

Current Affairs of December 2022

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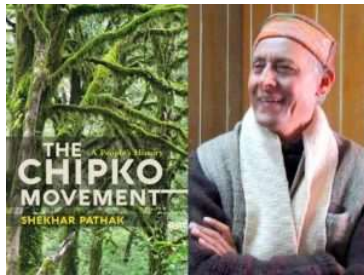
CONTENT

National.....	2
International.....	10
Defence.....	14
Appointments or Resign/Retired.....	16
Honours/ Awards.....	21
Sports.....	24
Obituary.....	29
Important Days with theme.....	30

National

A book on Chipko Movement by ShekharPathak bags KamaladeviChattopadhyay NIF Prize 2022

- A book on the popular forest conservation campaign **Chipko Movement**, written by historian-activist **ShekharPathak**, was named the winner of the **KamaladeviChattopadhyay NIF Book Prize 2022**. Translated from Hindi by **ManishaChaudhry**, "**The Chipko Movement: A People's History**" was selected from a diverse shortlist of five books covering a wide expanse of modern Indian history and encompassing distinct topics and perspectives.
- The winner was selected by a six-member jury panel chaired by political scientist **NirajaGopalJoyal**. The other jury members were entrepreneur **Manish Sabharwal**; historians **SrinathRaghavan** and **NayanjotLahiri**; former diplomat **NavtejSarna**; and attorney **Rahul Matthan**.



NDTV Promoter Firm RRPR Holding Transfers 99.5% Shares to Adani's VCPL

- News Broadcaster New Delhi Television Ltd (NDTV)** promoter firm **RRPR Holding** announced that it has transferred shares constituting 99.5 percent of its equity capital to Adani group-owned **Vishvapradhan Commercial (VCPL)**. The transfer of shares will give **Adani Group** control over a 29.18 percent stake in NDTV. They are also open to offer for another 26 percent stake in the media firm.
- GautamAdani**, Chairman of the Adani Group has said that the NDTV purchase was a responsibility rather than a business opportunity.
- NDTV had said that VCPL has served notice on the broadcast based on a loan agreement it had entered into with its founders in **2009-2010**.

India The First Country in The World to Receive \$100 billion in Remittances

- India** will be the **first country in the world** to receive **\$100 billion** from **remittances** during **2022**, the **World Bank** has said. Though remittances to the rest of the **South Asian countries** declined by 10%, it rose by 12% in India's case.
- Remittances to **South Asian countries** grew by **3.5%** to \$163 billion in 2022
- Though remittances to the rest of the South Asian countries **declined by 10%**, it rose by **12% in India's case**.
- Worldwide, remittances are estimated at **\$794 billion in 2022**.
- South Asia** receives the most remittances that are estimated at **\$163 billion** in 2022.
- India's share will be \$100 billion.
- Latin America and Caribbean** comes second with \$142 billion.



Adani Green becomes World's Largest Wind-Solar Hybrid Power Developer

- Adani Green Energy Ltd (AGEL)**, the renewables arm of Adani Group, has commissioned its third wind-solar hybrid power plant at **Jaisalmer in Rajasthan**. Earlier, in May 2022, AGEL had operationalised India's first hybrid power plant of 390 MW.
- This was followed by the commissioning, in September 2022, of the **world's largest co-located hybrid power plant of 600 MW**. Both these hybrid energy generation assets are located in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan. With the successful commissioning of this 450 MW plant, AGEL now has a total operational generation capacity of 7.17 GW. This also makes AGEL the world's largest wind-solar hybrid power farm developer.

India's 100 Richest 2022: GautamAdani tops Forbes rich list

- The world economy may be slowing but India's richest have grown even richer this year. The **Forbes 2022 list of India's 100 richest** is



finally here, according to which, the combined wealth of India's 100 richest grew by \$25 billion to touch a colossal \$800 billion.

- The top 10 richest Indians are worth a cumulative \$385 billion. **Adani Group chairman Gautam Adani** has bagged the top spot on the list with a net worth of \$150 billion. According to Forbes, the gain was largely due to a record-breaking feat by infrastructure tycoon, which changed the pecking order at the top for the first time since 2008.

Top 10 names in the list:

RANK	NAME	NET WORTH (in Rupees)
1	Gautam Adani	Rs 1,211,460.11 crore
2	Mukesh Ambani	Rs 710,723.26 crore
3	Radhakishan Damani	Rs 222,908.66 crore
4	Cyrus Poonawalla	Rs 173,642.62 crore
5	Shiv Nadar	Rs 172,834.97 crore

Nagpur Metro successfully created a Guinness World Record

- Nagpur Metro** has successfully created a Guinness World Record by constructing the **longest double-decker viaduct (metro)** is **3,140 meters** and was achieved by the **Wardha Road in Nagpur**.



- The double-decker viaduct of 3.14 km on Wardha Road has three metro stations – **Chhatrapati Nagar, Jai Prakash Nagar and Ujjwal Nagar**. These stations require special planning which are station specific to meet the functional requirements of the metro duly incorporating site specific constraints and double-decker viaduct requirements. The engineering thought process, concept, design and execution of these stations are no less than a challenge.

IPL remains the most searched query on Google in India on 2022

- Google** has released its **“Year in Search 2022” report**, which highlights the topics that generated the most interest and were most frequently searched on the website this year. India's search trends have changed

noticeably since last year, according to the list, which is published annually for various nations.

- The Indian Premier League (IPL)**, which was also the most searched sporting event in the nation, came out on top of all 2022 trending search results in India.
- CoWIN**, a government website portal that streamlines COVID-19 vaccine registration and appointment scheduling and issues digital vaccine certificates, followed IPL.
- The FIFA World Cup**, which began on November 20 in Qatar, ranked third among trending topics in searches in India. Sports competitions, **the Asia Cup and the ICC Men's T20 World Cup**, respectively, **took the fourth and fifth spots**.
- Bollywood blockbuster **Brahmastra: Part One – Shiva** earned the sixth spot on the list, while **KGF: Chapter 2** came in at number nine.
- Nupur Sharma**, a spokesperson for the BJP who has since been suspended, was among the top-searched individuals in India in 2022.
- Droupadi Murmu**, the president of India, was subsequently followed by **Rishi Sunak**, the new prime minister of the **United Kingdom**, and **Lalit Modi**.
- In terms of news events, Google headlined that the demise of **Lata Mangeshkar, Sidhu Moose Wala, Queen Elizabeth and Shane Warne** were the most searched topics.
- People also took interest in the **Russia-Ukraine war, UP Elections, and Har Ghar Tiranga campaign**.

BBC Releases 100 Most Influential Women's List: 4 Indian women's in the list

- The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC)** has published the list of **100 most influential women in the world** and has included women from several areas such as **politics, science, sports, entertainment, and literature**.
- The BBC's 100 most influential women's list also includes four Indians: **Actress Priyanka Chopra Jonas, author Geetanjali Shree, engineer and astronaut Sirisha Bandla, and social worker Sneha Jawale**.



Some of the notable names included in the BBC 100 most influential women's lists:

- European Commission President **Ursula von der Leyen**,
- Barbados Prime Minister **Mia Mottle**,
- Ukraine's First Lady **Olena Zelenska**,
- Music star **Billie Eilish**,
- Actress and disability activist **Selma Blair**,
- Iranian climber **Elnaz Rekab** who recently made waves in Iran for competing in South Korea without wearing a headscarf.
- From sport, Iranian climber **Elnaz Rekab** who recently made waves in her home country for competing in South Korea without wearing a headscarf.
- Tunisian tennis star **Ons Jabeur** who became the first Arab or African woman to reach a Grand Slam final in the Open era.

KCR Launches Bharat Rashtra Samithi Party After ECI Approval

- The Election Commission informed TRS president and Chief Minister **K Chandrasekhar**

Rao that it has accepted the name change of his party from **Telangana**



Rashtra Samithi to

Bharat Rashtra Samithi. In a letter to TRS, the EC cited a letter that the party sent to the poll body on October 5 requesting its name change.

- **Telangana's ruling TRS** on October 5 changed its name to **'BRS'**, heralding the party's foray into 'national politics.' A resolution to this effect was passed at the party's general body meeting here. Rao read out the resolution and announced that the **party's general body** meet unanimously resolved to change the name from **TRS to BRS**.

India ranked 87th in the world's strongest passport list 2022

- **Passport Index 2022** published by **Arton Capital** ranked the world's strongest and weakest passports. A



passport is a travel document issued by a country's government to its citizens that verifies the identity and nationality of the holder for the purpose of international travel. **India was ranked at 87th position in the world's strongest passport list.**

- **The UAE** has the strongest passport in the world. Holders of this passport can travel visa-free or "visa on arrival" to 180 countries. With a UAE passport travelers can enter to 180 countries hassle-free, seven more than European countries such as Germany and Sweden, and nine more than Japan, the index showed.

Nirmala Sitharaman, Falguni Nayar in 'World's 100 Most Powerful Women' list

- Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman**, Biocon Executive Chairperson **Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw** and Nykaa

founder **Falguni Nayar** are among six Indians who have made it to the Forbes' annual list of **"The World's 100 Most Powerful Women"**.



- Ranked at number 36, Nirmala Sitharaman has made it to the list for the fourth time in a row. In 2021, the 63-year-old minister was ranked at number 37 in the list, while she was in the 41st spot in 2020 and 34th in 2019.
- HCLTech Chairperson **Roshni Nadar Malhotra** (rank: 53),
- Securities And Exchange Board Of India (SEBI) Chairperson **Madhabi Puri Buch** (rank: 54),
- Steel Authority Of India Chairperson **Soma Mondal** (rank: 67).
- For her leadership during the Ukraine war, as well as her handling of the Covid-19 pandemic, European Commission president **Ursula von der Leyen** sits atop the 19th annual Forbes list of the World's 100 Most Powerful Women.

Country's Largest Business Jet Terminal Commissioned at Cochin International Airport

- Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan inaugurated the country's first chartered gateway, and a business jet terminal at the Cochin International Airport.
- With this, Cochin airport has become the fourth airport in the country to operate a private jet terminal.
- With two majestic domestic and international travel terminals, Cochin International Airport Limited (CIAL) is now home to the country's biggest Business Jet Terminal.
- The new facility at the airport will boost tourism as well as the MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions) sector in the state.



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.
- The rocket that has been developed by Elon Musk's SpaceX will make a week-long journey to the moon and back next year. Maezawa had in 2018 purchased all the eight seats aboard this rocket ship.
- Maezawa started taking application for the trip in March 2021. This will be Maezawa's second space journey after his 12-day trip to the International Space Station on the Soyuz Russian spaceship last year.



India, China troops clash along LAC in Tawang region, Arunachal Pradesh

- Indian and Chinese troops clashed along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the Tawang sector of Arunachal Pradesh on December 9 and the face-

off resulted in "minor injuries to a few personnel from both sides", the Indian Army said.

- The clash near Yangtse along the LAC in the sensitive sector took place amid the over 30-month border standoff between the two sides in eastern Ladakh.
- It is the first major clash between the Indian and Chinese armies since August 2020 near Rinchen La in eastern Ladakh. Indian and Chinese troops were engaged in a brief face-off near Yangtse in October last year as well and it was resolved following talks between local commanders of the two sides as per established protocols.

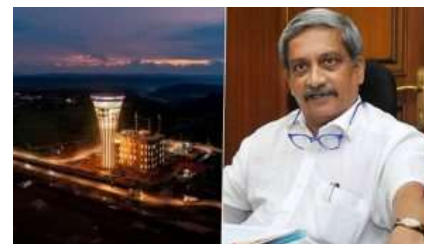
BJP's Bhupendra Patel sworn-in as Gujarat CM for 2nd consecutive term

- Bhupendra Patel took oath as the Chief Minister of Gujarat for a second straight term in Gandhinagar. He was administered oath as the 18th Chief Minister of Gujarat by Governor Acharya Devvrat.
- Patel was sworn in as the 17th Chief Minister of Gujarat on September 13, 2021.
- Breaking his own record, Patel won the 2022 election once again from Ghatlodia constituency with a huge margin of 1,91,000 votes. Prime minister Narendra Modi, several Union Ministers including Amit Shah, Smriti Irani, and Mansukh Mandaviya, and Chief Ministers of BJP-ruled States including Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath and Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan attended the ceremony.



Mopa International Airport Goa named after former CM Manohar Parrikar

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated Mopa International Airport in Goa, which has been named after former Chief Minister Manohar



Parrikar.

- The new airport, which is about 35 km from capital city Panaji, can handle 44 lakh passengers annually. Its capacity can be raised to over 3 crore passengers per year after expansion plans in the future.
- In November 2016, the PM laid Mopa airport's foundation stone. It will be the second airport in the state, the first airport in Goa is at **Dabolim**.

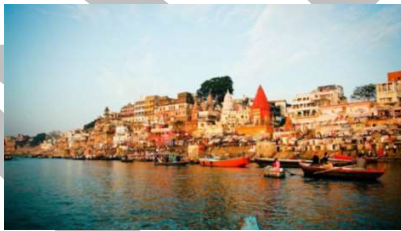
SpiceJet awarded 'Safety Performer of the Year' award by GMR Delhi airport

- SpiceJet has been awarded the 'Safety Performer of the Year' award by GMR Delhi Airport Awards for being the top performer among the self-handling airlines and as it has been able to reduce ground safety violations significantly.
- SpiceJet ground handling team at Delhi Airport achieved this performance through constant focus on quality improvements, innovation and hard work. Moreover, their role in minimising incidences of ground safety violations ensured compliance with safety guidelines and regulatory requirements.



UN Ranks 'NamamiGange' Project Among World's top 10 Initiatives

- The United Nations has recognised the **Namami Gange initiative** to rejuvenate India's sacred **River Ganga** as one of the **top 10 World Restoration Flagships** to revive the natural world. The award was received by **G Ashok Kumar**, Director General, Namami Gange, at the **15th Conference of the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) in Montreal, Canada**.
- NamamiGange was selected from over **150 such initiatives from 70 countries across the globe**. They were selected under the banner of the **United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration**, a global movement coordinated by the **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)** and the **United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)**.



- It is designed to prevent and reverse the degradation of natural spaces across the planet. The recognized initiatives, including **Namami Gange**, will now be eligible to receive **UN support, funding or technical expertise**.

VijayDiwas Celebrated in India to Mark Victory of Bangladesh Liberation War

- Nation celebrates **Vijay Diwas**, to commemorate India's victory over Pakistan in the 1971 **Bangladesh Liberation war**. On this day, the heroes who sacrificed their lives for war are remembered and tributes are paid to them.
- On **16th December 1971**, the chief of the Pakistani forces, **General Amir Abdullah Khan Niazi**, along with 93 thousand troops, surrendered unconditionally to the allied forces led by Lieutenant General Jagjit Singh Aurora, in Dhaka after their defeat.
- **Vijay Diwas** is celebrated every year on **16th December** to honour the victory of the Indian armed forces over Pakistan in 1971. Vijay Diwas is celebrated to commemorate the heroes who sacrificed their lives for the nation. The India-Pakistan war went on for 13 days and **India defeated Pakistan** on 16th December 1971.

Goa Liberation Day: History, It's Significance ,Operation Vijay

- '**Goa Liberation Day**' is celebrated on **December 19** to commemorate the **state's liberation from Portuguese rule in 1961**. As part of **Operation Vijay**, the Indian armed forces used the armed forces trifecta with the help of local resistance movements to eradicate European rule from the country.
- The Indian government finally declared that Goa should join India "**either with full peace or with full use of force**". December 18 and 19, 1961 saw a **full-fledged military operation** termed 'Operation Vijay', which was carried out with little resistance and an instrument of surrender was signed, leading to Goa's annexation by India.



Gujarat CM Bhupendra Patel unveils Urban G20 logo, website and social media handle

- In Gujarat, Chief Minister **Bhupendra Patel** has unveiled the logo, website and social media handles of the Urban-20 conference in **Gandhinagar**. The UNESCO heritage city **Ahmedabad** will host the Urban 20 cycles as part of **G-20** meetings between February to July.
- The logo unveiling event in Gandhinagar was attended by senior officials of the Gujarat government and the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC).
- CM Patel said the unveiling of the U20 logo heralds the launch of the U20 cycle, which will begin in February next year with the Sherpas' meeting and end with the U20 Mayors' summit.
- Along with **C40 (Climate 40)** and **United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)**, Ahmedabad will organise various events including City Sherpas' inception meeting on February 9 and 10.



J&K's Bandipora hosts the first-ever Tribal Winter Festival

- A first-of-its-kind **Tribal Winter Festival** was held in the **Bandipora** district of **Jammu and Kashmir**. The festival is organised by the district administration in collaboration with various departments at Ketson, the festival witnessed huge public participation. The festival witnessed music, dance, and cultural events that left the people enthralled.
- People from the **Kashmiri community, Gujjars and Bakerwals** danced together to the beats of dhol (drum) in a unique portrayal of cultural unity in diversity. The 'gatka' was another attraction performed by two tribal communities portraying the fighting spirit of the Gujjars amid all geographic, social and political odds.



Key Point

- Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor: **Manoj Sinha**.

Madhya Pradesh: Indore gets the Country's First Infantry Museum

- The country's first **Infantry Museum** has been opened for the general public at **Mhow, Indore, Madhya Pradesh**. This museum is the first in the country and second in the world. Before this, such a museum has been built in America.
- The Army inaugurated to celebrate the **Victory Day** and the eve of the 75th year of the establishment of the **Infantry School**. The world-class museum has been set up with the intention of showcasing the **Infantry**. The project was conceived in July 2003 as a national-level training hall cum research centre.



Key Point

- Madhya Pradesh Capital: **Bhopal**;
- Madhya Pradesh Governor: **Mangubhai C. Patel**;
- Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister: **Shivraj Singh Chouhan**.

Note in Circulation Rise 8% Annually to Rs 32 Lakh Crore: FM

- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman** said **note in circulation (NiC)** has witnessed an annual growth of 7.98 per cent to Rs 31.92 lakh crore as of December 2, 2022. The demand for currency depends upon several macroeconomic factors, including economic growth and level of interest rates, she said.
- Six years after **demonetisation**, the currency in circulation has jumped to a new high of Rs 32 lakh crore reflecting that cash still remains the preferred choice of payment for Indians. Compared with the pre-demonetisation period, it has increased by a massive **72 per cent** from **Rs 17 lakh crore on November 4, 2016**.



IPL surpasses \$10 billion valuation and becomes decacorn

- IPL surpasses \$10 billion valuation:** The Indian Premier League (IPL), whose total valuation has

surpassed \$10 billion, has evolved into a decacorn. A D and P Advisory report made public on Tuesday states that the league is currently worth \$10.9 billion. Notably, it has shown a startling 75% rise since 2020.

- IPL's expansion has been aided by lucrative agreements with industry titans in media.
- A company valued at more than \$10.0 billion is referred to as a decacorn.
- In less than 15 years since its beginning, the IPL has reached the milestone.
- Months after India won the first ICC T20 World Cup, the competition's first edition was contested in 2008.
- Since then, the IPL has become steadily stronger with well-known athletes from all over the world taking part.

Puma India ropes in Anushka Sharma as brand ambassador

- The manufacturer and designer of casual and athletic footwear, Puma has roped in Bollywood actor and entrepreneur **Anushka Sharma** as its brand ambassador. The association is intended to "accelerate Puma's strong commitment towards women consumer segment".
- The actor will endorse the brand's footwear, apparel and accessories, including select collections through myriad activities and brand campaigns, throughout the year.



Indian Railways opens nation's longest 'escape tunnel' in Kashmir

- India's longest escape tunnel, which is 12.89 km long constructed on the 111 km under-construction **Banihal-Katra railway line in Jammu and Kashmir** was completed by the Indian Railways.
- The longest tunnel is part of the **Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Railway Line (USBRL) project**. This is the fourth tunnel on the Banihal-Katra route following the 12.75 km tunnel T-49, the longest



tunnel of the Indian Railways, which was completed in January this year.

Indian Billionaire Gautam Adani to Control Nearly 65% of NDTV

- Indian Billionaire **Gautam Adani** is to control 64.71% of **New Delhi Television Ltd (NDTV)** as the founders have decided to sell most of the shares.
- The founders of **NDTV**, Prannoy Roy and his wife Radhika Roy have decided to transfer most of the shares in the company giving Gautam Adani his conglomerate control of about 65% of NDTV. The decision comes after four months after Gautam Adani announced his takeover of the news channel.

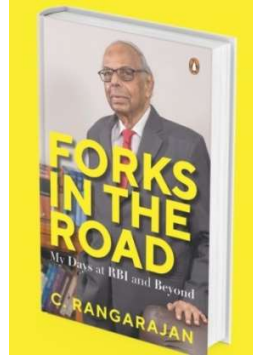
Dharmadam becomes first complete library constituency in India

- Kerala Chief Minister **Pinarayi Vijayan's constituency** has achieved a new record recently. It has become the only constituency in India to have a library in all the wards.
- CM Vijayan's constituency **Dharmadam** has achieved the position of complete library constituency in India, the first in India. Out of the total 138 wards in the constituency, there were no libraries in 63 wards. Dharmadam reached the achievement with the opening of libraries in these wards too.
- Kerala which was the first state to achieve 100% literacy status in India is also perhaps the only state in India that has a library in every village.
- **Puthuvayil Narayana Panicker** of Kerala is also known as the **Father of the Library Movement in India**. He started **Granthashala Sangam** with about 50 small libraries in 1945 in Kerala which grew into a large network of thousands of libraries.
- To honour and acknowledge P.N.Panicker, Kerala Government declared June 19, his death anniversary, as **Vayanadinam (Reading Day)** in 1996. In 2017, Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared June 19 his death anniversary as **National Reading Day** in India. The following month is also observed as National Reading Month in India.



A book titled “Forks in the Road: My Days at RBI and Beyond” by C. Rangarajan

- C Rangarajan authored a book titled “Forks in the Road: My Days at RBI and Beyond”. It was published by the Penguin Business (Penguin Group). The book is the memoir of Dr C. Rangarajan, an Indian economist, a former Member of Parliament, and the 19th Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- It discusses India’s transition from its post-independence planning era to the present times. The book is divided into 3 parts. Part 1- ‘RBI and Planning Commission’, Part 2- ‘Governor of RBI’ and Part 3- ‘Beyond RBI’.



Maharashtra became the first state in the country to pass the Lokayukta Bill

- Maharashtra assembly has passed the Lokayukta Bill 2022, which brings the chief minister and council of ministers under the ambit of the anti-corruption ombudsman.
- The bill was passed without discussion as the opposition had staged a walkout over the alleged scam in the Teachers Entrance Test. Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis termed the bill a historic legislation. Cabinet Minister Deepak Kesarkar introduced the Bill which has a provision to bring the Chief Minister and the cabinet under the purview of the anti-corruption ombudsman.



Key Point

- Maharashtra Governor: Bhagat Singh Koshyari;
- Maharashtra Capital: Mumbai;
- Maharashtra Chief minister: Eknath Shinde.

India’s second longest cable-stayed eight-lane Zuari Bridge opens in Goa

- Union Minister of Roads Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari has inaugurated the country’s second longest cable-stayed eight-lane Zuari



Bridge in Goa. Right-hand side (4-lane corridor) across the Zuari River and approaches from Bambolim to Verna were thrown open for vehicular traffic. Gadkari also launched the PWD Goa App for integrated operations management.

- Through the insurance scheme of the Government of Goa, Chief Minister Pramod Sawant has given Rs 2 lakh each to the families of the workers who died during the construction of the bridge.
- The Zuari Bridge is a bridge between North Goa and South Goa, India. It carries the NH 66 over the tidal part of the Zuari River, between the villages of Agaçaim and Cortalim.

International

Presidency of G20, SCO, UNSC in 2022: A Historic Opportunity For India

- December of 2022 began with India assuming the presidency of two global bodies — G20 on the first day of the month and UNSC on the second and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in



2023 when major powers are not even talking to each other and India alone, now the fifth largest economy, is interacting with each of them, presents a historic opportunity.

- New Delhi has said that while its G20 presidency is driven by the vision of “VasudhaivaKutumbakam” (the world is one family), its presidency of the United Nations Security Council seeks to prioritise countering terrorism and reformed multilateralism.
- Leading with the “Five S’s” approach charted out by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Samman (Respect), Samvad (Dialogue), Sahyog (Cooperation), Shanti (Peace), and Samriddhi (Prosperity), India took over UN presidency today.

World Economy Seems Headed For A Recession, Compounded With Inflation

- The global economy seems headed for a severe recession and parallels are being drawn with the global financial crisis of 2008 and the slowdown brought about in 2020 by the Covid-19 pandemic. A lot of hope that any serious setback can be averted rests on a high degree of fine tuning of policy which may be difficult to deliver.
- The US dollar has been surging for the past few months. It's now the strongest it has been in two



decades, and experts believe the value will grow even stronger in the coming days. But this surge in the value of the power of the greenback is agitating the economies and markets worldwide, and creating winners and losers.

- Though a strong dollar bodes well for the Americans, the consequences are faced by other countries, especially the developing ones. The rise of US dollar has led to a decline in the value of UK pound, the euro, China's yuan, Japan's yen, India's rupee and many others. As a result, it makes it more expensive for these nations to import essential items like food and fuel.

US prints first banknotes with women's signatures

- The U.S. The Treasury (United States of America's Finance Ministry) has printed the first US banknotes (currency notes) with two women's signatures.



- The new currency notes of \$1 and \$5 value carry the signature of the Secretary of Treasury (American Finance Minister) Janet Yellen and Lynn Malerba. The United States currency notes are popularly called as Greenback.
- In the United States the currency notes are printed by the Treasury Department's Bureau of Engraving and Printing and the Federal Reserve decides how much currency notes will be printed. The Treasury Department's Bureau of Engraving and Printing has note printing facilities at Fort Worth, Texas and another in Washington.

Russia Replaces Iraq as Top Oil Supplier to India in November

- Russia has for the first time emerged as top oil supplier to India replacing Iraq as refiners last month snapped up oil from Moscow fearing a price cap from Dec. 5 could hit supplies and choke



payment avenues.

- India's oil imports from Russia **rose for the fifth straight month**, totaling 908,000 barrels per day (bpd) in November, up 4% from October, the data showed. The **Group of Seven nations (G-7), Australia, and the 27 European Union countries** have imposed a **price cap of \$60 a barrel** on Russian seaborne oil from Dec. 5 as the **West tries to limit Moscow's ability to finance its war in Ukraine**.
- The price cap plan calls for G7 countries to deny insurance, finance, brokering, navigation, and other services to oil cargoes priced above the price cap on crude and oil products.

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.



Key Point

- New Zealand Prime Minister: Jacinda Ardern;
- New Zealand Capital: Wellington;
- New Zealand Currency : New Zealand dollar.

Iran Removed From UN Commission on the Status of Women

- **Iran** has been expelled from the **United Nation's Commission on the Status of Women (UNW)** 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.
- **Mahsa Amin** who died after being held by "**morality police**" in September. Her death sparked the protests, during which, "government security forces have reportedly detained and tortured thousands of people, killed hundreds of peaceful protestors, and badly injured many more. Men supporting women in the streets are now being targeted with the death penalty.
- 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 York, Singapore most expensive cities, List of top universities and tuition fees

- New York and Singapore are the most expensive cities in the world, according to the Economist Intelligence Unit's (EIU) Worldwide Cost of Living Index for this year.
- For many students, pursuing higher education in New York has long been a dream. Students will be exposed to the rich culture and way of life of the Big Apple

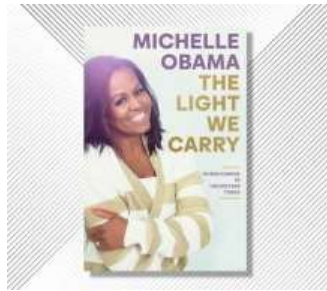


while studying there, which will open up various job prospects.

- Ivy League institutions like Cornell University and Columbia University are located in New York.

A book titled “The Light We Carry: Overcoming In Uncertain Times” by Michelle Obama

- The **Light We Carry: Overcoming in Uncertain Times** is a nonfiction book written by **Michelle Obama** and published by Crown Publishing. The **Light We Carry** will inspire readers to examine their own lives, identify their sources of gladness, and connect meaningfully in a turbulent world.
- The author “shares the contents of her ‘personal toolbox’ – the habits and practices, attitudes and beliefs, and even physical objects that she uses to overcome her feelings of fear, helplessness and self doubt.”



UAE to Host the 13th WTO Ministerial Meeting in 2024

- The next **World Trade Organization** ministerial conference will be held in **Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates** in February **2024**, the global trade watchdog confirmed in a statement. The UAE and Cameroon were both vying to host the event and came to an informal agreement for Abu Dhabi to host the first one and **Cameroon** to do the next, trade sources said.
- For the UAE, hosting the meeting is part of its own push to position itself as a global hub for business amid growing competition in the **Middle East**. It has been rolling out **bilateral trade deals** with fast-growing markets since the pandemic. Next year the Gulf Arab state will host **COP28, the UN’s Climate Change conference**.



British magazine’s list of 50 greatest actors of all time named Shah Rukh Khan

- Bollywood superstar, **Shah Rukh Khan** has become the only Indian to be named in an international list of **50 greatest actors of all time** by a prominent **British magazine**.
- The 57-year-old actor is included in Empire magazine’s list which also recognises Hollywood giants like Denzel Washington, Tom Hanks, Anthony Marlon Brando, Meryl Streep, Jack Nicholson and many others.

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

- **Spain passes new transgender law:** 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.



Key Point

- Capital of Spain: **Madrid**
- Monarch of Spain: **King Felipe VI**
- Prime Minister of Spain: **Pedro Sanchez**

Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina Inaugurates First-Ever Metro Service in Dhaka

- Bangladesh Prime Minister **Sheikh Hasina** inaugurated the first metro rail in Dhaka. The metro train was flagged off in Dhaka for the first journey between **Diabari and Agargaon station**.
- The metro rail is part of the Bangladesh project of Mass Rapid Transit to be completed by 2030.



- **Bangladesh** has reached another milestone in its development journey with its first metro rail inauguration.
- The metro rail is an approximately **12-kilometer-long metro route**.
- The metro rail will connect **Diabari to Agargaon** station in Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- Ten pairs of trains with **six coaches** each will run on this route initially for four hours carrying about five lakh passengers daily.

US Vice-President Kamala Harris Names Indian-American Rajeev Badyal to the National Space Council Advisory Group

- **Vice President Kamala Harris** has named **Indian American Rajeev Badyal** to a key **national space advisory group**, which is tasked to maintain a robust and responsible US space enterprise and preserve space for current and future generations.
- Badyal, vice-president of **Project Kuiper** of Amazon, is among the 30 space experts named by Harris to the National Space Council's **Users Advisory Group (UAG)**. Previously he was the vice president of satellites at SpaceX. He has a Masters in Electrical and Computer Engineering from Oregon State University. Harris had named US Air Force Rtd General Lester Lyles as chair of the UAG.



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 **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.

Defence

12th edition of Agni Warrior exercise between Indian and Singapore Concludes

- The 12th Edition of Exercise Agni Warrior, a bilateral exercise between the Singapore & Indian Army, which had commenced on 13 November 2022 concluded at Field Firing Ranges, Devlali (Maharashtra). Exercise Agni Warrior, involved showcasing joint firepower planning, execution and use of New Generation Equipment by the Artillery arm of both armies.
- India was among the first countries to set up diplomatic relations after the independence of Singapore on 24 August 1965. The close relationship shared by India and Singapore is based on convergence of economic and political interests.
- Exercise also included participation by both sides in a joint computer war-game as part of joint planning process. Both sides utilised niche technology and Artillery Observation Simulators as part of joint training phase.

7th edition of US-India Naval Exercise Sangam begins in Goa

- The 7th edition of Exercise Sangam, a joint Naval Special Forces exercise between Indian Navy MARCOs and US Navy SEALs commenced in Goa. The present edition which will see personnel from SEAL Team Five based at San Diego, US and Indian Navy MARCOs from INS Abhimanyu together aims at exchange of ideas and experiences on various aspects of maritime special operations.
- The exercise is planned for a duration of three weeks wherein personnel will exercise and hone their skills in maritime interdiction operations, direct action missions, combat free fall jumps, special heliborne operations and various other evolutions.



US Unveils Its Newest Nuclear Stealth Bomber

- The United States has unveiled its latest high-tech strategic bomber – the B-21 Raider – which is capable of carrying a nuclear payload and can be flown without a crew on board.
- The next-generation stealth bomber was rolled out at arm's manufacturer Northrop Grumman's facility in California. The US Air Force plans to buy at least 100 of the B-21 aircraft, which comes with a \$700m price tag per plane.
- The unveiling of the new bombers comes at a time of heightened geopolitical tensions between the US, Russia and China amid the war in Ukraine and the territorial integrity of Taiwan.



SIPRI: HAL and BEL in the top 100 defence companies list

- The government's Make-in-India push in indigenous defence production seems to be bearing positive results as the two Indian Defence Public Sector Undertakings, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), have improved upon their previous rankings among the arms producing companies of the world.
- HAL ranked at 42nd as BEL bagged the 63rd place with a total evaluation of \$5.1 Billion in 2021.
- The combined arms sales of these six companies grew by 0.4 per cent to reach \$17.8 billion in 2021. The overall leader has been companies belonging to the US with a share of 51 per cent of the total arms sales.



Key Point

- SIPRI Director: Dan Smith;
- SIPRI Chair: Stefan Lofven;
- SIPRI set up: 1966;
- SIPRI Headquarters: Solana, Sweden.

India Successfully Carries Out Trials of Nuclear-Capable "Agni-5 missile"

- India has successfully conducted night trials of nuclear-capable ballistic missile Agni V, capable of striking targets at ranges more than **5,000 kilometers** with very high degree of accuracy.
- The missile test firing was conducted from APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the Odisha coast. This was the **latest test in the Agni missile series**. According to defence sources, the test was carried out to validate new technologies and equipment on the missile that are now lighter than before.
- The Agni V missile, which uses a **three-stage solid-fuelled engine**, has been developed by India's **Defence Research and Development organisation (DRDO)**.
- The development of Agni missiles started in early 1980 under the **Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme** spearheaded by scientist and former **President Dr A P J Abdul Kalam**, who was also a central figure in India's missile and space programmes.



India received Rafale's 36th and last aircraft from France

- All 36 Rafale aircraft were delivered to India by France. India and France struck an intergovernmental agreement wherein Paris committed to pay India 60,000 crore rupees for 36 Rafale fighter jets in 2016.
- The Rafale is a 4.5 generation jet with long-range air-to-air and air-to-ground missiles, as well as cutting-edge radar and electronic warfare capabilities.
- The aircraft's serviceability is over 75%, and the French company Dassault Aviation is also involved in its maintenance.



- At the height of the war with China, the Rafale entered the Indian Air Force quickly and began flying over Ladakh a week after arriving.

Indo-Nepal Joint Training Exercise "SURYA KIRAN-XVI" Begins at Nepal Army Battle School

- The 16th Edition of Indo-Nepal joint training Exercise "SURYA KIRAN-XVI" between India and Nepal will be conducted at Nepal Army Battle School, Saljhandi (Nepal), from 16 – 29 December 2022.
- Exercise "SURYA KIRAN" is conducted annually between India and Nepal with the aim to enhance interoperability in **jungle warfare & counter terrorism** operations in mountainous terrain and HADR under UN mandate.
- Surya Kiran is a bilateral joint military exercise between India and Nepal. Indian Army and Nepal Army participate in the Surya Kiran exercise.
- The **biannual exercise**, which takes place **alternately in both countries**, aims to establish military relations in inaccessible mountainous areas by the soldiers of both countries; provide humanitarian assistance under disaster management; get training in anti-terrorist operations; and build interoperability and share expertise between the two countries.
- The 15th edition of Indo-Nepal joint military training exercise Surya Kiran was held on September 20, 2021, at **Pithoragarh in Uttarakhand**.



India-Japan to conduct 1st bilateral air combat exercise "Veer Guardian 23" in 2023

- Veer Guardian 23: Indian Air Force (IAF) and Japanese Air Self Defence Force (JASDF)** are set to hold their maiden bilateral air exercise, "**Veer Guardian 23**", from January 16 to 26 at Hyakuri air base and Iruma air base in Japan.



- The IAF is fielding four Su-30MKI fighters from No. 220 squadron under the Western Air Command and one IL-78 mid-air refueller, along with a contingent of around 150 personnel who will be transported by two C-17 transport aircraft. The JASDF would be fielding four F-15s and four F-2 fighter jets for the exercise.

Key Point

- Indian Air Force Headquarters: New Delhi;
- Indian Air Force Founded: 8 October 1932, India;
- Indian Air Force Chief of Defence Staff (CDS): General Anil Chauhan.

Appointments or Resign/Retired

Rajeeva Laxman Karandikar named as chairperson of the National Statistical Commission

- Government of India had appointed **Rajeeva Laxman Karandikar**, Professor Emeritus at Chennai Mathematical Institute (CMI), as the part-time chairperson of the **National Statistical Commission (NSC) of India** for a period of three years.



- He will take up this role as an additional responsibility while continuing as Professor Emeritus at CMI. He joined CMI as a visiting professor in 2010, and officiated as the Director of CMI from January 2011 to April 2021.
- NSC is an autonomous body formed in June 2005 under the recommendation of the Dr. C Rangarajan commission. The objective of its constitution was to reduce the problems faced by statistical agencies in the country with respect to the collection of data, and strengthen public trust in the numbers released by the Government of India. The chairperson of the Commission enjoys the status of a Minister of State, Government of India.

Key Point

- National Statistical Commission Formed: 1 June 2005;
- National Statistical Commission Headquarters: New Delhi.

Indian tech brand Noise appoints Virat Kohli as new brand ambassador

- Indian tech brand “Noise” has appointed **Virat Kohli** as its new brand ambassador for its **smart watches**. The new partnership will bring together the two domains together which is said to exemplify the brand. The partnership will further help in deepening consumer trust and allegiance, claims the company.

- Noise and Virat Kohli- both are leaders in the smart connected lifestyle industry and the cricket world respectively. Moreover, as the brand ambassador has always felt pride in his fitness levels, Noise signed him because of Kohli's era of super-athletes, which makes him an ideal fit for the brand.

Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu sworn in as the new Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh

- Congress leader **Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu** has taken oath as the New Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh at historic ridge ground in Shimla.
- Deputy Chief Minister **Mukesh Agnihotri** also took oath with him. Governor **Rajendra Arlekar** administered the oath to both.
- On December 8, the Congress made a comeback in Himachal Pradesh, by winning 40 seats in the high-stakes electoral contest for the 68-member Legislative Assembly.



Hansraj Gangaram Ahir named as the new NCBC chairperson

- Former Union Minister **Hansraj Gangaram Ahir** has assumed charge as Chairperson of the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC). He is an Agriculturist by profession, read a statement from the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment.
- He had been elected four times Member of Parliament from Parliamentary Constituency Chandrapur, Maharashtra and also he was Member of the Maharashtra Legislative Council. He had been Union Minister of State for Home Affairs and Union Minister of State for Chemicals and Fertilizers, Government of India the 16th Lok Sabha.



Key Point

- National Commission for Backward Classes Formed: 14 August 1993;
- National Commission for Backward Classes Headquarters: New Delhi.

Senior journalist Ravish Kumar resigns from NDTV following Adani acquisition

- A senior journalist, **Ravish Kumar** has resigned from NDTV according to news sources. This comes just a day after the channel's founders and promoters **Prannoy Roy and Radhika Roy** resigned from their positions as directors on the board of **RRPR Holding Private Limited (RRPRH)**.
- The senior journalists' resignation comes after the news channel was acquired by the Adani Group, and holds 29.18% stake in the news channel.
- Kumar, a winner of the **Ramon Magsaysay award**, used to host a number of programs including the channel's flagship weekday show Hum Log, Ravish ki Report, Des Ki Baat, and Prime Time. He has also been conferred with the Ramnath Goenka Excellence in Journalism Award twice.



Peru Gets its First Female President After Pedro Castillo is Impeached

- Dina Boluarte** became Peru's first female president amid a political maelstrom when her predecessor and former boss **Pedro Castillo** was ousted in an impeachment trial and detained by police after he tried to illegally shut down Congress.
- The South American country, **Peru**, has just seen a significant political upheaval. **Pedro Castillo** has been impeached and arrested and **Dina Boluarte**, a 60-year old lawyer, has become the country's first female President. For the markets, the crisis in Peru may be important because it makes for nearly 15% of the world's copper exports as per 2020 data from the



Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development.

Justice Dipankar Dutta takes oath as judge of Supreme Court

- Justice **Dipankar Dutta** has taken oath as a judge of the **Supreme Court**. Chief Justice of India **D Y Chandrachud** administered the oath to Justice Dutta in the swearing-in ceremony in the Supreme Court in the presence of all judges.
- With the appointment of Justice Dutta, the Supreme Court will have 28 judges out of the strength of **34 judges**. Justice Dutta will have a term till **February 8, 2030**
- 57-year-old Justice Datta will have a nearly eight-year tenure in the Supreme court until his retirement in **February 2030 at the age of 65**.
- His name was recommended by a Supreme Court Collegium led by Justice **U.U. Lalit** on September 26.



Legendary PT Usha elected as first woman president of Indian Olympic Association

- Legendary athlete **Pilavullakandi Thekkeraparambil Usha or PT Usha** was elected as the first woman president of **Indian Olympic Association (IOA)**.
- The 58-year-old Ms. Usha, a multiple Asian Games gold medallist and fourth-place finisher in the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics 400m hurdles final, was declared elected unopposed for the top post in the polls.
- The elections were held under the supervision of Supreme Court-appointed retired SC judge **L Nageswara Rao**. Usha emerged as the lone candidate for the top post, as nobody was willing to fight against Usha, who was nominated to the Rajya Sabha by the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party in July.
- Apart from Usha, **Ajay Patel** of National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) has been elected unopposed as senior vice-president.



- Olympic medalist shooter **Gagan Narang** and Rowing Federation of India president **Rajlaxmi Singh Deo** have been elected unopposed as vice presidents. Indian Weightlifting Federation (IWF) president **Sahdev Yadav** has been elected the treasurer. All India Football Federation (AIFF) president and former goalkeeper **Kalyan Chaubey** has been elected unopposed as the joint secretary (male).

Supreme Court Collegium recommends 5 names to Centre as apex court judges

- The **Supreme Court Collegium** has recommended to the Centre the names of five high court judges for appointment as apex court judges. The recommendation came after the meeting of the six-member Collegium, led by Chief Justice of India **D Y Chandrachud**.
- After the elevation of justice **Dipankar Datta**, former chief justice of Bombay High Court, SC's current bench strength is 28 as against the sanctioned strength of 34. If the five names recommended by the Supreme Court collegium are notified by the central government, then the bench strength of the court will become 33.
- Their Names:-**
- Justice Pankaj Mithal**, Chief Justice, Rajasthan High Court;
- Justice Sanjay Karol**, Chief Justice, Patna High Court;
- Justice PV Sanjay Kumar**, Chief Justice, Manipur High Court;
- Justice Ahsanuddin Amanullah**, Judge, Patna High Court;
- Justice Manoj Misra**, Judge, Allahabad High Court.



Tata Sons Chairman N Chandrasekaran appointed as the Chairman of B20

- Chairman of Tata Sons, **N Chandrasekaran** has been appointed as the chair of **B20 India** which represents the entire **G20 business community**. He will lead the business agenda during India's G20 Presidency.
- The Government of India has appointed CII, who assumed charge as the B20 India Secretariat on December 1 and will lead the B20 India process.

- B20 India has identified priorities for deliberations under the theme “**R.A.I.S.E – Responsible, Accelerated, Innovative, Sustainable, and Equitable Businesses**”. About 100 business policy initiatives will be organised by CII under the B20 calendar across the country during the presidency year.

Indian-origin Leo Varadkar is new Prime Minister of Ireland

- **Indian-origin Leo Varadkar** has returned for a second term as **Ireland’s Prime Minister** as part of a job-sharing deal made by the country’s centrist coalition government. His appointment was confirmed when he received the seal of office from **President Michael D. Higgins**, Ireland’s head of state.
- This is the **second time** that Varadkar has been elected as Irish prime minister. He first became the **Irish prime minister** in June 2017. In June 2020, the Fine Gael party led by Varadkar formed a coalition government with Fianna Fail and Green Party, in which he served as deputy prime minister and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment.
- **Varadkar’s rise to the top** of Irish politics was remarkable in a country dominated by a strict, conservative Catholic morality well into the latter half of the last century. At 38, he became the country’s youngest Taoiseach as well as its first openly gay head of government and first of Indian heritage.
- **Varadkar was born in Dublin** to an Irish mother who worked as a nurse and an **Indian immigrant father**, who was a qualified doctor.



Gati Shakti University: Railway Minister AshwiniVaishnaw appointed as first Chancellor

- Union Minister of Railways, **AshwiniVaishnaw** has been appointed as the **Chancellor of Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya, Vadodara**, by President **Smt. Draupadi**



Murmu. It is noteworthy to mention that **ShriAshwiniVaishnaw** will be the first Chancellor of **Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya**.

- President also appointed **Dr Manoj Chaudhary** as the first Vice Chancellor of **Gati Shakti University, Vadodara**. As per the Central University Act, 2009, **Dr Manoj Chaudhary** will hold the position of Vice Chancellor of **Gati Shakti University** for five years from the date he assumes office.

Centre appoints former SC Judge Hemant Gupta as head of New Delhi International Arbitration Centre

- Former Supreme Court judge, **Hemant Gupta** has been appointed as the chairperson of **New Delhi International Arbitration Centre (NDIAC)**. The NDIAC was established for the purpose of creating an independent and autonomous regime for institutionalised arbitration.
- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of Justice **Hemant Gupta** (retired) as NDIAC chairperson and that of **Ganesh Chandru and Anant Vijay Palli** as its part-time members.

CPN-Maoist Centre Chief Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda Set to Become New Nepal PM

- **CPN-Maoist Centre chief Pushpa Kamal Dahal**, also known as **Prachanda**, mustered the support of 168 parliamentarians, way above the magic mark of 138 in the House of Representatives, clearing the way for his third stint in the **Nepal Prime Minister’s Office** in the last 14 years.
- **President Bidya Devi Bhandari** appointed **Prachanda** as the prime minister as per Article 76 (2) of the constitution.
- **Prachanda** has support of **165 lawmakers in the 275-member House of Representatives** which includes CPN-UML with 78, CPN-MC with 32, RSP with 20,



RPP with 14, JSP with 12, Janamat with 6 and Nagarik Unmukti Party with 3.

Sitiveni Rabuka elected as new Prime Minister of Fiji

- **Sitiveni Rabuka** was confirmed as **Fiji's next Prime Minister** more than two decades after the former military commander first held the office in a term lasting nearly seven years.
- The 74-year-old won the nomination by one vote over incumbent Frank Bainimarama at a sitting of the Fijian Parliament in Suva. It also signals the end of former Prime Minister Frank Bainimarama's 16 years in power. In the 55-member Parliament of Fiji, Sitiveni Rabuka secured **28 votes against Bainimarama's 27 votes**.



Key Point

- Fiji Capital: Suva;
- Fiji Currency: Fijian dollar;
- Fiji President: Wiliame Katonivere.

Anil Kumar Lahoti named as next railway board chairman and CEO

- **Anil Kumar Lahoti** has been appointed as the **Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Railway Board**. The former General Manager of Central Railway was appointed as Member (Infrastructure) of the board a week ago, and will be taking over the chairmanship from **Vinay Kumar Tripathi on January 1**.
- Lahoti belongs to the 1984 batch of Indian Railway Service of Engineers (IRSE), and his appointment is a part of an overhaul at the top management of the railway board. Over the past months, no full-time appointments for the member positions were made in the railway board, as it was transitioning to a new integrated service – Indian Railway Management Service.



Shri Anil Kumar Lahoti
General Manager
Western & Central Railways

Ganji Kamala V Rao Appointed as Chief Executive Officer at FSSAI

- **Shri Ganji Kamala V Rao IAS** has been appointed as the **Chief Executive Officer of the Food Safety & Standards Authority of India**



(FSSAI). Shri Ganji Kamala V Rao IAS is currently serving as the Managing Director of Indian Tourism Development Corporation Ltd.

- **Shri Ganji Kamala V Rao IAS** is a Kerala cadre officer of the 1990 batch. He has served as the Chairman and Managing Director of India Tourism Development Corporation Ltd in the rank and pays Of Additional Secretary by the Appointment Committee of Cabinet. He has also served as the Principal Secretary of, the General Administration Department, Government of Kerala in Trivandrum.

Santosh Kumar Yadav Appointed as Chairman of NHAI, Subhasis Panda VC of DDA

- **Santosh Kumar Yadav**, the senior bureaucrat, was appointed as the **Chairman of the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI)**. Santosh Kumar Yadav is a 1995-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of the Uttar Pradesh cadre. He is currently serving as the additional secretary in the Department of School Education and Literacy, **Ministry of Education**.
- An order issued by the **Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT)** confirms that the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of Mr. Santosh Kumar Yadav under the **Ministry of Road and Transport & Highways** in the rank and pay of additional secretary to the Government of India.



Benjamin Netanyahu Sworn in as the Prime minister of Israel for a Record 6th Time

- **Benjamin Netanyahu** was sworn-in as Israel's prime minister for a sixth time, leading the Jewish state's most right-wing government to date. Netanyahu, 73, already Israel's longest-serving Prime Minister, has the support of 63 lawmakers in the 120-member Knesset (Israeli parliament). In the house, 54 lawmakers voted against his government.
- He returned as prime minister with the formation of his **sixth government**, which is composed of a number of far-right allies. The lawmakers supporting the **new government are all right-wing**, including Netanyahu's Likud party supported by the ultra-orthodox Shas, United Torah Judaism, the far-right Otzma Yehudit, Religious Zionist Party, and Noam.



Honours/ Awards

Canara Bank won Banker's Bank of the Year Award

- **Canara Bank** won the 'Banker's Bank of the Year Award 2022' for India segment at the **Global Banking Summit held in London**. Bank Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer LV Prabhakar received the award from the organisers.



- These are prestigious awards to the banking industry and Canara Bank has been adjudged as the Best Bank in India for 2022. It expressed gratitude to its customers, investors, staff and other stakeholders.
- Canara Bank is an Indian public sector bank under the control and ownership of Ministry of Finance, Government of India. Established in 1906 at Mangalore by AmmembalSubbaRaoPai, the bank also has offices in London, Dubai and New York.

Key Point

- Canara Bank Headquarters: Bengaluru;
- Canara Bank Founder: AmmembalSubbaRaoPai;
- Canara Bank Founded: 1 July 1906.

South Korea's Mina Sue Choi Crowned Miss Earth 2022

- South Korea's **Mina Sue Choi** was crowned **Miss Earth 2022** during the pageant's coronation night on November 29 at Cove Manila, Okada Hotel, **Parañaque City**. There were 86 Eco-warriors, and only three queens were awarded the pageant's three elements titles.
- **Miss Fire 2022** is Andrea Aguilera of Columbia, **Miss Water 2022** is NadeenAyoub of Palestine, and **Miss Air 2022** is Sheridan Mortlock of Australia. During the pre-pageant activities, Choi bagged a few medals



too. She won resort wear, long gown, beach wear, and swimsuit competition.

- This is the **22nd edition of the annual international competition** organized by Carousel Production to promote environmental protection. It also sought ambassadors to mount projects that help **save the planet**.

New York Film Critics Circle awards 2022: Filmmaker SS Rajamouli won Best Director

- Filmmaker **SS Rajamouli** won the **Best Director Award for RRR** at the **New York Film Critics Circle 2022**. The group is one of the first critics' groups to weigh in on the awards season.



- Rajamouli's win surprised many as his competitors included Steven Spielberg, Darron Aronofsky, Sarah Polley, and Gina Prince-Blythewood. A pre-Independence fictional story, "**RRR**" stars **Ram Charan and Jr NTR** as real-life Indian revolutionaries in the 1920s **Alluri Sitarama Raju** and **Komaram Bheem**, respectively.

At the New York Film Critics Circle:

- **Todd Field's Tar** has won the Best Picture of the year, also nabbing Best Actress for Cate Blanchett's leading performance.
- **Colin Farrell** won Best Actor for two of his performances this year — Kogonada's future-set sci-fi drama **After Yang** and Martin McDonagh's **The Banshees of Inisherin**.
- **Ke Huy Quan** has won the Best Supporting Actor for his performance in **Everything Everywhere All At Once**,
- **Keke Palmer** won the Best Supporting Actress for **Nope**.

Indian-American Krishna Vavilala receives US Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award

- US President **Joe Biden** has recognised Indian-American and a longtime Houstonian, **Krishna Vavilala**, with the **Presidential Lifetime Achievement (PLA) Award**, the nation's highest

honour for his contributions to his community and the country at large.

- The **Presidential Lifetime Achievement (PLA) Awards**, led by **AmeriCorps**, is an annual event held to honour citizens, who exhibit outstanding character, worth ethic, and dedication to their communities.
- **Krishna Vavilala** is Originally from Andhra Pradesh, Vavilala is a retired Electrical Engineer, and currently, the founder and Chairman of the **Foundation for India Studies (FIS)**, a 16-year-old non-profit organisation, whose signature project "the **Indo-American Oral History Project**" won the 2019 **Mary Fay Barnes Award for Excellence**.

SS Rajamouli "RRR" bags two Golden Globe Award nominations

- **SS Rajamouli**-directed period movie '**RRR**' has been nominated in two categories at the **Golden Globe Awards** to be held in **January 2023**. The **Hollywood Foreign Press Association (HFPA)** has nominated '**RRR**' in the **Best Picture: Non-English language** and **Best Original Song NaatuNaatu**.



- '**RRR**' follows a pre-Independence story woven around two real-life Indian revolutionaries: **Alluri Sitarama Raju** and **Komaram Bheem**, in the 1920s. Starring **Ram Charan** and **Jr NTR** in the lead, the film released worldwide in **March** in five languages. **RRR** is the only Indian film to make the final five out of a clutch of other entries from India, among them **Gangubai Kathiawadi**, **Kantara** and **Chhello Show**.

PETA India's 2022: Sonakshi Sinha named as 'Person of the Year' title

- Bollywood actress, **Sonakshi Sinha** has been awarded **PETA India's 2022 Person of the Year** title. Sonakshi's actions helped save the lives of many animals killed for fashion, but her strong advocacy for dog and cat rights earned her the title.



- She is actively involved in animal welfare activities and regularly voices out the need for stronger animal protection laws. The international animal rights non-profit group endorsed the title and celebrated the actions of the “Dabang” actress for saving animal lives in India.
- PETA stands for People for Ethical Treatment of Animals. PETA was founded in 1980 and is dedicated to **establishing and defending the rights of all animals**.
- PETA operates under the simple principle that animals are not ours to experiment on, eat, wear, use for entertainment, or abuse in any other way. PETA is the largest animal rights organization in the world, and PETA entities have more than 9 million members and supporters globally.

Key Point

- PETA Founders: Ingrid Newkirk, Alex Pacheco;
- PETA Founded: 22 March 1980;
- PETA Headquarters: Norfolk, Virginia, United States;
- PETA President: Ingrid Newkirk.

Beth Mead Awarded BBC Sports Personality of the Year 2022 Award

- **Beth Mead** has been awarded the **BBC Sports Personality of the Year for 2022** as she was the player of the tournament and top scorer at **Euro 2022**.
- Beth Mead defeated Germany in the finals at **Wembley** to win England’s first major **women’s football** trophy. The 27-year-old competed against Ben Stokes and Ronnie O’Sullivan for the BBC Sports Personality of the Year for 2022 award.

The Last Show And RRR’s Naatu Naatu Make It To Shortlist: Oscars 2023

- The Gujarati-language **Chhello Show (The Last Show)**, which is India’s official entry for the **2023 Academy Awards or Oscars awards** in the International Feature film category, has been shortlisted for next year’s Academy Awards.
- Meanwhile, the track **Naatu Naatu** from **SS Rajamouli’s RRR** has been shortlisted in the **Best Original Song Category**. The Academy announced



the list of shortlisted entries in 10 categories. The nominations for the Academy Awards will be announced on January 24.

- India’s history with the Oscar entries for the last few years were – Koozhangal, Jallikattu, Gully Boy, Village Rockstars, Newton, Visaranani, all of which have failed to make the Oscar shortlist. The only Indian films to have been nominated for an Oscar so far have been Mother India, Salaam Bombay and Lagaan.

Sports

Deepika Padukone to unveil FIFA World Cup 2022 trophy

- **Deepika Padukone** will unveil the **FIFA World Cup trophy** in **Qatar** later this month, according to reports. The trophy will be unveiled before the World Cup final on December 18.
- Deepika will be the first actor to receive such an honour at the world's most-watched sporting event. On December 18, Deepika Padukone is expected to unveil the World Cup trophy at the Lusail Iconic Stadium.



FIFA World Cup 2022: Stephanie Frappart to be 1st woman referee

- **FIFA** has announced that **Stephanie Frappart of France** will be the first woman to referee a men's **World Cup match**. She will officiate the match to be played between **Germany and Costa Rica** in Group E on 2 December 2022.
- France's Frappart is one of three women referees among the 36 selected for the tournament in Qatar, alongside Rwandan official **Salima Mukansanga** and **Japan's Yoshimi Yamashita**. Three other female officials have travelled to the World Cup as assistant referees.



Cristiano Ronaldo signs 200-million euro contract with Saudi club Al-Nassr

- Famous Footballer, **Cristiano Ronaldo** has sensationally joined **Saudi Arabian club Al-Nassr** on a two and a half year deal worth **200 million euros per season**. The news has been reported



by renowned Spanish outlet Marca ahead of the **Portugal captain's FIFA World Cup 2022** Round of 16 fixture against Switzerland, scheduled for Wednesday at the Lusail Stadium in Qatar.

- Earlier, Ronaldo's agent Jorge Mendes had spoken to a number of clubs including European giants like Bayern Munich, Chelsea, Atletico Madrid, etc., but no one showed any serious interest in the 37-year-old forward.

Saikhom Mirabai Chanu Wins Silver at Weightlifting World Championship in Colombia

- **Olympic silver medallist Mirabai Chanu** won **silver** at the **2022 World Weightlifting Championships in Colombia**. She beat the Tokyo 2020 champion **Hou Zhihua of China**. China's **Jiang Huihua** took home the **gold medal** with a combined weight of 206 kg.
- Mirabai lifted a combined weight of **200 kg** compared to **Zhihua's total of 198 kg**. This was **Mirabai's second medal at the World Championships**, having previously won gold in 2017 with a lift of 194 kg.



McLaughlin-Levrone & Mondo Duplantis won World Athlete of the Year 2022 awards

- World champion American hurdler **Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone** and Swedish pole vaulter **Mondo Duplantis** won the **World Athlete of the year awards**. McLaughlin-Levrone broke the world women's 400m hurdles record twice while Duplantis set three new world highs this year.
- World Athletics also named **Adriana Vilagoš** of Serbia and American **Erriyon Knighton** their **Rising Star of the Year winners**.
- Confederaçao Brasileira de Atletismo, Member Federations Award
- Katie Nageotte of the United States and Holly Bradshaw of Great Britain, Fair Play Award



- Martin Rickett, Photograph of the Year
- Ukrainian Athletic Association, President's Award
- Donna Fraser of Great Britain, Woman of the Year
- GennadiiZuiev of Ukraine, Coaching Achievement Award.

England's Joe Root joins elite list with 10000+ test runs and 50+ wickets

- Former England skipper **Joe Root** became only the third cricketer in history to score **10000 runs and pick up 50 wickets in Test cricket**. He achieved the feat during the ongoing second Test against Pakistan in Multan.
- Root reached the milestone when he dismissed **Faheem Ashraf** in the 70th over of Pakistan's second innings at the Multan Cricket Stadium. It was a tossed-up delivery from the off-spinner and Faheem tried to push at it. The ball turned very little to take the batter's edge and presented a simple catch to Zak Crawley at slips.
- Root joins South African legend **Jacques Kallis** and former Australian skipper **Steve Waugh** in scoring 10000 runs and claiming 50 wickets in the longest format.



Tata Steel Officially Partnered FIH Men's World Cup 2023

- **Tata Steel Limited** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **Hockey India** on December 13, 2022 to become an **Official Partner** of the **FIH Odisha Hockey Men's World Cup 2023** Bhubaneswar – Rourkela.
- The **FIH Men's World Cup** is the **15th edition** of the prestigious event, the top tournament for men along with the Olympics, and will take place in Bhubaneswar and Rourkela from January 13 to January 29, 2023.
- The **FIH Odisha Hockey Men's World Cup** will be the **fourth time** that **India** will be hosting the



prestigious tournament after organising it in 1982 in Bombay, 2010 in New Delhi, and 2018 in Bhubaneswar. A total of 16 nations will take part in the upcoming tournament.

- The **FIH Men's World Cup** is the pinnacle of men's hockey tournaments. The **15th edition** of the esteemed event will take place in **Bhubaneswar and Rourkela** from January 13 to January 29, 2023.

FIFA World Cup 2022 concludes: Argentina beats France on penalties

- **Messi's Argentina** clinched their **3rd World Cup trophy** from six final appearances in history, seeing off France 4-2 on penalties (3-3 after extra time) to win the biggest prize in men's football at the **Lusail Stadium in Lusail, Qatar**.
- It had won two in **1978 and 1986** under **Diego Maradona**. Lionel Messi had come close to winning in 2014 but La Albiceleste lost the final 0-1 to Germany. The only similarity from Messi's 2014 campaign in Qatar was his Golden Ball award for Player of the Tournament award. He became the first player to win two World Cup Golden Balls.
- The **22nd edition** of the World Cup just ended and for another 4 years for the next World Cup. Also, The 2026 World Cup will be held across three different countries, **the United States, Canada and Mexico**.



World Athletics: Neeraj Chopra becomes the most written-about athlete in 2022

- According to the World Athletics, **Tokyo Olympics gold medalist** javelin thrower **Neeraj Chopra** of India was the most written about track and field athlete in 2022, displacing the Jamaican legend Usain Bolt from the top lists.



- The data collated by media analysis company **Unicepta** was cited by World Athletics, the global governing body for athletics.
- Neeraj Chopra, the Tokyo Olympics men's javelin champion, led the way with **812 articles** ahead of the Jamaican women's sprint trio of Olympic champion **Elaine Thompson-Herah (751 articles)**, 100m world champion **Shelley-Ann Fraser-Pryce (698 articles)** and 200m world champion Shericka Jackson (679 articles).
- **Usain Bolt**, the world record holder in 100m and 200m men's sprint, comes in fourth in the list with 574 mentions. The Jamaican, who is now retired, had previously topped the annual list for most written-about athlete for years.

India hockey team win's Women's FIH Nations Cup 2022

- The **Indian women Hockey team** led by Captain **SavitaPunia** beat **Spain 1-0** in the final to win the inaugural FIH Nations Cup played at Valencia, Spain. The winning goal was scored by **GurjitKaur** of India.
- The inaugural FIH Nations cup was held in Valencia, Spain from 11-17 December 2022. India and Spain had played in the FIH women's Hockey Pro League 2021-22 season as replacement teams after pull-outs by Australia and New Zealand due to COVID-19 related issues.
- The result also means that JannekeSchopman-coached side has been promoted to the FIH Pro League 2023-24. Hockey India has announced cash prize of Rs 2 lakh for every member of the squad and Rs 1 lakh each for all the support staff.
- India ended the tournament with a perfect record of five wins in five matches. Indian team beat Chile (3-1), Japan (2-1), and South Africa (2-0) in the group stage before a thrilling 2-1 win over Ireland in the penalty shootout in the semifinal.



England's Rehan Ahmed becomes youngest to claim five-fer on Test debut

- England's leg-spinner **Rehan Ahmed** has become the **youngest men's Test cricketer** to take a five-wicket haul on debut during the ongoing third match against Pakistan at the National Bank Cricket Arena.
- After making his Test debut at 18 years and 126 days, Rehan claimed three wickets in six overs on his way to **5-48** in the second innings, playing a key role in bowling out Pakistan for 216 in 74.5 overs on day three of the match. Rehan's brilliant display helped him set England a 167-run target to clinch the series **3-0**.



Rafael Nadal and IgaSwiatek crowned ITF World Champions 2022

- Spanish Tennis Player, **Rafael Nadal** has been named the Men's International Tennis Federation (ITF) World Champion 2022 for the 5th time after an outstanding 2022 season.
- Previously, He has been named the men's ITF World Champion in 2008, 2010, 2017 and 2019. Polish tennis player, **IgaŚwiątek**, has been named Women's ITF World Champion 2022 for her performance in 2022 winning 2 Grand Slam titles and 8 titles.
- **Barbora Krejčíková** and **Katerina Siniakova** have been named ITF Women's Doubles World Champions for the 2nd straight year and the 3rd time overall, having won the title in 2018 and 2021.
- **Rajeev Ram** and **Joe Salisbury** have been named ITF Men's Doubles World Champions for the 1st time.



Blind T20 World Cup 2022: India Beat Bangladesh by 120 runs

- The **Indian national blind cricket team** won the **T20 World Cup** for the Blind for the third time in a row. They defeated Bangladesh at Bengaluru's M Chinnaswamy Stadium by a commanding score of 120 runs.
- The Indian captain, **Ajay Kumar Reddy** elected to bat after winning the toss, and his side eventually set a challenging total of 277 runs for Bangladesh. The Bangladeshi team could only muster 157 runs for three in return.



Blind T20 World Cup 2022: Prize Money And Awards Winners List

- Man of the Match in Final: **Sunil Ramesh (IND)**
- Man of the Tournament in B3 category: **Sunil Ramesh (IND)**
- Man of the Tournament in B2 Category: **Ajay Kumar Reddy (IND)**
- Man of the Tournament in B1 Category: **Mohammed Mahmud Rashid (BAN)**

Viacom18 gets Olympic Games Paris 2024 Broadcast Rights Across India & Subcontinent

- The **International Olympic Committee (IOC)** announced that **Viacom18 Media Private Limited (Viacom18)** has secured the exclusive media rights to broadcast the **Olympic Games Paris 2024**, plus non-exclusive rights to the **Winter Youth Olympic Games Gangwon 2024**, in Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.
- Through the agreement, Viacom18 will provide multi-platform coverage of the Games, and free-to-air television coverage within the region. In 2024



Olympics will be hosted by France in Paris, beginning from July 26 to August 11.

Goa to Host First Ever World Table Tennis (WTT) Series Event in India

- Goa will host India's first ever **World Table Tennis (WTT)** series event from February 27 to March 5. The top tier WTT Star Contender Goa 2023 will take place at the Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Indoor stadium, located at the Goa University Campus. **Stupa Analytics**, a homegrown sports analytics firm, will be the tournament host with active support from the **Goa government**.
- World Table Tennis (WTT) was created by the **International Table Tennis Federation** in 2019 to create and manage professional men's and women's Table Tennis events around the world. The WTT organizes a series of events around the year and the highest ranked tournament being the four **Grand Smashes**.



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.

FIFA officially announced the 2022 world rankings

- FIFA (Fédération Internationale de Football Association):** FIFA has 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.

FIFA rankings top 10:

Ranking	Country	Points
106.	India	1192.09
1.	Brazil	1840.77
2.	Argentina	1838.38
3.	France	1823.39
4.	Belgium	1781.30
5.	England	1774.19

Key Point

- FIFA President: Gianni Infantino;
- FIFA Founded: 21 May 1904;
- FIFA Headquarters: Zürich, Switzerland.

Nikhath Zareen & Lovlina Borgohain win gold medals at the Elite National Women's Boxing Championships

- Telangana Boxing star and the reigning world champion, **Nikhath Zareen**, and **Lovlina Borgohain**, the bronze medalist from the Tokyo Olympics, both won gold medals in their separate finals in the Elite Women's National Boxing Championships.
- The Railway Sports Promotion Board won the team trophy with ten awards in the **6th Elite Women's National Boxing Championships in Bhopal**.
- Lovlina of Assam defeated Arundhati Choudhary of the Services Sports Control Board (SSCB) 5-0 in the 75kg final, while Nikhat endured a hard test from Anamika of the RSPB in the 50kg final before the 26-year-old Telangana pugilist won 4-1 to defend her championship.



Obituaries

Veteran US sports journalist Grant Wahl dies in Qatar during FIFA World Cup

- Highly-regarded American soccer journalist **Grant Wahl** passed away covering the World Cup in Qatar. He was passed away while covering the World Cup match between Argentina and the Netherlands in Qatar.
- This was the **8th World Cup for Wahl**, who has been covering football continuously since 1996. Wahl was detained a day earlier in Qatar for wearing a rainbow shirt in support of the LGBTQ community.



Brazil World Cup winner and football legend, Pele passes away

- Brazilian football legend **Edson Arantes do Nascimento**, famously called **Pelé**, has passed away aged 82. He is considered by many as one of the greatest footballers of all time.
- He was instrumental in Brazil's three World Cup victories in 1958, 1962, and 1970. He is still the top scorer for Brazil national team with 77 goals in 92 games.
- He retired from Santos in 1974 but a year later made a surprise comeback by signing a lucrative deal to join the New York Cosmos in the then nascent North American Soccer League.
- In a glorious 21-year career he scored between 1,281 and 1,283 goals, depending on how matches are counted. Pele, though, transcended soccer, like no player before or since, and he became one of the first global icons of the 20th century.
- During his career, he became known as **"The Black Pearl"**.



- Pele was named **"Athlete of the Century"** by the International Olympic Committee, co-"Football Player of the Century" by world soccer body FIFA, and a "national treasure" by Brazil's government.

Important Days with theme

World AIDS Day celebrates on 1st December

- Every year, on **1 December**, the world commemorates **World AIDS Day**. People around the world unite to show support for people living with and affected by HIV and to remember those who lost their lives to AIDS. The day raise awareness and to unite people worldwide in the fight against the global health issue of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome.
- The day provides an opportunity for people worldwide to unite in the fight against HIV, to show support for people living with HIV and to commemorate those who have died from an AIDS-related illness.
- The World AIDS Day theme for 2022 is **“equalize”**. According to UNAIDS, “The slogan is a call to action. It is a prompt for all of us to work for the proven practical actions needed to address inequalities and help end AIDS.”



BSF celebrates its 58th Raising Day on December 01

- **India** celebrates the **58th BSF Raising Day (1st December)** in 2022. This is for the first time that the Raising Day Parade of India's first line of defense is being held in Punjab and the second time outside the national capital.
- The 58th Raising Day Parade of the Border Security Force (BSF) will be held on December 4 on Guru Nanak Dev University campus.
- **Formed in 1965**, the primary role of the BSF lies in securing the borders of India shared with Bangladesh and Pakistan. The Border Security Force (BSF) comprises Indian armed personnel dedicated to



protecting the sovereignty and integrity along the Indo-Bangladesh and the Indo-Pakistan borders.

Key Point

- BSF Director General: Pankaj Kumar Singh;
- BSF Headquarters: New Delhi.

National Pollution Control Day 2022 observed on 2nd December

- **National Pollution Control Day** is observed every year on 2 December in India. The day is recognized to commemorate the precious lives that were lost in the Bhopal Gas Tragedy, one of the greatest industrial disasters in the history of India.
- The main aim and objectives of celebrating the National Pollution Prevention Day 2022 in India is to create awareness among people about the judicious use of industries to prevent uncalled-for industrial disasters.
- The history of National Pollution Day in India dates back to the heart-wrenching **Bhopal Gas Tragedy** in which thousands of people lost their lives. The incident happened on the night of **2 and 3 December 1984**, and that is why the National Pollution Control Day is observed annually on 2 December.



World Computer Literacy Day 2022 celebrates on 2nd December

- **December 2** is observed as **International Computer Literacy Day**. It was started in 2001 by NIIT, a world-famous Indian computer firm. The day is entirely devoted to Computers and how they are a significant source of concern with the modernisation of the planet.
- The aim is to highlight the importance of computer literacy, which is essential for the present times. The day promotes technological skills, especially in children and women, and aims to inspire them to learn more and make their work easier by the use of



computers. To know, more about the World Computer Literacy day candidates are advised to read the below article.

- World Computer Literacy Day was launched in 2001 by an Indian company called N.I.I.T to celebrate its 22nd anniversary. Founded in 1981 by **Rajendra Singh Pawar and Vijay K. Thadani**, N.I.I.T, which stands for **National Institute of Information Technology**, is a skills and talent development company.

Nation remembers Dr B R Ambedkar on his 67th Mahaparinirvan Diwas

- India observed **December 6 as Mahaparinirvan Divas** to mark the death anniversary of **Dr Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar**. President

Droupadi Murmu, Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar and Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid floral tributes to Babasaheb Dr B.R.



Ambedkar on his Mahaparinirvan Diwas at Parliament House Lawns in New Delhi.

- BR Ambedkar, the **father of the Indian Constitution**, was born on April 14, 1891. Fondly known as Babasaheb, he fought for the economic and social empowerment of Dalits in the country, eradicating the social scourge of untouchability and promoting gender equality. He was also among the seven members of the drafting committee who prepared a draft of the **Constitution of independent India**.
- In **1990**, the **Bharat Ratna**, India's highest civilian award, was posthumously conferred on Ambedkar. The salutation Jai Bhim used by followers honours him. He is also referred to by the honorific Babasaheb, meaning "**Respected Father**".

National Armed Forces Flag Day 2022: 7th December

- Every year on **December 7**, India commemorates **Armed Forces Flag Day** in order to raise donations for the welfare of the **Armed Forces Staff**. This day is observed to honour Indian soldiers, sailors, and pilots.

The day also pays tribute to hundreds of thousands of men who have died protecting the country.

- On this day, the Indian Armed Units, comprising the **Indian Army, Indian Air Force, and Indian Navy**, organise a variety of activities to highlight the achievements of our army forces and personnel. The general public participates in the day's celebrations by signing up as volunteers and assisting with the collection of cash, stickers, and other goods. Many patriotic activities are planned to promote public involvement and to recognise the contributions of the country's armed services.

SAARC Charter Day 2022: 8th December

- The **South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Charter Day** is

observed every year on **8th December**. On this day in 1985, SAARC Charter was adopted in Dhaka, during the first summit of the group.



- This year marks the **38th Anniversary** of the regional group. The charter was signed by the Leaders of SAARC Countries Heads of State or Government of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka at the First SAARC Summit held in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

72nd Human Rights Day 2022 observed on 10th December

- Human Rights Day** is celebrated across the world on December 10 every year. It marks the day that the **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)** adopted the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)** in 1948.



- Human Rights Day focuses on the fundamental rights and freedoms that people globally are entitled to simply by virtue of being humans. It celebrates and advocates for rights that cut across the distinctions of

nationality, gender, ethnicity, race, sexual orientation, religion, or any other status.

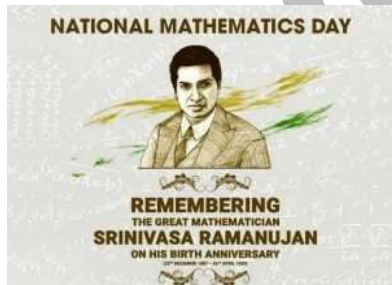
- This year marks the **74th anniversary** of the adoption of the UDHR and the **72nd Human Rights Day**.
- The campaign will be centred around the theme, **“Dignity, Freedom, and Justice for All.”**

UNICEF Day observed on 11 December

- Every year **UNICEF Day** is celebrated on **December 11** every year.
- The word UNICEF stands for **United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund** and the purpose served by the organisation is to save children’s lives by providing them with humanitarian aid across the world.
- The main purpose of the organization is to provide humanitarian aid to children around the world. It was originally intended as a relief fund to help children after World War II.

National Mathematics Day 2022 celebrates on 22 December

- **National Mathematics Day** is celebrated on **December 22** across the nation every year. The National Mathematics Day is marked to recognise and celebrate the works of **Srinivasa**

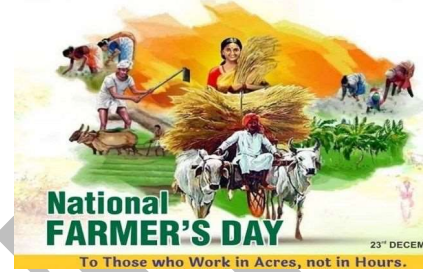


Ramanujan. Srinivasa Ramanujan, the Indian mathematical genius, was born on this day in 1887.

- This year nation celebrates his **135th birth anniversary of Ramanujan**. The main objective behind the celebration of National Mathematics Day is to make people aware of the development of mathematics and its importance in the growth of humanity.
- The day was announced on 26 February 2012 by the then **Prime Minister Manmohan Singh** to mark the 125th anniversary of the birth of the Indian mathematical genius Srinivasa Ramanujan (22 Dec 1887- 26 Apr 1920). **2012 was also observed as National Mathematics Year.**

Indian National Farmer’s Day 2022 celebrates on 23 December

- National Farmers Day or Kisan Diwas is the day marked every year to honor each and every farmer who is working continuously for the nation. Farmers are considered to be the backbone of the nation as without them none of us can survive. Agriculture is the basis for all our growth and consumption.
- The day aims to spread awareness of the contributions of farmers to the socioeconomic development of the nation. It also recognises the efforts of the former Prime Minister who helped in uplifting the farmers in the country, introduced Debt Redemption Bill and Land Holding Act.



National Consumer Rights Day 2022: 24 December

- Every year on **December 24**, India observed the **National Consumer Day or Bharatiya Grahak Diwas**. This day is used to make all consumers aware of their powers and rights.
- This day was made under the Consumer Protection Act, which came to power in 1986 to create awareness and save consumers from market exploitation like defective products or expensive pricing. **World Consumer Rights Day** is celebrated on **March 15** every year.
- The day marks an opportunity to urge that all consumers’ rights be recognised and safeguarded, as well as to protest market abuses and social injustices that jeopardise those rights.



Good Governance Day 2022 celebrates on 25 December

- **Good Governance Day:** Every year, in honour of former Indian Prime Minister **Atal Vihari Vajpayee's** birthday, India observes "**Good Governance Day**". The day is devoted to former prime minister Atal Vihari Vajpayee.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi 2014 announced that "Good Governance Day" will be observed annually on December 25 in memory of the former PM.
- In 1998–1999, he was elected prime minister for a second term. On October 13, 1999, he was elected as the nation's prime minister for the third time.
- Significantly, former prime minister Atal Vihari Vajpayee was the first head of state to address the UN in Hindi.
- The "Bharat Ratna" award was given to him on March 27, 2015.

