshan
  - Akshay Kumar
  - Salman Khan
19. Name the 5th Scorpene-class conventional submarine of "Project 75" that was recently (in Dec '22) delivered to the Indian Navy by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- Khanderi
  - Vela
  - Vagir
  - Vagsheer
  - Kalvari
20. Name the Indian Naval Ship (INS), which is the 1st Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC), launched by the Indian Navy in December 2022.
- INS Androth
  - INS Kamorta
  - INS Veer
  - INS Arnala
  - INS Katchall
21. Which of the following Points are 'Correct' with respect to Project 75?
- It is constructed by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited.
  - It has Six Scorpene Submarines.
  - INS Kalvari is the first of the six indigenous Scorpene-class submarines.
  - Vagsheer the 6th and last Scorpene-class submarine
  - All the Above

22. In which state, India's first & World's 2nd Infantry Research Centre and Museum was inaugurated in December 2022?
- Gujarat
  - Madhya Pradesh
  - Goa
  - Maharashtra
  - West Bengal
23. What is India's rank in 2020, as per the "Science & Engineering Indicators 2022" report released by the National Science Foundation (NSF) of the United States (US) in December 2022?
- 7th
  - 2nd
  - 4th
  - 6th
  - 3rd
24. Which country's blind cricket team recently (in Dec '22) won the 3rd T20 World Cup for the Blind for the 3rd consecutive time?
- India
  - Bangladesh
  - Japan
  - Nepal
  - South Korea
25. Who has recently (in Dec '22) crowned as the Mrs World 2022 held at Nevada, USA?
- Candice Abrahams (South Africa)
  - Sargam Koushal (India)
  - Jennifer Le (Vietnam)
  - Shaylyn Ford (USA)
  - Kate Schneider (Ireland)
26. In December 2022, Indian origin Leo Varadkar was elected as the Prime Minister of \_\_\_\_\_ for the 2nd Time.
- Italy
  - Norway
  - Ireland
  - Canada
  - Netherlands
27. Which of the following points is/are 'Incorrect with respect to the FIFA Men's World Cup 2022 held in Qatar in December 2022?
- A) Argentina won the 23rd FIFA Men's World Cup 2022 by defeating France and grabbed their 5th title.  
B) Argentina's Captain, and Seven-time Ballon d'Or winner Lionel Messi was named as tournament's best player, winning the Golden Ball.  
C) 'Now is All' is the Slogan FIFA 2022 and La'eeb was the Official Mascot of FIFA 2022.
- Only A
  - Only B
  - Only C
  - Only A & B
  - Only B & C
28. In December 2022, Indian women's hockey team won the 1st edition of the FIH Hockey Women's Nations Cup 2022 by defeating which country?
- Spain
  - Japan
  - Ireland
  - South Korea
  - Indonesia
29. The United Nations (UN)'s International Migrants Day 2022 was observed across the globe on \_\_\_\_\_
- 17th December 2022
  - 15th December 2022
  - 18th December 2022
  - 16th December 2022
  - 19th December 2022
30. The \_\_\_\_\_ Edition of Indo-Nepal joint training Exercise 'Surya Kiran' between India and Nepal began at Saljhandi, Nepal in December 2022.
- 14th
  - 16th
  - 13th
  - 15th
  - 12th
31. According to the International Energy Agency (IEA)'s report released in December 2022, India's Coal Production to Exceed a 1 billion Tonnes by \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2026
  - 2024
  - 2025
  - 2027
  - 2023
32. Name the country that has recently (in Dec '22) signed a memorandum with the Indian Chambers of International Business (ICIB) and MSME to enable companies to enter Indian Etrade Platforms.
- United Arab Emirates
  - Indonesia
  - France
  - Russia
  - Australia
33. Name the personality who has recently (in Dec '22) named as PETA India's 'Person of The Year 2022' title.
- Shraddha Kapoor
  - Sonakshi Sinha
  - Alia Bhatt
  - Katrina Kaif
  - Disha Patani
34. In December 2022, State Bank of India (SBI) raised Rs. 10,000 crore through its maiden infrastructure bond issuance at a coupon rate of 7.51%. What is the tenor for the bond?
- 3 years
  - 6 years
  - 4 years
  - 10 years
  - 5 years

35. What is the edition of India-Kazakhstan joint training exercise 'KAZIND-22' initiated at Umroi Military Station in Ri-Bhoi district of Meghalaya in December 2022?
- a) 6th  
b) 3rd  
c) 5th  
d) 2nd  
e) 4th
36. In December 2022, Rafael Nadal from \_\_\_\_\_ was named the Men's International Tennis Federation (ITF) World Champion 2022 for the 5th time, while \_\_\_\_\_ from Poland was named Women's ITF World Champion 2022.
- a) Spain; Ons Jabeur  
b) Australia; Magda Linette  
c) Spain; Iga Świątek  
d) Australia; Caroline Garcia  
e) Denmark; Magda Linette
37. In December 2022, Mette Frederiksen was re-elected as the Prime Minister (PM) of which country?
- a) Sweden  
b) Denmark  
c) Norway  
d) Belgium  
e) Netherlands
38. In December 2022, India conducted night trials of nuclear-capable ballistic missile 'Agni V' from APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the Odisha coast. Agni V is the \_\_\_\_\_ missile with a range of over 5,000 km.
- a) Medium Range Ballistic Missile  
b) Short Range Ballistic Missile  
c) Intermediate Range Ballistic Missile  
d) Intercontinental Range Ballistic Missile  
e) Integrated Range Ballistic Missile
39. In December 2022, India received its final 36th Rafale aircraft from which country?
- a) Germany  
b) France  
c) Russia  
d) United States of America  
e) Japan
40. Which state recently (in Dec '22) became the first state to launch its own Climate Change Mission?
- a) Maharashtra  
b) Andhra Pradesh  
c) West Bengal  
d) Karnataka  
e) Tamil Nadu
41. Hanle as India's first dark sky reserve, is located in which state/UT?
- a) Ladakh  
b) Arunachal Pradesh  
c) Jammu and Kashmir  
e) West Bengal  
e) Odisha
42. The Geographical Indication (GI) Tag has been granted by the Government of India (GoI) to 9 new products in December 2022, which raises the total number of GI tags in India to \_\_\_\_\_.
- a) 301  
b) 398  
c) 401  
d) 528  
e) 432
43. In December 2022, \_\_\_\_\_ became India's first carbon-neutral Power Exchange.
- a) Indian Oil Corporation  
b) Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Limited  
c) Indian Energy Exchange  
d) Gas Authority of India Limited  
e) Hindustan Petroleum Limited
44. In Arton Capital's "Passport Index 2022," (as of 16th Dec '22), India secured \_\_\_\_\_ rank in the world's strongest passport list, while \_\_\_\_\_ ranked 1st in the list.
- a) 70th; United Arab Emirates  
b) 66th; Germany  
c) 70th; Sweden  
d) 66th; United Arab Emirates  
e) 87th; Germany
45. Which of the following Indian companies has been listed in the 'Top 100 arms-producing and military services companies 2021' released by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) in December 2022?
- a) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited  
b) Bharat Electronics Limited  
c) Bharat Dynamics Limited  
d) Both 1 & 2  
e) Both 1 & 3
46. Which company has recently (in Dec' 22) become an official partner of the Fédération Internationale de Hockey (FIH) Men's World Cup 2023 in Odisha, India?
- a) Tata Steel Limited  
b) MPL Sports Foundation  
c) RuPay  
d) Adani Sportsline  
e) Madras Rubber Factory
47. According to the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) Worldwide Cost of Living (WCOL) Index released in December 2022, which of the following countries has been declared as joint most expensive cities in the world to live in?
- a) Singapore (Singapore)  
b) New York (USA)  
c) Tel Aviv (Israel)  
d) Both 1 & 2  
e) Both 2 & 3

48. Which country has recently (in Dec '22) received Membership Candidate Status from the European Union?  
a) Bulgaria                      b) Albania  
c) Montenegro                  d) Bosnia and Herzegovina  
e) Slovenia
49. In December 2022, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) exempted the Non-Resident (NR) taxpayers from mandatory electronic filing of Form 10F until \_\_\_\_\_.  
a) 31st May 2023                      b) 31st January 2023  
c) 30th April 2023                      d) 31st March 2023  
e) 28th February 2023
50. In December 2022, the Chairman of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), announced at the "India SatCom 2022", that India will be the first country in the world to auction satellite communications (SatCom) spectrum. Who is the current (as of Dec '22) Chairman of TRAI?  
a) Mahendra Srivastava  
b) Bhaskar Ramamurthi  
c) Meenakshi Gupta  
d) V. Raghunandan  
e) P. D. Vaghela
51. When was National Energy Conservation Day 2022 observed across India?  
a) 13th December 2022  
b) 10th December 2022  
c) 14th December 2022  
d) 11th December 2022  
e) 12th December 2022
52. Union Minister of Commerce and Industry and Textiles Piyush Goyal announced that India will aim to achieve USD 100 billion exports for textiles by \_\_\_\_\_.  
a) 2035                                      b) 2026  
c) 2030                                      d) 2025  
e) 2027
53. Which country has emerged as the top oil supplier to India replacing Iraq in November 2022?  
a) Russia                                      b) Iran  
c) Saudi Arabia                              d) Kuwait  
e) United Arab Emirates
54. The "white paper revolution" recently seen in the news refers to \_\_\_\_\_.  
a) Summit signed during COP27  
b) Protests in China against the country's zero covid policy  
c) JP Morgan commits climate neglect protests  
d) Protests in Iran against the female dress code  
e) Military MoU signed between Russia and Ukraine
55. In December 2022, World Health Organization (WHO) published the World Malaria Report 2022, with key highlighting that the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted 63,000 more malaria deaths globally over the last two years.  
Which region has suffered 95% of the world's 247 million malaria infections in 2021?  
a) North-eastern Asia  
b) Mediterranean & Middle East  
c) South East Asia  
d) Africa  
e) Caribbean
56. In December 2022, '\_\_\_\_\_ ' established an International 'Climate Club' for countries to combat global warming.  
a) BRICS  
b) G20  
c) G7  
d) G4  
e) G8
57. In December 2022, Shaji K. V. assumed charge as the chairman of which organization?  
a) Small Industries Development Bank of India  
b) Securities and Exchange Board of India  
c) Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority  
d) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India  
e) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development
58. Who replaced Soumya Swaminathan to become the new Chief Scientist of World Health Organization (WHO) with effect from the 2nd quarter of 2023?  
a) Samira Asma  
b) Jaouad Mahjour  
c) Michael Ryan  
d) Jeremy Farrar  
e) Catharina Boehme
59. Who has recently (in Dec '22) taken oath as the 15th Chief Minister (CM) of Himachal Pradesh (HP)?  
a) Shanta Kumar  
b) Virbhadra Singh  
c) Jai Ram Thakur  
d) Prem Kumar Dhupal  
e) Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu
60. Name the personality who has been named as the 1st woman president of Indian Olympic Association (IOA) in December 2022.  
a) Saraswati Chand  
b) P.T. Usha  
c) Seema Punia  
d) Dutee Chand  
e) Kamalpreet Kaur

61. Which organisation has recently (in Dec '22) launched a private mission to the moon with Japanese lander 'Hakuto' and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) rover 'Rashid' from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station in Florida?
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration
  - SpaceX
  - European Space Agency
  - Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency
  - Indian Space Research Organisation
62. In which city, the India International Science Festival (IISF)-2022 will be held in January 2023?
- Chennai, Tamil Nadu
  - Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh
  - Bengaluru, Karnataka
  - Mumbai, Maharashtra
  - Ahmedabad, Gujarat
63. As per the International Energy Agency (IEA) report released in December 2022, India is expected to add 145 Gigawatts (GW) of Renewable Energy (RE) capacity by \_\_\_\_\_ year.
- 2026
  - 2028
  - 2025
  - 2027
  - 2029
64. Name the Indian personality who has recently (in Dec '22) won the BWF Female ParaBadminton Player of the Year 2022.
- Mandeep Kaur
  - Palak Kohli
  - Parul Parmar
  - Nelakurihi Sikki Reddy
  - Manisha Ramadass
65. Name the Indian cricketer who has recently (in Dec '22) became the fastest doublecenturion in Men's One Day International (ODI) by breaking the West Indies cricketer, Chris Gayle's world records.
- Rishabh Pant
  - Ishan Kishan
  - Shreyas Iyer
  - Suryakumar Yadav
  - KL Rahul
66. When was United Nations (UN)'s Human Rights Day 2022 observed across the globe with the theme of "Dignity, Freedom, and Justice for All"?
- 6th December 2022
  - 9th December 2022
  - 7th December 2022
  - 10th December 2022
  - 8th December 2022
67. In December 2022, the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) extended the 'Rooftop Solar Programme' till \_\_\_\_\_.
- March 2024
  - March 2026
  - March 2023
  - March 2027
  - March 2025
68. In which state/UT, the International Lusophone Festival was held in December 2022?
- Himachal Pradesh
  - Jammu and Kashmir
  - Goa
  - Ladakh
  - Uttarakhand
69. Which of the following countries has recently (in Dec '22) signed a deal with Japan to develop a next-generation fighter aircraft by 2035?
- Australia
  - United Kingdom
  - Italy
  - Both 1 & 2
  - Both 2 & 3
70. Which portal has recently (in Dec '22) launched India's first private market index to monitor the value actions of privately traded securities?
- Unlistedkart.com
  - Angelone.in
  - Parasramindia.com
  - StocX.in
  - Planify.in
71. Name the country's Prime Minister (PM) who has been recently (in Dec '22) named as the "Global Ambassador for Diabetes" by the International Diabetic Federation (IDF).
- Justin Trudeau (PM of Canada)
  - Giorgia Meloni (PM of Italy)
  - Sheikh Hasina (PM of Bangladesh)
  - Narendra Modi (PM of India)
  - Hun Sen (PM of Cambodia)
72. In December 2022, ISRO's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicles (PSLV)-XL rocket motor 'PSOMXL' successfully cleared test in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.
- Which company developed the booster motor 'PSOM-XL'?
- Hindustan Aeronautics Limited
  - Rifle Factory Ishapore
  - Indian Ordnance Factories
  - Economic Explosives Limited
  - Bharat Electronics Limited

73. Which institute has recently (in Dec '22) launched the first electric formula racing car 'RF23'?
- IIT Bombay
  - IIT Kanpur
  - IIT Madras
  - IIT Delhi
  - IIT Kharagpur
74. In December 2022, the "SWAMIH Investment Fund I" received \_\_\_\_\_ investment from the Government of India (GoI) to help Homebuyers.
- Rs 2,000 crore
  - Rs 5,000 crore
  - Rs 3,000 crore
  - Rs 4,000 crore
  - Rs 1,000 crore
75. Which of the following points are 'Incorrect' with respect to the RBI's bi-monthly monetary policy of FY23 held in December 2022?
- RBI decreased India's real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth to 6.8% from 7% for FY23.
  - The MPC raised the repo rate by 35 basis points to 6.25% from 5.90%
  - The Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) Rate adjusted to 6% from 5.65% and Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) rate to 6.50% from 6.15%.
  - The Bank Rate remained unchanged at 6.15%.
  - Real GDP growth for Q1FY24 is projected at 7.1%.
76. Name the bank that recently (in Dec '22) partnered with the National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM) Center of Excellence (CoE) to promote the startup ecosystem.
- IDFC First Bank
  - HDFC Bank
  - ICICI Bank
  - Axis Bank
  - YES Bank
77. Name the organization that has recently (in Dec '22) organised 'Kutumb' Event in New Delhi, along with the India Infoline Limited- Home Finance Ltd. (IIFL HFL).
- World Bank
  - International Monetary Fund
  - Asian Development Bank
  - African Development Bank
  - Association of Southeast Asian Nations
78. Who has recently (in Dec '22) recognised as Time Magazine's 2022 Person of the Year?
- Rishi Sunak (Prime Minister of the UK)
  - Gregory Robinson (Former NASA administrator)
  - Volodymyr Zelensky (President of Ukraine)
  - Elon Musk (CEO of Tesla)
  - Joe Biden (President of US)
79. Which of the following personalities from India are recognised as "Superstars of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics)" by Science & Technology Australia (STA) for 2023-2024?
- Neelima Kadiyala
  - Ana Baburamani
  - Indrani Mukherjee
  - Only 1 & 2
  - All 1, 2 & 3
80. In December 2022, Dina Ercilia Boluarte Zegarra was sworn in as the 1st Female President of which country?
- Venezuela
  - Ecuador
  - Peru
  - Brazil
  - Chile
81. HarperCollins Publishers India Pvt. Ltd. has announced the autobiography of Pakistani Cricketer Wasim Akram titled "Sultan: A Memoir" is set to be released on 22nd December 2022. The book was written by whom along with Wasim Akram?
- Gideon Haigh
  - Peter Greste
  - Jonathan Swan
  - John Pilger
  - Paul Kadak
82. In December 2022, CM Pinarayi Vijayan, delivered a speech at the India Climate and Development Partners' Meet and stated that Kerala aspires to become a 100% renewable energy-based state by \_\_\_\_\_ and net carbon neutral by 2050.
- 2025
  - 2035
  - 2030
  - 2027
  - 2040
83. According to the World Bank's latest update (in Dec '22) 'India Development Update Navigating the Storm' raised its GDP growth forecast for India during FY23 to \_\_\_\_\_ from 6.5%.
- 7.0%
  - 6.9%
  - 7.5%
  - 6.7%
  - 7.2%
84. Name the Personality who has recently (in Dec '22) named as the World Athletes of the Year 2022.
- Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone
  - Armand Mondo Duplantis
  - Erriyon Knighton
  - Both 1 & 2
  - Both 2 & 3

85. Who has recently (in Dec '22) won the Miss Earth 2022 title at the Okada Manila in Philippines?  
 a) Nadeen Ayoub (Palestine)  
 b) Sheridan Mortlock (Australia)  
 c) Andrea Aguilera (Colombia)  
 d) Destiny Wagner (Belize)  
 e) Mina Sue Choi (South Korea)
86. In December 2022, Aditya Mittal became India's \_\_\_\_\_ chess Grandmaster (GM) during the 3rd edition of El Llobregat Open Chess Tournament in Spain.  
 a) 78th  
 b) 76th  
 c) 74th  
 d) 77th  
 e) 75th
87. Name the company that has recently (in Dec '22) introduced a new range of international roaming plans for postpaid as well as prepaid users through 'World Pass'.  
 a) Vodafone Idea  
 b) Reliance Jio Infocomm  
 c) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited  
 d) Bharti Airtel  
 e) Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited
88. According to the RBI, WALR stands for?  
 a) Working Average Lending Rates  
 b) Weighted Average Leading Ratio  
 c) Wholesale Average Lending Rates  
 d) Weighted Average Lending Rates  
 e) Weighted Acquired Leading Ratio
89. According to the Employees' Provident Fund Organization (EPFO) data, 87.1 lakh new formal jobs were generated in India during the first half of the current financial year (H1 FY23), a \_\_\_\_\_ rise from H1 FY22.  
 a) 15%  
 b) 40%  
 c) 20%  
 d) 35%  
 e) 25%
90. Which of the following Indian billionaires were named in the 16th edition of Forbes Asia's Heroes of Philanthropy list released in December 2022?  
 a) Gautam Adani  
 b) Shiv Nadar  
 c) Ashok Soota  
 d) Both 1 & 2  
 e) All 1, 2 & 3
91. '\_\_\_\_\_ ' was declared as the Word of the Year for 2022 by the Oxford English Dictionary.  
 a) Gas Lighting  
 b) Metaverse  
 c) Vax  
 d) Goblin mode  
 e) Moon Lighting
92. Which Indian organisation has won the Local Adaptation Champions Award under the "capacity and knowledge" category at the Conference of Parties (COP) 27 climate summit held in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt?  
 a) Swayam Shikshan Prayog  
 b) Pratham  
 c) Teach For India  
 d) Smile Foundation  
 e) Katha
93. In the 17th session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, 47 new items were included in the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage list submitted by 60 countries.  
 Which city hosted the 17th session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage?  
 a) Dhaka, Bangladesh  
 b) Rabat, Morocco  
 c) Lima, Peru  
 d) Bratislava, Slovakia  
 e) Geneva, Switzerland
94. Which Indian City has secured 22nd rank in the "Prime Global Cities Index Q3 (July-September) 2022", published by Knight Frank in December 2022?  
 a) Bengaluru, Karnataka  
 b) Indore, Madhya Pradesh  
 c) Mumbai, Maharashtra  
 d) Jaipur, Rajasthan  
 e) New Delhi, Delhi
95. Which of the following points are 'correct' with respect to the New Index – Nifty Bharat Bond Index – April 2023?  
 A) NSE Indices Limited has launched a new index – Nifty BHARAT Bond Index – April 2023, under the Nifty Bharat Bond Index within the Nifty Bharat Bond Index series.  
 B) New tranche of the Bharat Bond ETF, India's first corporate bond exchange traded fund (ETF) has been launched for New Fund Offer (NFO) of the ETF, which will open from 2nd December to 8th December 2022.  
 C) This new Bharat Bond ETF and Bharat Bond Fund of Fund (FOF) series will mature on 18th April 2033.  
 a) All A, B & C  
 b) Only A & B  
 c) Only B & C  
 d) Only A & C  
 e) Only A



96. In December 2022, \_\_\_\_\_ based Goldsikka Pvt Ltd set up India's 1st Gold Automated teller machine (ATM).
- Mumbai, Maharashtra
  - Hyderabad, Telangana
  - Ahmedabad, Gujarat
  - Chennai, Tamil Nadu
  - New Delhi, Delhi
97. In December 2022, S&P Global Ratings reduced India's real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth to \_\_\_\_\_ for 2023.
- 6%
  - 6.5%
  - 7%
  - 7.5%
  - 8.2%
98. Which team won the Vijay Hazare Trophy Final 2022- 2023 title by defeating Maharashtra in December 2022?
- Himachal Pradesh
  - Saurashtra
  - Karnataka
  - Mumbai
  - Gujarat
99. The 12th edition of Agni Warrior (XAW) 2022, a bilateral exercise between the \_\_\_\_\_ Armed Forces & Indian Army (IA) conducted at Maharashtra In November 2022.
- Singapore
  - France
  - United States of America
  - Indonesia
  - Sri Lanka
100. Name the country that has assumed the presidency of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) for the month of December 2022.
- Brazil
  - India
  - Kenya
  - Norway
  - Ghana

### Answers

|    |   |    |   |    |   |    |   |    |   |    |   |    |   |    |   |    |   |     |   |
|----|---|----|---|----|---|----|---|----|---|----|---|----|---|----|---|----|---|-----|---|
| 1  | e | 11 | b | 21 | e | 31 | c | 41 | a | 51 | c | 61 | b | 71 | c | 81 | a | 91  | d |
| 2  | d | 12 | a | 22 | b | 32 | d | 42 | e | 52 | c | 62 | b | 72 | d | 82 | e | 92  | a |
| 3  | b | 13 | a | 23 | e | 33 | b | 43 | c | 53 | a | 63 | d | 73 | c | 83 | b | 93  | b |
| 4  | a | 14 | b | 24 | a | 34 | d | 44 | d | 54 | b | 64 | e | 74 | e | 84 | d | 94  | c |
| 5  | d | 15 | d | 25 | b | 35 | a | 45 | d | 55 | d | 65 | b | 75 | d | 85 | e | 95  | a |
| 6  | a | 16 | c | 26 | c | 36 | c | 46 | a | 56 | c | 66 | d | 76 | a | 86 | d | 96  | b |
| 7  | b | 17 | a | 27 | a | 37 | b | 47 | d | 57 | e | 67 | b | 77 | c | 87 | d | 97  | a |
| 8  | e | 18 | b | 28 | a | 38 | d | 48 | d | 58 | d | 68 | c | 78 | c | 88 | d | 98  | b |
| 9  | a | 19 | c | 29 | c | 39 | b | 49 | d | 59 | e | 69 | e | 79 | e | 89 | d | 99  | a |
| 10 | b | 20 | d | 30 | b | 40 | e | 50 | e | 60 | b | 70 | d | 80 | c | 90 | e | 100 | b |

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