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# Current Affairs

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UPSC-SSC-BANK-RAILWAY-LIC-POST

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# Current Affairs

## January 2023

**Editor**

**Manohar E. Patil**

**(Founder - Director Reliable Academy)**

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**The Reliable Publication, Pune**

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# Appointment

## NABARD named Shri Shaji KV as Chairman

- ▶▶ **K V Shaji** has been named Chairman of the **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)**. He formerly served as **NABARD's Deputy Managing Director (DMD)** till May 21, 2020. He is an agricultural graduate with a PGDM in Public Policy from the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) in Ahmedabad.



### Prior to joining NABARD :

- ▶▶ He spent 26 years in various roles at Canara Bank. In Canara Bank's corporate office, he was in charge of strategy, planning, and business development. He also played a role in the merger of Syndicate Bank and Canara Bank.
- ▶▶ He previously worked for the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and Kerala Gramin Bank, the country's largest regional rural bank. From 2013 until 2017, he served as the Chairman of Kerala Grameen Bank. Shaji KV is a Thiruvananthapuram native.

### About the NABARD :

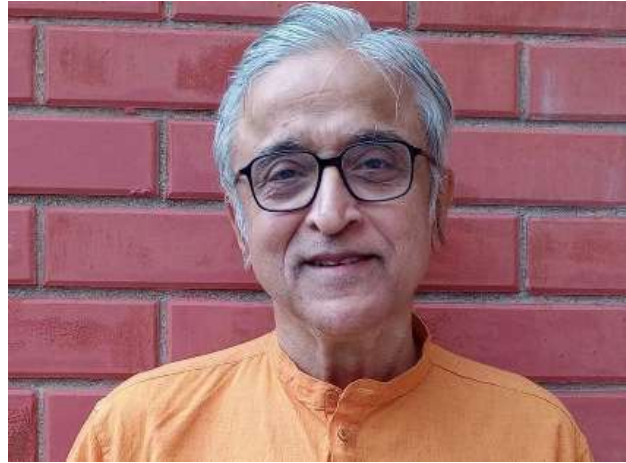
- ▶▶ **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)** is an apex regulatory body for overall regulation of regional rural banks and apex cooperative banks in India. It is under the jurisdiction of Ministry of Finance, Government of India. The bank has been entrusted with "matters concerning policy, planning, and operations in the field of credit for agriculture and other economic activities in rural areas in India". NABARD is active in developing and implementing financial inclusion.

### Who is the founder of NABARD ?

- ▶▶ **Indira Gandhi** on 05 November 1982. Set up with an initial capital of Rs.100 crore, its' paid up capital stood at Rs.17,080 crore as on 31 March 2022.

## 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.



### Who is Rajeeva Laxman Karandikar?

- ▶ Mr. Karandikar is widely known for his three decades of work on probability theory as well as applications of mathematics and statistics to real world questions.
- ▶ He has designed, supervised and analysed nationwide opinion polls for the Indian parliamentary elections as well State assemblies since 1998. He is known for developing a new model and methodology for seat prediction, which has been quite successful for over the last 20 years.
- ▶ Mr. Karandikar was a member of the committee constituted by the Election Commission (EC) of India to advice the EC on the sampling scheme for EVM-VVPAT verification.

### National Statistical Commission (NSC) of India:

- ▶ 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.

**!IMPORTANT**

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

## Hansraj Gangaram Ahir named as the new NCBC chairperson

### National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) :

- ▶ 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.



#### About National Commission for Backward Classes :

- ▶▶ National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) was initially constituted by the Central Govt by the National Commission for **Backward Classes Act, 1993**.
- ▶▶ The National Commission for **Backward Classes Act, 1993 (27 of 1993)** has been repealed through the National Commission for **Backward Classes (Repeal) Act, 2018** dated **14.08.2018**.
- ▶▶ The present Commission has been accorded Constitutional Status and constituted through “The Constitution (One Hundred and Second Amendment) Act, 2018” Act dated 11.8.2018, whereby **Article 338B** has been inserted, forming a Commission for the socially and educationally backward classes to be known as National Commission for Backward Classes.

**!IMPORTANT**

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

## Sanjay Kumar named as secretary of Department of School Education

- ▶▶ IAS **Sanjay Kumar** took charge as **Secretary of the Department of School Education and Literacy**, Ministry of Education in Shashtri Bhawan in New Delhi. Sanjay Kumar, a 1990-batch Bihar cadre IAS officer, was a former Secretary, Department of Youth Affairs, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports. He replaced **Anita Karwal** IAS upon her superannuation.
- ▶▶ Sanjay Kumar held a meeting with the senior officials of the Ministry in which he reviewed the functioning of the



department, autonomous bodies and various schemes relating to school education. Discussions were held on the implementation of the National Education Policy 2020, capacity building of teachers, infrastructure in schools, and the upcoming Prime Minister's interaction programme 'Pariksha Pe Pariksha'. Kumar said that he looks forward to contributing towards providing quality, accessible and affordable education to every student in the country. Sanjay Kumar also served as the principal secretary of education in Bihar.

## 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 DY 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**.



### Important points:

- ▶▶ 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.
- ▶▶ The pendency of his file with the government for well over two months had been a source of consternation for both the Supreme Court and the apex court lawyers' community.

### Career of Justice Datta :

- ▶▶ Justice Datta was elevated to the bench of the Calcutta High Court as a permanent judge on June 22, 2006. He was made the Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court on April 28, 2020. Justice Datta is the son of late Justice Salil Kumar Datta, who served as a judge of the Calcutta High Court, and brother-in-law of Justice Amitava Roy, who was a former judge of the apex court.

## Prasanth Kumar elected as new president of AAI

- ▶▶ **Prasanth Kumar**, CEO, South Asia of GroupM Media (India) Pvt Ltd, has been elected as the president of the **Advertising Agencies Association of India (AAAI)**. He has an experience of over 25 years in the Industry. Before joining GroupM, he held positions at Pepsi, The Hindu, The Media Edge, and McCann Erickson. He has served as AAI's vice president from 2020 to 2022.
- ▶▶ Rana Barua, group CEO of Havas Group India, was elected vice-president of the association. Anupriya Acharya, outgoing president, will be the ex-officio member of the AAI board for 2022-23.

**Other elected members of the board:**

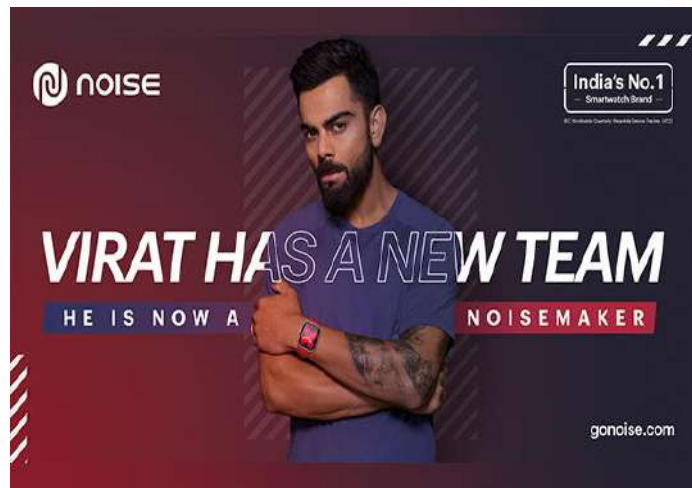
- ▶▶ VishandasHardasani (Matrix Publicities and Media India Pvt Ltd)
- ▶▶ Kunal Lalani (Crayons Advertising Pvt Ltd)
- ▶▶ Rohan Mehta (Kinnect Pvt Ltd)
- ▶▶ Chandramouli Muthu Maitri (Advertising Works Pvt Ltd, Cochin)
- ▶▶ Sridhar Ramasubramanian (Beehive Communications Pvt Ltd)
- ▶▶ Shashidhar Sinha (Initiative Media India Pvt Ltd)
- ▶▶ K Srinivas (Sloka Advertising Pvt Ltd, Hyderabad)
- ▶▶ Vivek Srivastava (Innocean Worldwide Communications Pvt Ltd)

**About the AAI :**

- ▶▶ Advertising Agencies Association of India (AAAI) is the official, national organisation of advertising agencies, formed in 1945, to promote their interests. The Association promotes professionalism, through its founding principles, which uphold sound business practices between Advertisers and Advertising Agencies and the various media.

## 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 **smartwatches**. 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.
- ▶▶ Noise has claimed to have emerged as one of the strongest Indian brands in the smartwatch segment, reiterating its leadership for nine quarters. The brand's journey demonstrates its consistency in delivery, ability to invent and reinvent, and mass appeal – attributes that India's most popular cricketer Virat Kohli exemplifies.





## Sushmita Shukla appointed as VP & COO, Federal Reserve Bank

- ▶▶ The **Federal Reserve Bank of New York** has appointed Indian-origin **Sushmita Shukla** as its **First Vice President, and Chief Operating Officer (COO)**, making the insurance industry veteran its highest-ranked official after President and CEO, **John C Williams**. The appointment was approved by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

### Here's what we know about her :

- ▶▶ She has served in leadership roles in the insurance industry. In a career spanning more than twenty years, she has primarily led operations, technology, and enterprise-wide transformation efforts.
- ▶▶ Since January 2018, she has been working with Chubb, which is based in New York, and is the world's largest publicly traded property and casualty insurance company. She is its Senior Vice President, and Chief Operations Officer (International Accident and Health).
- ▶▶ Her previous employers include GiantBear Inc (April 2000-December 2000), Merrill Lynch (January 2001-May 2003), Liberty Mutual (June 2003-May 2006), The Hartford (July 2006-October 2016), and Healthfirst (November 2016-November 2017).
- ▶▶ She is armed with an MBA in Finance and Management from the New York University (January 2002-April 2005), as well as a bachelor's degree in Electrical and Electronics Engineering from the University of Mumbai.

### !IMPORTANT

- ▶▶ **Federal Reserve Bank of New York President: John C. Williams;**
- ▶▶ **Federal Reserve Bank of New York Founded: 1914,**
- ▶▶ **Federal Reserve Bank of New York HQ: New York, New York, United States.**

## 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.
- ▶▶ The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in an official statement said that B20 India will commence work on various taskforces and action councils after the inception meeting, scheduled on 22-24 January 2023,



culminating into the B20 India Summit in August.

### About the B20 India :

- ▶▶ B20 India work will be conducted through Task Forces and Action Councils, which will develop consensus-based policy recommendations to the G20. It will commence work on various taskforces and action councils after the inception meeting, scheduled on 22-24 January 2023, culminating into the B20 India Summit in August 2023.

## Meghna Ahlawat has been elected as first female president of TTFI

### Table Tennis Federation of India 2022 :

- ▶▶ **Meghna Ahlawat** was elected president of the **Table Tennis Federation of India**. Meghna Ahlawat has been elected its first female President, eight-time national champion **Kamlesh Mehta** takes over as the new secretary general of the TTFI and **Patel Nagender Reddy** has been elected as the Treasurer. Ahlawat, who is the wife of Haryana deputy chief minister Dushyant Chautala, contested against Gujarat home minister Harsh Sanghvi.



- ▶▶ The Delhi High Court had suspended TTFI in February and appointed a Committee of Administrators (CoA) to take over its functioning. The judgement came after woman's India No 1 **Manika Batra** petitioned the court alleging match-fixing against the national coach during Tokyo Olympics qualifiers. She contended that the then national coach Soumyadeep Roy had asked her to concede a match against compatriot Sutirtha Mukherjee—she was also his academy trainee. The court appointed a three-member committee to look into the allegations. Dushyant Chautala was the previous TTFI president. The Delhi High Court had barred members of the suspended executive board from taking part in the elections.

**!IMPORTANT**

- ▶▶ **Table Tennis Federation of India Founded: 1926;**
- ▶▶ **Table Tennis Federation of India Headquarters location: New Delhi.**

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

- ▶▶ Legendary athlete **PilavullakandiThekkeraparambil 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.



#### Other important appointment in the IOA:

- ▶▶ 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).
- ▶▶ **Alaknanda Ashok** of Badminton Association of India (BAI) was elected as joint secretary (female) after emerging winner in a three-way battle.
- ▶▶ **Shalini Thakur Chawla** and **Suman Kaushik** were also in the fray.

#### About the PT USHA :

- ▶▶ She is fondly known as the '**Payyoli Express**', Usha became the first Olympian and first international medallist to head the IOA in its 95-year-old history.
- ▶▶ She is also the first sportsperson to have represented the country and also become IOA chief since Maharaja Yadavindra Singh, who played a Test match in 1934. Singh was the third IOA president who held office from 1938 to 1960.

**!IMPORTANT**

- ▶▶ **Indian Olympic Association Founded: 1927;**
- ▶▶ **Indian Olympic Association Headquarters: New Delhi.**

## 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.

#### About The Time-line :

- ▶▶ 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.



- ▶▶ According to an agreement reached by the **three parties in setting up a coalition government**, Fianna Fail party leader Micheal Martin will first serve as Irish prime minister until December 2022 and Fine Gael party leader Varadkar will replace Martin to be the new prime minister until the five-year term of the current government comes to an end.

#### About Leo Varadkar :

- ▶▶ **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.
- ▶▶ At the age of seven, a **precocious Varadkar** is reported to have told his mother's friends that he wanted to be the minister for health. After gaining a medical degree from Trinity College Dublin, he went into general practice but stayed involved in politics, and in 2007 secured election for Fine Gael in Dublin West. In 2015, before **Ireland's referendum** legalising same-sex marriage, Varadkar came out publicly as gay.

## Gati Shakti University : Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw appointed as first Chancellor

#### Gati Shakti University :

- ▶▶ Union Minister of Railways, **Ashwini Vaishnaw** has been appointed as the **Chancellor of Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya, Vadodara**, by President Smt. **Draupadi Murmu**. It is noteworthy to mention that Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw 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.

#### Gati Shakti University : Key points

- ▶▶ Gati Shakti University was granted the central status by the **Union Cabinet in July 2022**.
- ▶▶ In August this year, the Central Government introduced a bill in the Lok Sabha to convert the

National Rail and Transportation Institute, into Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya, an autonomous central university.

- ▶▶ The Central Universities (Amendment) Bill was introduced by Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan which seeks to expand the scope of the university from beyond the railways to cover the entire transport sector to support the ambitious growth and modernisation in the field.

**About the Pradhan Mantri Gati Shakti Yojana :**

- ▶▶ Pradhan Mantri Gati Shakti Yojana was announced by PM Modi on 15th August 2021 on the 75th Independence Day.
- ▶▶ The objective of the scheme is to cut logistics costs, increase cargo handling capacity, reduce costs and reduce turnaround time at ports to promote trade.
- Gati Shakti Digital Platform: Build and impact basic infrastructure projects through coordination between 16 ministries through its platform to be implemented in the same manner.



## Harvard University named Claudine Gay as first black president

- ▶▶ **Harvard University** named **Claudine Gay**, a dean of the Faculty of Arts and Science, as its new president, the **first African American** to hold the post at the prestigious university. Gay, 52, is just the second woman to be elected to head the school in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Gay, the daughter of Haitian immigrants, will take over as the university's 30th president on July 1, 2023.

**About Claudine Gay :**

- ▶▶ The daughter of Haitian immigrants, Gay graduated from Stanford and then earned her Ph.D. in government at Harvard in 1998, winning the Toppan Prize for best dissertation in political science.
- ▶▶ Gay was elected to the presidency by the Harvard Corporation, the university's principal governing board.
- ▶▶ She will be succeeding current Harvard President Lawrence S. Bacow, who announced he was retiring in June after five years at the helm. His predecessor, historian Drew Gilpin Faust, was the first woman to serve as Harvard president since its founding in 1636.



## 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.



- ▶▶ Subhasis Panda has been appointed as the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) vice chairman.
- ▶▶ Subhasis is a 1997-batch IAS officer of the Himachal Pradesh cadre.
- ▶▶ Ganji Kamala V Rao has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer at the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- ▶▶ Hitesh Kumar S Makwana has been appointed as the Additional Secretary of the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- ▶▶ Rajneesh, a 1997-batch IAS Officer of the Himachal Pradesh cadre has been appointed as the additional secretary and development commissioner of the Ministry of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises

## 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 a 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 the Indian Railway Service of Engineers (IRSE), and his appointment is a part of an overhaul at the top management of



Shri Anil Kumar Lahoti  
General Manager,  
Western & Central Railways

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.

#### Experience of Anil Kumar Lahoti :

- ▶▶ Lahoti was appointed as the general manager of Central Railway in July 2021, before which he worked in several key positions in both zonal railways and the railway board in Delhi. He reportedly also worked on developing the public-private partnership model for station redevelopment, along with important infrastructural interventions leading to decongestion in stations in Delhi during his tenure with Northern and North Central Railways.
- ▶▶ He will be taking over at a time when the railway board looks to turn things around for the national transporter. From earlier being infamous for delayed execution and poor capacity planning, the railways aim to execute more capital expenditure and bettering freight and passenger services in the run-up to the FY24 Budget

### SitiveniRabuka elected as new Prime Minister of Fiji

- ▶▶ Fiji: SitiveniRabuka 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.
- ▶▶ Fiji: SitiveniRabuka 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, SitiveniRabuka secured 28 votes against Bainimarama's 27 votes.



#### About the SitiveniRabuka :

- ▶▶ Mr. SitiveniRabuka, the head of the People's Alliance Party, was elevated to the position after forming a majority coalition with two other parties following last week's close and contentious election. He was the instigator of two military coups in 1987. He was democratically elected as Prime Minister of Fiji, serving from 1992 to 1999, and again in 2022 leading a three-party coalition. He also served as Chairman of the Great Council of Chiefs from 1999 to 2001, and later as Chairman of the Cakaudrove Provincial Council from 2001 to 2008.

**!IMPORTANT**

- ▶▶ **Fiji Capital : Suva;**
- ▶▶ **Fiji Currency : Fijian dollar;**
- ▶▶ **Fiji President : WiliameKatonivere**

# Awards

## 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**.

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▶▶ ‘RRR’ follows a pre-Independence story woven around two real-life Indian revolutionaries: **Alluri Sitarama Raju** and **KomaramBheem**, 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 GangubaiKathiawadi, Kantara and Chhello Show.

### Other Important facts about RRR :

- ▶▶ Earlier, there was a demand to send the film to Oscars as well, however, due to the official entry in that award function, this film was left behind.
- ▶▶ Recently, director SS Rajamouli has also received the New York Film Critics Circle Best Director Award for the film.
- ▶▶ ‘RRR’ is the only Indian film to make it to the International Award category.
- ▶▶ RRR has been released in many languages, this South film is being appreciated globally.



## India’s Greenhouse-in-a-Box startup Kheyti won Earthshot Prize 2022

▶▶ **India’s Greenhouse-in-a-box** was among the five winners announced by the Prince of Wales, Prince William, in Boston, United States. It is a sustainable solution for small-scale farmers developed by an **Indian startup, Kheyti**, in Telangana which has won one million pounds (\$1.2 million). Co-founder and CEO of Kheyti, Kaushik Kappagantulu, said that he had launched the solution



for at least 100 million local smallholder farmers who are most impacted by climate change. The aim of greenhouse-in-a-box is to reduce costs and increase yields which in turn would help protect the livelihoods of these farmers.

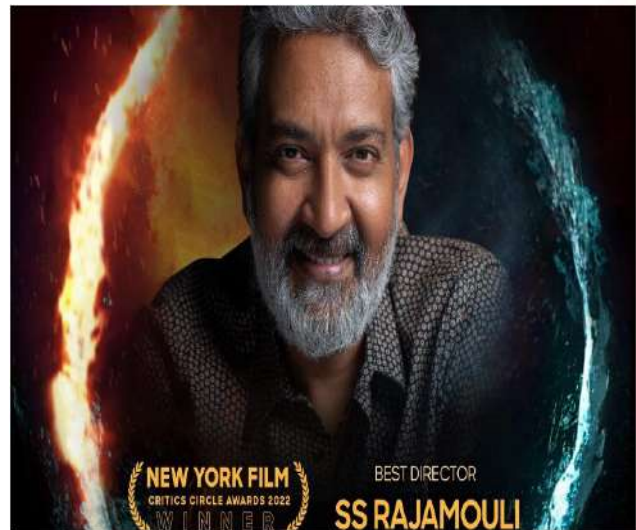
#### About the Earthshot prize :

- ▶▶ Founded by Prince William this was the second edition of the Earthshot prize which has also been dubbed the 'Eco Oscars' and witnessed the presence of several celebrities who walked the green carpet. Kheyti won the prize in the Protect and Restore Nature category which saw hundreds of entries from across the world.
- ▶▶ All 15 finalists will receive support from the Earthshot Prize Global Alliance which is a network of NGOs and private sector businesses around the world which will assist in scaling these solutions. The other five winners are from Kenya, the United Kingdom, Australia and Oman.



## 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 KomaramBheem, respectively.



- ▶▶ **Notably:** After earning more than **Rs 1200 crore** at the worldwide box office, the film emerged as one of the most successful films at the box office in India and received rave reviews from Indian film critics. However, it was not selected as India's official entry for Oscars 2023.

#### 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.

- ▶▶ **KeHuy 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.

## Ex-Vice President Venkaiah Naidu receives SIES award for public leadership

- ▶▶ Former vice president **Venkaiah Naidu** has been conferred with the **25th Sri Chandrasekarendra Saraswathi National Eminence Award (SIES)**. The award was presented during the event held at Shanmukhananda auditorium, King's Circle in Mumbai, Maharashtra. The awards are given in the fields of public leadership, community leadership, science and technology, and social thinkers who have made outstanding contributions in their respective fields. The SIES was set up in 1932 by M. V. Venkateshwaran in Mumbai.



### Other Awardees in various categories :

- ▶▶ **Public Leadership:** Arif Mohammed Khan Governor of Kerala
- ▶▶ **Community Leadership:** Ratan Tata, an eminent industrialist
- ▶▶ **Science and Technology:** Dr Marthanda Varma Sankaran Valianathan, renowned cardiologist and Padma Vibhushan awardee
- ▶▶ **Science and Technology:** Prof Ajay Kumar Sood, Scientific Advisor to the Government of India
- ▶▶ **Spiritual Leadership:** Vishakha Hari Harikatha artiste.

### About Venkaiah Naidu:

- ▶▶ Venkaiah Naidu was the 13th Vice President of India from 11th August 2017 to 11th August 2022.
- ▶▶ Prior to joining Modi's Cabinet, he was the minister of housing, urban poverty alleviation, urban development, and information.
- ▶▶ He was a prominent leader of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and its National President from 2002 to 2004.
- ▶▶ He served as Minister for Rural Development in Atal Bihari Vajpayee's government from 1996 to 2002.

## 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 Nadeen Ayoub 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.



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

- ▶▶ The new queen inherited the title from **Destiny Wagner**, who was the first woman from Belize to capture a major international crown.
- ▶▶ Destiny Wagner won in a virtual competition conducted in **2021**.

## Time Magazine's 2022 Person of the Year: Volodymyr Zelensky and "Spirit of Ukraine"

- ▶▶ **Time magazine** named President **Volodymyr Zelensky** as well as "**the spirit of Ukraine**" as its 2022 person of the year, for the resistance the country has shown in the face of Russia's invasion. Zelensky shares the 2022 title with "the spirit of Ukraine," which Felsenthal said was embodied by the "countless individuals inside and outside the country" who fought behind the scenes, including everyday people such as chefs and surgeons.
- ▶▶ The Time magazine editor **Edward Felsenthal** wrote that "spirit of Ukraine" referred to Ukrainians around the world, including many who "fought behind the scenes" against the Russian invasion. The magazine said Mr Zelensky had inspired Ukrainians and was recognised internationally for his courage in resisting the Russian invasion.



**Other categories winners :**

- ▶▶ **Time Heroes of the Year:** Women in Iran were named the **Time Heroes of the Year**. Iranian women who are protesting for over three months against the custodial death of 22-year-old **MahsaAmini**. She was arrested for not wearing hijab publicly and she died while in the custody of the Iranian morality police. Her death has triggered a mass protest from the Iranian women against public wearing of Hijab and the morality police.
- ▶▶ **Time's Entertainer of the year:** The South Korean K-pop band **Blackpink** were recognised as.
- ▶▶ **Athlete of the Year:** American baseball player **Aaron Judge**.
- ▶▶ **Icon of the Year:** Malaysian actress **Michelle Yeoh** .  
**Named the Indian who featured time person of the Year :**
- ▶▶ **Mahatma Gandhi** is the only Indian to be named TIME Person of the Year, having been given the honour in 1930. The magazine described him as 'Saint Gandhi' and later named him as one of the 25 Political Icons of all time.
- ▶▶ The tradition of naming Time person of the year started in 1927. Initially it was named the Time Man of the Year. Other past winners have included the former dictator of **Germany, Adolf Hitler in 1938, and Russian President Vladimir Putin, who was 2007's Person of the Year**.
- ▶▶ Time first presented its Person of the Year award in 1927. Last year's honoree was Tesla and **SpaceX chief Elon Musk**, who has since made major headlines with his high-profile purchase of Twitter.

## 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.

### About the Bankers' Bank of the year awards :

- ▶▶ The Bankers' Bank of the year awards are considered to be like Oscar awards for the banking sector and the winners are judged on their ability to deliver returns, strategy, innovation, technology and product and services in their respective geographies in the last 12 months.
- ▶▶ The Banker's magazine is a premier global banking and finance resource for more than 180 countries across the world. The publication is from the house of Financial Times (FT) group, which is the British-based global financial daily newspaper founded in 1888.



### About the Canara bank :

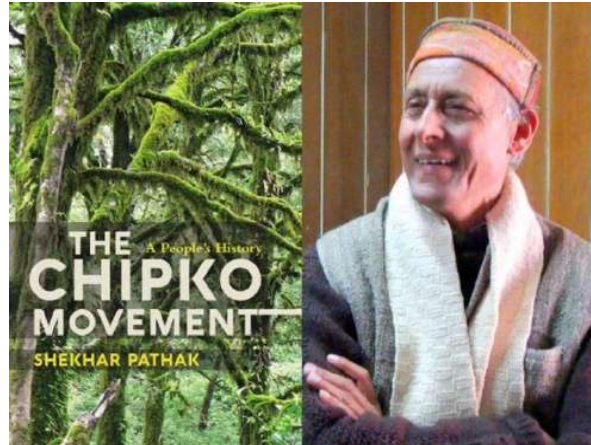
- ▶▶ Canara Bank is an Indian public sector bank under the control and ownership of Ministry of Finance, Government of India. Established in 1906 at Mangalore by AmmembalSubba Rao Pai, the bank also has offices in London, Dubai and New York.

### !MPORTANT

- ▶▶ **Canara Bank Headquarters: Bengaluru;**
- ▶▶ **Canara Bank Founder: AmmembalSubba Rao Pai;**
- ▶▶ **Canara Bank Founded: 1 July 1906.**

## A book on Chipko Movement by Shekhar Pathak bags Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay NIF Prize 2022

- ▶▶ A book on the popular forest conservation campaign **Chipko Movement**, written by historian-activist **Shekhar Pathak**, was named the winner of the **Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay NIF Book Prize 2022**. Translated from Hindi by Manisha Chaudhry, "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 **Niraja Gopal Jayal**. The other jury members were entrepreneur **Manish Sabharwal**; historians **Srinath Raghavan** and **NayanjotLahiri**; former diplomat **Navtej Sarna**; and attorney **Rahul Matthan**.
- ▶▶ The other shortlisted books were "Accidental Feminism: Gender Parity and Selective Mobility Among India's Professional Elite" by Swethaa S Ballakrishnen; "Whole Numbers and Half Truths: What Data Can and Cannot Tell Us About Modern India" by Rukmini S; "Midnight's Borders: A People's History of Modern India" by Suchitra Vijayan; and "Born a Muslim: Some Truths about Islam in India" by Ghazala Wahab.

### About the Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay NIF Book Prize :

- ▶▶ The Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay NIF Book Prize recognises and celebrates excellence in non-fiction writings on modern or contemporary India by writers from all nationalities. It carries a cash award of **Rs 15 lakh**, a trophy and a citation.

## 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.



### Career of Krishna Vavilala :

- ▶▶ **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.
- Vavilala has also served as a President of the American Society of Indian Engineers, Telugu Cultural Association, Houston and Telugu Literary and Cultural Association.
- He has received several awards and accolades from various organisations including the Indo-American Chamber of Commerce of Greater Houston, the Indo-American Press Club and the Lifetime Achievement Award, from the India Culture Centre.

### About the AmeriCorps :

- ▶▶ AmeriCorps, an agency of the United States government, engages more than five million Americans in service through a variety of volunteer work programmes in many sectors. At a glittering ceremony last week, 86-year-old Vavilala, a Houstonian for the past four decades, was lauded for his lifetime service and achievements by calling him a “**Change Maker and Global Humanitarian**”.

## Jamnalal Bajaj Award 2022 announced

- ▶▶ **The Jamnalal Bajaj Foundation** has on 8 December 2022 announced the winners of the **Jamnalal Bajaj award 2022**. The Foundation gives 4 awards in different categories. Three are given to Indians and one award, for promoting Gandhian values outside is given to a foreigner.

Jamnalal Bajaj Award: Categories

- ▶▶ Constructive Works



- ▶▶ Application of Science and Technology for Rural Development
- ▶▶ Development and Welfare of Women and Children
- ▶▶ International Award for Promoting Gandhian Values outside India

#### For Constructive Works

- ▶▶ **Nilesh Desai** of Madhya Pradesh has been chosen for the Jamnalal Bajaj award for Constructive Works. He is the founder of the SamparkSamajSeviSansthan which works for the upliftment of the Bhil Community.

### 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.



- ▶▶ Last year, **Alia Bhatt** was awarded the same title. Previously PETA India Person of the Year winners include former Supreme Court Justice **KS Panicker Radhakrishnan**, cricketer **Virat Kohli**, comedian **Kapil Sharma**; and actors **John Abraham, Anushka Sharma, Sunny Leone, R Madhavan, Jacqueline Fernandez, Hema Malini, and Sonam Kapoor Ahuja**, among others.

#### About PETA :

- ▶▶ 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.

#### !MPORTANT

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

## Sahitya akademi awards 2022 announced

- ▶▶ **The Sahitya Akademi Award:** The award has been given by the central government for the best literature of every year. Accordingly, the central government has announced the Sahitya Akademi Award for literature on **December 22**. Writer **M. Rajendran** from Tamil Nadu has received this award for his novel **'Kala Pani'**. The awardee will be presented with a cash prize of one lakh rupees and a copper Shield. This 'Kala Pani' novel is a historical novel based on the war of Kalayarkovil or Kalayarkool.



**Sahitya Akademi, announced its annual Sahitya Akademi Awards in 23 languages:**

- ▶▶ 07 books of poetry,
- ▶▶ 06 of novel,
- ▶▶ 02 of short stories,
- ▶▶ 03 Play/Dramas,
- ▶▶ 02 Literary Criticism,
- ▶▶ one each of Autobiographical Essays,
- ▶▶ Collection of Articles and Literary History have won the Sahitya Akademi Awards 2022.
- ▶▶ Award in Bengali language will be announced on a later date.
- ▶▶ The Awards, recommended by distinguished Jury members in 23 Indian languages, were approved by the Executive Board of the Sahitya Akademi, under the Chairmanship of **Dr. Chandrashekhara Kambar, President, Sahitya Akademi.**
- ▶▶ The books were selected on the basis of recommendations made by a Jury of three members in the concerned languages in accordance with the procedure laid down for the purpose. According to the procedure, the Executive Board declared the Awards on the basis of unanimous selections made by the Jurors or selection made on the basis of majority vote. The Awards relate to books first published during the five years immediately preceding the year of Award (i.e. between 1 January 2016 and 31 December 2020).
- ▶▶ The Award in the form of a casket containing an engraved copper-plaque, a shawl and an amount of Rs. 1,00,000/- towards cash content each will be presented to the awardees at the award.

**Sahitya Akademi :**

- ▶▶ The Government of India established the Sahitya Akademi on 12 March 1954.
- ▶▶ Sahitya Akademi was set up by the Government but functions as an autonomous organisation.
- ▶▶ On 7 January 1956, it was registered as a society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860.
- ▶▶ Sahitya Akademi has recognised English and Rajasthani apart from the 22 languages enumerated in the Indian Constitution.



The following have won the Award in the below mentioned category:

### SAHITYA AKADEMI AWARD 2022

| Language   | Title and Genre   | Name of the Author  |
|------------|---|---|
| Assamese   | Bhool Satya (Short Stories)   | Manoj Kumar Goswami   |
| Bodo       | SansriniModira (Poetry)   | Rashmi Choudhury  |
| Dogri      | ChheRoopak (Drama)  | Veena Gupta   |
| English    | All The Lives We Never Lived (Novel)                                  | Anuradha Roy  |
| Gujarati   | GherJatan (Autobiographical Essays)                                   | Gulam Mohammad Shaikh   |
| Hindi      | TumadiKeShabd (Poetry)  | Badri Narayan   |
| Kannada    | Bahutvada Bhaaratamattu<br>BouddhaTaativkate (Collection of Articles) | Mudnakudu Chinnaswamy   |
| Kashmiri   | Zael Dab (Literary Criticism)   | Farooq Fayaz  |
| Konkani    | Amrutvel (Novel)  | Maya Anil Kharangate  |
| Maithili   | Pen-Drive Me Prithvi (Poetry)   | Ajit Azad   |
| Malayalam  | AshaanteSeethayanam (Literary Criticism)                              | M. Thomas Mathew  |
| Manipuri   | Leironnung (Poetry)   | KoijamShantibala  |
| Marathi    | UjavyaSondechyaBahulya (Novel)  | Praveen DashrathBandeekar   |
| Nepali     | Saino (Drama)   | K.B. Nepali   |
| Odia       | Dayanadi (Poetry)   | Gayatribala Panda   |
| Punjabi    | Main AyngghoshNahi (Short Stories)                                    | Sukhjit   |
| Rajasthani | Alekhun Amba (Play)   | Kamal Ranga   |
| Sanskrit   | Deepmanikyam (Poetry)   | Janardan Prasad Pandey 'Mani'   |
| Santali    | SabarnakaBalireSanan' Panjay (Poetry)                                 | Kajli Soren (Jagannath Soren)   |
| Sindhi     | Sindhi Sahit Jo MukhtasarItihas (Literary History)                    | KanhaiyalalLekhwani   |
| Tamil      | KaalaPaani (Novel)  | M. Rajendran  |
| Telugu     | Manodharmaparagam (Novel)   | Madhuranthakam Narendra   |
| Urdu       | KhwabSaraab (Novel)   | Anis Ashfaq Sahitya Akademi<br>is India's National Academy<br>of Letters. |

#### General Rules and Eligibility Criteria for the Sahitya Akademi Award :

- ▶▶ The book must be a remarkable contribution to the language and literature to which it belongs.
- ▶▶ The literary work or book should be first published in any of the languages recognised by the Sahitya Akademi during the five years prior to the year, immediately preceding the year of the award.
- ▶▶ The literary work should be written by an Indian and published in India.
- ▶▶ The book or literary work should not be a work of translation or an anthology of multiple authors
- ▶▶ When two or more books are equally good, the total literary contribution and standing of the authors of the books will be considered to decide the award.

## Digital India Awards 2022: India's Smart Cities Mission wins Platinum Icon

- ▶ Under Smart Cities Mission, **Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs** has won the **Platinum Icon** in the **Digital India Awards 2022** for their initiative **"DataSmart Cities: Empowering Cities through Data"**. The award was announced under the 'Data Sharing and Use for Socio-Economic Development' category. The DataSmart Cities Initiative is a key step in creating a robust data ecosystem that enables evidence-based decision-making in cities.



### What is DataSmart Cities Initiative ?

- ▶ The DataSmart Cities Initiative is a key step in creating a robust data ecosystem that enables evidence-based decision-making in cities. It aims to harness the power of data for better governance in India's 100 Smart Cities.
- ▶ Digital India Awards presents an opportunity to bring to the fore digital initiatives being adopted to transform India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy. It is a prestigious National competition that seeks to encourage and honour innovative digital solutions by government entities in realising the Digital India vision.
- ▶ The program has institutionalised a Data Ecosystem in cities through 100 City Data Offices and more than 50 Data Policies.
- ▶ The Smart Cities Open Data Portal has transformed from zero to all 100 Smart Cities now publishing open datasets and contributing to data blogs and visualizations, leading to 1.2+ lakh downloads and 6 lakh views.
- ▶ This initiative has led to generation of more than 180 innovative, scalable, and replicable use cases in collaboration with various stakeholders that are being utilized by cities for better functioning and citizen engagement vis.

### About the Digital India Awards:

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

## SargamKoushal wins Mrs World 2022 title after 21 years

- ▶ **Mrs World 2022:** SargamKoushal created history as she finally won the Mrs World 2022 title after 21 years while competing for India in the pageant. The 32-year-old won the competition in Las Vegas after defeating competitors from 63 other nations.

### Sargam Kaushal Mrs. World 2022: Highlights

- ▶▶ 100% SargamKoushal beat Mrs. Polynesia to win the title.
- ▶▶ 100% The Jammu and Kashmir-born beauty queen previously worked as a teacher in Vizag.
- ▶▶ 100% Her husband works for the Indian Navy.
- ▶▶ 100% Koushal is shown beaming in photographs from her historic victory that were posted on the Mrs India pageant's official Instagram account. "The long wait is over; the CROWN is returned after 21 years!" Check out the caption.



- ▶▶ 100% In 2001, an Indian became Mrs. World for the last time.

### Who is Mrs. India 2022 SargamKoushal?

- ▶▶ 100% SargamKoushal, an Indian contestant, won the title of Mrs. World on Sunday at a gala held in Las Vegas.
- ▶▶ 100% To bring the crown back to India after 21 years, Koushal defeated competitors from 63 other nations.
- ▶▶ 100% SargamKoushal from Mumbai was given the crown by Mrs. World 2021 Shaylyn Ford of the US.
- ▶▶ 100% Mrs. World 2022 SargamKoushal is currently based in Mumbai.
- ▶▶ 100% SargamKoushal is originally from Jammu and Kashmir.

## The Last Show And RRR's NaatuNaatu Make It To Shortlist: Oscars 2023

### 95th Academy Awards :

- ▶▶ The Gujarati-language **Chhello Show (The Last Show)** has been shortlisted for next year's Academy Awards. Meanwhile, **RRR** has been shortlisted in the **Best Original Music Score** category. The list of shortlisted entries in 10 categories. The list was announced on January 24.
- ▶▶ India's history with the Oscar entries for the Best International Feature Film includes **The Boy, Village Rockstars, Newton, Visaranani, and The Last Show**. The only Indian films to have been nominated were **Bombay and Lagaan**.

### Some important points :

- ▶▶ As far as RRR's best song category is concerned, the film has been shortlisted in the Best Original Music Score category.



81 tunes. Other songs include 'Nothing Is Lost' from 'Avatar: The way Of Water', 'Lift Me Up' from 'Blank Panther: Wakanda Forever', 'Hold My Hand' from 'Top Gun: Maverick' among others.

- ▶▶ The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences unveiled its shortlists for the 2023 Oscars in 10 categories, including documentary and international features as well as a documentary short subject, makeup and hairstyling, original score, original song, animated short, live-action short, sound and visual effects.
- ▶▶ 15 international feature films advanced out of the films from 92 countries and regions that were eligible. The list includes Close (Belgium), Decision to Leave (South Korea), All Quiet on the Western Front (Germany), Alejandro G. Iñárritu's Bardo (Mexico) and Joyland, which gives Pakistan its first shortlisted film in the category.

### Oscars awards : FAQ

#### Q1. When Oscar Award started 2023?

**Answer :** Oscar 2023 Event is date is **12 March 2023**. Oscar Nominations 2023 will be announced in January 2023.

#### Q2. Which Indian got Oscar award?

**Answer :** Bhanu Athaiya is the first person from India to win Oscar. She is a famous costume designer who won Oscar for the 1982 historical film Gandhi.

#### Q3. Is Oscar award given every year?

**Answer :** It is presented annually by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

## Indian Cyclist Swasti Singh gets 30th Ekalabya Puraskar

- ▶▶ **Ekalabya Puraskar:** Indian cyclist Swasti Singh has been honoured with the prestigious 30th Ekalabya Puraskar for the year 2022. The award is instituted by IMFA's charitable wing, IMPaCT. Swasti received a cash award of Rs 5 lakh along with a citation at the Ekalabya Puraskar function held in Bhubaneswar. She has bagged two gold and as many silver medals at the national level. Swasti, who has represented the State in several national events and was credited with the best individual brilliance from April 1, 2020, to March 31, 2022, emerged as the clear winner this year.



- ▶▶ Besides Swasti, two other sportspersons were also felicitated for their remarkable performances in various international and national level tournaments in their respective fields. Promising international footballer Pyari Xaxa and budding international hockey player Shilana Lakra also received

felicitation during the occasion. Both received cash prize of Rs 50,000 each along with citations.

### About the EkalabyaPuraskar :

- ▶▶ EkalabyaPuraskar, instituted by IMPaCT, the charitable wing of the IMFA, the leading Ferro Alloys producer in the country, in the year 1993, has come a long way to be recognised as the most prestigious sports award of Odisha, drawing parallels with many national awards

## 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.
- ▶▶ Beth Mead defeated eight-time champion Germany with her six goals and five assists at the Wembley finals.
- ▶▶ England secured their first major trophy for the first time since 1966.
- ▶▶ They also won the team of the year and coach of the year for Sarina Wiegman.
- ▶▶ England's Cricketer Ben Stokes was second with winter Olympics curling champion Eve Muirhead Third.
- ▶▶ Seven-time snooker world champion Ronnie O'Sullivan, gymnast Jessica Gadirova, who won the floor title and 1,500 m athletics World Champion Jake Wightman were also shortlisted for the award.
- ▶▶ Beth Mead won the player of the tournament and won the Golden boot with six goals and five assists.
- ▶▶ She has been also named Arsenal's player of the season.
- ▶▶ Her international goal tally for the 2021-22 season was 20 in 19 matches, beating the record of 13 scored by Jimmy Greaves in 1960-61.



### About Beth Mead -

- ▶▶ Bethany Jane Mead was born on 9th May 1995. She is an English Professional footballer who plays forward for the women's super league club Arsenal and the England national team. At UEFA Women's Euro 2022, she became the Golden Boot Winner, Player of the Tournament, and top assist provider, leading England to win a major tournament for the first time

## Sudeep & Shobhana won Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize 2021-22

▶▶ Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize: The Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize has been jointly won by Sudeep Sen for his genre and formbender Anthropocene: Climate Change, Contagion, Consolation (Pippa Rann Books & Media, 2021) and Shobhana Kumar for her haibun collection A Sky Full of Bucket Lists (Red River, 2021). The winners, awarded \$10,000 and a Rabindranath Tagore statuette, were picked from a shortlist of 11 at India International Centre, with the Tagore Prize for social achievement going to Sanjoy K Roy, producer of the Jaipur Literature Festival.



### Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize Shortlist for 2021-22 :

- ▶▶ A Play for the End of the World: Jai Chakrabarti (Knopf, 2021)
- ▶▶ Manual for a Decent Life: Kavita A. Jindal (Linen Press, 2020)
- ▶▶ Two and a Half Rivers: Anirudh Kala (Niyogi, 2021)
- ▶▶ A Sky Full of Bucket Lists: Shobhana Kumar (Red River, 2021)
- ▶▶ Osmosis: Debarshi Mitra (Hawakal Publishers, 2020)
- ▶▶ The Elegant Nobody: Jagari Mukherjee (Hawakal Publishers, 2020)
- ▶▶ My City is a Murder of Crows: Nikita Parik (Hawakal Publishers, 2022)
- ▶▶ I Want a Poem and Other Poem: Jerry Pinto (Speaking Tiger Books, 2021)
- ▶▶ The Earthspinner: Anuradha Roy (Mountain Leopard Press, 2021)
- ▶▶ Anthropocene: Climate Change, Contagion, Consolation: Sudeep Sen (Pippa RannBooks&Media, 2021)
- ▶▶ Love Without a Story: Arundhati Subramaniam (Bloodaxe Books, 2021)

### About the Awards :

- ▶▶ The Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize was started in 2018 to annually recognise literary and social accomplishments. In 2020, the award was won by Raj Kamal Jha, Chief Editor, The Indian Express, for The City and The Sea (2019, Penguin Books), and in 2019, it was awarded posthumously to Kabir for One Hundred Poems of Kabir, translated by Rabindranath Tagore

# Business & Banking

## Reserve Bank of India Issues Framework for Indian Banks' Foreign Biz

- ▶▶ The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has put in place a framework to allow **overseas subsidiaries and branches of Indian banks and financial institutions** to undertake activities not specifically permitted in the Indian domestic market.

### More About this :

- ▶▶ The framework also specifies the applicability of these instructions to **International Financial Services Centres in India**, including **Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City)**. While these activities may not need prior approval, they are subject to compliance with all applicable laws/regulations and conditions stipulated by the RBI and those prescribed by the host regulator.



### About The Compliance :

- ▶▶ The **parent Indian bank and financial Institution** shall ensure that dealing in such products is done with the prior approval from their board and, if required, the appropriate authority in the jurisdictions concerned. They must have **adequate knowledge, understanding, and risk management capability** for handling such products, added the RBI.

### Its Impact :

- ▶▶ These entities can act as **market makers for products only** if they have the ability to price/value such products and the pricing of such products is demonstrable at all times. Their exposure and mark-to-market on these products are appropriately captured and reported in the returns furnished to the central bank.

## HDFC Bank Partners with Startup India for ParivartanSmartUp Grants

- ▶▶ **HDFC Bank** announced the launch of its **sixth annual grants** program for **social startups** in partnership with the Government of India's flagship initiative '**Startup India**'. Known as **ParivartanSmartUp Grants**, the program aims to identify startups working in the social impact space and support them through monetary grants to their incubators.

### HDFC's Social Initiatives :

- ▶▶ The grants have been offered under the aegis of Parivartan, the umbrella name for the bank's social initiatives. So far, the bank has **disbursed over INR 30 crore** to more than 45 incubators which supported over 165 startups working in areas like environment, agri-business, ed-tech, waste management, healthcare, and skill development sectors.

### This Year's Focus :

- ▶▶ This year the bank will also focus on **building capacities of incubators and startups** working in tier-II & III cities. Through selected incubator partners, the bank will fund social impact startups developing solutions in environmental conservation, affordable healthcare, sustainable rural economy, technologies for better governance, economic growth of SMEs, gender diversity and inclusion space.

### Its Startup Fund :

- ▶▶ The bank has been enabling startups through its **state-of-the-art SmartUp program**, which provides specialised banking and value-added services to entrepreneurs. It aims to assist startups in achieving their goals through the bank's well renowned and highly advanced smart financial tools, advisory services, and technology.



## RBI Signs Currency Swap Agreement with Maldives Monetary Authority

- ▶▶ The **Reserve Bank of India** has signed a **Currency Swap Agreement** with the **Maldives Monetary Authority (MMA)** to enable MMA to make drawals in multiple tranches up to a maximum of **\$200 million** from the RBI. This agreement has been signed under the **SAARC Currency Swap Framework**.

### Need Of This Move :

- ▶▶ The agreement will provide swap support as a backstop line of funding for **short-term foreign exchange liquidity requirements**.



About Currency Swap Arrangement :

- ▶▶ The word **swap means exchange**. A currency swap between two countries is **an agreement or contract to exchange currencies** with predetermined terms and conditions.
- ▶▶ In the present context, the **facility is to provide swap support as an alternative source of funding for short-term foreign exchange** liquidity requirements.
- ▶▶ In 2020, the RBI **signed a currency swap agreement for extending up to a USD 400 million to Sri Lanka**.



## IDFC Mutual Fund to be Renamed Bandhan Mutual Fund

- ▶▶ **IDFC Asset Management Company Limited (AMC)**, one of the **top 10 AMCs** in the country, has received **regulatory clearances from regulators** for its proposed change in ownership.

About This Transition :

- ▶▶ **Securities market regulator SEBI** granted the necessary no objection for IDFC AMC's acquisition by a consortium comprising **Bandhan Financial Holdings Limited (BFHL)**, GIC (GIC), and ChrysCapital (CC).



- ▶▶ The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** granted its approval, whereas the **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** had already approved the deal in August 2022. In April 2022, the Board of Directors of IDFC Limited and IDFC Financial Holding Company Limited approved the sale of IDFC AMC and IDFC AMC Trustee Company Limited to the consortium.

The New Stakes :

- ▶▶ Consequent to the completion of the proposed transition, **BFHL will own approximately 60% and GIC & CC will own approximately 20% each in IDFC AMC**. On completion of the transition, IDFC AMC is proposed to be renamed as **Bandhan Asset Management Company Limited** and IDFC Mutual Fund (MF) is proposed to be renamed as **Bandhan Mutual Fund**, with BFHL becoming the Sponsor of the Mutual Fund.

## Reserve Bank of India implements 4 tiered regulatory norms for UCB

- ▶▶ **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has announced a four-tiered regulatory framework for categorisation of **Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs)**. Besides, the central bank has come out with norms pertaining to the net worth and capital adequacy of these banks.
- ▶▶ The Reserve Bank of India had constituted the Expert Committee on Urban Co-operative Banks, under the Chairmanship of **Shri N. S. Vishwanathan**, former Deputy Governor, Reserve Bank to examine the issues in urban cooperative banking sector and to review



regulatory/ supervisory approach for strengthening the sector. Based on the recommendations of the Expert Committee, RBI had released the Revised Regulatory Framework for Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs) on July 19, 2022. The four-tiered regulatory framework, based on size of deposits of the UCBs, will come into force with immediate effect.

**RBI has now categorized Urban Co-Operative Banks in India into four tier depending upon the deposit with the bank :**

- ▶▶ Tier 1: UCB are those banks having deposits up to **Rs 100 crore** operating in a single district or having branches in contiguous districts.
- ▶▶ Tier 2: UCBs with deposits more than **Rs.100 crore and up to Rs.1000 crore.**
- ▶▶ Tier 3 – UCBs with deposits more than **Rs.1000 crore and up to Rs.10, 000 crore.**
- ▶▶ Tier 4 – UCBs with deposits more than **Rs.10, 000 crore.**

**Minimum Net worth Requirement of the banks**

- ▶▶ The minimum net worth (have a minimum capital and reserves) requirement for the Tier 1 UCBs operating in single districts shall be Rs 2 crore.

**For other UCB it shall be Rs 5 crore.**

- ▶▶ Those UCBs which do not meet the requirement, have to achieve the minimum net worth of 1 2 crore or 1 5 crore in a phased manner in five years. The banks will have to achieve the 50% minimum net worth requirement in three years and the remaining 50% in next two years.

**What is Urban Cooperative Banks ?**

- ▶▶ Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs) are registered as cooperative societies under the provisions of, either the State Cooperative Societies Act of the State concerned under the provisions of the or the **Multi State Cooperative Societies Act, 2002**. There is a duality of control over the UCB. It is regulated by the **Registrar of Cooperatives and also by the RBI**. UCB registered under the State Cooperative Societies Act are regulated and supervised by the Registrar of Cooperative Societies (RCS) of the State concerned. UCB which are set up under the Multi State Cooperative Societies Act, 2002 are regulated by the **Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies (CRCS)**.

## Yes Bank, Turtlefin Launched Online Insurance Services platform 'EasyNsure'

- ▶▶ **TurtleFin**, India's leading insurtech platform, has partnered with **YES BANK**, one of the leading private sector banks in India, to create a comprehensive technology platform **Easy Nsure**. Turtlefin's distinctive API will power the platform to offer a bouquet of holistic insurance solutions on a single platform.

### About Easy Nsure -

- ▶▶ **EasyNsure** is the first-of-its-kind proposition for **YES BANK** that will bring multiple insurance partners onto a common platform, providing a host of benefits such as a seamless single-point **online insurance service**, the ability to compare and select a suitable insurance cover basis the customer's need, as well as a facility to compare costs for rationalizing purchase decisions, among others.
- ▶▶ **Yes Bank, Turtlefin Launched Online Insurance Services platform 'EasyNsure' – Key Points**
- ▶▶ Turtlefin's unique and customized technology solutions will enable the platform to offer a **seamless customer experience** to its clients.
- ▶▶ The **EasyNsure platform** is live with over 40 Life and **General Insurance** plans to be readily available for consideration.
- ▶▶ The platform has created over **30,000 insurance** quotes with more than 6,500 proposals and 5,200 policies being punched.
- ▶▶ This has helped the platform generate a total premium of **INR 6,050 lakh**.
- ▶▶ This **robust technology platform** will also allow business tracking across the Bank hierarchy, simplifying revenue reconciliation.
- ▶▶ It will enhance **tracking the productivity** of RMs on quotes created versus actual conversion of leads.



## Digital Rupee vs UPI, Know the Difference Between eRupee and UPI

- ▶▶ **Digital Rupee vs UPI:** UPI, in contrast to Digital Rupee, merely serves as an interface for financial transactions involving actual money. The Digital Rupee is only another type of money that is similar to fiat money. UPI and the digital Rupee are entirely separate ideas. With the introduction of the digital rupee, India may be hoping to eventually abandon UPI. The concept is likely to

reduce the expense of managing and delivering cash money by depending on the digital rupee. Therefore, the purpose of digital currency is to eventually replace the need for physical money.

### Digital Rupee vs UPI: About Digital Rupee

- ▶▶ A digital version of paper money is what the term “digital rupee” or “digital currency” refers to. Cash money and the digital rupee have the same value. One digital rupee is equivalent to one rupee in currency, for instance. Simply put, this indicates that, unlike cryptocurrencies, the value of the digital rupee never changes.



### Digital Rupee vs UPI: Buying and using Digital Rupee

- ▶▶ Users must visit the official app or website of one of the four designated banks in order to purchase a Digital Rupee. The precise procedure for purchasing digital rupee hasn't been made explicit by the RBI, but it has stated that customers would be able to make purchases using QR codes displayed at merchant locations, and the money will be withdrawn from bank wallets.
- ▶▶ One can shop and purchase things at their nearby Kirana outlets using Digital Rupee. The exchange of digital rupees can take place between individuals and businesses.

### Digital Rupee vs UPI: About UPI

- ▶▶ UPI, in contrast to Digital rupee, merely serves as an interface for financial transactions involving actual money. While one cannot withdraw Digital Rupee from their bank account, it is merely another type of money similar to fiat money. The UPI interface, however, enables consumers to conduct online transactions using their bank account. Fiat money is essentially used for all transactions.

### Difference between Digital Rupee and UPI

#### Digital Rupee UPI

1. A digital version of paper money is what the term “digital rupee” or “digital currency” refers to.
  2. One digital rupee is equivalent to one rupee in currency.
  3. Users must visit the official app or website of one of the four designated banks in order to purchase digital Rupee.
  4. The exchange of digital rupees can take place between individuals and businesses.
1. UPI, in contrast to digital rupee, merely serves as an interface for financial transactions involving actual money.
  2. The UPI interface enables consumers to conduct online transactions using their bank account.
  3. Instantaneous money transfers on mobile devices every day of the year, 24/7.
  4. Multiple bank accounts can be accessed using a single mobile application.

## Bank of Baroda Wins EAG Laureate Award on Financial Security

- ▶▶ **State-owned Bank of Baroda** on 6 December 2022 has bagged an **EAG Laureate award** in the International Olympiad of Financial Security held at **Sochi, Russia** on 10 October 2022.

### About EAG :

- ▶▶ The **Eurasian group on combating money laundering and terrorism (EAG)** is a FATF type regional which comprises of **9 members** including India. The 9 countries are: **Belarus, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, India, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan**. EAG is an associate member of the FATF.



### About FATF :

- ▶▶ FATF is the global **money laundering and terrorist financing watchdog** set up in 1989 out of a **G-7 meeting** of developed nations in **Paris**.

### Its Objective :

- ▶▶ **Initially, its objective was to examine and develop measures to combat money laundering.**
- ▶▶ After the **9/11 attacks** on the US, the FATF in 2001 **expanded its mandate to incorporate efforts to combat terrorist financing.**
- ▶▶ In April 2012, it added efforts to **counter the financing of proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD).**

### About Bank of Baroda :

- ▶▶ It is the **second largest public sector bank in India after State Bank of India (SBI)**. The banks in which the government of India holds **51% or more equity shares** are called public sector banks in India.
- ▶▶ Chairman of the Bank: **Hasmukh Adia**
- ▶▶ Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO): **Sanjiv Chadha**
- ▶▶ The Headquarters of the bank: **Vadodara, Gujarat**

## SBI Crosses Rs 5 lakh Crore Personal Banking Loan Advances

- ▶▶ **SBI** announced that its **personal banking advances** excluding high value home loans have crossed the **1 5 lakh-crore mark**. The largest lender in the country took a year to book the **last 1 1 lakh crore of advances**, as against over 15 months for the previous 1 1 lakh crore and over 30 months for the previous 1 1 lakh crore, as per an official statement.

### What Has Been Said :

▶▶ “A series of tactical measures and digital initiatives undertaken over the past few years played a crucial role in our journey to the <sup>1</sup> 5 lakh-crore mark under personal banking advances,” the bank’s chairman Dinesh Kumar Khara said.

▶▶ Dinesh Kumar Khara stressed that the <sup>1</sup> 5 lakh crore excludes housing loans, where the bank has the numerouno position in the market. Personal Banking advances mainly comprise personal loans, pension loans, auto loans, education loans, gold loans, and other Personal loan products, the statement said.



## HDFC Securities Launched Investor Education Platform ‘Roots’

▶▶ Stock brokerage firm **HDFC Securities** has launched **Roots**, a dedicated platform providing comprehensive **investor education and market analysis**. The site offers multiple forms of valuable information, including articles, bite-sized tips, podcasts by experts, video tutorials and explainers, and live social media feed on the Indian financial markets. The biggest USP of the platform is that it produces content which are being searched on Google by current or prospective investors and traders.



### About The New Platform :

- ▶▶ The **Blog section of Roots** is updated with articles addressing all aspects of investing in the Indian financial markets, from intraday trading to ETFs, and more. The Bytes section offers crisp content, including fun facts, stock information, share price performance in specific sectors, etc.
- ▶▶ The **Video segment offers easy-to-consume video tutorials** on a wide range of financial instruments, including IPOs, ETFs, stocks, ELSS, global investing and mutual funds. It also contains explainers on how to use HDFC Securities’ proprietary trading platforms, namely the mobile app and Proterminal – the revolutionary portal for traders.
- ▶▶ The **podcasts segment consists of regular market news and analysis**, including a morning market update, a midday update and a weekly market summary of the stock and currency markets. Finally, the Live Feed segment brings together all the opinions and recommendations of the experts at HDFC Securities regarding market moves and potential investment opportunities.
- ▶▶ The portal also includes an **UGC section (User Generated Content)** where investors and traders can suggest topics they want to learn more about. The investors can also explore exclusive live webinars by registering themselves through the portal.

## IDFC FIRST Bank launched ZERO Fee Banking savings accounts

►► **IDFC FIRST Bank** has declared **ZERO Fee Banking** on savings accounts and waived fees on multiple banking services, including Passbook charges, NEFT charges. The bank said that customers maintaining as low as Rs 10,000 Average Monthly Balance, and the Rs 25,000 AMB savings account variant will get these benefits.



### IDFC FIRST Bank: List of Zero-Fee Services announced

### IDFC FIRST Bank Limited

1. Number of Cash Transactions at branches per month (Cumulative of Deposit and Withdrawal)
2. Value of Cash Transactions (Cumulative of Deposit and Withdrawal) at Branches
3. Third-party Cash Transaction Charges (Cumulative of Deposit and Withdrawal) at Branches
4. Demand Drafts/ PO (Issuance Charges) – at Bank Locations
5. IMPS Charges per Transaction– Outward
6. NEFT Charges per Transaction – Outward (Branch)
7. RTGS Charges per Transaction – Outward (Branch)
8. Cheque Book Charges
9. SMS Alert Charges
10. Issue of Duplicate Statements
11. Passbook Charges
12. Balance Certificate (Charges per certificate)
13. Interest Certificate (Charges per Certificate)
14. Account Closure (from account opening date)
15. ECS Return Charges
16. Stop Payment Charges
17. International ATM/ POS Transaction Charges
18. Charge for Insufficient Balance per Transaction at ATM
19. Standing Instruction Charges
20. Managers Cheque/ Demand Drafts Cancellations/ Revalidation
21. Photo Attestation Charges
22. Signature Attestation Charges
23. Old records/ copy of paid cheques charges
24. Address confirmation charges
25. Any deliverable returned by courier due to negative reasons


**!IMPORTANT**

- ▶ IDFC FIRST Bank Headquarters: Mumbai;
- ▶ IDFC FIRST Bank CEO: V. Vaidyanathan (19 Dec 2018–);
- ▶ IDFC FIRST Bank Parent organization: Infrastructure Development Finance Company
- ▶ IDFC FIRST Bank Founded: October 2015.

| World Economic Outlook Growth Projections       |      | PROJECTIONS |      |  |
|---|------|-------------|------|--|
| (real GDP, annual percent change)               | 2021 | 2022        | 2023 |  |
| <b>World Output</b>                             | 6.0  | 3.2         | 2.7  |  |
| <b>Advanced Economies</b>                       | 5.2  | 2.4         | 1.1  |  |
| United States                                   | 5.7  | 1.6         | 1.0  |  |
| Euro Area                                       | 5.2  | 3.1         | 0.5  |  |
| Germany   | 2.6  | 1.5         | -0.3 |  |
| France  | 6.8  | 2.5         | 0.7  |  |
| Italy   | 6.7  | 3.2         | -0.2 |  |
| Spain   | 5.1  | 4.3         | 1.2  |  |
| Japan   | 1.7  | 1.7         | 1.6  |  |
| United Kingdom                                  | 7.4  | 3.6         | 0.3  |  |
| Canada  | 4.5  | 3.3         | 1.5  |  |
| Other Advanced Economies                        | 5.3  | 2.8         | 2.3  |  |
| <b>Emerging Market and Developing Economies</b> | 6.6  | 3.7         | 3.7  |  |
| Emerging and Developing Asia                    | 7.2  | 4.4         | 4.9  |  |
| China   | 8.1  | 3.2         | 4.4  |  |
| India   | 8.7  | 6.8         | 6.1  |  |
| ASEAN-5   | 3.4  | 5.3         | 4.9  |  |
| Emerging and Developing Europe                  | 6.8  | 0.0         | 0.6  |  |
| Russia  | 4.7  | -3.4        | -2.3 |  |
| Latin America and the Caribbean                 | 6.9  | 3.5         | 1.7  |  |
| Brazil  | 4.6  | 2.8         | 1.0  |  |
| Mexico  | 4.8  | 2.1         | 1.2  |  |
| Middle East and Central Asia                    | 4.5  | 5.0         | 3.6  |  |
| Saudi Arabia                                    | 3.2  | 7.6         | 3.7  |  |
| Sub-Saharan Africa                              | 4.7  | 3.6         | 3.7  |  |
| Nigeria   | 3.6  | 3.2         | 3.0  |  |
| South Africa                                    | 4.9  | 2.1         | 1.1  |  |
| <i>Memorandum</i>                               |      |             |      |  |
| Emerging Market and Middle-Income Economies     | 6.8  | 3.6         | 3.6  |  |
| Low-Income Developing Countries                 | 4.1  | 4.8         | 4.9  |  |

Sources : International Monetary Fund



# National

## FM Nirmala Sitharaman Inaugurated 65th Foundation Day Celebrations of DRI

▶▶ Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurates the two-day long 65th Foundation Day celebrations of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) in New Delhi.

### More About This :

▶▶ She also launches the current edition of **Smuggling in India Report 2021-22** on the occasion. As many as **22 Customs administrations** covering the **Asia-Pacific region** along with international organisations are invited to the event this year. The **8th Regional Customs Enforcement Meeting (RCEM)** will also be held at the event.



### What Has Been Said :

▶▶ During the event, DRI said it will take the opportunity of its founding day to **organise Regional Customs Enforcement Meeting (RCEM)** for effectively engaging with partner Customs organisations and International agencies like **World Customs Organisation, INTERPOL** for **enforcement-related issues**.

### About Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) :

- ▶▶ DRI is the principal intelligence and enforcement agency on anti-smuggling matters under the aegis of the **Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC)** of the Government of India.
- ▶▶ It was established on **4 December 1957**.
- ▶▶ It is headquartered in **New Delhi** and has **12 zonal units, 35 regional units and 15 sub-regional units**, employing approximately 800 officers.

## Chief Justice of India Inaugurates Digitisation Hubs in 10 districts of Odisha

▶▶ Chief Justice of India **D Y Chandrachud** virtually inaugurated **10 district court digitisation hubs (DCDH)** in **Odisha**, and said that modernisation of judiciary is the need of the hour.

### More About This :

- ▶▶ With this inauguration, a total of 15 DCDHs have now become functional in the state, with each catering to a neighbouring district, thus covering all 30 district courts.
- ▶▶ The hubs at **Angul, Bhadrak, Jharsuguda, Kalahandi, Keonjhar, Koraput, Malkangiri, Mayurbhanj, Nayagarh and Sonepur**, will take care of digitisation work of all 30 districts of the state.
- ▶▶ Each DCDH will be assigned the task of digitizing the surrounding districts.
- ▶▶ Initially, four District Court Digitization Centres (DCDC) were set up on a pilot basis in **Cuttack, Ganjam, Sambalpur and Balasore** districts on April 30, 2021.



### More Technology, More Efficiency :

- ▶▶ Appreciating the **information and communication technology (ICT)** measures adopted by the **Orissa High Court** under the leadership of its **Chief Justice S Muralidhar**, he said, “Digitisation should be accompanied by a push for e-filing of cases.”
- ▶▶ **Digitization makes** access to records easier for authorized persons and also ensures systematic information keeping, security of documents and records and reduction in the time taken to locate documents.

## 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**.



### About The Business Jet Terminal:

- ▶▶ The business jet terminal inaugurated was built **at a cost of 40 crore rupees** by renovating the old domestic terminal. It covers **an area of 40,000 sq ft** with comfortable lounges, customs and immigration counters, a business centre and other modern facilities.

### A Booming Aviation Sector :

- ▶▶ Kerala achieved **114 per cent growth** in the hospitality sector and **75 per cent growth** in the aviation sector.

### Its Significance :

- ▶▶ The new facility at the airport will **boost tourism** as well as the **MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions) sector** in the state. It will propel the airport to the forefront of the aviation industry in the country. The facility will also serve as a platform to integrate the hospitality and aviation sectors.

### About Cochin International Airport Limited (CIAL) :

- ▶▶ One of the major reasons for the excellence that Kerala has achieved in the field of aviation is because of CIAL. About **65 per cent of the state's air passengers are handled by CIAL**. Even in the midst of the COVID crisis, the company undertook and implemented many infrastructure development projects which helped in increasing efficiency. Through these ventures, including the **newly launched Business Jet Terminal**, the state aims at integrating hospitality and aviation sectors.

## India's First Carbon Neutral Farm Inaugurated In Kerala

- ▶▶ Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan declared a seed farm, located in **Aluva**, as the first carbon neutral farm in the country. A significant reduction in carbon emission has helped the seed farm, achieve the carbon neutral status.



### More Than Just Neutrality :

- ▶▶ The total amount of carbon emission from the farm, located at **Thuruthu in Aluva**, in the last one year was **43 tons** but its overall procurement was **213 ton**. Compared to the emission rate, as many as **170 tons of more carbon** have been procured at the farm, which helped it to be declared as the first carbon neutral seed farm in the country.

### What Has Been Said: Extent Of This Move :

- ▶▶ “Carbon neutral farms will be set up in all **140 Assembly constituencies**. Efforts have already been launched to make **13 farms in Kerala carbon neutral**,” Chief Minister said. Carbon neutral agricultural methods would be implemented through **women's groups** and such interventions would be made in the tribal sector as well, Mr Vijayan added.
- ▶▶ Even as the state moves towards the goal to achieve **food self-sufficiency, plans to maintain ecological equilibrium** are also equally important, the Chief Minister said. As many as **30 per cent of greenhouse gas emissions come from agriculture** and this can be prevented and

climate change can be regulated through carbon neutral agricultural practices, he added.

### What is Carbon Neutrality :

- ▶▶ According to the definition of the **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)**, **carbon neutrality, or net zero CO<sub>2</sub> emissions**, refers only to carbon dioxide emissions and is a state of balance between the CO<sub>2</sub> emitted into the atmosphere and the CO<sub>2</sub> removed from the atmosphere.

## PM Modi flagged off 6th Vande Bharat train on Nagpur-Bilaspur route

- ▶▶ Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has flagged off India's **sixth Vande Bharat Express** between **Bilaspur (Chhattisgarh) - Nagpur (Maharashtra)** route. This is the second Vande Bharat express in the state after the Mumbai-Ahmedabad Vande Bharat express. He inaugurated the 'Nagpur Metro Phase I', and laid the foundation stone of 'Nagpur Metro phase-II' at Khapri Metro Station. The Phase I has been developed at a cost of Rs 8650 crore while the Phase II will be developed at a cost of more than Rs 6700 crore.



### Apart from this :

- ▶▶ He inaugurated the Hindu Hrudaysamrat Balasaheb Thackeray Maharashtra Samruddhi Mahamarg connecting Nagpur and Shirdi. Built at a cost of ₹ 55,000 crore, it is one of the longest expressways in the country that passes through 10 Maharashtra districts, including Amravati, Aurangabad and Nashik.
- ▶▶ He also inaugurated Rail projects worth ₹ 15,000 crore, AIIMS Nagpur, Nagpur and Nag river pollution abatement project, Centre for Research, Management and Control of Hemoglobinopathies, Chandrapur, Central Institute of Petrochemicals Engineering and Technology (CIPET), Chandrapur.

### Interesting facts about Vande Bharat :

- ▶▶ Vande Bharat is an indigenous semi-high speed train developed by **Indian Railways**.
- ▶▶ Government proposes to run 75 Vande Bharat express trains in the country by **15 August 2023**.
- ▶▶ The Vande Bharat Express can run up to a maximum speed of **160 kmph** and has travel classes like Shatabdi Train but with better facilities. It aims to provide a totally new travel experience to passengers.
- ▶▶ The Vande Bharat Express train has an intelligent braking system that enables better acceleration and deceleration.
- ▶▶ All coaches are equipped with automatic doors; GPS-based audio-visual passenger information

system, on-board hotspot Wi-Fi for entertainment purposes, and comfortable seating. The executive class also has rotating chairs.

## India ranked 48th in Global Aviation Safety Rankings 2022

- ▶▶ According to DGCA officials, **India** has jumped to the **48th position** in the global aviation safety ranking by the **International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)**. Four years ago, the country was ranked at the 102nd position. In the ranking, Singapore is at the top, followed by the UAE and South Korea at the second and third positions, respectively, the officials said. China is at the 49th place.



### About the report :

- ▶▶ Under its **Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme (USOAP)** Continuous Monitoring Approach, an ICAO Coordinated Validation Mission (ICVM) was undertaken from November 9 to 16. The country's score in terms of effective implementation of key safety elements has improved to 85.49 per cent, the officials said.
- ▶▶ The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) said the audit was conducted in the areas of legislation, organisation, personal licensing, operations, airworthiness and aerodromes. As per the initial reports, the mission was highly successful. India has done extremely well and our scores will see a substantial improvement putting us in the company of nations with best safety standards and oversight systems.

**!IMPORTANT**

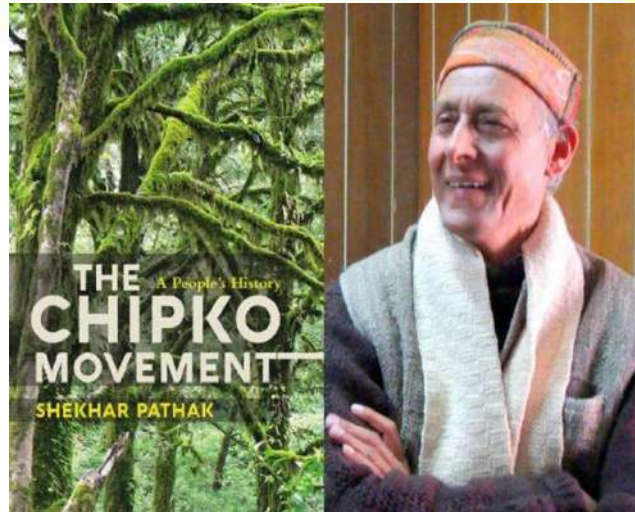
- ▶▶ **International Civil Aviation Organization Headquarters: Montreal, Canada;**
- ▶▶ **International Civil Aviation Organization Founded: 7 December 1944;**
- ▶▶ **International Civil Aviation Organization Council President: Salvatore Sciacchitano;**
- ▶▶ **International Civil Aviation Organization Secretary General: Juan Carlos Salazar Gómez.**

## A book on Chipko Movement by Shekhar Pathak bags Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay NIF Prize 2022

- ▶▶ A book on the popular forest conservation campaign **Chipko Movement**, written by historian-activist **Shekhar Pathak**, was named the winner of the **Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay NIF Book Prize 2022**. Translated from Hindi by Manisha Chaudhry, "**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 **Niraja Gopal Jayal**. The other jury members were entrepreneur **Manish Sabharwal**; historians **Srinath**

**Raghavan and Nayanjot Lahiri**; former diplomat **Navtej Sarna**; and attorney **Rahul Matthan**.

- ▶▶ The other shortlisted books were “Accidental Feminism: Gender Parity and Selective Mobility Among India’s Professional Elite” by Swetha S Ballakrishnen; “Whole Numbers and Half Truths: What Data Can and Cannot Tell Us About Modern India” by Rukmini S; “Midnight’s Borders: A People’s History of Modern India” by Suchitra Vijayan; and “Born a Muslim: Some Truths about Islam in India” by Ghazala Wahab.



**About the Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay NIF Book Prize :**

- ▶▶ The Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay NIF Book Prize recognises and celebrates excellence in non-fiction writings on modern or contemporary India by writers from all nationalities. It carries a cash award of **Rs 15 lakh**, a trophy and a citation.
- ▶▶ **Established in 2018**, the Kamaladevi NIF Book Prize builds on the New India Foundation’s mission of sponsoring high-quality research and writing on all aspects of Independent India. The Book Prize celebrates high-quality, non-fiction literature by emerging writers from all nationalities, published in the previous calendar year.
- ▶▶ The prize is named after Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay, the institution-builder who had contributed significantly to the freedom struggle, to the women’s movement, to refugee rehabilitation and to the renewal of handicrafts. Previous winners of the prize are **Milan Vaishnav (2018)**, **Ornit Shani (2019)**, **Amit Ahuja and Jairam Ramesh (jointly, 2020)**, and **Dinyar Patel (2021)**.

## NSE Launches New Nifty Bharat Bond Index

- ▶▶ The **National Stock Exchange’s** subsidiary **NSE Indices** has said it has launched one more index under the **Nifty Bharat Bond Index** series.

**More About The New Index :**

- ▶▶ The **Bharat Bond Index** series follows a target maturity date structure wherein each index in the series measures the performance of a portfolio of **‘AAA’ rated bonds** issued by government owned entities maturing in a specific year.

**What Has Been Said :**

- ▶▶ “The upcoming Bharat Bond ETF which



is sixth in the Bharat Bond ETF series will track the newly launched **Nifty BHARAT Bond Index** maturing in 2033. The first Bharat Bond ETFs tracking the Nifty Bharat Bond indices were launched in December 2019, **Mukesh Agarwal, CEO, NSE Indices, said.**

- ▶▶ “The launch of the **Bharat Bond ETFs** has also opened up the target maturity date index funds category with overall assets under management of **more than <sup>1</sup> 1.30 lakh crore**. Along with existing five target maturity indices, the launch of the new **Bharat Bond index maturing in 2033** will provide more investment choices to fixed income investors and will help create a ladder structure of various maturities,” Agarwal added.

#### About The Timeline Of The Index :

- ▶▶ In December 2019, **NSE Indices launched** the first two indices in the **Bharat Bond Index** with maturities in April 2023 and April 2030, and in July 2020, further two indices with maturities in April 2025 and April 2031 were launched.

## 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.

#### About the project :

- ▶▶ The project has already bagged records from **Asia Book and India Book**. Initially, the alignment of the highway flyover and metro rail were on same existing highway on **Wardha Road**, with independent piers at alternating locations proposed on the median. This was later reviewed and decided to integrate **Highway Flyover and Metro Rail** to form a double-decker viaduct.
- ▶▶ Double decker viaduct carries highway flyover at the first level and Metro Rail at second level making it a three-tier transportation system with the existing highway at ground level. This helped in avoiding additional land acquisition thus saving land cost and reducing construction time and project cost.

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

▶▶ The Uttar Pradesh government's ambitious **One District One Product (ODOP) scheme** has received praise at the national level for helping in the revival of traditional crafts in the state. Now, on similar lines, the government has launched the **One District One Sport (ODOS) programme** for promoting local sporting talent. The Yogi Adityanath government hopes the ODOS programme will become a platform to create sportspersons who can represent the state at the national and international level. According to officials, one sport will be identified in each of the 75 districts of UP. Steps will be taken to find district-wise sport-specific talent and groom them.



▶▶ Under ODOS, one sport will be identified in each of the 75 districts of UP and necessary steps taken to find district-wise sport-specific talents and hone their skills in order to enable them to represent the district, state, national and international level tournaments and championships.

### ODOS programmes at a glance

- ▶▶ **Wrestling** - Varanasi, Gorakhpur, Chandauli, Baghpat, Aajgarh, Deoria, Maharajganj
- ▶▶ **Athletics** - Mainpuri, Firozabad, Jaunpur, Bhadohi, Sambhal, Sitapur, Kasganj, Unnao, Ayodhya, Kaushambi, Etah, Amethi, Rampur, Siddharth Nagar, Sant Kabir Nagar, Chitrakoot, Basti, Hamirpur, Hapur, Meerut, Ghazipur, Shamli, Ballia, Muzaffarnagar
- ▶▶ **Hockey** - Pratapgarh, Mau, Bareilly, Lucknow, Rae Bareli, Hardoi, Farrukhabad, Moradabad, Balrampur, Etawah, Ghaziabad
- ▶▶ **Table Tennis** - Agra, Kanpur
- ▶▶ **Badminton** - Aligarh, Gautam Budh Nagar
- ▶▶ **Weightlifting** - Mirzapur, Bijnor
- ▶▶ **Boxing** - Bulandshahr, Kushinagar
- ▶▶ **Archery** - Sonbhadra, Lalitpur
- ▶▶ **Football** - Hathras
- ▶▶ **Swimming** - Pilibhit
- ▶▶ **Shooting** - Banda
- ▶▶ **Kabaddi** - Kannauj
- ▶▶ **Lawn Tennis** - Prayagraj



## Ladakh To Soon Have India's First Dark Night Sky Reserve

- ▶▶ **Ladakh** is all set to have **India's first Dark Night Sky Reserve** at **Hanle village in Changthang region**. In about eighteen locations in Hanley, powerful telescopes will be installed for stargazing.

### More About This Development :

- ▶▶ **Union Territory Ladakh administration** has distributed eighteen telescopes to the trained youths of Hanley village.

### About The Place:

- ▶▶ At an elevation of 4,500 meters, Hanley is home for the **second-highest optical telescope** in the world, established in 2001 by **Indian Institute of Astrophysics**.

### About Its Potential :

- ▶▶ On his maiden visit to Hanley, **Ladakh Lieutenant Governor RK Mathur** was convinced with the unique potential lied for **Astro tourism** in the area.

### All About The Transition :

Following a tripartite MoU between **UT Administration, Leh Hill council** and Indian Institute of Astrophysics in June this year, necessary approvals from **Department of Science and Technology** and Ministry of Environment and Forests were issued for Dark sky sanctuary.

- ▶▶ On the other hand, **Leh Hill Council CEC TashiGyaltson** and **MP JamyangTsering Namgyal** have convinced the villagers about the economic development through Home stays and new avenues in tourism. **LG Mr Mathur** has kept establishment of **Dark Sky Sanctuary on priority**. He already instructed the concerned authorities to get affiliation with International Dark Sky Association and Star Light Foundation for **Hanley Dark Sky Sanctuary**. Sanctuary opens up personalized experiences to Astro tourists, economic opportunities for youths through the Telescope operation and villagers from the home stays.

### About The Other Planning :

- ▶▶ UT administration is also planning for **mobile and static planetariums in the region**. 24 youths from three hamlets of Hanley were provided with training by the Indian Institute of Astrophysics under the guidance of Engineering Chief DorjeyAngchuk.
- ▶▶ Locations are identified for the installation of telescopes including **one big telescope in Punguk village**.



## Legendary athlete PT Usha nominated to Vice-chairman panel

- ▶▶ Rajya Sabha Chairman **Jagdeep Dhankhar** has nominated legendary former athlete **PT Usha** to the panel of vice-chairperson in the upper house of the Parliament. YSRCP member **Vijai Sai Reddy** has also been nominated along with her. PT Usha was also elected as the president of the Indian Olympic Association recently.

### About the PT Usha :

- ▶▶ The 58-year-old 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 being held under the supervision of Supreme Court-appointed retired SC judge L Nageswara Rao.
- ▶▶ The elevation of Usha to the top job will also mark the end of the long-drawn crisis in the faction-ridden IOA, which was warned of a possible suspension by the International Olympic Committee if elections, originally due in December last year, are not held this month.



## Agriculture Ministry Organises Millet Food Festival in Parliament

- ▶▶ To raise awareness about the **importance of millet**, the **Agriculture Ministry** is hosting a **Millet food festival** in Parliament for the members. As the global agrifood systems face challenges to feed an ever-growing **global population**, **resilient cereals like millet** provide an affordable and nutritious option. The United Nations has passed a resolution declaring the year 2023 as the **International Year of Millets (IYM)**. The IYM 2023 and the push towards increasing millet production will also contribute to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



### Key Facts Regarding This :

- ▶▶ During the Millet food festival, branding of Millet and recipes displayed and millet-based food items served to the Members of Parliament in the Parliament House premises.

- ▶▶ Recently, the **Food and Agriculture Organization** of the United Nations organised the opening ceremony of the **International Year of Millets – 2023 (IYOM 2023) in Rome, Italy.**
- ▶▶ The **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)** accepted the proposal by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, to celebrate 2023 as the International Year of Millets.
- ▶▶ As the global agrifood systems face challenges to feed an ever-growing global population, resilient cereals like millet provide an affordable and nutritious option.
- ▶▶ **Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister:** Shri Narendra Singh Tomar.

## Jyotiraditya Scindia launched country's first Green Steel Brand "KALYANI FeRRESTA"

- ▶▶ Union Steel Minister, **Jyotiraditya Scindia** has launched India's first Green Steel Brand "KALYANI FeRRESTA" in New Delhi. This first-of-its-kind steel has been manufactured by a Pune-based Steel company, Kalyani group by using renewable energy resources, leaving zero carbon footprints in the environment.

### How this initiative helps ?

- ▶▶ The Kalyani Group initiative will help transform the steel sector's long-standing identity as a carbon-emitting 'hard to abate sector' to a reduced carbon emitting-green steel-producing industry.



- ▶▶ The steel industry produces 7 per cent of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions internationally, while the Indian steel industry accounts for 12 per cent of such emissions. Green steel is manufactured using low-carbon energy sources such as hydrogen, coal gasification and electricity instead the widely used coking coal. The company avoided 76,484 total carbon dioxide (tCO<sub>2</sub>) emissions, reduced water consumption by 10 per cent and recycled 99.4 per cent of its waste.

### What is Green steel ?

- ▶▶ Green steel is the manufacturing of steel without the use of fossil fuels. This new phenomenon is about producing steel by using low-carbon energy sources such as hydrogen, coal gasification, or electricity instead of the traditional carbon-intensive manufacturing route of coal-fired plants.

## India Announced Candidature for UNSC Membership for 2028-29 Term

- ▶▶ **India** looks forward to being back in the **UN Security Council**, **External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar** said, as he declared the country's candidature as **non-permanent member** for the 2028-29 term. Jaishankar arrived at UN to preside over two signature events on **counter-terrorism and reformed multilateralism** held under **India's current Presidency of the UN**

**Security Council**, before the curtains come down this month on the country's two-year tenure as elected member of the 15-nation top organ of the world body.

India & UNSC Membership :

- ▶▶ The previous **eight terms that India** has been in the Council are **1950-1951, 1967-1968, 1972-1973, 1977-1978, 1984-1985, 1991-1992 and 2011-2012**. On December 1, India assumed the monthly rotating Presidency of the Security Council, the second time after August 2021 that India is presiding over the Council during its two year tenure as elected UNSC member.



- ▶▶ India, whose 2021-2022 term on the Council ends December 31, has been at the forefront of efforts calling for **urgent reform of the Security Council**, which has remained deeply divisive in dealing with current challenges. India has asserted that the Council, in its current form, does not reflect today's geo-political realities and its credibility is at risk if nations such as developing powers like India do not have a permanent seat at the horse-shoe table.

## 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.



**About the Infantry Museum :**

- ▶▶ The Infantry Museum covers the history of the Infantry from 1747 to 2020. It depicts the rich heritage, glorious past and supreme sacrifice of our brave soldiers preserved in sculptures, murals, and photo galleries.
- ▶▶ The construction of this museum has been in the works for a decade. This three-story building of the museum has been built on two acres of land. It has 17 different rooms covering the history and development of the Indian Infantry since 1747 in chronological order in 30 subject areas.

In this museum, along with Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, Subhash Chandra Bose, and Maharaja Ranjit, the history of many great men will be seen.

### World's first National Infantry Museum :

- ▶▶ The world's first National Infantry Museum and Soldier Center is located outside the **ManeuverCenter of Excellence at Fort Benning in Columbus Georgia**. The 190,000-square-foot museum opened in June 2009. The museum describes the history of the United States Army Infantry from the American Revolution to present operations. It displays artifacts from all eras of American history.

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

## 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.



### About the escape tunnel :

- ▶▶ The escape tunnel has been constructed to facilitate rescue work if an emergency situation arises. The tunnel is a modified horseshoe shape tunnel connecting the Sumber Station yard on the Southside and Tunnel T-50 after crossing Bridge no.04 over Khoda Nallah on the North side, at Khoda village.
- ▶▶ The tunnel was constructed by the **New Austrian Tunnelling Method (NATM)**, which is a modern technique of drill and blast processes.
- ▶▶ The escape tunnel 'T-13' has been constructed to facilitate rescue work in case of an emergency. This tunnel is a horseshoe shaped tunnel which connects Sumber station yard and tunnel T-50 on the south side after crossing bridge no.04 over KhodaNala on the north side at Khoda village.
- ▶▶ Tunnel T-49 is a twin tube tunnel comprising the main tunnel (12.75 km) and escape tunnel (12.895 kms) connected with 33 cross-passages.

## Piyush Goel Launched Right to Repair Portal for Consumers

- ▶▶ Food and Consumer Affairs Minister Piyush Goyal launched a host of new initiatives, including the right to repair portal and an NTH mobile app and opened new premises of National Consumer Helpline centre in the national capital. A memorandum of understanding was also signed between the Consumer Affairs Department and IIT (BHU), Varanasi as well launched a capacity building programme of consumer commissions.

### More About This Development :

- ▶▶ These initiatives were launched on the occasion of the National Consumer Day. The theme was “Effective disposal of cases in consumer commission”. Minister of State for Food and Consumer Affairs Sadhvi Niranjana Jyothi was also present at the event.
- ▶▶ In July 2022 the Department of Consumer Affairs had set up a committee headed by the Additional Secretary Nidhi Khare to develop a comprehensive framework on ‘Right to Repair’.

### Its Significance :

- ▶▶ On the ‘right to repair’ portal, manufacturers will share the manual of product details with customers so that they can either repair by self, by third parties, rather than depend on original manufacturers. Initially, mobile phones, electronic, consumer durables, automobile and farming equipments will be covered.
- ▶▶ Under the Consumer Protection law, a complaint is required to be disposed of within 90 days of its filing and within 150 days wherever expert evidence is required to be taken....



## Tamil Nadu: Sanitation Workers' Development Scheme

- ▶▶ The Sanitation Workers' Development Scheme was launched by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin to ensure the welfare of conservancy workers in the southern state.
- ▶▶ The Sanitation Workers' Development Scheme was launched by the Tamil Nadu government to identify conservancy workers and ensure their welfare through various government initiatives.
- ▶▶ As part of this scheme, a mobile application was launched for the identification and census collection of sanitation workers.



- ▶▶ A survey will be conducted to identify sanitation workers and the collected data will be uploaded into the application.
- ▶▶ The first phase of this scheme will be implemented in five urban local bodies in the state. It will later be expanded to other local bodies.

**Initiatives that will be taken under this scheme are :**

1. Making various government welfare schemes accessible for sanitation workers
  2. Providing skill training required for the mechanization of cleanliness drives
  3. Ensuring that all sanitation workers are covered under pension and insurance schemes
  4. Ensuring that children of sanitation workers have access to education and other basic amenities
  5. Providing credit and other facilities required for the sanitation workers to pursue alternative businesses.
- ▶▶ The scheme will benefit over 53,300 sanitation workers in the state, including 18,859 permanent employees and 34,442 temporary contract workers in the urban local bodies.
  - ▶▶ It will also cover informal workers involved in conservancy operations in the private sector.
  - ▶▶ The local bodies will be implementing this scheme with the assistance from Ahmedabad-based Urban Management Centre.

**Why is this scheme necessary ?**

- ▶▶ Sanitation workers continue to face various socio-economic challenges despite the implementation of regulatory measures. The 2003 Supreme Court Judgement mandated the local authorities and other agencies to use modern technology for cleaning and the government enacted Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013 to ban manual scavenging. These measures have failed to prevent the deaths of sanitary workers.

## Delhi “Real-time Source Apportionment Project”

- ▶▶ Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal reviewed the progress of the real-time source apportionment project.

**What is Real-time Source Apportionment Project ?**

- ▶▶ The real-time source apportionment project is being implemented by the Delhi Pollution Control Committee in collaboration with IIT-Kanpur, IIT-Delhi and TERI.
- ▶▶ It is one of the actions listed under the Delhi Government’s winter action plan.
- ▶▶ The Delhi government approved the project in October 2021 and launched it in November 2022.
- ▶▶ Under this project, a supersite with cutting-edge air analysers and a mobile air quality monitoring



system will be used to measure the concentration of various substances in the air above Delhi.

- ▶▶ The project will identify various sources of PM2.5 on a real-time hourly basis and provide a 3-day hourly forecast of the total PM 2.5.
- ▶▶ The data obtained from this project will help the Delhi government to accurately identify the sources of air pollution like vehicular exhaust, dust, biomass burning, and industrial emissions.
- ▶▶ The supersite data will also be used to forecast air pollution levels on an hourly, daily and weekly bases. This will help the government take proactive measures to curb pollution and mobilize resources to ensure strict compliance with pollution control norms.
- ▶▶ The findings will further be complemented by a mobile van that will capture air pollution readings and sources from different corners of Delhi.

### What are the outcomes of the recent meeting ?

- ▶▶ During the recently held review meeting on the progress of the real-time source apportionment project, a team of scientists from IIT Kanpur informed that the secondary inorganic aerosols have traveled long distances to contribute to a large portion of the air pollution mix. Other major contributors of PM2.5 in the past one month are biomass burning (wood, stubble etc.), vehicular emissions and dust (road and construction).

## Project Vaani

- ▶▶ Project Vaani will be implemented jointly by the Indian Institute of Sciences (IISc), ARTPARK (AI and Robotics Technology Park), and Google to gather speech data from across India for the creation of an AI-based language model that can understand diverse Indian languages and dialects.

### What is Project Vaani ?

- ▶▶ Under Project Vaani, diverse languages used across India will be mapped by collecting speech sets of around 1 million people from 773 districts over 3 years.
- ▶▶ The estimated cost of this project is around 30 to 40 million USD.
- ▶▶ It is part of the Bengaluru-based IISc and Artpark's Bhasha AI project that includes RESPIN (Recognizing Speech in Indian languages) and SYSPIN (Synthesizing Speech in Indian languages).
- ▶▶ The project would involve IISc and Google recording around 1.5 lakh hours of speech, part of which will be transcribed in local scripts.
- ▶▶ This project uses a district-anchored approach, which involves recording local speeches by randomly selecting over 1,000 people from each district.

### What are the objectives of the initiative?

- ▶▶ One of the main objectives of this project is the development of technologies like automatic speech





recognition, speech-to-speech translation and natural language understanding.

- ▶▶ Its ultimate goal is to deliver a technological solution that can eliminate the linguistic barriers that are currently present in technology and increase accessibility of the technology for a wider range of people.
- ▶▶ Once this project is fully completed, efforts will be taken to create an artificial intelligence-based language model that can understand diverse languages and dialects used in India.
- ▶▶ The new model proposed under the Vaani project supports both speech and text translation. This would be a leap from the Multilingual Representations for Indian Languages (MuRIL), which only supports text-based translation. The new model would be trained on speech and text from over 100 Indian languages, which are spoken by over 1 lakh people across India.

## Pralay Ballistic Missiles :India's First Tactical Quasi-Ballistic Missile

- ▶▶ A high-level meeting of the Defence Ministry cleared the acquisition of around 120 pralay missiles for the armed forces and their deployment along the borders.
- ▶▶ The decision by the Defence Ministry to procure indigenous short-range ballistic surface-to-surface (SRBM) missile Pralay, a conventional weapon that has become ready for induction in just seven years, gives Indian military the heft to its war-fighting capabilities.



A high-level meeting of the Defence Ministry cleared the acquisition of around 120 pralay missiles for the armed forces and their deployment along the borders. India now permits the use of ballistic missiles in tactical roles, therefore the acquisition of these ballistic missiles is considered a significant development for the nation.

### Significance Of This ballistic missile :

- ▶▶ The missile will be India's first tactical quasi-ballistic missile and will give the armed forces the capability to hit enemy positions and key installations in actual battlefield areas. Pralay, along with the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile, will form the crux of India's planned Rocket Force — a concept that was envisaged by former Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), the late General Bipin Rawat. Sources in the defence establishment made it clear that only conventional missiles would come under the planned Rocket Force as and when it's ready, while nuclear weapons would continue to be under the ambit of the Strategic Forces Command.

### About ThePralay missile project :

- ▶▶ The Pralay missile project was sanctioned in 2015 and is a derivative of the Prahhaar missile programme, which was first tested in 2011.

- ▶▶ Sources said Pralay was formed through elements from multiple missile programmes that include the K-series of submarine-launched ballistic missiles and the ballistic defence shield programme.
- ▶▶ The canisterised Pralay missile, with a range of 150-500 kilometres, has been developed according to the specifications and requirement of the Army, which was looking to arm itself with a tactical conventional missile that could be used on the battlefield.

**Incidentally, both China and Pakistan have tactical ballistic missiles.**

- ▶▶ Pralay is powered with a solid propellant rocket motor and multiple new technologies and, according to sources, accuracy is a highlight of this missile.
- ▶▶ It is capable of carrying a conventional warhead of about 350 kg to 700 kg, which gives it a deadly punitive capability.
- ▶▶ It can carry a high explosive preformed fragmentation warhead, penetration-cum-blast (PCB) and runaway denial penetration submunition (RDPS).
- ▶▶ While BrahMos has high agility, stealth and even loitering capability, Pralay has the advantage of speed and countering it is a difficult task, even for modern air defence systems.

**Why Pralay Is So deadly :**

- ▶▶ The Indian missile can be compared to China's Dong Feng 12 and the Russian Iskander missile that has been used in the ongoing war with Ukraine. The US Army is in the process of increasing the range of a similar short-range ballistic missile called the Precision Strike Missile (PrSM). What makes Pralay deadly is that it is a quasi-ballistic weapon, which means that while it has a low trajectory and is largely ballistic, it can manoeuvre in flight. It has been designed to evade interceptor missiles..

“The greatest glory in living lies not in never failing, but in rising every time we fail.”

*Nelson Mandela*

# International

## India assumes the Presidency of the UNSC for December month 2022

▶▶ **India** has assumed the Presidency of the **UN Security Council for the month of December**. It is the second time in its two-year tenure as an elected member of the UN Security Council that India has assumed the Presidency of the Council. India had earlier assumed the **Presidency of the UNSC in August 2021**.

▶▶ Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations **Ruchira Kamboj** said, during India's December Presidency of the UN Security Council, two high-level signature events will take place on 14th and 15th December on '**Reformed Multilateralism and Counter-Terrorism** and it will be chaired by External Affairs Minister. She said, a bust of Mahatma Gandhi will be inaugurated at the United Nations during India's Presidency of the UN Security Council and it will be unveiled by External Affairs Minister **Dr S Jaishankar** and UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.



▶▶ **About the United Nations Security Council :**

- ▶▶ The United Nations Security Council is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations and is charged with ensuring international peace and security, recommending the admission of new UN members to the General Assembly, and approving any changes to the UN Charter.
- ▶▶ The Security Council has primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. It has 15 Members, and each Member has one vote. Under the Charter of the United Nations, all Member States are obligated to comply with Council decisions.
- ▶▶ The Security Council takes the lead in determining the existence of a threat to the peace or act of aggression. It calls upon the parties to a dispute to settle it by peaceful means and recommends methods of adjustment or terms of settlement. In some cases, the Security Council can resort to imposing sanctions or even authorize the use of force to maintain or restore international peace and security.


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- ▶▶ United Nations Security Council Headquarters: New York, United States;
- ▶▶ United Nations Security Council Founded: 24 October 1945.

## 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.

### About the bill :

- ▶▶ 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.

### Benefit of the bill :

- ▶▶ This will lead to thousands of lives longer and an additional \$5 billion less burden on the health system as there will be no need to treat diseases caused by smoking, such as many types of cancer, heart attacks, strokes, amputations. The legislation aims to prevent the high number of deaths caused by tobacco consumption in New Zealand which disproportionately affects the native Māori population.


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

## G-7 Agrees \$15.5B Energy Deal with Vietnam to Cut Emissions

- ▶▶ A group of nine rich industrialized nations approved a deal to provide Vietnam with \$15.5 billion to help the Southeast Asian nation move faster from coal power to renewable energy, cutting its climate-damaging pollution.

### More About This Development :

- ▶▶ The Group of Seven major economies, along with Norway and Denmark, said in a statement that the aim is to help Vietnam reduce its emissions to "net zero" by 2050, a goal which expert say needs to be met globally to cap global warming at 1.5 degrees Celsius.



### About This Initiative :

- ▶▶ The Just Energy Transition Partnership with Vietnam is among a series of agreements that developing and rich nations are negotiating. The first such deal was signed with South Africa last year, and a similar agreement was reached with Indonesia last month.

### Significance Of This Move :

- ▶▶ Vietnam is a dynamic, emerging economy at the heart of Southeast Asia," British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak said. "The investment we are making today means the country can cut its emissions while simultaneously creating new jobs and growth.

### About The Transition :

- ▶▶ The \$15.5 billion of funding will come from public and private sources over the coming three to five years, much of it in the form of loans, according to the agreement.
- ▶▶ By using the money to expand its electricity grid and increase renewable energy production, Vietnam will be able to bring forward its target for peaking emissions from 2035 to 2030. The country will also raise its 2030 target for electricity from renewable sources to 47% from a previous forecast of 36%.

### About G7 :

- ▶▶ The G7 or the Group of Seven is a group of the seven most advanced economies.
- ▶▶ The seven countries are Canada, the USA, UK, France, Germany, Japan and Italy.
- ▶▶ It was formed in 1975.
- ▶▶ G7 countries meet annually to discuss issues of common interest like global economic governance, international security and energy policy.

- ▶▶ All the G7 countries and India are also the **part of G20**.
- ▶▶ The G7 does not have a fixed headquarters.
- ▶▶ The **UK currently chairs** the G7 and has invited India along with Australia, the Republic of Korea and South Africa as guest countries for the G7 summit.

## India's Coal Production Increased By 11.66 % in November

- ▶▶ **India's total coal production** went up by 11.66 per cent to 75.87 million tonnes in November 2022 from 67.94 million tonnes recorded during the corresponding period of last year.

### What More The Data Says :

- ▶▶ According to the coal ministry data, in November 2022, **Coal India Ltd (CIL)** registered a growth of 12.82 per cent, whereas **Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL)** and other captive mines registered a growth of 7.84 per cent and 6.87 per cent respectively.



### About The Production :

- ▶▶ Out of the **top 37 mines in coal production** as many as **24 mines produced more than 100 per cent** and production of **five mines stood between 80 and 100 per cent** in terms of output. The power utilities dispatch also increased by 3.55 per cent to 62.34 million tonnes during November as compared to 60.20 million tonnes in the corresponding period of last year.

### About The Power Generation :

- ▶▶ **Coal-based power generation** also registered a growth of 16.28 per cent in November as compared to last year, while overall power generation in November was 14.63 per cent higher than the power generated in November 2021.

### About The Target :

- ▶▶ **Union Minister of State for Coal Raosaheb Danve Patil** said that India is planning to increase its annual coal production to 1.5 billion tonnes by 2030 to meet its increasing fuel demand.
- ▶▶ "Our total dispatch in 2013-14 was 572 million tons, last year it was **817 million tonnes**, this year it will be 900 million tonnes. Despite this, domestic production will not be able to fulfil full coal demand," the minister said.

## 20th Edition Of Kathmandu International Mountain Film Festival

- ▶▶ The **20th Edition** of the **Kathmandu International Mountain Film Festival** kicked off in **Kathmandu, Nepal**. This year, the festival was scheduled to be held from December 8 to 12, 2022. The festival is resuming its physical screening after two years, because of the pandemic

and is ready to showcase numerous films from across the world.

### Its Key Focus :

- ▶▶ The key focus of the film fest is on the **mountain communities and cultures to Nepali audiences**. This year, the audience will get a chance to witness more than 60 films from 30 different countries, at the **Rastriya SabgaGriha and Nepal Tourism Board (NTB)** Exhibition Road.

### Theme Of this Event :

- ▶▶ The theme of the Film Fest is **‘Sustainable Summits’** and is going to feature documentaries, fiction, shorts as well as experimental and animated films.

### More About this :

- ▶▶ During the course, of the film fest a discussion on the **‘Future of Nepali Film’** and **‘Young Person in Film’** is also being organized. A workshop on Adventure Filmmaking is also going to be conducted by Switzerland-based filmmaker and journalist Lisa Roosli. The film fest aims to bring together filmmakers, journalists, mountaineers, scholars, and critics from across the world to celebrate the art of filmmaking and to give exposure of world cinema to the Nepali audience.

### India’s Participation :

- ▶▶ Indian film **Bandhua (Bonded)**, directed by Shobhit Jain is also going to be featured in the International Competitive Film category along with films like Ayena, Before You were my Mother, and MattokiSaikil.

### Major Film Festivals celebrated in Asia :

- ▶▶ The **International Film Festival of India or IFFI** is organized annually by the Directorate of Film Festivals and the State Government of Goa. This year the festival was conducted from November 20 to 28 in the coastal state of Goa. Founded in 1952, the festival has been considered as **one of the most prominent film festivals in Asia**.

## 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.

### UAE’s Big Win:

- ▶▶ 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**.



### Key Priorities Of MC13:

- ▶▶ The top priority for the **WTO's 13th ministerial conference, known as MC13**, will be reaching an agreement to reform the trade body's hobbled dispute settlement system and modernising its 27-year-old rulebook.
- ▶▶ Most nations want to restore the **WTO's appellate body** — a sort of supreme court for trade — which the US crippled in 2019, citing systemic problems with the way its members settle trade disputes.
- ▶▶ MC13 will also provide a forum for **WTO members** to complete the unfinished work of their 2022 ministerial conference, which produced an agreement to water down patent protections for Covid-19 vaccines and a deal to curb harmful fishery subsidies.



### About World Trade Organization(WTO) :

- ▶▶ Founded in **1995**. The WTO is the successor to the **General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT)** established in the wake of the **Second World War**. The WTO is run by its **164 members**.
- ▶▶ **Headquarters:** Geneva, Switzerland
- ▶▶ WTO is the only international organization that deals with **the rules of trade between countries**.

### Aim :

- ▶▶ Its aim is **to promote free trade**, which is done through trade agreements that are discussed and signed by the member states.
- ▶▶ The WTO also provides **a forum** for countries **to negotiate trade rules** and **settle economic disputes** between them.

### WTO's Ministerial Conference :

- ▶▶ The Ministerial Conference is the **WTO's top decision-making body**
- ▶▶ It usually meets every two years.
- ▶▶ All members of the WTO are involved in the Ministerial Conference and they can take decisions on all matters covered under **any multilateral trade agreements**.

## Sri Lanka and Russia in talks to use the rupee in foreign trade

- ▶▶ **Use of rupee in foreign trade:** In order to facilitate international trade, Sri Lanka has agreed to utilize the Indian Rupee (INR). It occurs shortly after the Indian government announced it was looking into ways to include nations who are particularly short on dollars in the Indian rupee trade settlement process.

### Use of rupee in foreign trade: Sri Lanka and Russia

- ▶▶ The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) clearance is required before the Indian rupee can be designated as Sri Lanka's official foreign currency, according to the Central Bank of Sri Lanka (CBSL).



- ▶▶ According to reports, banks in Sri Lanka have set up special accounts for trading in INR dubbed Special Vostro rupee accounts, or SVRA.
- ▶▶ Additionally, the SAARC region's neighbouring island country has asked RBI to support and encourage trade as well as tourism.
- ▶▶ Sri Lanka has been dealing with a severe economic crisis and a shortage of dollars for almost a year.
- ▶▶ The island nation will receive much-needed liquidity support if the Indian rupee is recognised as legal tender.
- ▶▶ People in Sri Lanka can now hold USD 10,000 (Rs 8,26,823) in real form thanks to the establishment of Vostro accounts.
- ▶▶ Additionally, Sri Lankans and Indians can transact internationally without using US dollars by using Indian rupees instead.



## 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.

### What More About This Development:

- ▶▶ 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.

### Need of This Resolution :

- ▶▶ The resolution urges the junta to **immediately release all arbitrarily detained prisoners**, including Suu Kyi and ex-president Win Myint.
- ▶▶ It also demands an immediate end to all forms of violence and asks for all parties **to respect human rights, fundamental freedoms** and the rule of law.



- It also urges “**concrete and immediate actions**” to implement a peace plan agreed upon by the **Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)** and calls for the military administration to “uphold democratic institutions and processes and to pursue constructive dialogue and reconciliation in accordance with the will and interests of the people”.

### UNSC & Myanmar :

- ▶▶ Over the decades, **Myanmar’s military** has dedicated considerable resources to avoiding the passage of a resolution in the UNSC, very often relying on China to exercise the veto that it enjoys as a permanent member of the body. In **2007, the UNSC failed** to adopt a draft resolution on Myanmar due to Chinese and Russian vetoes. In late 2018, following the **Myanmar military’s violent assaults on the Rohingya communities** in the west of the country, the U.K. made another attempt to pass a resolution, but China and Russia refused to engage in the resolution, and it decided not to table the draft for a vote.

## The State of the World’s Midwifery 2022: East and Southern Africa

- ▶▶ The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and World Health Organization (WHO) released a report titled “The State of the World’s Midwifery 2022: East and Southern Africa”.

### What are the key findings of the report?

- ▶▶ Around 1.2 million lives can be saved each year in East and Southern Africa by 2035 if there is universal coverage of midwife-delivered interventions.
- ▶▶ This achievement depends on midwives gaining access to better education and training as well as comprehensive and supportive workplace regulations.
- ▶▶ A strong midwifery workforce is vital for successfully achieving UNFPA strategies for improving sexual, reproductive, maternal, newborn, and adolescent health (SRMNAH).
- ▶▶ The report studied the status of midwifery in all 23 countries in the UNFPA East and Southern Africa (ESA) region.
- ▶▶ It found that the ESA region has made major progress over the last 20 years in improving the SRMNAH outcomes. However, the progress has been uneven, which resulted in inequality between and within the countries. The situation was exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ▶▶ Of the 23 countries in the region, 20 countries reported the headcount of midwives or nurse-midwives in their health workforce. Angola, South Sudan, and Namibia have not revealed the number of midwives in their jurisdictions.
- ▶▶ In the 20 reporting countries, there are over 1.46 lakh midwives. This means that there are 2.5 midwives per 10,000 individuals. This is less than the global average of 4.4 per 10,000.



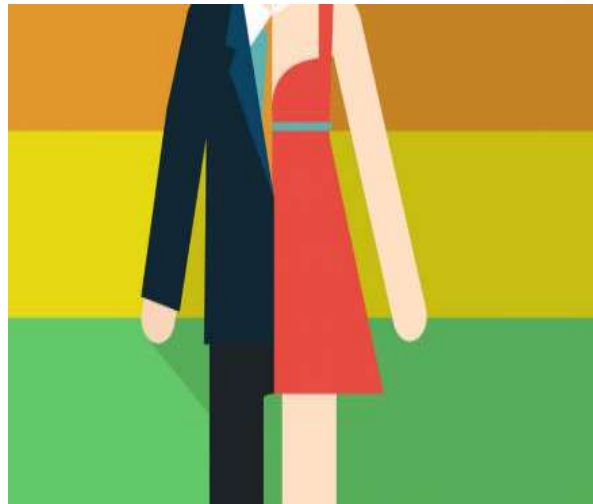
- ▶▶ The report emphasized that increasing investment in midwives and midwifery can address the lacunae and challenges in the five main areas:
  - 1) Addressing the shortage of midwives and strengthening data systems
  - 2) Strengthening the quality of midwifery care through education, training and other such activities
  - 3) Promoting interdisciplinary collaboration in SRMNAH care
  - 4) Investing in midwife leaders and increasing the understanding of the importance of midwifery
  - 5) Strengthening the research agenda

## New Gender Reform Laws of Spain and Scotland

- ▶▶ Scotland and Spain have recently passed gender reform laws to make it easier for individuals to change their legally registered gender without requiring any medical supervision.

### About Spain's Gender Recognition Reform Bill -

- ▶▶ The new Spanish law requires minors aged 12 and 13 years to receive the judge's authorization to change their gender.
- ▶▶ Those minors aged between 14 and 16 years will have to be accompanied by their parents or legal guardians.
- ▶▶ Up until now, Spanish transgender people are required to be diagnosed with gender dysphoria, which refers to the psychological condition of not feeling a match between one's biological sex and gender identity.
- ▶▶ Under the new legislation, any individual applying for a Gender Recognition Certificate must have lived full-time in the declared identity for 3 months (6 months in case they are aging between 16 and 17 years).
- ▶▶ Previously, the individual was required to have lived full-time in the declared identity for 2 years. In some cases, the individuals were mandated to provide proof that they have been living for two years as the gender they identified with or provide records showing they have taken the hormones.
- ▶▶ The Bill has lowered the minimum eligibility age from 18 years to 16 years of age. It proposes a 3-month "reflection period" during which time the applicants can change their minds.
- ▶▶ It allows people aged 16 years and above to change their legal gender markers without medical supervision.
- ▶▶ The bill also proposes to ban the conversion therapies that seek to suppress sexual orientation or gender identity. It also seeks to impose fine and punishment on people attacking individuals belonging to LGBTQ community.
- It will also overturn a ban that prevents lesbian couples from registering their children under both parents' names.



# Technology

## Japan's ispace Launches World's First Commercial Moon Lander

- ▶▶ **Japan** is elated and proud of its **space startup** that successfully launched a **spacecraft to the moon** recently, marking a significant step towards what would be a historic first, both for the **nation and a private company**. This has not been an easy task and got successful after multiple delays. Additionally, what makes it unique is the fact that it is the **first successful venture to the moon by a private company**.

**About The Mission: ispace Inc's HAKUTO-R Mission :**

- ▶▶ It took off from **Cape Canaveral, Florida**. Additionally, two inspections of the **SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket** led to two postponements, however, the mission crossed all hurdles efficiently.

**Mission of Its Kind :**

- ▶▶ What makes the mission unique is that **soft landings on the moon** have already been done by national space agencies of countries like **Russia, China, and the United States**, however, it is a new thing for a company to achieve this goal. Moreover, the mission is also a vital step taken in achieving space cooperation between **Japan and the United States**.

**What Is HAKUTO: More About This Mission :**

- ▶▶ **HAKUTO** is a term used for a **white rabbit** that resides on the moon, as per Japanese folklore. The ispace craft intends to deploy a tiny **NASA satellite** into the orbit of the moon to look for water deposits prior to its touch in the **Atlas Crater**. Additionally, the M1 lander will station two robotic rovers, a baseball-sized device from the **JAXA space agency**, and the four-wheeled **Rashid explorer**. The Rashid explorer is crafted by the **United Arab Emirates**.

**About ispace :**

- ▶▶ The **ispace** is a **privately funded organization based in Tokyo**. It shares a contract with NASA to ferry payloads to the lunar surface from the year 2025. It aims to create a permanently staffed lunar colony by the year 2040.



## India's 1st Integrated Rocket Facility to be Based in Telangana

- ▶▶ Telangana's IT and Industries Minister **K T Rama Rao** on said the state will have the **country's first integrated rocket design**, manufacturing and testing facility in **Hyderabad** by **Skyroot Aerospace**.

### Further Development :

- ▶▶ The state IT Minister **K. Tarakarama Rao** has assured the start-up of complete support for establishing the facility **to design, manufacture, and test rockets in the state**. He participated in a programme organized at T-Hub to celebrate **Skyroot Aerospace's** successful launch of the **Vikram-S rocket**.

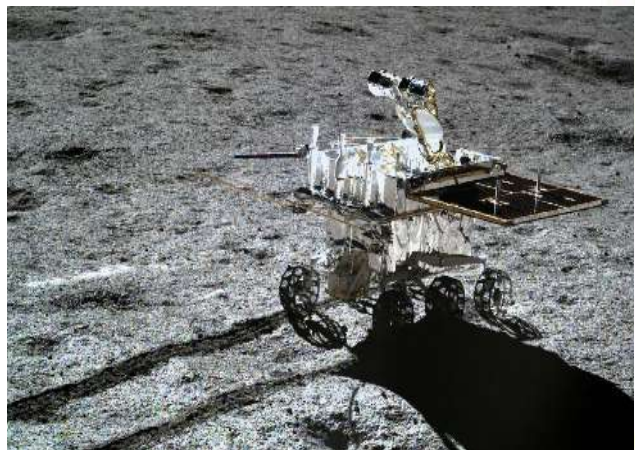


### About TheSkyroot :

- ▶▶ The Hyderabad-based startup, incubated at T-Hub, launched the **country's first private rocket**. **Skyroot Aerospace** became the first privately held company in India after the space sector was opened for the private players by the union government in 2020.
- ▶▶ Skyroot Aerospace wants to build **high-technology, low-cost, reliable launch vehicles**. Its co-founders Chandana and Naga Bharath Daka previously worked with the **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** as rocket scientists for about a handful of years before starting up in 2018.
- ▶▶ The Minister expressed pride and happiness that a **spacetech company from Hyderabad**, broke all the barriers. He said only a few companies across the world aced rocket science and achieved success in the first go.

## UAE Successfully Launches First Ever Arab-Built Lunar Spacecraft

- ▶▶ A **SpaceX Falcon 9** rocket carried into space the first ever **Arab-built lunar spacecraft**. It was launched from the **Cape Canaveral Space Force Station in Florida**. The **Rashid Rover** was built by **Dubai's Mohammed bin Rashid Space Centre (MBRSC)**, in the **United Arab Emirates (UAE)**, and is being delivered by the **HAKUTO-R** lander, engineered by **Japanese lunar exploration company ispace**.



### More About This Development :

- ▶▶ The mission is due to **arrive at Moon** around April 2023. According to **Mohammed Bin Rashid Space Centre (MBRSC) in Dubai**, the Rashid rover will provide ‘**novel and highly valued data, images, and insights,**’ as well as ‘collect scientific data on matters relating to the origin of the solar system, our planet and life.’

## US Announces Historic Nuclear Fusion Breakthrough

- ▶▶ **United States** has announced a **nuclear fusion** breakthrough, a historic step towards the promise of ‘**near-limitless clean energy**’ and may help the fight to curb climate change. **US Department of Energy** said, researchers at the **Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL)** in California for the first time produced more energy in a fusion reaction than was used to ignite it, something called net energy gain.

### More About This Remarkable Development :

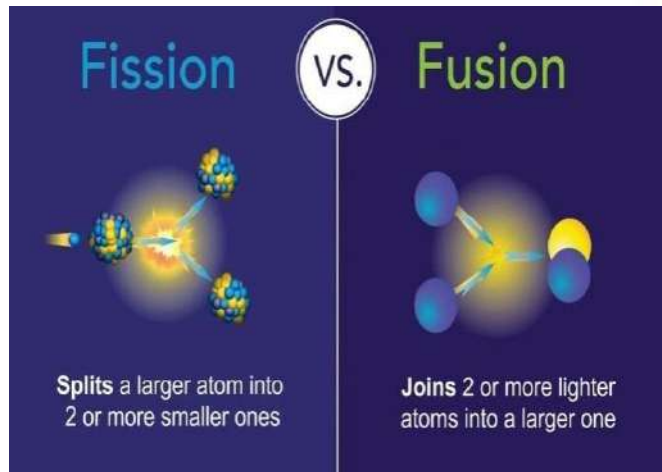
- ▶▶ The achievement will pave the way for advancements in **national defense and the future of clean power**. This is a landmark achievement for the researchers and staff at the **National Ignition Facility** who have dedicated their careers to seeing fusion ignition become a reality, and this milestone will undoubtedly spark even more discovery.

### About The Course of The Progress:

- ▶▶ Scientists use high-energy laser beams to achieve these temperatures which is also called **inertial fusion**.
- ▶▶ At the **international collaborative project in southern France called ITER** in which India is a partner **used very strong magnetic fields** for the same purpose which is the second method of producing this energy.
- ▶▶ The ITER project is expected to demonstrate the viability of a commercially scalable nuclear fusion reactor between 2035 and 2040.
- ▶▶ Some countries are trying laser-based **inertial fusion** as well.
- ▶▶ It is **relatively easier** to attain break-even energy levels through inertial fusion compared to magnetic fusion.

### About The Fusion Technology :

- ▶▶ It is a powerful way of harnessing the **immense energy trapped in the nucleus of an atom**. Attempts to master the fusion process have been going on at least since the 1950s, but it is incredibly difficult and is still at an experimental stage.
- ▶▶ **Fission Process:** The nuclear energy currently in use across the world comes from the fission



process in which the nucleus of a heavier element is split into those of lighter elements in a controlled manner.

- ▶▶ **Fusion Process:** Here, the nuclei of two lighter elements are made to fuse together to form the nucleus of a heavier atom.

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

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



**India's Approach: What The Prime Minister Conveyed :**

- ▶▶ Sushri Shobha Karandlaje conveyed PM Modi's compliments to the **United Nations for declaring the Year 2023 as the International Year of Millets**. PM, through his message, thanked the global community for supporting India's proposal to mark the **International Year of Millets (IYM)**.
- ▶▶ Sushri Shobha Karandlaje, in her speech, said nations need to collaborate to develop a sustainable future, and millets will play a pivotal role in the process. There is an opportunity to contribute to the future well-being of mankind by bringing back **ancient food grains through IYM**. India will steer the IYM2023 celebrations worldwide and organise campaigns to promote the cultivation and consumption of Millets, both in India and abroad during the next year.

## U.N. Convention on Biological Diversity, COP 15 Commences in Canada

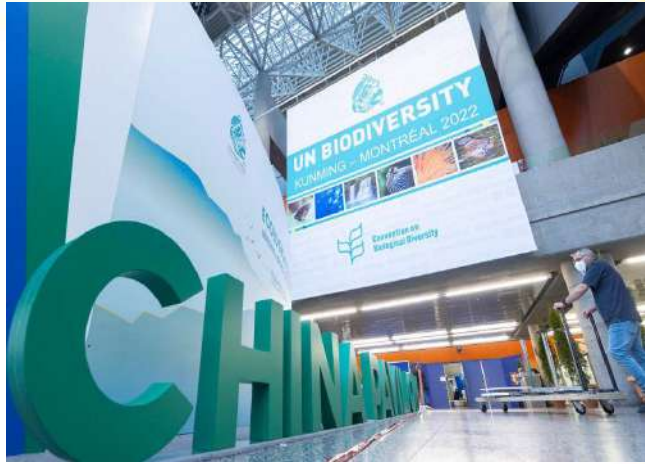
- ▶▶ The **United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity**, also called as **Conference of Parties (COP-15)** commenced in **Montreal, Canada** on 7 December 2022. The two-weeklong conference (7-19 December 2022) was **originally scheduled to be held in Kunming, China** in October but was shifted to Montreal, Canada due to covid situation in China.

**More About this :**

- ▶▶ This is the **second part of the COP15**. The first part was hosted by China on 18 August 2021 virtually and the second part was to be held in a face to face conference but it has been shifted from China to Canada. However the **host of the COP15 in Montreal is still China**.

### What Is On The Agenda :

- ▶▶ During COP15, negotiators are expected to finalize and sign a document called the **Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework**. One can think of it as the **Paris agreement** but for biodiversity — a strategy with nearly two dozen measurable targets designed to conserve ecosystems and the benefits they provide, such as food and plant-derived medicines.
- ▶▶ One of the splashiest and most contested targets is a commitment **to conserve at least 30 percent of Earth's land and water by 2030**. The agreement also addresses another controversial topic: **Who will pay for all of this?** This is especially relevant for poorer nations and Indigenous communities, which harbor most of the world's remaining biodiversity.



## 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.



### Who is Lynn Malerba ?

- ▶▶ Lynn Malerba is Native American and is the chief of the Mohegan Tribe, who holds the position of Treasurer of the United States within the Department of Treasury, United States government.

### Who is Janet Yellen ?

- ▶▶ Janet Yellen is a former chairman of the United States Central Bank, Federal Reserve of New York. She was the first female head of the Federal Reserve.



# Sports

## Vijay Hazare Trophy Final: Saurashtra beat Maharashtra by 5 wickets

▶▶ Saurashtra beat Maharashtra by 5 wickets in the final to win the **Vijay Hazare Trophy** at the Narendra Modi Stadium in **Ahmedabad, Gujarat**. They restricted Maharashtra at 248/9 in 50 overs as captain **Ruturaj Gaikwad** hit a century, scoring 108 off 131 balls after a slow start. Saurashtra bowler Chirag Jani claimed a hat-trick in the match. Man of the moment is Sheldon Jackson



▶▶ Chasing the target of 249, Saurashtra started off cautiously before the openers stitched a 125-run partnership. Batter Sheldon Jackson held one end as wickets tumbled around him.



He scored a match-winning 133 off 136 balls to help Saurashtra chase down the target in 46.3 overs, with five wickets to spare. It was Saurashtra's second title triumph in history.

▶▶ **Notably** : The win enhanced Jaydev Unadkat's credentials as captain, he had led Saurashtra to their first Ranji Trophy title in 2019-2020. He also finished at the top of the wicket-taking charts in the Vijay Hazare Trophy with 19 strikes to his name.

### Full List of Award Winners :

- ▶▶ Player of the match in the final: **Sheldon Jackson (133 runs in 135 Balls)**
- ▶▶ Player of the tournament: **Ruturaj Gaikwad (Games: 5; Runs: 660; Avg: 220)**
- ▶▶ Most Runs: N Jagadeesan (Tamil Nadu): 830runs, 8 innings
- ▶▶ Highest Score: N Jagadeesan – 277 off 141 balls vs Arunachal Pradesh
- ▶▶ Most Fours: N Jagadeesan – 73 in 8 innings
- ▶▶ Most Sixes: Ruturaj Gaikwad – 34 in 5 innings

# FIFA WORLD CUP 2022



Argentina have won the 2022 FIFA World Cup after winning on penalties following a 3-3 draw against France in the final. Lionel Messi scored twice to help his nation be crowned world champions.

Angel Di Maria won a penalty after Ousmane Dembele fouled the winger in the penalty box, which Messi comfortably converted past Hugo Lloris. Di Maria then added a second after slotting the ball home from close range following a brilliant passing move from Argentina which cut Les Bleus apart.

Kylian Mbappe restored hope for France with two quick-fire goals late in the match, taking the game to extra-time before Messi popped up with a third goal for Argentina in the 109th minute after a lengthy VAR check deemed that the goal was able to stand. Mbappe sealed his hat-trick from the penalty spot in the 118th minute.

Lionel Messi scored from the spot in the shootout as France missed two penalties and saw Argentina take their crown as world champions. Emiliano Martinez was the hero once again as he pulled off a brilliant save to deny Kingsley Coman before seeing Aurelien Tchouameni put his spot kick wide of the post moments later.

Gonzalo Montiel scored the winning penalty after sending Lloris the wrong way and immediately broke down in tears. Messi has followed in the footsteps of iconic Argentina star Diego Maradona in lifting the World Cup with his nation.



# FIFA WORLD CUP 2022

- ▶▶ Edition : 22nd
- ▶▶ Host Country : Qatar



**Golden Ball Award**  
(Best Player)  
**Lionel Messi**  
(Argentina)



**Golden Boot Award**  
(Top goalscorer)  
**Kylian Mbappé**  
(France) [8 goals]

- ▶▶ Teams : 32
- ▶▶ Champions : Argentina (3rd title)
- ▶▶ Runners-up : France
- ▶▶ Argentina captain : Lionel Messi
- ▶▶ France captain : Hugo Lloris
- ▶▶ Opening match : Qatar and Ecuador [Al Bayt Stadium]
- ▶▶ Final match : Lusail Iconic Stadium
- ▶▶ Prize Money Winner : \$42 million
- ▶▶ Runner-up : \$30 million
- ▶▶ Most successful team : Brazil (5 times)
- ▶▶ FIFA World Cup 2026 : Canada/Mexico/USA (48 team)

- Argentina football team
- Captain : Lionel Messi
- Nickname : La albiceleste ('The White and Sky Blue')
- Argentina won three FIFA World Cups: in 1978, 1986 and 2022
- Argentina lifts FIFA World Cup after 36 years.
- France Football team
- Captain : Hugo Lloris
- Nickname : Les Bleus (The Blues)
- France national football team has won the FIFA World Cup twice - in 1998 and 2018
- First FIFA World Cup was hosted in Montevideo, Uruguay in 1930.
- The winner of this first FIFA World cup was Uruguay and the runner-up was Argentina.



**FIFA Young Player Award**  
**Enzo Fernández**  
(Argentina)



**Golden Glove Award**  
(Best Goalkeeper)  
**Emiliano Martínez**  
(Argentina)



**FIFA Fair Play Trophy - England**



French player Kylian Mbappé became the first player to score a hat-trick in a World Cup final since Geoff Hurst in the 1966 final.

## 3rd T20 World Cup cricket tournament for Blind to be held in India

- ▶▶ **The third T20 World Cup Cricket Tournament for the Blind** will be held from **December 5 to 17, 2022 in India**. The participating countries of the World Cup 2022 are Australia, Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan, South Africa, Sri Lanka and India. Around 150 players from all countries will participate in the tournament and there will be a total of 24 matches across nine cities in India. The tournament is being organised to mark the World Disability Day celebrations universally. The inauguration of the World Cup on December 5 at **Tau Devi Lal Indoor Stadium, Gurugram**. Former India batter **Yuvraj Singh** is the brand ambassador of the tournament.



### About the World Cup Cricket Tournament for the Blind :

- ▶▶ The World Cup, an initiative of the **Cricket Association for the Blind in India (CABI)** in association with Samarthanam Trust for the disabled, has been organising this championship since 2012. Since its inception, Samarthanam Trust has organized over 30,000 visually impaired matches.

## Indian skipper Rohit Sharma becomes 6th-highest run scorer for India in ODIs

- ▶▶ Indian skipper **Rohit Sharma** has surpassed former batter **Mohammed Azharuddin** to become the **sixth-highest** run-getter for his country in ODI cricket. The batter accomplished this record during India's first ODI against Bangladesh at Dhaka. With this, his ODI statistics stand at **234 matches, and 9,403 runs in 227 innings** at an average of 48.46. He has scored 29 tons and 45 fifties in his ODI career, with the best individual score of 264, which is also the highest score ever in ODIs.
- ▶▶ Azharuddin, who moved down to 7th spot, had scored 9,378 runs in 334 matches in 308 innings at an average of 36.92, with seven



tons and 58 fifties and the best score of 153. Other leading run-scorers in ODI cricket for India are: **Sachin Tendulkar (18,426)**, **Virat Kohli (12,353)**, **Saurav Ganguly (11,221)**, **Rahul Dravid (10,768)** and **MS Dhoni (10,599)**.

## Indian batter Ishan Kishan hits fastest ODI double hundred off 126 balls

▶▶ India batter **Ishan Kishan** has smashed the fastest ODI double century in **126 balls** against Bangladesh at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chattogram. The wicketkeeper-batsman scored a 150 off boundaries alone, with 24 fours and 10 sixes all around the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium. It took an excellent running catch to dislodge Kishan on **210 off 131**.



▶▶ The 24-year old Kishan also became the fourth ODI double-centurion Indian after **Rohit Sharma, Virender Sehwag and Sachin Tendulkar** and the seventh batsman overall to achieve the feat, along with **Gayle, Martin Guptill and Fakhar Zaman**. Kishan added 290 for the second wicket with Virat Kohli, who made his 44th ODI hundred, and his first in the format since August 2019. The Kishan-Kohli stand was India's third-highest partnership in ODIs, and the seventh-highest ever in the format.

### MOST RUNS IN AN INNINGS :

| Players                     | Runs | Balls | Against      |
|-----------------------------|------|-------|--------------|
| Rohit Sharma (India)        | 264  | 173   | Sri Lanka    |
| Martin Guptill (Newzealand) | 237  | 163   | West Indies  |
| Virendra Sehwag (India)     | 219  | 149   | West Indies  |
| Chris Gayle (West Indies)   | 215  | 147   | Zimbabwe     |
| Fakhar Zaman (Pakistan)     | 210  | 156   | Zimbabwe     |
| Ishan Kishan (India)        | 210  | 131   | Bangladesh   |
| Rohit Sharma (India)        | 209  | 158   | Australia    |
| Rohit Sharma (India)        | 208  | 153   | Sri Lanka    |
| Sachin Tendulkar (India)    | 200  | 147   | South Africa |

## Hyderabad Strikers crowned as champions of Tennis Premier League 2022

▶▶ **Hyderabad Strikers** has crowned as champions of **4th Tennis Premier League (TPL) 2022**. The final of the 4th TPL was held in **Pune, Maharashtra**. Hyderabad Strikers beat **Mumbai Leon Army** (41-32) and was crowned champions of the event for the 2nd year in a row. Hyderabad's pair **S. Balaji** and **Nikki Poonacha** defeated Mumbai's **R. Ramanathan** and **J. Nedunnchezhiyan** 14-6 to win the title.



▶▶ The TPL Plus, the grassroots league of the Tennis Premier League that allows young tennis athletes a platform to learn from international and Indian stars was won by Mumbai Leon Army. The champion team was presented ten lakh rupees and the runner-up, five lakh. **Conny Perrin** was declared the "player of the match" in the final, while the honour went to **Sriram Balaji** and **Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan** in the two semifinals.

## Jaipur Pink Panthers won 9th Pro Kabaddi League title

**Pro Kabaddi League Season 9 Final:**

▶▶ **Jaipur Pink Panthers** won the **Pro Kabaddi League Season 9 Final** against a hard-fighting **Puneri Paltan** by a score of 33-29 to win their second PKL championship. After Patna, Jaipur Pink Panthers, the league's first-ever winners, are currently only the second team to win multiple titles. The tournament was played across Bengaluru, Pune, and Hyderabad while the playoffs were played in Mumbai. Jaipur Pink Panthers team is currently led by **Sunil Kumar Malik** and coached by **Sanjeev Baliyan**. The team is owned by **Abhishek Bachchan**.



**PKL Season 9: Award winners from the Final**

- ▶▶ Perfect Player of the Final: **Sunil Kumar (Pink Panthers)**
- ▶▶ Game Changer of the Final: **V Ajit Kumar (Pink Panthers)**
- ▶▶ Moment of the Final: **Ankush Rathee (Pink Panthers)**

- ▶▶ Move of the Final: V Ajit Kumar (**Pink Panthers**)
- ▶▶ Perfect Moment of the Final: Sunil Kumar (**Pink Panthers**)

### PKL Season 9: Prize money

- ▶▶ WINNERS: Jaipur Pink Panthers: **Rs 3 crore**
- ▶▶ RUNNERS UP: Puneri Paltan: Rs 1.80 crore
- ▶▶ Semi-Final Losers: Dabang Delhi KC & Bengaluru Bull: Rs 90 lakh
- ▶▶ Eliminators Losers: UP Yoddhas & Tamil Thalaivas: Rs 45 lakh

### PKL Season 9: Award Winners of the Season :

- ▶▶ Most Valuable Player of the Season: Arjun Deshwal (**Pink Panthers**) Rs 20 lakh
- ▶▶ Raider of the Season: Bharat (Bengaluru Bulls) Rs 15 lakh
- ▶▶ Defender of the Season: Ankush (Pink Panthers) Rs 15 lakh
- ▶▶ Young Player of the Season: Narender (Bengaluru Bulls) Rs 8 lakh

## FIFA chosed Morocco to host Club World Cup in February 2023

- ▶▶ **FIFA: Morocco** was rewarded by FIFA with hosting rights for the next Club World Cup in February, with an expanded **32-team edition set to launch in 2025**. The most recent edition of the tournament was held in the UAE in February 2022 and was won by the English football club, Chelsea. European champion Real Madrid, South American champion Flamengo and Seattle Sounders, the first CONCACAF Champions League winner from the United States, will play in the traditional seven-team tournament from Feb. 1-11.



- ▶▶ The competition is set to continue in its current format, featuring the champions of the six continental federations and the top team from the host nation. It will be one of the last seven-team editions for continental champions with an expanded, month-long tournament planned to start in 2025. Morocco hosted the Club World Cup in 2013 and again in 2014, while the most recent edition was held in the United Arab Emirates in February, with Chelsea lifting the trophy.

### FIFA Event -

- ▶▶ FIFA World Cup 2022 – Qatar (32 Teams)
- ▶▶ FIFA World Cup 2026 – Canada, Mexico, USA (48 teams)
- ▶▶ FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup 2022 – Costa Rica
- ▶▶ FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup 2022 – India
- ▶▶ FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup 2023 – Australia and New Zealand

### Important takeaways for all competitive exams :

- ▶▶ FIFA Founded: 21 May 1904;
- ▶▶ FIFA Founded: Paris, France;
- ▶▶ FIFA Headquarters: Zürich, Switzerland;
- ▶▶ FIFA Membership: 211;
- ▶▶ FIFA Languages: English, French, German, Spanish & Italian;
- ▶▶ FIFA First President: Robert Guérin;
- ▶▶ FIFA Current President: Gianni Infantino (Switzerland);
- ▶▶ FIFA Secretary General: Fatma Samoura (Senegal).

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

- ▶▶ The **Indian women Hockey team** led by Captain **Savita Punia** beat **Spain** 1-0 in the final to win the inaugural FIH Nations Cup played at Valencia, Spain. The winning goal was scored by **Gurjit Kaur** 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 Janneke Schopman-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.

## 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

- ▶▶ Sunil Ramesh won Man of the Match award in the championship. He was also given the B3 category's Man of the Series award. India, the tournament's victors and unbeaten team, won



Rs. 3 lakh as prize money, while Bangladesh took second place and received Rs. 1.5 lakh. Ajay won the title of Man of the Series in the B2 division. Mohammed Mahmud Rashid of Bangladesh won the title of Man of the Series in the B1 division.

- ▶▶ 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)**
- Blind T20 World Cup 2022 : Prize Money :**
- ▶▶ Winners: Rs 3 Lakh
  - ▶▶ Runners-up: Rs 1.50 Lakh



## Union Minister Anurag Thakur inaugurates Sports Science Center in Karnataka

- ▶▶ Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports Anurag Thakur inaugurated the Sports Science Centre here at M.G. Stadium in Udupi, Karnataka. This Sports Science Centre will bring together sports scientists and athletes. The sports science center has been set up by the government of Karnataka.
- ▶▶ The state government has set up two sports science centers at Udupi and Bengaluru. These centers will conduct research on medicines, nutritious food, treatment and rehabilitation measures for sportspersons, which would help them to boost their abilities. The Minister said that many more such sports science centers will come up. In the future. The government is making efforts to transform India into a sporting soft power. It has increased the sports budget from 854 crores before 2014 to 3,100 crore rupees this year and spent 2700 crore rupees to enhance sporting infrastructure as against 630 crore rupees earlier.



### National Center of Excellence :

- ▶▶ The Sports Authority of India (SAI) under the Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports has also set up its own Sports Science Center at its

- ▶▶ 21 National Centres of Excellence (NCOE) and two high performance centers (Bengaluru and Patiala).
- ▶▶ It has also set up a National Centre for Sports Sciences and Research (NCSSR) in New Delhi which is the hub of SAI Sports Science Center.
- ▶▶ The National Centers of excellence provides specialized training in selected sports disciplines and also has a well-functioning Sports Science Center.
- ▶▶ The National centers of Excellence are at Alleppey and Thiruvananthapuram in Kerala, Aurangabad and Mumbai in Maharashtra, Bengaluru in Karnataka, Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh, Chandigarh, Dharamshala in Himachal Pradesh, Guwahati in Assam, Gandhinagar in Gujarat, Imphal in Manipur, Itanagar in Arunachal Pradesh, Jagatpur in Odisha, Kolkata in West Bengal, Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh, Patiala in Punjab, Rohtak, Sonapat in Haryana and 5 centers in New Delhi....

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

- ▶▶ Telangana Boxing star and the reigning world champion, NikhatZareen, and LovlinaBorgohain, 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.



### Other important Points :

- ▶▶ The Railways team topped the medals tally with 10 medals – five golds, three silvers and two bronze.
- ▶▶ Madhya Pradesh team came second with one gold, two silver and five bronze, and Haryana with two gold and two bronze claimed the third spot.

### Gold medal winners .

| Category | Winner               | Category | Winner                  |
|----------|----------------------|----------|-------------------------|
| 48kg:    | <b>Manju Rani</b>    | 63kg:    | <b>Shashi Chopra</b>    |
| 50kg:    | <b>NikhathZareen</b> | 66kg:    | <b>Manju Bamboria</b>   |
| 52kg:    | <b>Sakshi</b>        | 70kg:    | <b>SanamachaChanu</b>   |
| 54kg:    | <b>Shiksha</b>       | 75kg:    | <b>LovlinaBorgohain</b> |
| 57kg:    | <b>Manisha</b>       | 81kg:    | <b>Saweety Boora</b>    |
| 60kg:    | <b>Poonam</b>        | 81kg+:   | <b>Nupur..</b>          |

# Important days

## 4th December Nation observed Indian Navy Day

▶▶ **Navy Day in India** is observed annually on **December 4** to recognise the contributions and accomplishments of Indian Naval forces. **Indian Navy Day** is observed to commemorate the attack and to pay tribute to all Navy personnel who sacrificed their lives while serving the country. The Indian Navy is a three-dimensional force that protects our country's interests above, on, and beneath the ocean's surface. Its main goal is to improve its position in the Indian Ocean Zone. Every year, various events are held on this day.



### How is Indian Navy Day 2022 Celebrated ?

- ▶▶ This year, for the first time, Navy Day Celebrations are being conducted outside Delhi. The Indian Navy is all set to demonstrate India's combat prowess and capability through an 'Operational Demonstration' at Visakhapatnam on Sunday.
- ▶▶ The Eastern Naval Command at Visakhapatnam hosts numerous activities and events. The event begins with a wreath-laying ceremony at the war memorial, and it is followed by a display of the naval submarines, ships, aircraft, and other forces at work.
- ▶▶ An open sea swimming competition, Indian Navy Inter School Quiz Competitions, veteran mariners lunches, concerts by the Naval Symphonic Orchestra, tattoo ceremonies, marathons, and other events are organised during the week of Indian Navy Day.

### Indian Navy Day 2022: Significance

- ▶▶ Navy day celebration in India is done with great enthusiasm as far as the beginning of this program is concerned, let us tell you that Navy day celebration starts with offering floral tributes at the war memorial located in RK beach and many more Lasts for days.

## 4th December International Day of Banks

- ▶▶ **International Day of Banks** is celebrated on **December 4** to recognise the importance of multilateral and international development banks in financing sustainable developments. United Nations also observes the day in recognition of the vital role of banking systems in Member State in contributing to the improvement of the standard of living. The International Day of Banks was adopted by the U.N. General Assembly as a way to draw attention to the role that international development banks can play in supporting sustainable development. Banks support the international community's goals by financing the sustainable development of member nations and providing information for achieving these goals.



### BANKING

#### International Day of Banks : Significance

- ▶▶ The day is celebrated to the recognition of the significant potential of multilateral development banks and other international development banks in financing sustainable development and providing know-how, and also in recognition of the vital role of the banking systems in the Member States in contributing to the improvement of the standard of living.

#### International Day of Banks : History

- ▶▶ In 2019, the United Nations General Assembly designated **December 4** as the **International Day of Banks**. It is celebrated for the first time in 2020. International Day of Banks was instituted by the **United Nations General Assembly** to acknowledge the importance of banks and the role they play in the financial stability and development of their communities. Banks are financial institutions. They accept money from the public in the form of savings or current deposits, which they lend to others who need it and can provide some collateral. The concept of banking began with the simple implementation of credit in the barter system with the use of collateral.

## 5th December World Soil Day

- ▶▶ **December 5** is celebrated annually as **World Soil Day** to highlight the importance of healthy soil and promote sustainable management of soil resources. The event aims to raise awareness of the importance of soil quality for human well-being, food security and ecosystems, and events are held at the UN FAO offices and through community based events. The day was first considered by the **International Union of Soil Sciences** in



2002, but was not officially endorsed by FAO until 2013.

### World Soil Day 2022 : Theme

- ▶▶ The theme for 2022 World Soil Day is ‘**Soils: Where Food Begins**’. It emphasises upon the importance of maintaining healthy ecosystems and human well-being. The theme aims to highlight the growing changes in soil management, increase soil awareness, and inspire efforts and people to improve soil health.

## 7th December International Civil Aviation Day

- ▶▶ On **December 7, International Civil Aviation Day** is observed globally. The aviation industry has made a huge impact on our lives. The day is observed by the **International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO)**, a United Nations (UN) body responsible for maintaining the international standards for aviation safety.

### How is the day celebrated?

- ▶▶ The day is celebrated to acknowledge how flights have made the world more accessible and travelling easy. International Civil Aviation Day is celebrated to raise awareness of the importance and contributions of the airline industry in all sectors. The ICAO is backed by governments, organizations, companies and even individuals. On this day it hosts a variety of activities and events like seminars, informative sessions, and news announcements regarding civil aviation topics amongst many others.

### International Civil Aviation Day : Theme

- ▶▶ ICAO has decided that from now until 2023, the theme of International Civil Aviation Day will be: “**Advancing Innovation for Global Aviation Development**”. Every five years the ICAO selects a special anniversary theme for the global day. However, for the years between the anniversary, the UN body select a theme for four years.

### International Civil Aviation Day : History

- ▶▶ In 1944, 54 nations came together to sign the Convention on International Civil Aviation, also known as the ‘**Chicago Convention**’. The convention approves the rules of airspace, aircraft registration and safety. It was in 1994, as part of ICAO’s **50th anniversary** that International Civil Aviation Day was established keeping in mind that the future development of civil aviation will let the nations and people of the world bond and have friendly ties. The UN General Assembly then urged the governments and other relevant organizations to take relevant measures to celebrate this day.



**!MPORTANT**

- ▶▶ **International Civil Aviation Organization Headquarter: Montreal, Canada.**
- ▶▶ **International Civil Aviation Organization Council President: Salvatore Sciacchitano.**
- ▶▶ **International Civil Aviation Organization Founded: 7 December 1944.**

## 7th December National Armed Forces Flag Day

- ▶▶ 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.



- ▶▶ The money collection is managed by the local branches of the **Kendriya Sainik Board** in India, which is a subsidiary of the Ministry of Defense. It is overseen by the governing committee, and both official and unauthorised voluntary organisations keep a watch on it.

### National Armed Forces Flag Day 2022 : Significance

- ▶▶ This day is observed to encourage public engagement and support across the country for the following goals:
- ▶▶ To provide rehabilitative assistance to the relatives of war victims.
- ▶▶ To take initiatives to safeguard the well-being of service members and their families.

## 9th December International Anti-Corruption Day

- ▶▶ The world celebrate **International Anti-Corruption Day** on **December 9**. The main motive behind marking this day is to spread awareness about a corruption-free society. Everyone knows that corruption affects every area of society. The purpose behind a day of this kind is to make people aware of the repercussions of indulging in corruption and motivate them to follow a righteous path.

### International Anti-Corruption Day 2022 : Theme

- ▶▶ This year, the theme for International Anti-Corruption Day is **"Uniting the world against corruption."** The day seeks to highlight the crucial link between anti-



corruption and peace, security, and development. At its core is the notion that tackling this crime is the right and responsibility of everyone, and that only through cooperation and the involvement of each and every person and institution can we overcome the negative impact of this crime.

### International Anti-Corruption Day : History

- ▶▶ On 31 October 2003, the General Assembly adopted the United Nations Convention against Corruption and requested that the Secretary-General designate the **United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)** as secretariat for the Convention's Conference of States Parties (resolution 58/4).

**!MPORTANT**

- ▶▶ **United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Director-General: GhadaFathiWaly;**
- ▶▶ **United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Headquarters: Vienna, Austria;**
- ▶▶ **United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Founded: 1997.**

## Important Days & Dates in December 2022

| Date        | Days   |
|-------------|--|
| 1 December  | World AIDS Day                                 |
| 2 December  | National Pollution Control Day                 |
| 2 December  | International Day for the Abolition of Slavery |
| 3 December  | World Day of the Handicapped                   |
| 4 December  | Indian Navy Day                                |
| 5 December  | International Volunteer Day                    |
| 5 December  | World Soil Day                                 |
| 7 December  | Armed Forces Flag Day                          |
| 7 December  | International Civil Aviation Day               |
| 9 December  | International Anti-Corruption Day              |
| 10 December | Human Rights Day                               |
| 11 December | International Mountain Day                     |
| 14 December | National Energy Conservation Day               |
| 16 December | Vijay Diwas                                    |
| 18 December | Minorities Rights Day in India                 |
| 18 December | International Migrants Day                     |
| 19 December | Goa's Liberation Day                           |
| 20 December | International Human Solidarity Day             |
| 22 December | National Mathematics Day                       |
| 23 December | KisanDiwas                                     |
| 24 December | National Consumer Rights Day                   |
| 25 December | Christmas Day                                  |
| 25 December | Good Governance Day (India)                    |
| 31 December | New Year's Eve                                 |


**BANK-SSC-RLY-INS-IBPS-RRB Quiz**

1. When is the 'International Day of Persons with Disabilities' observed annually?  
 [A] 1 December [B] 3 December [C] 5 December [D] 7 December
2. Researchers from which institution have developed a energy-efficient computing platform to build next-generation electronic devices?  
 [A] IIT Madras [B] IIT Delhi  
 [C] Indian Institute of Science [D] IIT Bombay
3. As per recent data, what is the trend of India's annual rate of HIV infection between 2010 and 2021?  
 [A] Declining [B] Raising  
 [C] No change [D] No data available
4. Which state has passed bill to raise Reservations in the state to 76%?  
 [A] Andhra Pradesh [B] Odisha  
 [C] Chhattisgarh [D] Kerala
5. Which High Court has banned use of mobile phones inside temples?  
 [A] Madras High Court [B] Delhi High Court  
 [C] Bombay High Court [D] Calcutta High Court
6. Which institution manufactures the Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) Mk-III squadron-840 Sqn (CG)  
 [A] DRDO [B] HAL [C] Mazagon Dock [D] BHEL
7. India signed 'Economic Development Cooperation Fund loan' agreement for Intelligent Transport System, with which country?  
 [A] Australia [B] France [C] South Korea [D] Sweden
8. What is the gross GST revenue collected in the month of November 2022?  
 [A] Rs 1.46 lakh crore [B] Rs 1.26 lakh crore  
 [C] Rs 1.06 lakh crore [D] Rs 0.96 lakh crore

1-B

2-C

3-A

4-C

5-A

6-B

7-C

8-A



9. Wassenaar Arrangement, which was seen in the news, is associated with which field?  
 [A] Conventional weapons [B] Climate Change  
 [C] Crypto-currency [D] Nuclear Weapons
10. Which institution released the 'State of Global Water Resources 2021' ?  
 [A] FAO [B] WMO [C] UNEP [D] UNFCCC
11. Which state has hired management consultancy McKinsey to achieve the target of doubling its GSDP?  
 [A] Karnataka [B] Uttarakhand [C] Odisha [D] Telangana
12. Which country has successfully used steam to propel Moon spacecraft?  
 [A] USA [B] UAE [C] Japan [D] China
13. 'Hornbill Festival' is the flagship cultural event of which Indian state?  
 [A] Assam [B] Nagaland [C] Sikkim [D] Arunachal Pradesh
14. Agni Warrior is a bilateral defence exercise held between India and which country?  
 [A] USA [B] France [C] Singapore [D] Sri Lanka
15. India supported the proposal of which country to include digitization in International Maritime Organization's (IMO) Strategic Plan?  
 [A] USA [B] Russia [C] UAE [D] South Africa
16. As per the recent NSO data, what is India's gross domestic product (GDP) growth for the July-September quarter of 2022-23?  
 [A] 6.1% [B] 6.3% [C] 6.5% [D] 7.2 %
17. India-US joint military exercise 'Yudh Abhyas-2022' is held in which Indian state?  
 [A] Goa [B] Andhra Pradesh [C] Uttarakhand [D] Sikkim
18. As per recent data, what is the Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) in India during 2018-20?  
 [A] 130 per lakh live births [B] 101 per lakh live births  
 [C] 97 per lakh live births [D] 85 per lakh live births
19. As per the World Bank's Migration and Development Brief, what is the expected Remittance flows to India in 2022-23?  
 [A] USD 50 billion [B] USD 100 billion  
 [C] USD 150 billion [D] USD 200 billion
20. Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA) between India and which country is set to enter into force from December 2022?  
 [A] UAE [B] Australia [C] France [D] Sri Lanka

9-A 10-B 11-B 12-C 13-B 14-C 15-C 16-B 17-C 18-C  
 19-B 20-B

21. What is the Consumer Price Index (CPI)-based retail inflation for November in India?  
 [A] 5.22 % [B] 5.88 % [C] 6.22 % [D] 8.88 %
22. What is the position of India in the 2022 Hurun Global list?  
 [A] 3 [B] 5 [C] 7 [D] 10
23. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the All India Institute of Ayurveda in which state?  
 [A] Haryana [B] Himachal Pradesh  
 [C] Goa [D] Telangana
24. Which Indian cricketer broke Chris Gayle's record for the fastest to 200 in an ODI innings?  
 [A] Rohit Sharma [B] Ravindra Jadeja  
 [C] Ishan Kishan [D] K L Rahul
25. Which institution released the 'International Debt Report 2022'?  
 [A] World Bank [B] World Economic Forum  
 [C] ADB [D] AIIB
26. When is the UNICEF Day observed every year?  
 [A] December 10 [B] December 11  
 [C] December 14 [D] December 15
27. Which is the first state to launch its dedicated climate change mission?  
 [A] Kerala [B] Tamil Nadu [C] Telangana [D] Odisha
28. What is the theme of 'International Mountain Day 2022'?  
 [A] Climate Change and Mountains [B] Women move mountains  
 [C] Protect Mountains [D] Mountains are Monuments
29. Which city hosted the 'National Conclave of Universal Health Coverage'?  
 [A] Pune [B] Varanasi [C] Gandhi Nagar [D] Mysuru
30. Which city is the host of the first G20 Finance and Central Bank Deputies (FCBD) meeting?  
 [A] Mumbai [B] Bengaluru [C] Chennai [D] Kolkata
31. Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu was sworn in as the Chief Minister of which state?  
 [A] Goa [B] Gujarat [C] Himachal Pradesh [D] Uttarakhand
32. Which city is the host of the 'G20 Development Working Group (DWG) meeting'?  
 [A] Mumbai [B] Varanasi [C] Ahmedabad [D] Chennai
33. Meizotropis pellita (Patwa), which was added to IUCN Red List, belongs to which species?  
 [A] Turtle [B] Medicinal Plant [C] Snake [D] Butterfly

21-B 22-B 23-C 24-C 25-A 26-B 27-B 28-B 29-B  
 30-B 31-C 32-A 33-B

34. What is the theme of the 'World Soil Day 2022'?
- [A] Soils: Where food begins [B] Soils: Where life begins  
 [C] Soils: Where earth begins [D] Soils: Where all begins
35. Where is India's first carbon neutral farm located?
- [A] Assam [B] Gujarat [C] Kerala [D] Telangana
36. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has signed a Currency Swap Agreement with which country's monetary authority?
- [A] China [B] Russia [C] Maldives [D] Sri Lanka
37. Dina Boluarte was recently selected as the first female President of which country?
- [A] France [B] Peru [C] Brazil [D] Australia
38. Which Union Ministry is set to launch India's first-ever surety bonds insurance product to boost infrastructure?
- [A] Ministry of Road Transport and Highways  
 [B] Ministry of Finance  
 [C] Ministry of Communication  
 [D] Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
39. Which institution has approved USD 780 million loan to expand Chennai metro rail network?
- [A] World Bank [B] ADB [C] IMF [D] AIIB
40. Which state/UT is the host of 9th World Ayurveda Congress and Arogya Expo 2022?
- [A] Gujarat [B] Goa [C] Telangana [D] Bihar
41. Which institution released the report titled 'Climate Investment Opportunities in India's Cooling Sector'?
- [A] NITI Aayog [B] World Bank  
 [C] World Economic Forum [D] International Monetary Fund
42. Which country has recorded deaths of children by the bacterial infection 'Strep A'?
- [A] India [B] United Kingdom  
 [C] Germany [D] Bangladesh
43. Which institution released the report titled 'Preventing injuries and violence: an overview'?
- [A] UNICEF [B] WHO [C] UNESCO [D] UN Women
44. Tungareashwar Wildlife Sanctuary, which was seen in the news, is located in which state?
- [A] Maharashtra [B] Karnataka  
 [C] Kerala [D] Andhra Pradesh

34-A 35-C 36-C 37-B 38-A 39-B 40-B 41-B 42-B 43-B  
 44-A

45. What is the rank of India in the 'Arton Capital Passport Index 2022'?
- [A] 87 [B] 80 [C] 92 [D] 95
46. What is the GDP forecast for 2022-23 for India, as per the World Bank India Development Update?
- [A] 8.1 % [B] 7.5 % [C] 7.2 % [D] 6.9 %
47. After the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) Meeting in December 2022, what is the repo rate?
- [A] 5.9 % [B] 6.25 % [C] 6.50 % [D] 6.75 %
48. Which cyclone recently formed over Bay of Bengal, crossing the coasts of southern states?
- [A] Mandous [B] Asani [C] Sitrang [D] Mocha
49. Y K Alagh, who passed away recently, was associated with which profession?
- [A] Economist [B] Sports-person [C] Business-person [D] Scientist
50. Which country is the host of the '12th World Hindi Conference'?
- [A] Italy [B] Germany [C] UK [D] Fiji
51. World Bank recently approved USD 250 million financing to which country to strengthen environment management?
- [A] Pakistan [B] Afghanistan [C] Bangladesh [D] India
52. Which country is the largest trading partner of India after China and US, as of 2022?
- [A] Australia [B] UAE [C] United Kingdom [D] Russia
53. Which country abolished morality police known as the Gasht-e-Ershad or 'Guidance Patrol'?
- [A] UAE [B] Iran [C] Iraq [D] Qatar
54. Olivier Giroud, who was seen in the news, is a famous football player from which country?
- [A] France [B] Australia [C] England [D] Brazil
55. Which country is the host of the Asia and the Pacific Regional Meeting (APRM) of the International Labour Organisation (ILO)?
- [A] India [B] Sri Lanka [C] Thailand [D] Singapore
56. Semeru Volcano, which was seen in the news, is located in which country?
- [A] Philippines [B] Indonesia [C] Japan [D] Australia
57. Which city is the host of the First G-20 Sherpa meeting held in India?
- [A] Udaipur [B] Jodhpur [C] Varanasi [D] Gandhi Nagar
58. Who has been appointed as the Chairperson of National Statistical Commission?
- [A] Rajeeva Laxman Karandikar [B] Amitabh Kant  
[C] Rajiv Kumar [D] Parameswaran

45-A 46-D 47-B 48-A 49-A 50-D 51-C 52-B 53-B 54-A  
55-D 56-B 57-A 58-A

59. Which country launched its latest nuclear stealth bomber named 'B-21'?
- [A] Israel [B] Russia [C] USA [D] Ukraine
- 
60. Which is the only authorised institution for sale and encashment of electoral bonds in India?
- [A] State Bank of India [B] NITI Aayog  
[C] Reserve Bank of India [D] Securities Exchange Board of India
- 
61. Which country launched the 'Surface Water and Ocean Topography (SWOT) spacecraft'?
- [A] USA [B] Russia [C] Israel [D] China
- 
62. ICMR-NARFBR (National Animal Resource Facility for Biomedical Research) has been inaugurated in which city?
- [A] Varanasi [B] Jaipur [C] Hyderabad [D] Mysuru
- 
63. Which institution adopted a plan for a global minimum 15 percent tax on multinational businesses?
- [A] G-7 [B] G-20 [C] European Union [D] OPEC
- 
64. Indian-origin leader Leo Varadkar has been elected as the Prime Minister of which country?
- [A] Sri Lanka [B] Ireland [C] Singapore [D] Maldives
- 
65. When is the 'International Migrants Day' celebrated every year?
- [A] December 15 [B] December 18  
[C] December 21 [D] December 23
- 
66. 'Youth Co:Lab' youth innovation movement is an initiative of Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) and which institution?
- [A] WEF [B] UNDP [C] UNICEF [D] UNESCO
- 
67. Which Indian initiative has been recognised by the Conference of Parties (COP15) to the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD)?
- [A] Swachh Bharat Mission [B] Namami Gange  
[C] National Mission for Green India [D] Global Water Project
- 
68. What is the new name of 'Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Ko Kaam Karyakram (PMKKK)'?
- [A] Pradhan Mantri Virasat Ka Samvardhan (PM VIKAS)  
[B] Mission Karmayogi  
[C] Samarth Scheme  
[D] Pradhan Mantri SVANidhi Scheme
- 
69. Which company became the official partner of FIH Odisha Hockey Men's World Cup 2023?
- [A] Byju's [B] Tata Steel [C] Reliance Industries [D] Jio

59-C 60-A 61-A 62-C 63-C 64-B 65-B 66-B 67-B 68-A  
69-B

70. 'SURYA KIRAN' is a joint training Exercise conducted between India and which country?  
 [A] Nepal [B] Sri Lanka [C] France [D] Australia
71. Which city is the host of India Water Impact Summit (IWIS 2022)?  
 [A] Varanasi [B] New Delhi [C] Bengaluru [D] Jaipur
72. Ministry of Agriculture partnered with which department to develop Krishi-Decision Support System (Krishi-DSS)?  
 [A] Department of Science and Technology  
 [B] Department of Space  
 [C] Department of Commerce  
 [D] Indian Computer Emergency Response Team
73. Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud inaugurated 10 district court digitisation hubs (DCDH) in which state?  
 [A] Andhra Pradesh [B] Odisha  
 [C] Tamil Nadu [D] Kerala
74. Airbnb signed MoU with which state government to promote inclusive tourism?  
 [A] Kerala [B] Goa [C] Sikkim [D] Punjab
75. Bypore Uru is a flagship product of which state?  
 [A] Odisha [B] Assam [C] Kerala [D] West Bengal
76. Which country has announced the historic Nuclear Fusion Breakthrough?  
 [A] China [B] USA [C] Russia [D] India
77. Who is the head of the Supreme Court Collegium, which recently sent its first set of recommendations?  
 [A] Narendra Modi [B] DY Chandrachud  
 [C] Rajiv Kumar [D] Amitabh Kant
78. Which state/UT has proposed to launch a unique alpha-numeric identification number for all families?  
 [A] Jharkhand [B] Jammu and Kashmir  
 [C] Meghalaya [D] Kolkata
79. Which institution launched the 'International Climate Club'?  
 [A] G-20 [B] G-7 [C] ASEAN [D] SAARC
80. Which state recently passed a bill to remove Governor as Chancellor of state's universities?  
 [A] Kerala [B] Tamil Nadu [C] Karnataka [D] Gujarat

70-A 71-B 72-B 73-B 74-B 75-C 76-B 77-B 78-B 79-B  
 80-A

81. Which country is the host of the 'UN Biodiversity Conference- COP15'?
- [A] China [B] Sweden [C] Canada [D] Australia
82. Which country is the FIFA World Cup champion in the year 2022?
- [A] France [B] Argentina [C] England [D] Morocco
83. Sela Pass tunnel, which was seen in the news, is located in which state?
- [A] Odisha [B] Arunachal Pradesh  
[C] West Bengal [D] Assam
84. 'Rythu Bandhu' is a flagship scheme of which Indian state/UT?
- [A] Kerala [B] Telangana [C] Karnataka [D] Odisha
85. As per the UN Nature Deal, what percent of the planet is sought to be protected by 2030?
- [A] 25 % [B] 30 % [C] 50 % [D] 75 %
86. The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) has 23 targets that the world needs to achieve by which year?
- [A] 2025 [B] 2030 [C] 2035 [D] 2040
87. Which institution released the report titled 'Coal 2022: Analysis and forecast to 2025'?
- [A] UNEP [B] FAO [C] UNFCCC [D] IEA
88. Which Union Ministry launched the country's first-ever surety bond insurance product?
- [A] Union Finance Ministry  
[B] Union Road, transport and highways Ministry  
[C] Union Corporate Affairs Ministry  
[D] Union Commerce and Industry Ministry
89. Which country has launched 'Group of Friends' to promote accountability for crimes against peacekeepers?
- [A] Ukraine [B] India [C] Sri Lanka [D] Bangladesh
90. Which country has partnered with PTC India for supply of power from Indian power market?
- [A] Nepal [B] Sri Lanka [C] Bangladesh [D] Bhutan
91. As per Finance Ministry's latest data, what is India's gross domestic product growth in the first half of 2022-23?
- [A] 7.7 % [B] 8.7 % [C] 9.7 % [D] 10.7 %
92. Which country is the host of special negotiation round on three of the four pillars of Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) in February 2023?
- [A] USA [B] India [C] France [D] Germany

81-C 82-B 83-B 84-B 85-B 86-B 87-D 88-B 89-B 90-D  
 91-C 92-B

93. What is the total amount raised by the Government through disinvestment and strategic sale of PSEs since 2014?  
 [A] Rs 1.01 lakh crores [B] Rs 2.02 lakh crores  
 [C] Rs 3.03 lakh crores [D] Rs 4.04 lakh crores
94. Which state/UT generated most number of jobs under the PMEGP scheme in the current fiscal year?  
 [A] Uttarakhand [B] Jammu and Kashmir  
 [C] Goa [D] New Delhi
95. Which institution released the '2022 in Nine Charts' report?  
 [A] WEF [B] IMF [C] World Bank [D] ADB
96. 'Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' has been appointed as the new Prime Minister of which country?  
 [A] Bangladesh [B] Nepal [C] Maldives [D] Mauritius
97. Emperor penguins, which were seen in the news, are native to which region/ country?  
 [A] Antarctica [B] Australia [C] Greenland [D] Iceland
98. Union Minister Anurag Singh Thakur inaugurated Sports Science Centre in which city?  
 [A] Pune [B] Amravati [C] Udupi [D] Varanasi
99. India has agreed to start negotiations for a free trade agreement with which neighbouring country?  
 [A] China [B] Sri Lanka [C] Bangladesh [D] Nepal
100. Which institution has set up 'Central Excise and Service Tax Settlement Commission'?  
 [A] SEBI [B] CBIC  
 [C] CBDT [D] Enforcement Directorate

93-D 94-B 95-C 96-B 97-A 98-C 99-C 100-B

ANSWERS



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**Shankar Rathod**  
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**Shivaj Kolambekar**  
Saraswat Bank Junior Officer



**VIKAS MEENA**  
BANK OF INDIA Clerk



**Sanghmitra Gaikwad**  
Technical Assistant



**Abhishek Kumar**  
SBI Clerk



**Manish Vikas Singh**  
ECGC - PO



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DNS Bank Asst. Mang



**Vishakha Rokde**  
Saraswat Bank Junior Assistant



**Madhavi Pawar**  
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