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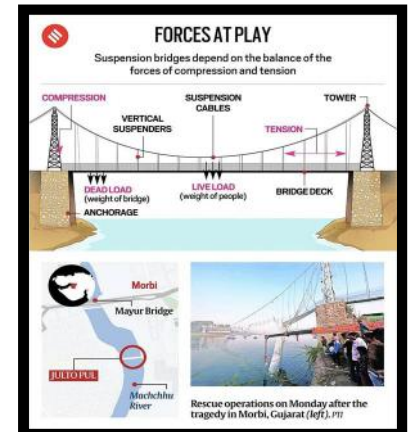
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CURRENT AFFAIRS

NATIONAL NEWS

RECENTLY, A SUSPENSION BRIDGE COLLAPSED OVER THE RIVER MACHCHU, IN GUJARAT'S MORBI DISTRICT, WHICH KILLED ALMOST 135 PEOPLE-

- The suspension bridge, or Jhulta Pul, was built by the ruler of the princely state of Morbi, Sir Waghji Thakor, in 1877.
- It was made to reflect the 'progressive and scientific nature of the rulers of Morbi'. It was inaugurated by the then-Bombay governor, Richard Temple, in 1879.
- A suspension bridge is a type of bridge in which the deck is hung below suspension cables on vertical suspenders.
- The basic structural components include stiffening girders, two or more main suspension cables, and towers and anchorages for cables at either end of the bridge.
- The main cables are suspended between the towers and are connected to the anchorage or the bridge itself. The vertical suspenders carry the weight of the deck and the commuter load on it.



C-295 TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT MANUFACTURING FACILITY-

- Recently, the Prime Minister of India laid the foundation stone for the C-295 transport aircraft manufacturing facility in Vadodra, Gujarat.
- Set up by Airbus Defence and Space and Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL).
- This is the first time a private sector company would be manufacturing a full aircraft in the country. This is a huge step forward for India in the global aircraft manufacturing domain.
- The C295 was originally produced by a Spanish aircraft manufacturer named Construcciones Aeronauticas SA.
- This company is now part of Airbus and the aircraft's manufacturing takes place at Airbus's plant in Spain.
- The C-295MW is a transport aircraft of 5-10 tonne capacity.
- Request For Proposal (RFP) was issued to global firms in May 2013 and the sole bid by Airbus and TASL was approved by the Defence Acquisition Council in May 2015.
- In September 2021, India signed a Rs 21,935 crore deal with Airbus Defence and Space to procure 56 C295 aircraft to replace the IAF's ageing Avro-748 planes, which entered service in the early 1960s.
- Of the 56 aircraft contracted, 16 will come in fly-away condition from Spain between September 2023 and August 2025.
- The remaining 40 will be manufactured here to be delivered between September 2026 and 2031 at the rate of eight aircraft per year.
- The C-295 is also a potential replacement for the AN-32 aircraft, the workhorse of the IAF with over 100 of them in service. The AN-32s will be in service upto 2032 and beyond.



SUPREME COURT UPHOLDS EWS QUOTA-

- Recently, the Supreme Court has upheld the validity of the 103rd Constitutional Amendment which provides 10% reservation for the Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) among forward castes in government jobs and colleges across India.

Majority View-

- The 103rd constitutional amendment cannot be said to breach the basic structure of the Constitution.
- The EWS quota does not violate equality and the basic structure of the constitution. Reservation in addition to existing reservation does not violate provisions of the Constitution.
- Reservations for EWS does not violate basic structure on account of 50% ceiling limit fixed by Mandal Commission because ceiling limit is not inflexible. 50% rule formed by the Supreme Court in the Indira Sawhney judgment in 1992 was "not inflexible".

Minority View-

- Reservations were designed as a powerful tool to enable equal access. Introduction of economic criteria and excluding SC (Scheduled Castes), ST(Scheduled Tribe), OBC (Other Backward Classes), saying they had these pre-existing benefits is injustice.
- The EWS quota may have a reparative mechanism to have a level playing field and the exclusion of SC, ST, OBC discriminates against equality code and violates basic structure.
- Permitting the breach of 50% ceiling limit would become "a gateway for further infractions and result in compartmentalization (division into sections).

Economically Weaker Section (EWS) Quota-

- The 10% EWS quota was introduced under the 103rd Constitution (Amendment) Act, 2019 by amending Articles 15 and 16.
- It inserted Article 15 (6) and Article 16 (6).
- It is for economic reservation in jobs and admissions in educational institutes for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS).
- It was enacted to promote the welfare of the poor not covered by the 50% reservation policy for Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs) and Socially and Educationally Backward Classes (SEBC).
- It enables both the Centre and the States to provide reservations to the EWS of society.



INDIAN RAILWAYS ACCOMPLISHES ELECTRIFICATION OF 82% OF THE TOTAL BG NETWORK-

- The Indian Railways said it completed the electrification of 82 per cent of its broad gauge network.
- The national transporter said it achieved 1,223 route km of electrification in the 2022-23 financial year till October 2022, as compared to 895 route km (RKMs) during the corresponding period of FY 2021-22.
- The railway is working steadily towards achieving net zero Carbon Emissions by 2030 to become the world's largest Green Railway.
- As on October 31, out of 65,141 RKM of broad gauge (BG) network of Indian Railways, 53,470 BG RKM have been electrified, which is 82.08 per cent of the total BG network.



- It is worth mentioning that record electrification of 6,366 RKMs was achieved in Indian Railways 'history during 2021-22. Earlier, highest electrification was 6,015 RKM during 2020-21.

WOMEN REPRESENTATION IN PARLIAMENT-

- Recently, the representation of women in parliament in New Zealand crossed the 50% mark.
- According to the Inter-Parliamentary Union, New Zealand is among a half-dozen nations in the world that can claim at least 50% female representation in their parliament by 2022.
- Other nations include Cuba, Mexico, Nicaragua, Rwanda and the United Arab Emirates. Globally, about 26% of lawmakers are women.

As per the latest Election Commission of India (ECI) data-

- As of October 2021, Women represent 10.5% of the total members of the Parliament.
- The scenario for women Members of Legislative Assemblies (MLAs) across all state assemblies in India is even worse, with the national average being just 9%.
- In the last 75 years of independence, women's representation in Lok Sabha has not even increased by 10%.
- In electoral representation, India has fallen several places in the Inter-Parliamentary Union's global ranking of women's parliamentary presence, from 117 after the 2014 election to 143 as of January 2020.
- India is currently behind Pakistan (106), Bangladesh (98) and Nepal (43) and ahead of Sri Lanka (182).

PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA VISITED JHANSI ON THE EVE OF RANI LAKSHMIBAI'S BIRTH ANNIVERSARY-

- Rani Lakshmbai is also known as Jhansi Ki Rani. She was the queen of the Maratha-ruled princely state of Jhansi.
- She was one of the leading figures of the Indian Revolt of 1857. She's seen as a symbol of resistance to British rule in India.
- She was born on 19th November 1828 in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh. She was originally named Manikarnika.
- While pursuing studies, she also took formal training in martial arts, which included horse riding, shooting and fencing. Manu's companions included Nana Sahib (the adopted son of the Peshwa) and Tatya Tope.
- At the age of 14, Manu got married to the Maharaja of Jhansi, Gangadhar Rao Newalkar, whose first wife had passed away before having a child and who was trying to have an heir to succeed him at the throne.
- Hence, Manikarnika became Laxmibai, Rani of Jhansi. Rani Lakshmbai gave birth to a son in who died after just three months of birth. The couple later adopted a son, Damodar Rao, from Gangadhar Rao's extended family.
- Rani Lakshmbai was one of the brave warriors of India's struggle for Independence. In 1853, when the Maharaja of Jhansi died, Lord Dalhousie refused to acknowledge the (adopted) child and applied the Doctrine of Lapse, and annexed the state.
- Rani Lakshmbai fought bravely against the British so as to save her empire from annexation. She died fighting on the battlefield on 17th June 1858. When the Indian National Army started its first female unit (in 1943), it was named after the valiant queen of Jhansi.

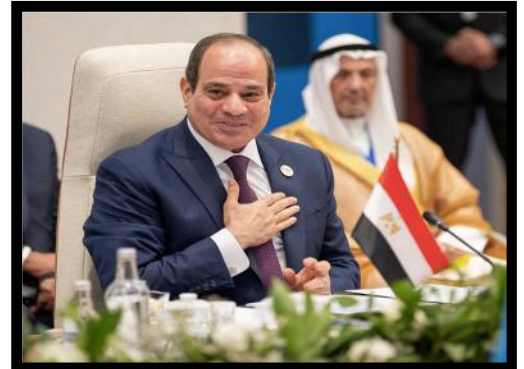


Doctrine of Lapse-

- It was an annexation policy followed widely by Lord Dalhousie when he was India's Governor-General from 1848 to 1856.
- According to this, any princely state that was under the direct or indirect control of the East India Company where the ruler did not have a legal male heir would be annexed by the company.
- As per this, any adopted son of the Indian ruler could not be proclaimed as heir to the kingdom.

EGYPT'S PRESIDENT TO BE CHIEF GUEST AT INDIA'S REPUBLIC DAY-

- Egyptian President Abdel Fattah Al Sisi will be the chief guest at Republic Day in January 2023.
- He will be the first such guest since 2020, as plans for guests in 2021 and 2022 were cancelled due to COVID-19.
- The year 2022 is of particular significance since it marks the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations between India and Egypt.
- Egypt has been invited as a 'Guest Country' during India's Presidency of G-20 in 2022-23.
- India and Egypt are two of the world's oldest civilizations which have enjoyed a history of close contact from ancient times.
- In modern times, Mahatma Gandhi and Saad Zaghloul shared common goals on the independence of their countries.
- The India-Egypt Bilateral Trade Agreement has been in operation since March 1978 and is based on the Most Favoured Nation clause and the bilateral trade has increased more than five times in the last ten years. Bilateral trade has expanded rapidly in 2021-22, amounting to 7.26 billion registering a 75% increase compared to FY 2020-21.
- The top Indian imports from Egypt were Mineral Oil/Petroleum, Fertilizers, Inorganic Chemicals and Cotton and main items of export to Egypt from India were Buffalo Meat, Iron & Steel, Light Vehicles and Cotton Yarn.
- India is the 3rd largest export market for Egypt, 6th largest trading partner and 7th largest exporter to Egypt.
- Egypt and India enjoy cordial defence relations. There was close cooperation between the Air Forces, with efforts at jointly developing a fighter aircraft in the 1960s. The first ever IAF-EAF Joint Tactical Air Exercise, Desert Warrior, was held in 2021.



RECENTLY, THE INDIAN PRESIDENT HAS RAISED THE ISSUE OF THE PLIGHT OF A LARGE NUMBER OF UNDERTRIALS HOLED UP IN THE PRISONS-

- An undertrial is a person who is currently on trial or who is imprisoned on remand whilst awaiting trial or a person who is on a trial in a court of law.
- The 78th Report of Law Commission also includes a person who is in judicial custody on remand during investigation in the definition of an 'undertrial'.
- As per NCRB (National Crime Report Bureau), over the last 10 years, the number of undertrials in jails has risen constantly and peaked in 2021.
- In 2020, about 76% of all prison inmates in the country were undertrials, of which about 68% were either illiterate or school dropouts.

National Crime Records Bureau
Government agency

ncrb.gov.in

The National Crime Records Bureau, abbreviated to NCRB, is an Indian government agency responsible for collecting and analyzing crime data as defined by the Indian Penal Code and Special and Local Laws. NCRB is headquartered in New Delhi and is part of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India. [Wikipedia](#)

Founded: 11 March 1986
Jurisdiction: India
Headquarters: Delhi - 110037
Agency executive: Vivek Gogia, IPS, Director;
Key document: Creation of NCRB (Notification)
Parent department: Ministry of Home Affairs

- Delhi and Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) were found to have the highest ratio of undertrials in jails at 91%, followed by Bihar and Punjab at 85%, and Odisha at 83%.
- About 27% of all undertrials were found to be illiterate, and 41% had dropped out before Class X.

What are the Concerns-

- **Resourceless Prisoners-** There are many poor and resourceless undertrials who continue to be disproportionately arrested, routinely remanded to judicial custody in prisons. They are unable to seek and secure bail either because of lack of economic resources or because of fear of the social stigma outside.
- **Violence and Abuses in jail-** Prisons are often dangerous places for those they hold. Group violence is also endemic and riots are common. No conduct of the prison authority is criminalized, making authority act in negligence which could and do result in the death of inmates.
- **Health problems-** Most of the prisons face problems of overcrowding and shortage of adequate space to lodge prisoners in safe and healthy conditions.
- **Suffering of the Families and Social Stigma-** The family also faces social stigma and social exclusion, leading to circumstances propelling family towards delinquency and exploitation.

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.
- 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.
- 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.



Integral Coach Factory is a manufacturer of rail coaches located in Perambur, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India. It was established in 1955 and is owned and operated by the Indian Railways. It is located in Perambur, in the suburbs of Chennai. [Wikipedia](#)

Address: Lakshmpuram, Perambur, Chennai, Tamil Nadu 600038

Departments: ICF Administrative Building · ICF IT Centre

Phone: 044 2626 3091

Founded: 2 October 1955

Parent organization: Indian Railways

Number of employees: 11,300 (2018)

Key people: A. K. Agarwal, IRSME; (General Manager)

RECENTLY, NAGALAND HAS CELEBRATED ITS 60TH STATEHOOD DAY ON DECEMBER 1ST 2022-

- Nagaland statehood day also marks the beginning of Hornbill festival in Nagaland.
- Nagaland was formally recognised as a separate state on 1st December, 1963, with Kohima being declared as its capital.
- The State of Nagaland Act, 1962, was enacted by the Parliament to give Nagaland statehood.
- After India became independent in 1947, the Naga territory initially remained a part of Assam. However, a strong nationalist movement began seeking a political union of the Naga tribes, and extremists demanded outright secession from the Indian union.
- In 1957, the Naga Hills region of Assam and the Tuensang frontier division to the northeast were brought together under a single unit directly administered by the Indian government.
- In 1960 it was resolved that Nagaland should become a state of the Indian union. Nagaland achieved statehood in 1963, and a democratically elected government took office in 1964.



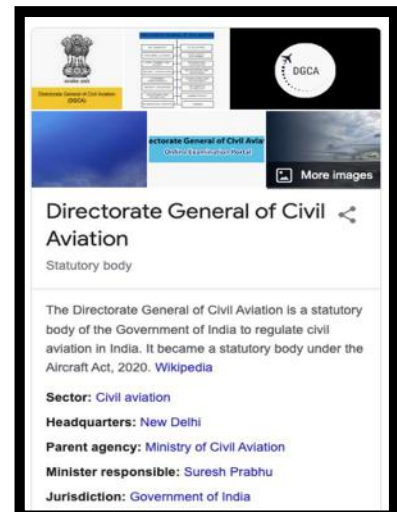
PRESIDENCY OF G20, SCO, UNSC IN 2022-

- December of 2022 began with India assuming the presidency of two global bodies — G20 on the first day of the month and UNSC on the second and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in 2023 when major powers are not even talking to each other and India alone, now the fifth largest economy, is interacting with each of them, presents a historic opportunity.
- New Delhi has said that while its G20 presidency is driven by the vision of “Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam” (the world is one family), its presidency of the United Nations Security Council seeks to prioritise countering terrorism and reformed multilateralism.
- Leading with the “Five S’s” approach charted out by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Samman (Respect), Samvad (Dialogue), Sahyog (Cooperation), Shanti (Peace), and Samriddhi (Prosperity).



INDIA 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.



DHARAVI REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT-

- Dharavi Redevelopment Project is the makeover of Mumbai's slum cluster, Dharavi.
- The project was initially mooted in 2004, but never got off the ground due to various reasons. Recently, the Adani Group won the bid for this project.
- It entails resettling 68,000 people, including slum dwellers and those with commercial establishments. The rehabilitation construction cost is estimated at 23,000 crore.
- A special purpose vehicle (SPV) is to be formed, with Adani as the lead partner. Adani will hold 80% equity in the SPV while the state government will hold 20%.
- The SPV will construct free housing for eligible slum residents, with amenities and infrastructure such as water and power supply, sewage disposal, piped gas, etc.
- Dharavi is the biggest slum cluster of Asia that lies on prime property right in the middle of Mumbai.
- It is spread over 300 hectares, of which the state government has notified 240 hectares for the project. It was founded in 1882 at the time of British Raj.
- During the 18th century, unplanned localities started to grow when the process of urbanization of Mumbai was going on.
- Half-a-million people or so, live in Dharavi.
- Apart from the currently estimated 56,000 families, it houses tens of thousands of small commercial establishments, ranging from pottery to leather work.
- But living conditions are quite poor, given the density and the lack of many basic amenities.

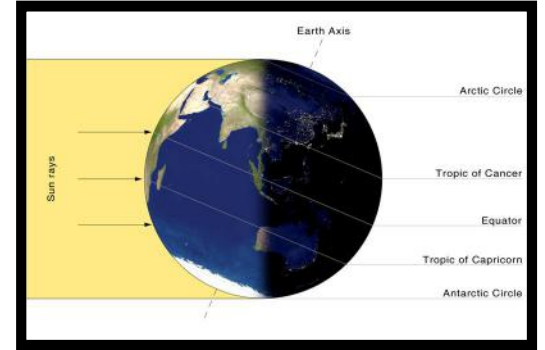


THE PRIME MINISTER STREET VENDOR'S ATMANIRBHAR NIDHI (PM SVANIDHI) SCHEME HAS BEEN EXTENDED BEYOND MARCH, 2022-

- The Prime Minister Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) Scheme has been extended beyond March, 2022.
- Extension of lending period is till December 2024.
- 'SVANidhi Se Samridhhi' was launched in January 2021 to map the socio-economic profile of the PM SVANidhi beneficiaries and their families.
- The scheme was announced as a part of the Economic Stimulus-II under the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.
- It has been implemented since 1st June 2020, for providing affordable working capital loans to street vendors to resume their livelihoods that have been adversely affected due to Covid-19 lockdowns.
- A total of 13,403 vending zones have been identified so far. 42 lakh street vendors are to be provided benefits under PM SVANidhi Scheme by December, 2024.
- It is a Central Sector Scheme i.e., fully funded by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs with the following objectives-
 - A. To facilitate working capital loan;
 - B. To incentivize regular repayment; and
 - C. To reward digital transactions
- The scheme will open up new opportunities for street vendors to move up the economic ladder.
- The Scheme is available to all street vendors engaged in vending in urban areas. Earlier the Scheme was available to all street vendors engaged in vending on or before March 24, 2020.

KASHMIR'S HARSHTEST WINTER PERIOD CHILLAI KALAN BEGINS-

- With the onset of winter solstice, one of the harshest winter periods of 40 days, called Chillai Kalan, has begun in Kashmir.
- Chillai Kalan is a Persian term meaning 'major cold'. The ongoing cold wave is said to reach its peak with Kashmir's mountains covered in snow for weeks, and the famous Dal Lake also reaching freezing point.
- Srinagar recorded the coldest night of the season. The minimum temperature in Srinagar recorded was minus 5.5 degrees Celsius, which is the lowest so far this season.
- While 'Chillai-Kalan' begins on December 21, it will end on January 30. The cold wave continues even after that in Kashmir with a 20-day-long 'Chillai-Khurd' (small cold) and a 10-day-long 'Chillai-Bachha' (baby cold).



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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

G-20 SUMMIT 2022-

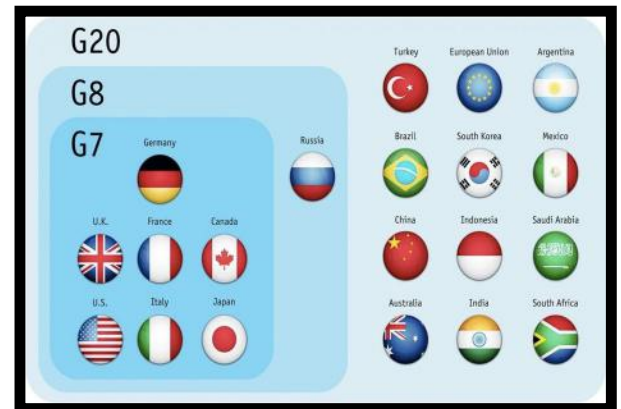
- Recently, the 17th annual summit of G-20 was hosted by the Indonesian G20 presidency in Bali under the theme 'Recover Together, Recover Stronger'.
- Now, India has assumed the charge of the G20 presidency and the 18th summit will be held in India in 2023.

Outcomes of the Summit-

- Condemning Russian Aggression
- Focus on Global Economy
- Food Security
- Climate Change
- Digital Transformation
- Health

Challenges before the G-20 Member Countries-

- Impact of Russia's Invasion of Ukraine
- Impact of Rising Inflation
- Slowdown of Major Economies
- Rising Geopolitical Rifts



RECENTLY, THIRD 'NO MONEY FOR TERROR' (NMFT) MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON COUNTER-TERRORISM FINANCING WAS HELD IN NEW DELHI, INDIA-

- The Prime Minister of India has strongly asked for avoiding any ambiguity in dealing with terrorism and also warned against nations that use terrorism as a tool of foreign policy.
- The "No Money for Terror" conference was started in 2018, as an initiative of the French government, to specifically focus on cooperation between countries to choke terror funding.
- In 2019, the conference was held in Australia.
- It was to be held in India in 2020 but was postponed due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- It offered a unique platform for participating nations and organisations to deliberate on the effectiveness of the current international regime on Counter Terrorism Financing and the steps required to address emerging challenges.
- It was attended by delegates from 72 countries and 15 international organisations.



During the Conference, deliberations were held in four sessions with focus on:

- A. Global Trends in Terrorism and Terrorist Financing.
 - B. Use of Formal and Informal Channels of Funds for Terrorism.
 - C. Emerging Technologies and Terrorist Financing.
 - D. International Co-operation to Address Challenges in Combating Terrorist Financing.
- India urged the international community to take cognisance of threats emerging from regime change in Afghanistan, as the last one had led to 9/11 attacks.
 - The regime changes and the growing influence of Al Qaeda & Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) have emerged as a significant challenge to regional security.
 - In January 2009, in the wake of the 26/11 terrorist attack, the National Investigation Agency was established to deal with terrorist crimes.

- In India, the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Act is the primary anti-terrorism law.
- To gather information related to security, the National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID) has been established.
- An operational hub has been created for the National Security Guard to ensure a rapid response to terrorist attacks.

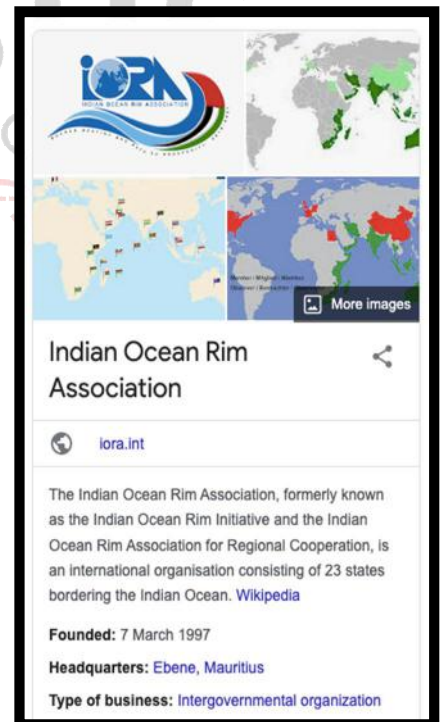
LT GENERAL ASIM MUNIR APPOINTED AS NEW ARMY CHIEF OF PAKISTAN-

- Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif appointed Lieutenant General Asim Munir as the new army chief of the country, replacing incumbent General Qamar Javed Bajwa.
- Pakistan's military has directly ruled the country of 220 million people for nearly half of its 75-year history.
- Lieutenant General Sahir Shamshad will take charge as the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee.
- PM Sharif held a cabinet meeting earlier where he selected Munir from a list of six nominees for the top military post.
- Munir is currently posted at the army headquarters in Rawalpindi. He has served briefly as chief of the country's premier intelligence agency, the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI).



MEETING OF CHINA-INDIAN OCEAN REGION FORUM-

- Recently, the China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA), held a meeting of the China-Indian Ocean Region Forum in which 19 countries took part but not India.
- Theme: Shared Development: Theory and Practice from the Perspective of the Blue Economy.
- Participating Countries- Indonesia, Pakistan, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Maldives, Nepal, Afghanistan, Iran, Oman, South Africa, Kenya, Mozambique, Tanzania, Seychelles, Madagascar, Mauritius, Djibouti, Australia and representatives of 3 international organisations were present.
- India was reportedly not invited.
- China proposed to establish a marine disaster prevention and mitigation cooperation mechanism between China and countries in the Indian Ocean region.
- India regularly engages with the Indian Ocean countries through such mechanisms as the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) and Indian Ocean Navies Symposium (IONS) under the vision of Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR).
- India has strong influence in the Indian Ocean region where India-backed organisations like the IORA have taken strong roots.
- India has been trying to emerge as the net provider of information in the IOR and in that direction it created the Information Fusion Centre located in Gurugram to assist member countries of IOR with real-time crisis information. Bangladesh, Mauritius, Maldives, Sri Lanka and Seychelles have been part of the information support structure of India.



WORLD'S LARGEST ACTIVE VOLCANO MAUNA LOA ERUPTED IN HAWAII-

- Mauna Loa the world's largest active volcano erupted in Hawaii for the first time in four decades.
- It was the first eruption since 1984. The eruption began in Moku'aweoweo, the summit caldera of Mauna Loa, inside the Hawaii Volcanoes National Park.
- The residents at risk from Mauna Loa lava flows were advised to review preparedness and refer to Hawaii Country Civil Defence information for further guidance.
- The early stages of the Mauna Loa eruption were dynamic and the advances of lava changed rapidly.
- Hawaii's civil defense agency also helped meet across the island to help residents prepare for a possible emergency.
- Before the recent Mauna Loa eruption, it erupted 33 times, beginning from 1843. It is the most active volcano and covers half of the island.



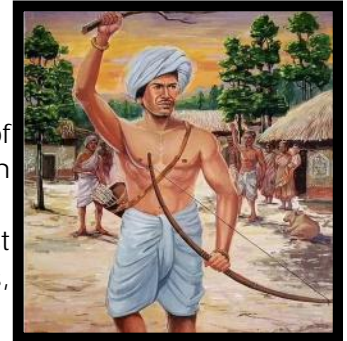
WORLD MALARIA REPORT 2022-

- Recently, the World Malaria Report 2022 was released by the World Health Organization (WHO).
- High-burden malaria countries maintained a strong front against the disease in 2021 despite the Covid-19 pandemic, with cases and deaths stabilising.
- While deaths came down to 619,000 in 2021 from 625,000 in the first year of the pandemic, it remained higher than the pre-pandemic level of 568,000 deaths in 2019.
- As for Malaria cases, the upward trend continued but at a slower rate — 247 million cases in 2021, compared to 245 million cases in 2020 and 232 million in 2019.
- Among the 11 high-burden countries, five — the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ghana, India, Niger and the United Republic of Tanzania — recorded a decline in deaths.
- Malaria is a life-threatening mosquito borne blood disease caused by plasmodium parasites.
- It is predominantly found in the tropical and subtropical areas of Africa, South America as well as Asia. It is preventable as well as curable.
- The parasites spread through the bites of infected female Anopheles mosquitoes.
- After entering the human body, parasites initially multiply within the liver cells and then attack the Red Blood Cells (RBCs) resulting in their rupture.
- Symptoms of malaria include fever and flu-like illness, including shaking chills, headache, muscle aches, and tiredness.
- Known by its lab initials as RTS, S but branded as Mosquirix, the vaccine has passed lengthy scientific trials that found it to be safe and reducing the risk of malaria by nearly 40%, the best recorded.

IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS

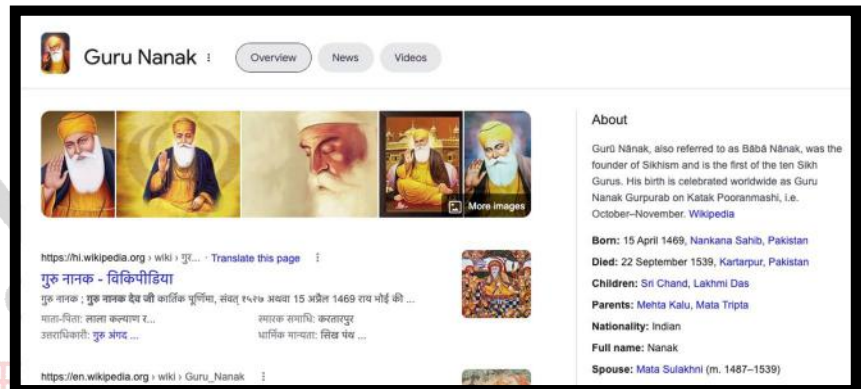
JANJATIYA GAURAV DIVAS-

- Recently, the President of India on the occasion of the Janjatiya Gaurav Divas (15th November 2022) paid tribute to the freedom fighter Bhagwan Birsa Munda on his birth anniversary.
- The Janjatiya Gaurav Divas is celebrated every year to recognize the efforts of the tribals in the preservation of cultural heritage and promotion of Indian values of national pride, valour, and hospitality.
- Tribals held several tribal movements across different regions of India against the British colonial rule. These tribal communities include Tamars, Santhals, Khasis, Bhils, Mizos, and Kols to name a few.



RECENTLY, THE 533RD BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF GURU NANAK DEV WAS CELEBRATED-

- In 1459 at Talwandi Rai Bhoi village near Lahore, which was later renamed as Nankana Sahib. He was the first of the 10 Sikh gurus and the founder of Sikhism.
- Initiated inter-faith dialogue way back in the 16th century and had conversations with most of the religious denominations of his times. Wrote compositions which were included in the Adi Granth, compiled by Guru Arjan (1563-1606), the fifth Sikh guru.
- This came to be known as Guru Granth Sahib after the additions made by the 10th Sikh guru – Guru Gobind Singh (1666-1708).
- Advocated the 'Nirguna' (devotion to and worship of formless divine) form of bhakti. Set up rules for congregational worship (Sangat) involving collective recitation.
- Gave the basic mantra of 'Ek Onkar' to his followers and insisted on treating all human beings equally, without discriminating on the basis of caste, creed and gender.



7 INDIAN STATES & 2 UT'S CELEBRATED THEIR FORMATION DAY ON NOVEMBER 1ST-

- On November 1st, Seven of the 28 Indian states and two Union Territories observed their formation day.
- The states of Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh and Punjab besides the Union Territories of Lakshadweep and Puducherry were formed on this day, though in different years. Besides 28 states, India has eight Union Territories.
- While Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh came into being in 1956, Punjab and Haryana were carved out as separate states in 1966 while Chhattisgarh was granted statehood in 2002.
- It was the first time in 1956 that several states were formed on linguistic grounds under the State Reorganisation Act. All these states and the Union Territory of Puducherry celebrate their formation days on November.

PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA PAID TRIBUTES TO INDIA'S FIRST EDUCATION MINISTER MAULANA ABUL KALAM AZAD ON HIS 134TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY-

- 11th November is observed as National Education Day every year since 2008 to commemorate his birth anniversary.
- Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, originally named Muhiyuddin Ahmad, was born in 1888 in Mecca, Saudi-Arabia.
- Azad was a brilliant debater, as indicated by his name - "Abul Kalam" which literally means "Lord of Dialogues".
- He donned many hats of being a journalist, freedom fighter, politician, and educationist.
- He was a proponent of Hindu Muslim unity, opposed to Partition.
- In 1912, he started a weekly journal in Urdu called Al-Hilal which played an important role in forging Hindu-Muslim unity after the bad blood created between the two communities in the aftermath of Morley-Minto reforms (1909).
- Azad supported the Non-Cooperation Movement (1920-22) started by Gandhiji and entered the Indian National Congress in 1920.
- In 1923, he was elected as the president of Indian National Congress. At an age of 35, he became the youngest person to serve as the President of the Indian National Congress.
- Maulana Azad was arrested in 1930 for violation of the salt laws as part of Gandhiji's Salt Satyagraha. He was put in Meerut jail for a year and a half.
- He again became the president of Congress in 1940 and remained in the post till 1946.
- In 1947, he became the first education minister of free India and remained at this post till his death in 1958. In his tenure, he did tremendous work for the upliftment of the country.
- The first IIT, IISc, School of Planning and Architecture and the University Grants Commission were established under his tenure as the education minister.



Abul Kalam Azad
Former Minister of Education of India

Abul Kalam Ghulam Muhiyuddin Ahmed bin Khairuddin Al-Hussaini Azad was an Indian independence activist, Islamic theologian, writer and a senior leader of the Indian National Congress. Following India's independence, he became the First Minister of Education in the Indian government.

[Wikipedia](#)

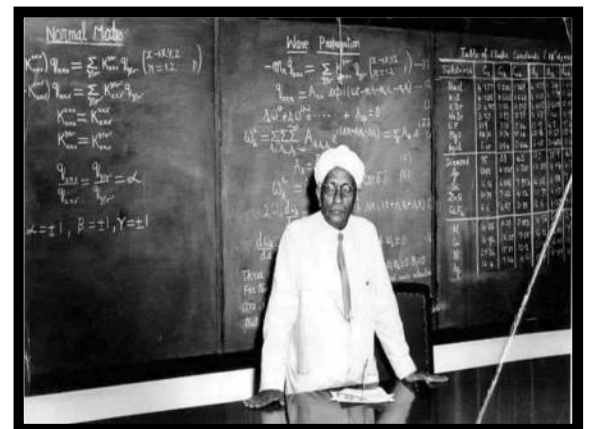
Born: 11 November 1888, Mecca, Saudi Arabia
Died: 22 February 1958, Delhi

Influenced by: Shibli Nomani, Hamiduddin Farahi, Jamal al-Din al-Afghani, Muhammad Abduh, Sarnad Kashani

Place of burial: Maulana Azad's Tomb, Delhi
Spouse: Zuleikha Begum (m. 7–1943)
Parents: Muhammad Khairuddin, Alia
Awards: Bharat Ratna

INDIA CELEBRATES 134TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF CV RAMAN-

- CV Raman was born on 7th November 1888, in Trichinopoly, Tamil Nadu, and died on 21st November 1970, in Bangalore.
- CV Raman was one of India's greatest scientists. Sir Chandrasekhara Venkata Raman was a physicist who made discoveries that were broader than modern science and were called the Raman Effect, the phenomenon of change of wavelength of light when a beam is scattered in a medium.
- In 1917, he joined the University of Calcutta as a professor of Physics. Raman initially worked as a student in the field of optics and acoustics. Raman continued his research at the Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science (IACS) in Calcutta while he worked as a professor at the university. He later became an honorary scholar at the association.



- Raman was fond of Indian classical music and was keenly interested in the acoustics of stringed instruments.
- He even constructed a mechanical violin. One of Raman's discoveries is related to the frequency response of the violin and its quality. The frequency response curve is known as the 'Raman curve'.
- At the age of 42, Raman was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1930 "for his work on the scattering of light and the discovery of the effect named after him".

WORLD TOILET DAY-

- Each year World Toilet Day is observed on the 19th November to raise awareness about the importance of sustainable sanitation to keep people healthy.
- The theme for 2022: " Making the invisible visible "
- World toilet day is observed annually since 2013.
- Aim is about taking action to tackle the global sanitation crisis and achieve Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6: sanitation and water for all by 2030.
- This year, the Ministry of Jal Shakti, under the Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen (SBM-G) is organising ' Swachhta Run 'across rural India.
- SBM-G is recognised as the world's largest behavior change program.
- India has already achieved SDG Target 6.2 pertaining to access to safe sanitation, when the entire country achieved Open Defecation Free State (ODF) status in 2019; it is persistent in its efforts to now achieve ODF+ status.
- Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen (SBM-G) was launched in 2014 by the Ministry of Jal Shakti to accelerate the efforts to achieve universal sanitation coverage and to put focus on sanitation.
- Top Performing States- The top five performing states are Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh where maximum number of villages have been declared as ODF Plus.



EVERY YEAR, 24TH NOVEMBER, IS COMMEMORATED AS THE SHAHEEDI DIVAS OF GURU TEGH BAHADUR-

- Every Year, 24th November, is commemorated as the Shaheedi Divas of Guru Tegh Bahadur, the ninth guru of the Sikhs, who stood up against forcible conversions by the Mughals.
- Guru Tegh Bahadur was born in Amritsar on 21st April 1621 to Mata Nanki and Guru Hargobind, the sixth Sikh guru, who raised an army against the Mughals and introduced the concept of warrior saints.
- Guru Tegh Bahadur was the 9th Sikh Guru, often venerated as the 'Protector of Humanity' (Srisht-di-Chadar) by the Sikhs.
- He is known as a great teacher, Guru Tegh Bahadur was also an excellent warrior, thinker, and poet, who wrote detailed descriptions of the nature of God, mind, body, and physical attachments among other things spiritual.
- He was only 13 when he distinguished himself in a battle against a Mughal chieftain.



- His writings are housed in the sacred text, 'Guru Granth Sahib,' in the form of 116 poetic hymns.
- He was also an avid traveler and played a key role in setting up preaching centers throughout the Indian subcontinent.
- During one such mission, he founded the town of Chak-Nanki in Punjab, which later became a part of Punjab's Anandpur Sahib.
- In the year 1675, Guru Tegh Bahadur was executed in Delhi under the orders of the Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb.

NATIONAL MILK DAY-

- Department of Animal Husbandry is celebrating National Milk Day on 26th November 2022.
- National Gopal Ratna Awards 2022 are conferred as part of the celebrations.
- June 1 is observed as World Milk Day every year.
- The day celebrates the importance of milk in a person's life. And to promote the benefits related to the milk & milk industry and to create awareness among people about the importance of milk and milk products.
- 26th November 2022 commemorates 101st birth anniversary of Dr. Verghese Kurien, the "Father of White Revolution in India".
- Dr. Verghese Kurien (1921-2012), He is known as the 'Father of White Revolution in India'. He is famous for his 'Operation Flood', which is known as the world's largest agricultural program. He established 30 institutions that are run by various farmers and workers.
- He also played a key role in the establishment and success of Amul Brand.
- Because of his efforts only, India became the largest producer of milk in 1998, surpassing the U.S.
- He was honoured with several awards, including the Ramon Magsaysay Award (1963), Krishi Ratna (1986) and World Food Prize (1989). He is also the recipient of India's highest civilian awards- Padma Shri (1965), Padma Bhushan (1966) and Padma Vibhushan (1999).
- Operation Flood was launched on 13th January, 1970. It was the world's largest dairy development programme.
- The operation gave farmers direct control over the resources they create, helping them direct their own development.

VIJAY DIWAS-

- Every year 16th December is observed by Indian Armed Forces and Bangladesh as Vijay Diwas (Bijoy Dibos) to mark India's victory over Pakistan in the 1971 war and the birth of Bangladesh as an independent nation.
- Pakistan right after India's independence consisted of East and West Pak where a major problem was the geographical disconnect between the two regions.

About

Verghese Kurien, known as the "Father of the White Revolution" in India, was a social entrepreneur whose "billion-litre idea", Operation Flood, made dairy farming India's largest self-sustaining industry and the largest rural employment sector providing a third of all rural income. [Wikipedia](#)

Born: 26 November 1921, Kozhikode

Died: 9 September 2012, Muljibhai Patel Urological Hospital, Nadiad

Education: Loyola College, Michigan State University, MORE

Nickname: Milkman of India

Spouse: Molly Kurien

Children: Nirmaala Kurien

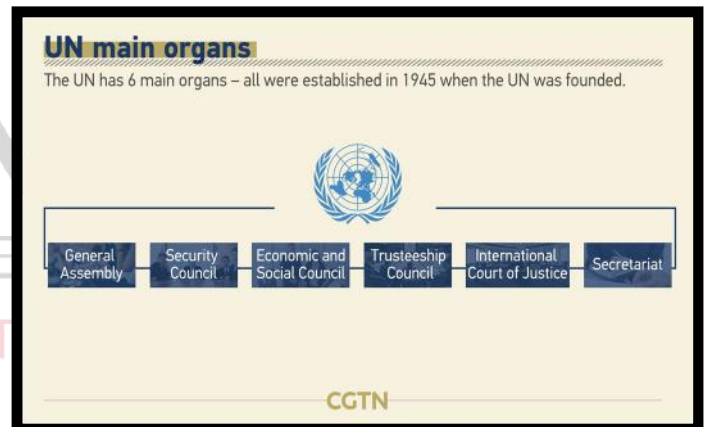
Parents: Puthenparakkal Kurien



- Cultural conflicts and negligence of East Pak's administration were also challenges.
- In the mid-1960s, leaders such as Sheikh Mujibur Rahman (the founding father of Bangladesh), actively began protesting against the policies of West Pak which was followed by a brutal crackdown by the Pakistani military.
- On 15 May 1971, India launched Operation Jackpot to recruit, train, arm, equip, supply and advise Mukti Bahini fighters engaged in guerrilla warfare against the Pakistan military.
- On 3rd December 1971, India decided to go on a war with Pakistan to save Bengali Muslims and Hindus in East Pakistan. The war lasted for 13 days.
- After that, a written agreement between India, Pakistan and the provisional government of Bangladesh came into effect bringing an end to the Bangladesh Liberation War.
- 51 years ago, on 16th December, the largest surrender of military personnel took place since the end of World War II.
- The chief of the Pakistani forces surrendered unconditionally to the Indian Army and Mukti Bahini in Dhaka.

ON 1ST DECEMBER, INDIA ASSUMED THE MONTHLY ROTATING PRESIDENCY OF THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL (UNSC) FOR THE SECOND TIME IN ITS TWO-YEAR TENURE-

- On 1st December, India assumed the monthly rotating presidency of the UN Security Council (UNSC) for the second time in its two-year tenure as an elected member of the Council in 2021-22.
- India had earlier assumed UNSC presidency in August 2021.
- India will hold a "high-level open debate" on "Maintenance of International Peace and Security: New Orientation for Reformed Multilateralism (NORMS)" at the Security Council.
- The other signature event planned is the high-level briefing on the theme "Threats to International Peace and Security Caused by Terrorist Acts: Global Approach to Counter Terrorism — Challenges and Way Forward".
- The Security Council was established by the UN Charter in 1945. It is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations.
- The other 5 organs of the United Nations are—the General Assembly (UNGA), the Trusteeship Council, the Economic and Social Council, the International Court of Justice, and the Secretariat.
- The UNSC and UNGA jointly elect judges to the International Court of Justice.
- The UNSC is composed of 15 members: 5 permanent and 10 non-permanent. Five permanent members: China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, and the United States.
- Ten non-permanent members: Elected for two-year terms by the General Assembly.
 - A. Five from African and Asian States
 - B. One from Eastern European States
 - C. Two from Latin American States
 - D. Two from Western European and other States



HUMAN RIGHTS DAY-

- Recently, The President of India graced and addressed the Human Rights Day celebration, organised by the National Human Rights Commission.
- Human Rights Day is observed by the international community every year on 10 December.
- It commemorates the day in 1948 the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
- The Universal Declaration of Human Rights sets out a broad range of fundamental rights and freedoms to which all of us are entitled. It guarantees the rights of every individual everywhere, without distinction based on nationality, place of residence, gender, national or ethnic origin, religion, language, or any other status.
- Although the Declaration is not a binding document, it inspired more than 60 human rights instruments which together constitute an international standard of human rights.
- 2022 Theme- Dignity, Freedom, and Justice for All

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF NEUTRALITY OBSERVED ON 12 DECEMBER-

- International Day of Neutrality is commemorated on December 12. It is a day when people look at the possibility of a world free of armed and other types of conflicts. Its focus was on advocating and campaigning for intra-state peaceful relations. Switzerland serves as the perfect example of neutrality.
- Neutrality, defined as the legal status arising from the abstention of a state from all participation in a war between other states, the maintenance of an attitude of impartiality toward the belligerents, and the recognition by the belligerents of this abstention and impartiality, is critically important for the United Nations to gain and maintain the confidence and cooperation of all in order to operate independently and effectively, especially in situations that are politically charged.
- On 2 February 2017, the UN General Assembly adopted without a vote resolution 71/275, introduced by Turkmenistan, recognized by the UN as a permanently neutral state since 12 December 1995, which noted the link between the preservation of peace and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and declared 12 December as the International Day of Neutrality.



INTERNATIONAL CHEETAH DAY-

- Every year, International Cheetah Day is celebrated on 4th December since 2010.
- Dr. Laurie Marker designated the day as International Cheetah Day in remembrance of Khayam, a cheetah she raised from a cub at Wildlife Safari in Winston, Oregon.
- The cheetah is one of the oldest of the big cat species, with ancestors that can be traced back more than five million years to the Miocene era.
- The cheetah is also the world's fastest land mammal that lives in Africa and Asia.
- A majority of the world's 7,000 cheetahs live in South Africa, Namibia and Botswana. Namibia has the world's largest population of cheetahs.



- The cheetah is the only large carnivore that got completely wiped out from India, mainly due to over-hunting and habitat loss. Eight Cheetahs have been recently reintroduced in India from Namibia to Kuno National Park.

THE PRESIDENT OF INDIA PAID FLORAL TRIBUTES TO DR. RAJENDRA PRASAD, THE FIRST PRESIDENT OF INDIA, ON HIS BIRTH ANNIVERSARY AT RASHTRAPATI BHAVAN ON 3RD DECEMBER 2022-

- Dr. Rajendra Prasad son of Mahadev Sahai, was born in Zeradei, Siwan, Bihar on 3rd December 1884.
- He joined the famed Calcutta Presidency College in 1902. In 1915, Prasad appeared in the examination of master's in law from the Department of Law, University of Calcutta, passed the examination and won a gold medal.
- In 1916, he commenced his legal career in the Patna High Court. He completed his Doctorate in Law from Allahabad University in 1937.
- While Gandhiji was on a fact-finding mission in Champaran district of Bihar to address grievances of local peasants, he called on Dr. Rajendra Prasad to come to Champaran with volunteers.
- Gandhiji's influence greatly altered many of his views, most importantly on caste and untouchability. The Champaran Satyagraha not only brought him closer to Mahatma Gandhi, but also changed the entire course of his life.
- Dr. Prasad officially joined the Indian National Congress in 1911, during its annual session held in Calcutta.
- Following the resignation of Subhash Chandra Bose as the President of the Congress in April 1939, He was elected President for the second time.
- In 1946, he joined the Interim Government of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru as the Minister of Food & Agriculture and gave the slogan of "Grow More Food".
- In July 1946, when the Constituent Assembly was established to frame the Constitution of India, he was elected its President.
- Two and a half years after independence, on 26th January 1950, the Constitution of independent India was ratified and he was elected India's First President.
- In 1962, after 12 years as President, Dr. Prasad retired, and was subsequently awarded the Bharat Ratna, the nation's highest civilian award.
- Dr. Prasad recorded his life and the decades before independence in many books, which includes:
 - A. Satyagraha at Champaran
 - B. India Divided
 - C. His autobiography "Atmakatha"
 - D. Mahatma Gandhi and Bihar, Some Reminiscences
 - E. Babu ke Kadmon Mein
- Dr. Rajendra Prasad spent the last few months of his life in retirement at the Sadaqat Ashram in Patna. He died on 28th February 1963.



NATIONAL MATHEMATICS DAY (NMD) HAS BEEN CELEBRATED EVERY YEAR ON 22ND DECEMBER TO MARK THE BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF SRINIVASA RAMANUJAN-

- On the 125th birth anniversary of Ramanujan, NMD was announced by the then-Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in 2012.
- The day is celebrated annually with the aim to make people aware of the importance of mathematics and advancements and developments made in the field.
- Born on 22nd December, 1887 in Erode, Tamil Nadu. In 1903, he secured a scholarship to the University of Madras but lost it the following year because he neglected all other subjects in pursuit of mathematics.
- In 1911, Ramanujan published the first of his papers in the Journal of the Indian Mathematical Society.
- In 1913, he began a correspondence with the British mathematician Godfrey H. Hardy which led to a special scholarship from the University of Madras and a grant from Trinity College, Cambridge.
- **Formulas and Equations-** He gave several formulas to calculate the digits of Pi in many unconventional ways.
- **Game Theory-** He discovered a long list of new ideas to solve many challenging mathematical problems, which gave a significant impetus to the development of game theory.
- **Ramanujan's Book-** One of Ramanujan's notebooks was discovered by George Andrews in 1976 in the library at Trinity College. Later the contents of this notebook were published as a book.
- **Ramanujan number-** 1729 is known as the Ramanujan number. It is the smallest number which can be expressed as the sum of two different cubes in two different ways.
- **Death-** He died on April 26th, 1920, at the age of 32, just after returning to India after a long illness.



NIMBUS
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SPORTS NEWS

VICE PRESIDENT JAGDEEP DHANKHAR ATTENDS FIFA WORLD CUP INAUGURATION IN QATAR-

- Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar has joined the Emir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani and other dignitaries in the inauguration of FIFA World Cup in Qatar.
- Dhankhar is in Doha for a two-day visit to represent India at the inauguration of FIFA's showpiece event.
- Besides attending the inaugural ceremony of the Football World Cup, the Vice President will also interact with members of the Indian community during the visit.
- The 60,000-capacity Al Bayt Stadium in Al Khor will host the opening ceremony on 20 November 2022 just before the first match between host Qatar and Ecuador.



PT USHA BECOME FIRST WOMEN PRESIDENT OF INDIAN OLYMPIC ASSOCIATION-

- PT Usha was elected to become the president of the Indian Olympics Association (IOA).
- The Minister of Law and Justice of India announced on Twitter to congratulate the legendary Indian athletes. PT Usha becomes the first woman president of the IOA.
- She also expressed her intentions to run for IOA on 26th November 2022. She was the only contender for the election of the top position in the sports organization.
- PT Usha is one of the most accomplished athletes in India. She has won 11 medals including four gold at the Asian Games between 1982 and 1994.
- She also won four gold medals at the Seoul Asan Games in 1986. She has participated in 200m, 400m hurdles, and 4x400 relays.
- PT Usha submitted her candidacy papers for the position of president on 27th November 2022.

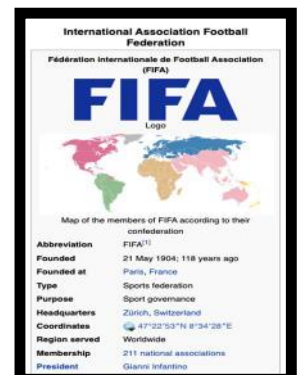


FIFA WORLD CUP QATAR 2022-

- Recently, Argentina won the FIFA (Fédération internationale de Football Association) World Cup 2022 held in Qatar by defeating France.
- The most prestigious tournament in the world - taking place quadrennially. First FIFA WC was held in Uruguay in 1930, Won by Uruguay.
- The trophy cup awarded from 1930 to 1970 was the Jules Rimet Trophy, named for the Frenchman who proposed the tournament. A new trophy called the FIFA World Cup was put up for competition in 1970.

FIFA announced a number of awards to recognize the great performance of players throughout the WC including-

- Golden Boot (Most number of Goals) - Kylian Mbappe (France)
- Golden Glove - Emiliano Martinez (Argentina)
- Golden Ball (Performer of the Tournament) - Lionel Messi (Argentina)
- Young Player - Enzo Fernandez (Argentina)



E. FIFA Fair Play Award - England

- **FIFA WC Official Ball-** Al Rihla (means - 'the journey') - a reference to a travelogue written by Ibn Battuta, the 14th-century explorer. Pakistan produces more than 2/3rd of the world's footballs, with Sialkot being the hub of manufacturing.
- La'eeb was the Official Mascot for FIFA WC 2022. 'La'eeb' in Arabic translates to 'super-skilled player'.

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-century 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

CRISTIANO RONALDO SIGNS 200-MILLION EURO CONTRACT WITH SAUDI CLUB AL-NASSR-

- Famous Footballer, Cristiano Ronaldo has sensationally joined Saudi Arabian club Al-Nassr on a two and a half year deal worth 200 million euros per season.
- The news has been reported by renowned Spanish outlet Marca ahead of the Portugal captain's FIFA World Cup 2022 Round of 16 fixture against Switzerland.
- Earlier, Ronaldo's agent Jorge Mendes had spoken to a number of clubs including European giants like Bayern Munich, Chelsea, Atletico Madrid, etc., but no one showed any serious interest in the 37-year-old forward.
- Ronaldo's contract got terminated by Manchester United after a controversial bombshell interview with broadcaster Piers Morgan.
- The 37-year-old, during the interview had said that he felt betrayed by the Premier League club, and accused a few senior figures within the club for trying to force him out of Old Trafford.
- Ronaldo also criticised manager Erik ten Hag, and he was also suspended by him earlier in the season after he refused to come in as a substitute during a 2-0 victory over Tottenham.
- Al Nassr Football Club is a Saudi Arabian football club based in Riyadh.
- Formed in 1955, the club plays its home games at the Mrsool Park. Their home colours are yellow and blue. Al Nassr is one of the most successful clubs in Saudi Arabia, Victory championships are estimated at 27 championships at the level of all competitions.



AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

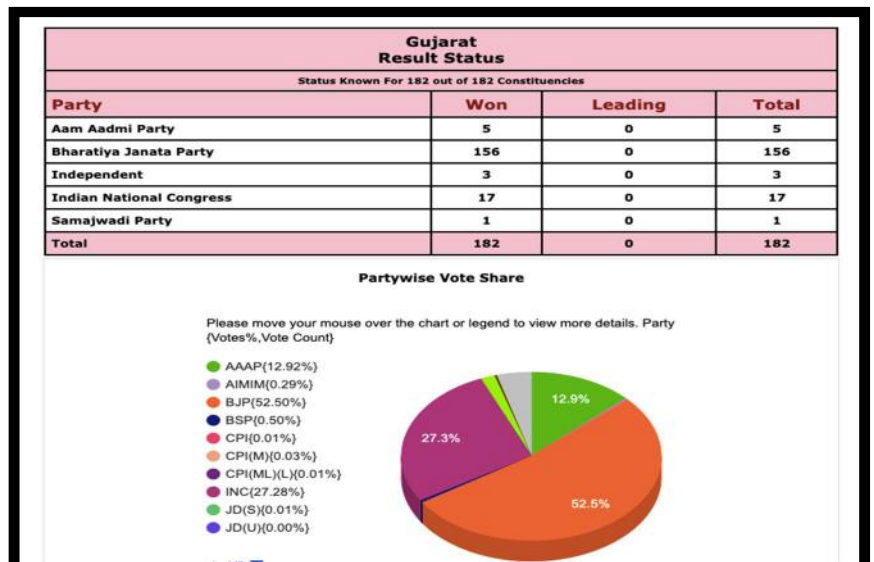
RECENTLY, SRI LANKAN WRITER SHEHAN KARUNATILAKA WON THE BOOKER PRIZE 2022 FOR HIS NOVEL "THE SEVEN MOONS OF MAALI ALMEIDA",-

- Recently, Sri Lankan writer Shehan Karunatilaka won the Booker Prize 2022 for his novel "The Seven Moons of Maali Almeida", about a dead war photographer on a mission in the afterlife.
- The Booker Prize is the world's leading literary award for a single work of fiction.
- Founded in the UK in 1969, it was initially awarded to Commonwealth writers and now spans the globe, and it is open to anyone regardless of origin.
- Each year, the Booker Prize is awarded to what is, in the opinion of our judges, the best sustained work of fiction written in English and published in the UK and Ireland.
- The winning book is a work that not only speaks to our current times, but also one that will endure and join the pantheon of great literature.



BJP'S BHUPENDRA PATEL SWORN-IN AS GUJARAT CM FOR 2ND CONSECUTIVE TERM-

- Bhupendra Patel took oath as the Chief Minister of Gujarat for a second straight term in Gandhinagar.
- He was administered oath as the 18th Chief Minister of Gujarat by Governor Acharya Devvrat. Prime minister Narendra Modi, several Union Ministers including Amit Shah, Smriti Irani, and Mansukh Mandaviya, and Chief Ministers of BJP-ruled States including Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath and Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan attended the ceremony.
- Recently, the Bharatiya Janata Party had recorded a historic lead and seventh consecutive victory in the recently concluded elections of the Gujarat Assembly, by winning 156 of the total 182 seats. Main opposition party Congress could win only 17 seats, while the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) opened account in the state legislative Assembly by winning five seats.
- Breaking his own record, Patel won the 2022 election once again from Ghatlodia constituency with a huge margin of 1,91,000 votes.



GATI SHAKTI UNIVERSITY: RAILWAY MINISTER ASHWINI VAISHNAW APPOINTED AS FIRST CHANCELLOR-

- 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 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.



INDIAN-ORIGIN LEO VARADKAR IS NEW PRIME MINISTER OF IRELAND-

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



NATIONAL SPORTS AND ADVENTURE AWARDS 2022-

- Recently, the Table tennis legend Achantan Sharath Kamal was bestowed with the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna award for his outstanding performance in the Commonwealth Games, 2022 by the President as part of the National Sports and Adventure Awards 2022.



- Other awards given out include the Dronacharya Award, Dhyan Chand Award for Lifetime Achievement in Sports and Games, the Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar, the Maulana Abul Kalam Azad trophy as well as the Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award.

Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award-

- Formerly known as the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna, it is the highest sporting award.
- It carries a cash prize of Rs 25 lakh, a medal and a scroll of honour.

Arjuna Award-

- It was instituted in 1961 by the Government of India to recognise outstanding achievement in national sports events.
- The award carries a cash prize of Rs 15 lakh, a bronze statue of Arjuna and a scroll of honour.

Dronacharya Award-

- It was instituted in 1985 by the Government of India to recognise excellence in sports coaching. It is given to coaches for doing outstanding and meritorious work on a consistent basis and enabling sportspersons to excel in international events.

Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Trophy-

- It was instituted in the year 1956-1957.
- It is for university-level sports performances.

Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar-

- It was instituted in the year 2009.
- It is given to corporate entities (both in private and public sector), sports control boards, NGOs including sports bodies at the State and National level who have played a visible role in the area of sports promotion and development.

Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Awards-

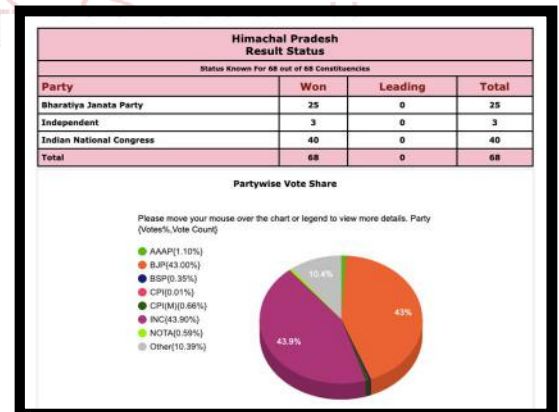
- The awards are given every year to recognize the achievements of persons in the fields of adventure, to encourage young people to develop the spirit of endurance, risk-taking, cooperative teamwork and quick, ready and effective reflexes in challenging situations and to provide incentive to the young people for getting exposed to the adventure activities.

SUKHWINDER SINGH SUKHU TO BE THE NEW CHIEF MINISTER OF HIMACHAL PRADESH-

- Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu has been unanimously elected as the new Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh and he took the oath on 11th December 2022, succeeding Jai Ram Thakur.
- He served as the president of the Himachal Pradesh Congress Committee from 2013 to 2019.
- Apart from this, Mukesh Agnihotri (leader of the opposition in the outgoing Assembly) has been appointed as the deputy chief minister of Himachal Pradesh.
- Governor of Himachal Pradesh- Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar.

CHAIRPERSON OF RAJYA SABHA-

- Recently, Rajya Sabha (RS) welcomed its new Chairman, Jagdeep Dhankhar.



- The Vice-President is the ex-officio chairman of the Rajya Sabha.
- The Vice-President as Chairman of the Rajya Sabha is the unchallenged guardian of the eminence and dignity of the House.
- **Article 64-** The Vice-President shall be ex officio Chairman of the Council of States and shall not hold any other office of profit.
- **Article 89** of the Constitution provides provision for the Chairman (Vice-President of India) and the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.
- The Chairman of the Rajya Sabha is empowered to adjourn the House or to suspend its sitting in the event of the absence of quorum.
- The 10th Schedule of the Constitution empowers the Chairman to determine the question as to disqualification of a member of the Rajya Sabha on the ground of defection.
- The Chairman's consent is needed to raise a question of breach of privilege in the House.
- Parliamentary Committees, regardless of whether set up by the Chairman or by the House, work under the direction of the Chairman.
- He/She nominates members to different Standing Committees and the Department-related Parliamentary Committees. He/She is the Chairman of the Business Advisory Committee, the Rules Committee and the General Purposes Committee.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM JAISHANKAR, FOREIGN MINISTER OF INDIA-

- Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, a former diplomat who served as 31st Foreign Secretary of India between 28 January 2015 – 28 January 2018, was inducted into Narendra Modi's cabinet as a Union Minister of External affairs in 2019.
- Prior to diving into Indian Political Sphere, he served as Indian Ambassador to the United States, China and the Czech Republic.
- In addition to this eminent portfolio, he also served as High Commissioner to Singapore (2007–09). Jaishankar also played a vital role in negotiating the Indo-US civilian nuclear agreement.



Dr. S. Jaishankar's Career Highlights-

- 2015- Jaishankar was appointed as Foreign Secretary of India on 29 January 2015.
- 2013- Jaishankar was appointed as India's Ambassador to United States in September 2013.
- 2012- Jaishankar became India's longest-serving ambassador to China, with a four and a half-year term.
- 2007- From 2007 to 2009, Jaishankar served as India's High Commissioner to Singapore.
- 2000- He was appointed India's ambassador to the Czech Republic.

DEFENCE NEWS

THE 12TH EDITION OF DEFEXPO 2022 IS BEING HELD IN GANDHINAGAR, GUJARAT-

- The 11th edition of DefExpo was held at Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh) in 2020.
- DefExpo is a flagship biennial event of the Ministry of Defence, showcasing the land, naval, air as well as homeland security systems.
- It is being held in a first ever four-venue format which promises to engage the public and inspire them to join the Aerospace and Defence manufacturing sector; for 'Aatmanirbharta' in Defence.
- The aim is to showcase the might of the domestic defence industry which is now powering 'Make in India, Make for the World' resolve of the Government and the nation at large.
- It is the first-ever edition exclusively for Indian companies. Theme: Path to Pride.
- It will host the 2nd edition of the India-Africa Defence Dialogue (IADD), with invites extended to 53 African countries.
- A separate Indian Ocean Region plus (IOR+) conclave with participation of approximately 40 countries will see India pitching its military hardware to various countries.
- It will also mark the celebration of one year of the formation of the seven new defence companies, carved out of the erstwhile Ordnance Factories.



What are the Defence Sector Reforms Under Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan-

- Revision of FDI Limit: The FDI limit in defence manufacturing under automatic route is raised from 49% to 74%.
- Reduction in Defence Imports: The government will notify a list of weapons/platforms banned for imports and thus such items can only be purchased from the domestic market.
- Corporatisation of the Ordnance Factory Board: It will include a public listing of some units, ensuring a more efficient interface of the manufacturer with the designer and end-user.

HADR EXERCISE SAMANVAY 2022-

- Indian Air Force (IAF) is conducting the Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Exercise 'Samanvay 2022' from 28th to 30th November 2022 at Air Force Station Agra.
- Exercise 'Samanvay' is an annual joint exercise involving various stakeholders from India and representatives from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries.
- It aims to assess the efficacy of institutional disaster management structures and contingency measures.
- Samanvay 2022 will promote a synergistic approach towards HADR by various national and regional stakeholders involved in Disaster Management including the Civil Administration, the Armed Forces, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), etc.
- This multi-agency engagement is expected to contribute in the evolution of institutional frameworks for effective communication, interoperability, cooperation and their application for successful conduct of HADR.

NASEEM AL BAHR 2022-

- The Indian Naval Ship (INS) Trikand, INS Sumitra, and Maritime Patrol Aircraft (MPA) Dornier, participated in the 13th Edition of 'Naseem Al Bahr' (Sea Breeze).
- INS Trikand is a frontline frigate equipped with a versatile range of weapons and sensors. It is a part of the Indian Navy's Western Fleet, based at Mumbai.
- INS Sumitra, a multirole offshore patrol vessel is part of the Eastern Fleet of the Indian Navy, based at Visakhapatnam.
- Naseem Al Bahr is a bilateral maritime exercise between Indian Navy (IN) and Royal Navy of Oman (RNO).
- The exercise was conducted from 19th to 24th November 2022 off the coast of Oman and had three phases: harbour phase, sea phase and debrief.
- The first IN-RNO exercise was conducted in 1993. Year 2022 marks 30 years of IN-RNO bilateral exercises.
- India and Oman have traditionally enjoyed warm and friendly relations, sharing common cultural values. Naval exercises have added strength and substance to these bilateral ties.

What are India's other Bilateral Maritime Exercises?

- Thailand: **India-Thailand Coordinated Patrol (Indo-Thai CORPAT)**
- Indonesia: **Samudra Shakti**
- Singapore: **Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX)**
- Qatar: **Zair-Al-Bahr**
- Bangladesh: **Bongosagar Exercise**
- Sri Lanka: **Sri Lanka-India Naval Exercise (SLINEX)**
- Japan: **Japan Maritime bilateral exercise (JIMEX), Maritime Partnership Exercise (MPX)**
- France: **VARUNA**

INDIAN ARMY IS TRAINING DOGS AND KITES TO IDENTIFY FOREIGN DRONES-

- Indian Army is training dogs and Kites (Cheel), to identify and destroy the drones.
- Hostile elements from Pakistan are sending drugs, arms, and ammunition to India through drones which are creating a security problem for India.
- Jammu and Kashmir police recovered a consignment of weapons and Indian currency that were dropped by a Pakistani drone in the Samba district of Jammu on 24th November 2022.
- The dogs alert the Army after hearing the noise of the drones and the kite is used to identify the location of the drones.
- The kite named "Arjun" was trained and demonstrated during the ongoing 18th edition of the Indo-US Joint training exercise "Yudh Abhyas 22" in Auli.
- 18th edition of the Indo-US Joint training exercise "Yudh Abhyas 22" was held in Auli, Uttarakhand from 14th October to 31st October 2022.
- Earlier this month, BSF Director General Pankaj Kumar Singh informed that instances of drones bringing drugs, arms, and ammunition along the Punjab and Jammu borders from across Pakistan have doubled in 2022.
- He also informed that BSF has set up a state-of-the-art laboratory in Delhi to study drone forensics and the results have been encouraging.



- BSF detected over 79 drone flights along the India-Pakistan international border in 2020.

AGNI-5 BALLISTIC MISSILE-

- Agni-5 is an ingeniously built advanced surface-to-surface ballistic missile developed under the Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP). It is a fire-and-forget missile, which cannot be stopped without an interceptor missile.
- The missile has the capability of hitting targets beyond the range of 5000 km and is crucial for India's self-defense systems.
- The Agni missile class is the backbone of India's nuclear launch capability, as are Prithvi short-range ballistic missiles, submarine-launched ballistic missiles, and fighter aircraft.

Other Ranges of Agni Missiles-

- A. Agni I: Range of 700-800 km.
 - B. Agni II: Range more than 2000 km.
 - C. Agni III: Range of more than 2,500 Km
 - D. Agni IV: Range is more than 3,500 km and can fire from a road mobile launcher.
 - E. Agni-V: The longest of the Agni series, an Inter-Continental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) with a range of over 5,000 km.
- Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme IGMDP was the brainchild of renowned scientist Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam.
 - It was intended to attain self-sufficiency in the field of missile technology.
 - The IGMDP formally got the approval of the Indian government in 1983.
 - It brought together the country's scientific community, academic institutions, R&D laboratories, industries and the three defence services in giving shape to the strategic, indigenous missile systems.



The missiles developed under IGMDP are-

- Short-range surface-to-surface ballistic missile – Prithvi
- Intermediate-range surface-to-surface ballistic missile – Agni
- Short-range low-level surface-to-air missile – Trishul
- Medium-range surface-to-air missile – Akash
- Third generation anti-tank missile – Nag

THE 16TH EDITION OF INDO-NEPAL JOINT TRAINING EXERCISE "SURYA KIRAN" BETWEEN INDIA AND NEPAL IS BEING CONDUCTED AT SALJHANDI, NEPAL-

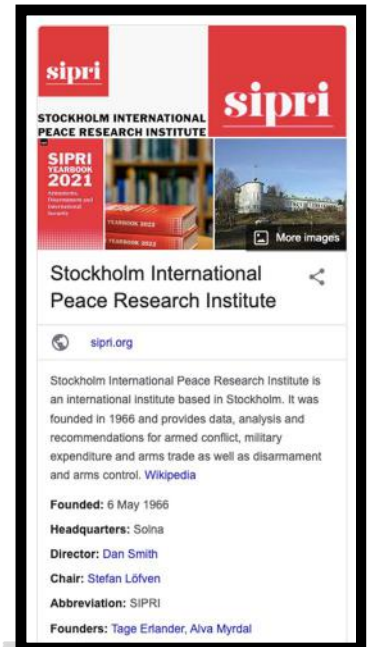
- Surya Kiran is a military exercise conducted annually between India and Nepal.

The objective of this exercise is to-

- Establish military relations in inaccessible mountainous areas by the soldiers of both countries.
- Provide humanitarian assistance under disaster management,
- Get training in anti-terrorist operations,
- Build interoperability and sharing expertise between the two countries.
- The 15th edition of Surya Kiran took place at Pithoragarh in Uttarakhand, India.

SIPRI: HAL AND BEL IN THE TOP 100 DEFENCE COMPANIES LIST-

- The government’s Make-in-India push in indigenous defence production seems to be bearing positive results as the two Indian Defence Public Sector Undertakings, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), have improved upon their previous rankings among the arms producing companies of the world.
- HAL ranked at 42nd as BEL bagged the 63rd place with a total evaluation of \$5.1 Billion in 2021. The two companies saw an increase of 1.9 per cent in their total arms sales for 2021.
- Individually, HAL’s sales increased by 6.7 per cent while BEL’s 20 per cent. They were ranked 43 and 69 in 2020.
- The Ordnance Factory Board which had made into the list in 2020, could not get place this time because of restructuring in its organisation.
- India is the world’s second-biggest importer of weapons after Saudi Arabia and is also the world’s third-biggest spender on defence after the US and China.
- The overall leader has been companies belonging to the US with a share of 51 per cent of the total arms sales. The US companies are followed by the Chinese companies.
- UK firms with 6.8 per cent, and French companies with 4.9 per cent share.
- Russian companies garnered only 3 per cent of the global share.
- China has a total of eight companies listed in the top 100, and among them four companies are ranked among the top 10. Their total sale of the arms was worth \$109 billion in 2021, an increase of 6.3 per cent against the previous year.
- Interestingly SIPRI included a Taiwanese firm for the first time in the top 100. NCSIST has been ranked 60th. It specialises in missiles and military electronics and recorded arms sales of \$2 billion in 2021.



US UNVEILS ITS NEWEST NUCLEAR STEALTH BOMBER-

- The United States has unveiled its latest high-tech strategic bomber – the B-21 Raider – which is capable of carrying a nuclear payload and can be flown without a crew on board.
- The next-generation stealth bomber was rolled out at arm’s manufacturer Northrop Grumman’s facility in California. The US Air Force plans to buy at least 100 of the B-21 aircraft, which comes with a \$700m price tag per plane.
- The unveiling of the new bombers comes at a time of heightened geopolitical tensions between the US, Russia and China amid the war in Ukraine and the territorial integrity of Taiwan.
- Russian and Chinese strategic bombers flew a joint eight-hour patrol over the western Pacific in a display of ongoing military cooperation between the two nations. China’s Defence Ministry called the mission a “routine” effort in bolstering defence ties with Russia. Moscow and Beijing are also currently developing strategic stealth bombers – China’s Xian H-20 and Russia’s nuclear-capable Tupolev PAK DA – which are expected to compete with the B-21.



SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

VIKRAM-S ROCKET LAUNCHED BY ISRO, INDIA'S FIRST PRIVATELY DEVELOPED ROCKET-

- Vikram-S Rocket, India's first privately developed rocket launched from the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) at the Sriharikota launchpad. The launch of Vikram-S Rocket by ISRO is a historic moment.
- The Vikram-S Rocket is developed by Hyderabad-based start-up Skyroot Aerospace Private Limited, and it is a 6-meter tall and hits a peak altitude of 89.5 kilometers.
- After five minutes of launch, the Vikram-S Rocket splashed into the Bay of Bengal. The mission was titled Prarambh.
- The Vikram-S Rocket is a single-stage solid fuelled, sub-orbital rocket developed over two years by incorporating advanced technologies that include carbon composite structures and 3D printer components.
- The Vikram-S Rocket is equipped with a gross lift-off mass of 545kg, and a payload mass of 80kg. Vikram-S carried three customer payloads which will map the measurement and validation of certain flight parameters and payload integration processes.
- The Skyroot firm was launched in June 2018 by two engineers Pawan Kumar Chandana and Naga Bharath Daka. The firm aims to open space for all, he is pushing the boundaries of today's techno. It is working towards a future where space becomes a part of our lives and claims that such a transition will transform humankind like never before.



PSLV-C54-

- Recently, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully launched the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) C54 from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.
- This was the 56th flight of PSLV, which marks the final mission for the year for PSLV-C54 rocket.

What are the Satellites Launched-

- A. Nano Satellite-2 for Bhutan (INS-2B)
- B. Anand
- C. Astrocast
- D. Thymbolt Satellites
- E. EOS-6



MONKEYPOX DISEASE NAME CHANGED TO MPOX BY WHO-

- The World Health Organisation has changed the name of the disease Monkeypox to Mpox, as they receive complaints about the word Monkeypox conjuring up racist tropes and stigmatizing patients.
- The recommendation follows outbreaks that began about six months ago in Europe and the United States.
- Mpox has circulated in the rural development parts of Central Africa and West Africa for decades.
- WHO will adopt the term Mpox in its communications and encourages others to follow these recommendations.

- This decision was taken to minimize the ongoing negative impact of the current name and from the adoption of the new name.

Monkeypox

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia


This article is about the disease. For the virus that causes the disease, see [Monkeypox virus](#).

Monkeypox (also called **mpox** by the WHO^[17]) is an infectious **viral disease** that can occur in humans and some other animals.^[1] Symptoms include **fever**, **swollen lymph nodes**, and a **rash** that forms **blisters** and then crusts over.^[1] The time from **exposure to onset of symptoms** ranges from five to twenty-one days.^{[3][5]} The duration of symptoms is typically two to four weeks.^[5] There may be mild symptoms, and it may occur **without any symptoms** being apparent.^{[3][18]} The classic presentation of fever and **muscle pains**, followed by **swollen glands**, with **lesions** all at the same stage, has not been found to be common to all outbreaks.^{[1][19]} Cases may be severe, especially in children, pregnant women or people with suppressed immune systems.^[20]

- The WHO has promoted new criteria for naming infectious diseases.
- According to the recommendations, names should aim to reduce the unnecessary negative impacts on travel, tourism, or animal welfare.
- The criteria also avoid causing any offense to culture, social, national, regional, professional, or ethnic groups.
- The critics informed that Monkeypox reinforced ugly western stereotypes about Africa as a reservoir of pestilence and sexually transmitted pathogens.

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.
- 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.'



About

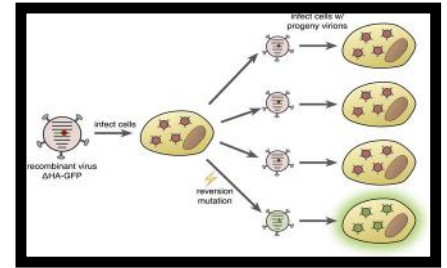
Chandrayaan-3 is a planned third lunar exploration mission by the Indian Space Research Organisation.
[Wikipedia](#)

Start date: June 2023
Launch date: June 2023 (planned)
Rocket: Launch Vehicle Mark-3 (LVM 3)
Operator: Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)
Bus: Chandrayaan
Spacecraft component: Rover

BF.7 VARIANT OF THE CORONAVIRUS-

- The current surge in Covid-19 infections in China, is believed to be driven by the BF.7 sub-variant of Omicron that is circulating over there.
- The dominant virus strain in China is BF.7, a sub-variant of Omicron that has been in circulation for over a year now. There are over 500 Omicron sub-variants currently in circulation.
- BF.7 is the name for the BA.5.2.1.7, which itself has evolved from the BA.5 sub-variant. BF.7 is not unique to China.
- It accounted for over 5% of the cases in the US in October, 2022 and over 7% of the cases in the UK.
- When viruses mutate, they create lineages and sub-lineages— like the main trunk of the SARS-CoV-2 tree sprouting branches and sub-branches.

- When a virus multiplies, it doesn't always manage to produce an exact copy of itself. This means that, over time, the virus may start to differ slightly in terms of its genetic sequence.
- Any changes to the viral genetic sequence during this process is known as a Mutation.
- Viruses with new mutations are sometimes called Variants. Variants can differ by one or multiple mutations.
- When a new variant has different functional properties to the original virus and becomes established in a population, it is sometimes referred to as a New Strain of the virus. All strains are variants, but not all variants are strains.



ACCORDING TO THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCE, THE SAMUDRAYAAN MISSION IS EXPECTED TO BE REALISED BY YEAR 2026-

- The mission is aimed at sending three personnel to 6000-metre depth in a vehicle called 'MATSYA 6000' for the exploration of deep-sea resources like minerals.
- 'MATSYA 6000' vehicle is being designed and developed by National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), Chennai under Ministry of Earth Sciences.
- It has an endurance of 12 hours under normal operation and 96 hours in case of emergency for human safety.
- It is India's first unique manned ocean mission and is a part of the Rs 6000-crores Deep Ocean Mission.
- The manned submersible will allow scientific personnel to observe and understand unexplored deep-sea areas by direct intervention.
- It will also boost the Central government's vision of 'New India' that highlights the Blue Economy as one of the ten core dimensions of growth. India has a unique maritime position, a 7517 km long coastline, which is home to nine coastal states and 1,382 islands.
- For India, with its three sides surrounded by the oceans and around 30% of the nation's population living in coastal areas and coastal regions play a major economic factor.
- Deep Ocean Mission- It was approved in June 2021 by the Ministry of Earth Sciences. It aims to explore the deep ocean for resources, develop deep-sea technologies for sustainable use of ocean resources, and support the Blue Economy Initiatives of the Indian Government.
- The cost of the Mission has been estimated at Rs. 4,077 crores over a five-year period and will be implemented in phases.



ECONOMY AND FINANCE

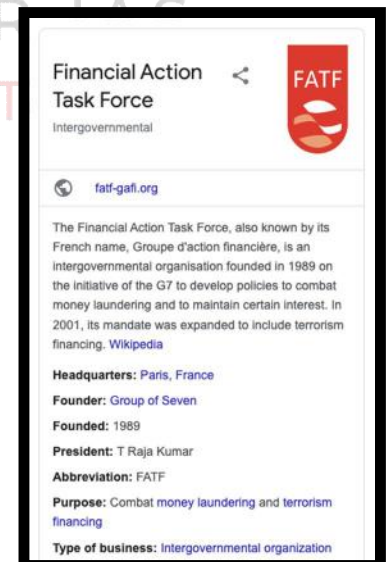
INDIA-GCC FREE TRADE AGREEMENT (FTA)-

- India and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member countries are expected to start negotiations for a free trade agreement next month to boost economic ties between the two regions.
- India has already implemented a free trade pact with the UAE in May this year. Terms and Conditions for this one are also being finalised.
- Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) is a union of six countries in the Gulf region — Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar, Kuwait, Oman and Bahrain.
- It was established by an agreement concluded in 1981 among Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the UAE in view of their special relations, geographic proximity, similar political systems based on Islamic beliefs, joint destiny and common objectives.
- The Secretariat is located in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. It is a political, economic, social, and regional organisation according to its charter.



PAKISTAN REMOVED FROM FATF GREY LIST-

- Recently, the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), the international watchdog on terror financing and money laundering, has removed Pakistan from the list of countries under “increased monitoring” (Grey List).
- India’s other neighbour on the grey list, Myanmar, was moved to the “black list” due to actions by the military leadership after the 2021 coup.
- FATF is the global money laundering and terrorist financing watchdog. It also aims to counter the financing of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.
- It was set up in 1989 out of a G-7 meeting of developed nations in Paris.
- Its Secretariat is located at the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) headquarters in Paris.
- As of today, it is a 39-member body with 37 countries and two regional organisations: the European Commission, and the Gulf Cooperation Council.
- Indonesia is the only observer country of FATF.
- India joined with ‘observer ‘status in 2006 and became a full member of FATF in 2010.
- India is also a member of its regional partners, the Asia Pacific Group (APG) and the Eurasian Group (EAG).
- The FATF Plenary (decision-making body of the FATF) meets tri-annually - in February, June and October, to take stock of “Mutual Evaluation Reports” (MERs) of the countries it reviews.



- If a country appears to have major deficiencies in its AML/CFT regime, it is put on a list of “jurisdictions under increased monitoring” - “grey list” and if it fails to address FATF concerns, it is put on a “high-risk jurisdictions” list - “black list”.
- The Grey List includes countries that are considered safe haven for supporting terror funding and money laundering. It serves as a warning that the country may enter the blacklist.
- The Black List includes Non-Cooperative Countries or Territories (NCCTs) that support terror funding and money laundering activities. As of now, Iran, North Korea and Myanmar are the three black listed countries.
- The enlisted countries are subjected to increased financial structures, thus making it difficult for them to procure loans from the financial institutions affiliated to FATF (as observers) such as the IMF, World Bank etc.

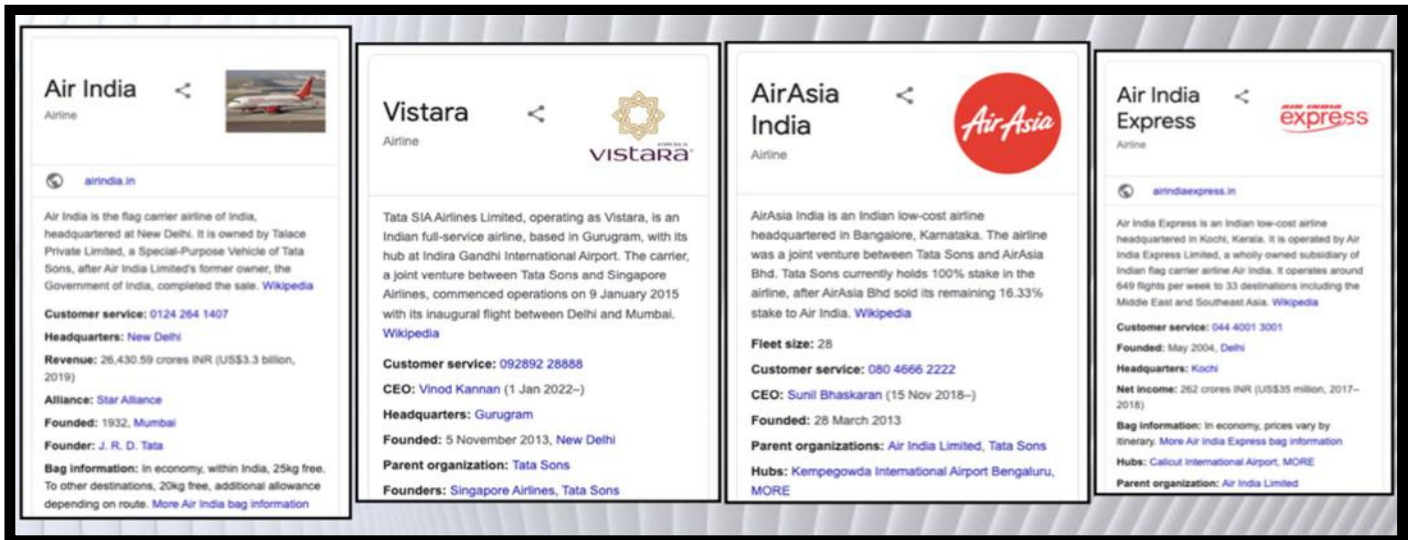
INDIA AND GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL-

- India and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) have agreed to pursue a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between the two regions and resume the negotiations.
- GCC is a union of six countries in the Gulf region — Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Qatar, Kuwait, Oman and Bahrain. The council is the largest trading bloc of India.
- India has enjoyed centuries of good relations with countries like Iran, while smaller gas-rich nation Qatar is one of India’s closest allies in the region.
- India shares good relations with most of the countries in the Gulf. The two most important reasons for the relationship are oil and gas, and trade.
- Qatar accounts for 41% of India’s total natural gas imports. Two additional reasons are the huge number of Indians who work in the Gulf countries, and the remittance they send back home.
- As per a research paper published by the Reserve Bank of India, in the financial year 2020-21, remittances from the UAE to India were USD 15.40 billion, which is 18% of India’s total inward remittances.
- India’s exports to the GCC member countries grew by 58.26% to about USD 44 billion in 2021-22 against USD 27.8 billion in 2020-21.
- Bilateral trade in goods has increased to USD 154.73 billion in 2021-22 from USD 87.4 billion in 2020-21.
- GCC countries contribute almost 35% of India’s oil imports and 70% of its gas imports.



VISTARA TO MERGE WITH AIR INDIA BY 2024-

- Singapore Airlines (SIA) and Tata Sons announced that they have agreed to merge Air India and Vistara, with SIA getting a 25.1 per cent stake in the merged entity at an investment of Rs 2,058.5 crore (\$250 million) in Air India as part of the transaction.
- The 25.1 per cent stake will be in an enlarged Air India group – it will have Air India, Vistara, AirAsia India and Air India Express – and the merger of all airlines is targeted for completion by March 2024, subject to regulatory approvals. The group is already in the process of merging Air India Express and AirAsia India into one entity that will provide low-cost flight options.
- SIA intends to fully fund this investment with its internal cash resources, which stood at \$17.5 billion as of 30 September 2022.



- This will take the fleet size to 218, putting together Air India's 113 with AirAsia India's 28, Vistara's 53, and Air India Express's 24. It will then be India's largest international carrier and second largest domestic carrier, Tata Sons said.

INDIA'S EXPORTS DECLINED ABOUT 16.7% IN OCTOBER 2022 COMPARED WITH THE SAME PERIOD 2021, RAISING CONCERNS OVER SLOWING EXPORTS-

- For October, USD 2 billion worth of exports declining was seen in steel and allied products.
- Electronic goods exports remained among a handful of segments to witness a rise in exports growing about 38% to USD 1.8 billion.

Factors of Slowing Export Demand-

- Weaker Global Demand- The global economic growth is decelerating sharply in the wake of persistently high inflation across developed countries and, as a result, as sharp tightening of monetary policy .
- Inflation- Inflation has been driven up more by local factors, including higher food prices, than imported reasons and that those pressures are set to dampen thanks to easing international commodity prices and the arrival of Kharif crop.
- Rising Global Trade Tension- Recent trade war between the US and China and other global trade wars has impacted growth all over the world.

Positive Signals to the Economy-

- Despite the slowing export scenario, it is likely that domestic demand will carry through.
- The investment cycle will be reinvigorating which will spur growth and job creation in the coming days.
- The private sector capital expenditure is on track to touch six lakh crore this fiscal 2022-23 which would make it the highest of the past six years.

Rank	Country	Exports	Imports	Total Trade	Trade Balance
1	United States	76.11	43.31	119.42	32.80
2	China	21.25	94.16	115.41	-72.91
3	United Arab Emirates	28.10	44.80	72.90	-16.7
4	Saudi Arabia	8	34.00	42	-28
5	Russia	1.00	21.00	22.00	-20.00
6	Germany	8.21	13.69	21.9	-5.48
7	Hong Kong	13.7	20.34	34.04	-6.64
8	Indonesia	4.12	15.06	19.18	-10.94
9	South Korea	4.85	15.65	20.5	-10.8
10	Malaysia	3.71	9.08	16.93	-5.30
11	Singapore	7.72	9.31	16.93	-1.59
12	Nigeria	2.22	9.95	16.36	-11.00
13	Belgium	5.03	8.26	16.33	-5.29
14	Qatar	0.90	9.02	15.66	-13.55
15	Japan	4.66	9.85	15.52	-4.75
16	Iraq	1.00	10.84	15.08	-13.42
17	Kuwait	1.25	4.97	14.58	-12.18
18	United Kingdom	8.83	5.19	14.34	4.30
19	Iran	2.78	6.28	13.13	-4.78
20	Australia	3.26	8.90	13.03	-7.47
21	Venezuela	0.13	5.70	11.99	-11.47
22	South Africa	3.59	5.95	11.72	-3.40
-	Remaining Countries	126.78	104.92	231.70	21.86
-	India's Total	422.08	612.61	1034.69	-192.0

INDIA'S IMPORT DEPENDENCE ON CHINA-

- The recent Tawang skirmish has led to rising demands for severing trade ties with China. However, contrary to the demands, India's imports from China have seen a sharp increase post the Galwan Valley clash in 2020.
- China is India's second biggest trading partner after the US. In 2021-22, Indo-China bilateral trade was USD 115.83 billion - 11.2% of India's total merchandise trade of USD 1,035 billion (Indo-US trade - 11.54%).
- China as a trading partner stood at 10th position about 2 decades ago; this upward trend has begun since 2002-03.
- China was India's top trading partner in 2011-12, from 2013-14 to 2017-18 and in 2020-21.
- The major difference in India's trade with the US and China is that while India enjoys a trade surplus with the US (USD 32.85 bn - 2021-22), with China India has a trade deficit of USD 73.31 bn (2021-22), the highest for any country.
- While India's imports from China (between 2001-02 and 2021-2020) have increased from USD 2 bn to USD 94.57 bn, (in the same period) India's exports to China have increased from about USD 1 bn to only USD 21 bn.

The top commodities that India buys from China include-

- Electrical machinery and equipment and parts thereof
- Television image and sound recorders and reproducers and parts
- Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances and parts thereof
- Organic chemicals, Plastic and plastic articles, Fertilisers
- **The most valued Chinese imports are-**
- Personal computer (laptop, palmtop etc.) > monolithic integrated circuits-digital > lithium-ion > solar cells > urea

OVERALL TRADE DEFICIT DOWN AT \$11.11 BN IN NOVEMBER-

- India's overall trade deficit for goods and services in November this year has fallen to \$11.11 billion, lower than year-ago and month-ago levels.
- Moreover, thanks to a recovery in exports, India's monthly merchandise trade deficit came down to a six-month low of \$23.81 billion. Trade deficit is the amount by which a country's import costs exceed its export value in a given period.
- November's goods exports stood at \$31.99 billion against \$29.78 billion in October and \$30.04 billion a year ago.
- The export data is still the lowest since November 2021 due to lower prices and volumes. Also, November goods imports were recorded at \$55.88 billion against \$56.69 billion a month ago.
- The number stood at \$52.94 billion a year ago. November goods trade deficit has fallen to \$23.81 billion against \$26.9 billion in October and \$22.9 billion year-on-year (YoY). The November goods deficit is the lowest since May.
- The November trade deficit is down on marginal recovery in exports and a fall in services imports. November imports, including services, were down to \$65.65 billion as against \$73 billion in October and \$69.33 billion a year ago.
- Overall November deficit saw a reduction, with the number standing at \$11.11 billion against \$14.63 in October. The overall deficit stood at \$13.91 billion in November 2021.

THE RESERVE BANK ANNOUNCES THE LAUNCH OF THE FIRST PILOT FOR RETAIL DIGITAL RUPEE (E ₹) ALSO CALLED CENTRAL BANK DIGITAL CURRENCY (CBDC)-

- On 1st November 2022, the RBI launched the digital rupee for the wholesale segment to settle secondary market transactions in government securities.
- The first phase of a pilot project that will cover select locations and banks in a closed user group (CUG) comprising participating customers and merchants.
- The pilot will initially cover the four cities of Mumbai, New Delhi, Bengaluru, and Bhubaneswar, where customers and merchants will be able to use the digital rupee (e- ₹), or e-rupee.
- According to the central bank, the pilot will test the robustness of the entire process of digital rupee creation, distribution and retail usage in real time.
- RBI defines the CBDC as the digital form of currency notes issued by a central bank. It is a sovereign or entirely independent currency issued by the central bank (in this case, RBI), in accordance with the country's monetary policy.
- Once officially issued, CBDC will be considered as a medium of payment and legal tender by all three parties - citizens, government bodies, and enterprises. Being government-recognised, it can be freely converted to any commercial bank's money or notes.
- As of July 2022, 105 countries were exploring CBDC. Ten countries have launched CBDC, the first of which was the Bahamian Sand Dollar in 2020 and the latest was Jamaica's JAM-DEX.

RECENTLY, THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (MOSPI) RELEASED INDIA'S ECONOMIC GROWTH DATA FOR THE 2ND QUARTER OF THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR FY23-

- India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) grew by 6.3% in Q2 and Gross Value Added (or GVA) in Q2 grew by 5.6% on a year-on-year basis.
- Notably, India remained the fastest-growing major economy as China registered an economic growth of 3.9% in July-September 2022.
- The GDP measures the monetary measure of all "final" goods and services— those that are bought by the final user— produced in a country in a given period.

Four Key "Engines of GDP Growth"-

- All the money Indians spent for their private consumption (that is, Private Final Consumption Expenditure or PFCE)
- All the money the government spent on its current consumption, such as salaries [Government Final Consumption Expenditure or GFCE]
- All the money spent towards investments to boost the productive capacity of the economy. This includes business firms investing in factories or the governments building roads and bridges [Gross Fixed Capital Expenditure]
- The net effect of exports (what foreigners spent on our goods) and imports (what Indians spent on foreign goods) [Net Exports or NX].

Calculation of GDP

- $GDP = \text{private consumption} + \text{gross investment} + \text{government investment} + \text{government spending} + (\text{exports} - \text{imports})$
- $GDP = (GVA) + (\text{Tax} \text{ earned by the government}) - (\text{Subsidies provided by the government})$

HURUN GLOBAL 500 RANKINGS: INDIA RANKED 5TH IN THE LIST OF VALUABLE COMPANIES-

- India, with 20 of the most valuable companies in the world, has moved into the fifth position among countries that are home to the world's top 500 firms.

- Last year, it ranked ninth with eight companies.
- The US continued to top the charts, according to the 2022 Hurun Global 500 list. The list, released by the Hurun Research Institute, is a compilation of the 500 most valuable non-state-controlled companies in the world. Companies were ranked according to their market capitalisation (for listed companies) and valuations for non-listed companies.
- Of the 20 Indian companies featuring on the list this year, 11 are based in Mumbai, four in Ahmedabad and one each in Noida, New Delhi, Bengaluru and Kolkata.
- With a \$202-billion valuation, Reliance Industries (RIL) topped the charts of Indian companies, while it ranked 34th in the world. It was followed by Tata Consultancy Services (\$139 billion) and HDFC Bank (\$97 billion).
- The list also saw the entry of four companies — Adani Transmission, Adani Green Energy, Adani Enterprises and Adani Total Gas — led by billionaire Gautam Adani, with a total valuation of \$173 billion.
- The other new entrants in the list from India include ITC (\$52 billion), Avenue Supermarts (\$33 billion), Axis Bank (\$33 billion), Bajaj Finserv (\$32 billion) and Larson & Toubro (\$32 billion).
- Interestingly, 50 per cent or 250 companies in the Hurun Global 500 companies have presence in India.
- Globally, Apple retained the title of the most valuable company in the world with a market cap of \$2.4 trillion and Microsoft came second (\$1.8 trillion), while Alphabet, the parent company of Google, displaced Amazon to take the third place.
- China came in second with 35 companies, followed by Japan (28) and the UK (21). India and Canada moved up to the fifth place with 20 companies each, adding eight and three companies, respectively, overtaking France and Germany.

RBI MONETARY POLICY 2022-

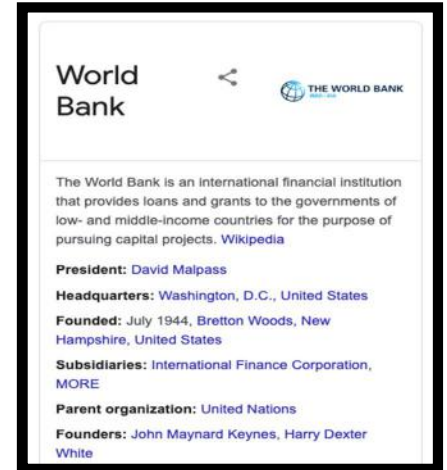
- The decision of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das headed six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) has been announced. In the consecutive fifth hike this year, the RBI's Monetary Policy Committee has raised the repo rate by 35 basis points (bps) to 6.25 per cent with immediate effect, making loans expensive.
- The policy rate is now at the highest level since August 2018. The RBI has maintained policy stance at 'withdrawal of accommodation'.
 - A. Policy Repo Rate: 6.25% (Changed)
 - B. Standing Deposit Facility (SDF): 6.00% (Changed)
 - C. Marginal Standing Facility Rate: 6.50% (Changed)
 - D. Bank Rate: 6.50% (Changed)
 - E. Fixed Reverse Repo Rate: 3.35%
 - F. Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR): 4.50%
 - G. Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR): 18.00%



INDIA THE FIRST COUNTRY IN THE WORLD TO RECEIVE \$100 BILLION IN REMITTANCES-

- India will be the first country in the world to receive \$100 billion from remittances during 2022, the World Bank has said.
- Though remittances to the rest of the South Asian countries declined by 10%, it rose by 12% in India's case.
- Remittances to South Asian countries grew by 3.5% to \$163 billion in 2022.
- Worldwide, remittances are estimated at \$794 billion in 2022.

- South Asia receives the most remittances that are estimated at \$163 billion in 2022. India's share will be \$100 billion.
- Latin America and Caribbean comes second with \$142 billion.
- Remittances to India were enhanced by wage hikes and a strong labour market in the US and other member countries of OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development).
- The top five recipient countries for remittances in 2022 are expected to be India, establishing a benchmark of \$100 billion in the year, followed by Mexico, with a tally of \$60 billion (which replaced China in second position during 2021), and China, the Philippines, and the Arab Republic of Egypt.
- India had received \$89.4 billion in remittances in 2021, according to the World Bank, making it the top recipient globally last year also.



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REPORTS & INDICES

SUGAMYA BHARAT ABHIYAN-

- The Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan (Accessible India Campaign) is going to complete 7 years in December 2022.
- The aim of the Campaign is to make a barrier-free and conducive environment for Divyangjans (Persons with Disabilities - PwDs) all over the country.
- It was launched by the Prime Minister of India on International Day of Persons with Disabilities on 3rd December 2015.
- AIC is the nationwide flagship campaign of the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 categorically provided for non-discrimination in transport and in the built environment.
- It needs to be noted that the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 replaced the PwD Act, 1995 to comply with United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) .
- UNCRPD, to which India is a signatory, under Article 9 casts obligations on the Governments for ensuring to PwDs accessibility to-
 - A. Information
 - B. Transportation
 - C. Physical Environment
 - D. Communication Technology
 - E. Accessibility to Services as well as emergency services.



EDIBLE OIL SECTOR IN INDIA-

- India is one of the largest producers of oilseeds in the world.
- Oil sector occupies an important position in the agricultural economy.
- It accounts for the estimated production of 36.56 mt of nine cultivated oilseeds during the year 2020-21 as per the data released by the Ministry of Agriculture.
- India is the world's second-largest consumer and number one importer of vegetable oil.
- The present rate of edible oil consumption in India surpasses the domestic production rate. Hence, the country has to rely on imports to meet the gap between demand and supply.
- At present, India meets nearly 55% to 60% of its edible oil demand through imports. Therefore, India needs to be independent in oil production to meet the domestic consumption demand.
- Palm oil (Crude + Refined) constitutes roughly around 62% of the total edible oils imported and are imported mainly from Indonesia and Malaysia, while Soyabean oil (22%) is imported from Argentina and Brazil and Sunflower oil (15%) is imported mainly from Ukraine and Russia.
- In India, groundnut, mustard, rapeseed, sesame, safflower, linseed, niger seed and castor are the major traditionally cultivated oilseeds.
- Soyabean and sunflower have also assumed importance in recent years. Coconut is most important amongst the plantation crops.
- Among the non-conventional oils, rice bran oil and cottonseed oil are the most important.
- The government of India launched National Mission on Edible Oils-Oil Palm as a centrally-sponsored scheme, being implemented jointly by the central and state governments with a special focus in the northeast region and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

NATIONAL AND STATE PARTIES-

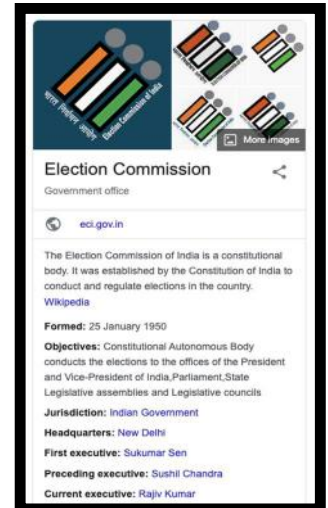
- Recently, the Aam Aadmi Party became the 9th National Party of India after the result of Gujarat elections where it gained almost 13% of the vote share.
- At the time of the first General Elections (1952), there were 14 national parties in India.
- The Election Commission of India (ECI) registers political parties for the purpose of elections and grants them recognition as national or state parties on the basis of their poll performance.
- As the name suggests a national party has a nationwide presence as opposed to a regional party that is restricted to only a particular state or region.
- Every national party is allotted a symbol exclusively reserved for its use throughout the country. Even in the states where it is not contesting elections.

As per the ECI's Political Parties and Election Symbols, 2019 handbook, a political party would be considered a national party if-

- It is recognised 'in four or more states; or
- If its candidates have secured at least 6% of total valid votes in at least 4 states (in latest Lok Sabha or Assembly elections) and the party has at least 4 MPs in the last LS polls; or
- If it has won at least 2% of the total seats in the LS from at least 3 states.

A party is recognised as a state party in a state if any of the following conditions is fulfilled-

- If it secures 6% of the valid votes polled in the state at a general election to the respective state legislative assembly (state LA) and also, it wins 2 seats in the same state LA.
- If it secures 6% of the total valid votes in the state at a general election to the LS; and also, it wins 1 seat in the LS from the same state.
- If it wins 3% of seats in the LA at a general election to the legislative assembly of the state concerned or 3 seats in the assembly (whichever is more).
- If it wins 1 seat in the LS for every 25 seats or any fraction thereof allotted to the state at a general election to the LS from the state concerned.



NIRMALA SITHARAMAN, FALGUNI NAYAR IN 'WORLD'S 100 MOST POWERFUL WOMEN' LIST-

- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Biocon Executive Chairperson Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw and Nykaa founder Falguni Nayar are among six Indians who have made it to the Forbes 'annual list of "The World's 100 Most Powerful Women".
- Ranked at number 36, Nirmala Sitharaman has made it to the list for the fourth time in a row. In 2021, the 63-year-old minister was ranked at number 37 in the list, while she was in the 41st spot in 2020 and 34th in 2019.



The other Indians to feature on the list-

- HCL Tech Chairperson Roshni Nadar Malhotra (rank: 53),
- Securities And Exchange Board Of India (SEBI) Chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch (rank: 54),
- Steel Authority Of India Chairperson Soma Mondal (rank: 67),

World's 100 Most Powerful Women: Globally

- For her leadership during the Ukraine war, as well as her handling of the Covid-19 pandemic, European Commission president Ursula von der Leyen sits atop the 19th annual Forbes list of the World's 100 Most Powerful Women.
- While European Central Bank President Christine Lagarde is placed at 2nd position, US Vice President Kamala Harris ranked 3rd in the list.
- At rank 100, Iran's Jina "Mahsa" Amini has posthumously made it to the influential list. Her death in September sparked an unprecedented women-led revolution for their rights in the Islamic nation.
- The list includes 39 CEOs; 10 heads of state; and 11 billionaires worth a combined \$115 billion.

INDIA RANKED 87TH IN THE WORLD'S STRONGEST PASSPORT LIST 2022-

- Passport Index 2022 published by Arton Capital ranked the world's strongest and weakest passports.
- A passport is a travel document issued by a country's government to its citizens that verifies the identity and nationality of the holder for the purpose of international travel.
- India was ranked at 87th position in the world's strongest passport list.
- The Passport Index is based on the 139 members of the United Nations and six territories were considered for the list.
- The process included a three-tier method which rates on the basis of a mobility score (MS) – includes visa-free (VF), visa on arrival (VOA), eTA and eVisa (if issued within 3 days).
- The UAE has the strongest passport in the world. Holders of this passport can travel visa-free or "visa on arrival" to 180 countries. With a UAE passport travelers can enter to 180 countries hassle-free, seven more than European countries such as Germany and Sweden, and nine more than Japan, the index showed.
- India was ranked at 87th position in the world's strongest passport list. Countries with the weakest passports are Afghanistan (38) Syria (39), Iraq (40), Pakistan (44).
- Nine out of top 10 most powerful passports are issued by the European countries. Germany, Sweden, Finland, Luxembourg, Spain, and France are among the top 10 performers.

ENVIRONMENT

THE ANNUAL UNITED NATIONS CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE (COP27), WILL SOON BEGIN IN THE EGYPTIAN RESORT TOWN OF SHARM EL-SHAIKH-

- These annual conferences have been the main driver of the global fight against climate change.
- However, the response so far has not been commensurate to the enormity of the challenge. Conference of Parties (COP) is the supreme decision-making body of the UNFCCC.
- The agreement seeks to limit global warming to well below 2°C, preferably to 1.5°C, compared to pre-industry levels.
- As a bloc, the European Union has done relatively better on climate goals, with the United Kingdom, which is struggling with an economic downturn right now, halving its emissions from 1990 levels, UN data shows.
- The United States, the world's leading emitter till it was overtaken by China in the mid 2000s, has been a major laggard, cutting its emissions by only about 7 percent from 1990 levels.
- China's emissions have risen by almost four times, and India's by about three times, during this period.



AUSTRALIA'S GREAT BARRIER REEF TO BE LISTED AS A WORLD HERITAGE SITE-

- UN panel has recommended that Australia's Great Barrier Reef should be listed as a World Heritage site that is in danger.
- The UN also informed that the world's biggest coral reef ecosystem was significantly impacted by climate change and the warming of oceans.
- A report by UNESCO informed that the resilience of the Reef to recover from climate change impacts is substantially compromised.
- Australian Environment Minister Tanya Plibersek said that the government would push UNESCO to not list the reef as endangered because climate change was threatening all coral reefs across the world.
- The Australian government announced a billion-dollar package to protect the reef in January.



IMPORTANT ARTICLES

SOLAR ENERGY AND INDIA'S NET-ZERO TARGET

The world is on the cusp of a Solar Revolution. Not only is solar the world's most abundant and clean energy source, with its widespread acceptance, it has become the common energy imperative to drive international climate action.

Many countries are in line to solar acceptance, with India leading the way, giving it the scale and affordability that global climate action asks for. Solar energy is playing a key role not only in the developing world to tackle energy access and energy security, but also in developed countries to facilitate energy transition.

Despite technological superiority over other energy technologies, solar energy is facing an important challenge as the global photovoltaic (PV) manufacturing supply chain is concentrated in a handful of countries, which resulted in recent price surges because of the choking of existing limited supply chains.

How can Solar Energy Facilitate Development in India?

- Job Generation: The Solar Sector has immense potential to create new jobs, 1 GW of Solar manufacturing facility generates approximately 4000 direct and indirect jobs.
- In addition solar deployment, operation and maintenance can create additional recurring jobs in the sector.
- Environmental Development: India's energy demands are largely fulfilled by non-renewable sources of energy.
- The scarcity of these fossil resources stresses the need for renewable energy sources. Abundance of solar energy can fulfil India's clean energy demands.
- Energy Security: India being a developing economy needs proper electricity for industrial growth and agriculture.
- For achieving self-sufficiency and minimal cost in power generation, assured regular supply, solar energy can play a vital role.
- Social development: The problem of power cuts and unavailability of electricity, especially in rural areas, leads to improper human development.
- The use of solar energy can enable social development in even the most remote areas of India.

What are the Challenges Related to Solar Energy in India?

- High Dependency on Imports: India still is largely dependent on foreign countries like China for solar modules.
- Backward integration in the solar value chain is absent as India has no capacity for manufacturing solar wafers and polysilicon.
- In 2021-22, India imported nearly USD 76.62 billion worth of solar cells and modules from China alone, accounting for 78.6% of India's total imports that year.
- Land Scarcity: Solar projects that are ground-mounted require a vast area for installation. Per capita land availability in India is very low, and land is a scarce resource.
- Installing solar cells near substations may have to compete with other land-based necessities for a small area of land.
- Losses in Cost and T&D (Transmission and Distribution): Solar energy is also having problems with cost competitiveness and competing against other energy generation technologies.
- The cost of T&D losses is approximately 40%, making generation through solar energy sources highly unfeasible.

- No Solar Waste Management Policy: Despite ambitious solar installation targets, India does not have a policy for managing its solar waste. Solar waste consists of discarded solar panels. It is predicted to grow by 4 to 5 times within the next ten years.
- Acceptability Concern: Despite the fact that solar energy production techniques have been improvised in India, it has not yet been commercialised.
- Topographically and climatically, sun rays are not uniformly available at any particular place throughout the year, and people (particularly farmers), have not yet been educated about its advantages and benefits.
- Low Cost to Benefit Ratio: Despite significant growth in the installed solar capacity, the contribution of solar energy to the country's power generation has not grown at the same pace.
- In 2019-20, for instance, solar power contributed only 3.6% (50 billion units) of India's total power generation of 1390 BU.

What are the Related Government Schemes to Enhance Solar Energy Production in India?

- International Solar Alliance
- National Solar Mission
- Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan (PM-KUSUM)
- One Sun, One World, One Grid (OSOWOG)

What Should be the Way Forward?

- Solar Self Reliance: India needs to cultivate a strong domestic solar energy market supporting the vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat.
- The best way to support the development of solar PV manufacturing projects is direct support to upstream actors, for instance through Design and Production Linked Incentives.
- Bio Solar Cells: India can also explore the use of bio solar cells by generating electricity from microbial photosynthetic and respiration processes.
- Towards Global Solar Manufacturing Hub: Given its geographical location and abundance of resources, India is nicely positioned to become a global hub of solar manufacturing.
- India's solar story will continue to provide important lessons for other developing countries that are looking to transition to clean energy.
- With 110 members and signatory countries, the India led International Solar Alliance is making efforts to bring about this change.
- Technology sharing and finance could also become important aspects of ISA in the future, allowing for meaningful cooperation between countries in the solar energy sector.
- Catalysing Net Zero Target: Solar Mini Grids and community rooftop solar installations can enable the solar shift in India. Localised Solar energy is the one which could become the cornerstone of the net-zero India that we are aiming to see in 2070.
- Reducing T&D Loss: India can encourage R&D activities to find more innovative solutions to cut down T&D loss by establishing research centres and funding gives some relief to solar energy players.
- In addition, India can collaborate with world-renowned universities for the upgradation of substations and T&D lines to reduce T&D losses.

INDIA'S GREEN-ENERGY TRANSITION

Climate change is an existential threat that has the potential to change the course of human history for the worse. Fossil fuels are the traditional energy sources that constitute the largest contributors to climate change. They account for over 75% of global greenhouse gas emissions and approximately 90% of all carbon dioxide emissions.

For a better future, green energy is the key solution through which India's net zero emission target by 2070 can also be accomplished.

Therefore, India should pioneer a new model of economic development that could avoid the carbon-intensive approaches that many countries have pursued in the past and provide a blueprint for other developing economies for clean energy transition.

What is Green Energy?

- Green energy is a term for energy that comes from renewable sources. Green energy is often referred to as clean, sustainable, or renewable energy.
- The production of green energy does not release toxic greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, meaning it causes little or no environmental impact.
- Some important green energy sources include power produced by solar, wind, geothermal, biogas, low-impact hydroelectricity, and certain eligible biomass sources.

How is India Facilitating the Green Energy Transition?

- India is the world's third-largest energy consuming country. Energy use has doubled since 2000, with 80% of demand still being met by coal, oil and solid biomass.
- On a per capita basis, India's energy use and emissions are less than half the world average.
- Efforts Towards Green Energy Transition:
- In 2019 India announced that it would take up its installed capacity of renewable energy to 450 GW by 2030.
- The Production Linked Incentive Scheme (PLI) scheme is another initiative of the Government of India with respect to enhancing the manufacturing sector for the production of raw materials for renewable energy.
- The PM- KUSUM (Pradhan Mantri-Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan) aims to provide financial and water security to farmers through harnessing solar energy capacities of 25,750 MW by 2022.
- Solarisation of water pumps is a step in distributed power provided at the doorstep of the consumer.
- The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy on its website also hosts Akshay Urja Portal and India Renewable Idea Exchange (IRIX) Portal.
- IRIX is a platform that promotes the exchange of ideas among energy conscious Indians and the Global community.

What are the Other Initiatives Shaping India's Energy Transition?

- Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana (SAUBHAGYA)
- Green Energy Corridor (GEC)
- National Smart Grid Mission (NSGM) and Smart Meter National Programme
- Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid &) Electric Vehicles (FAME)
- International Solar Alliance (ISA)

What are the Challenges Related to India's Energy Sector?

- Energy Poverty and Inequality: Access to energy is a tremendous problem in India and major inequalities of access plague the country. Around 77 million households in India still use kerosene for lighting.
- The problem is even more acute in rural India where up to 44% of households lack access to electricity.
- While India has undertaken various programs and initiatives to address energy poverty, they have been faced with logistical problems and inadequate implementation locally.
- Import Dependence and Weaponization of Supply Chain: India's crude oil import bill surged 76% to USD 90.3 billion in the first half of 2022-23 and total import quantity increased by 15%.
- With its growing dependency on imported oil, India's energy security is under severe strain, and the current disrupted global supply chain due to disturbed geopolitics is compounding the problem.
- In terms of renewable energy, India is also largely dependent on foreign countries like China for solar modules.

- Backward integration in the solar value chain is absent as India has currently no capacity for manufacturing solar wafers and polysilicon, which is hindering clean energy transition.
- Climate Change Induced Energy Crisis: Climate change directly affects fuel supply, energy requirement as well as the physical resilience of current and future energy infrastructure.
- Heatwaves and disturbed monsoon due to climate change are already putting existing energy generation under stress, making it even more important to reduce fossil fuel emissions.
- Women's Health at Risk: Women tend to take an active part in household activities and are at risk when long-term household energy is derived from non-clean resources such as firewood, coal, and cow dung.
- The use of non-clean energy sources increases women's risk of respiratory, cardiovascular, and psychological diseases and also increases maternal and infant mortality.
- Widening Gap Between Demand and Supply of Coal: Data from the Ministry of Coal in 2021, reveal that the gap between demand and domestic supply of coal is widening.
- Despite the availability of adequate reserves, coal extraction has been declining in the larger coal producing States.
- Owing to the rising prices and unresolved pending contractual issues with power plants is worsening the issue.
- Increasing Demand, Increasing Energy Cost: With an increasing rate of urbanisation and industrialisation, the International Energy Agency said in its World Energy Outlook report that the need for energy in India alone would rise by more than 3% annually.
- At the same time, there is a sharp increase in costs of petroleum globally.

What Should be the Way Forward?

- Interlinking Women Empowerment with Green Energy: Women's empowerment and leadership in the energy sector could help accelerate the transition to a low-carbon economy by promoting clean energy.
- The "just transition" should also include a gender perspective, to guarantee equal opportunities in green jobs for both men and women in the workforce.
- Particularly in the household as responsible mothers, wives and daughters, women can also play an important role in the green energy transition in entrepreneurship and policy making.
- Diversifying Green Supply Chain: Supply chains for clean energy need to be diversified to a much larger number of countries rather than just confined to developed countries.
- In this regard, COP27's agenda of climate finance can be used as a carrier. As traditional energy sources get replaced, revenues and employment will shift from certain geographies to others and this will need to be carefully managed.
- Incentivising in Least-Cost Energy Solutions: India can encourage university-level innovations that help India pursue an economically viable clean energy transition. Thus, India's demographic dividend can also be utilised and students will be pushed more toward research and innovation than traditional education.
- For example, the Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All (UJALA) program decreased the unit cost of LED bulbs by over 75%.
- The Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Climate Change, along with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), jointly launched 'In Our LiFEtime', a campaign that both urges and encourages young people between the ages of 18 to 23 years to adapt and promote sustainable lifestyles is also a good step in this direction.
- Focusing on Green Transport: There is a need to rethink and restore confidence in public transport, including the procurement of more buses, the adoption of e-buses, bus corridors and bus rapid transit systems with digitization of public transport.
- Emission norms should be tightened as well as biofuels should replace fossil fuels.
- The development of several electric freight corridors to promote electrification is also crucial to reaping the benefits of electric vehicles.

- Multisectoral Approach to Energy Transition: In India, future growth will demand resilience on multiple fronts, such as energy system design, urban development, industrial growth and internal supply-chain management, and the livelihoods of the underprivileged.
- India can gradually reduce its exposure to commodity imports and foreign supply chains through distributed energy systems and the promotion of domestic manufacturing.
- India's manufacturing prowess and technology leadership present an opportunity to leverage Make in India to turn India into a more self-sufficient green economy and globally competitive green energy export hub over time.
- Circular economy solutions linked with green energy should become a core feature of India's future economy.

ANALYZING U.S.-CHINA BILATERAL TIES

The S. President and Chinese President had their first in-person interaction on the sidelines of the G-20 summit in Bali in November, signaling a probable relaxation of the growing tensions.

Phases in the US-China relationship:

- 19th century: American missionaries began to arrive in China and began to generate empathy for the nation.
- During World War II: US backed Chinese nationalists in their fight against Japanese occupation.
- The US tried to isolate China from 1949: when the communists prevailed over the nationalists.
- The 1970s: It saw the US and communist China come together to counter the Soviet Union.
- The 1980s: Beginning of an economic engagement that turned into a huge commercial and technological partnership from the 1990s.
- 21st century: some in the US began to see China as a potential threat.
- America believed that China's growing economic prosperity would inevitably lead to greater democratization of its society.
- **US-China rivalry has intensified in the past two years covering:**
 - trade
 - technology
 - naval activities in the South China Sea

Recent downturns in US-China relations:

- Taiwan: Nancy Pelosi's historic visit to Taiwan
- Heavy restrictions: The imposition of heavy restrictions on China's semiconductor industry by the U.S.

How did relations sour between the U.S. and China?

Reasons for continuous decoupling" of bilateral relations:

- China's crackdown in Xinjiang and Hong Kong
- Wolf warrior diplomacy during the COVID-19 blame game
- Evident support to Russia during the Ukraine crisis
- Taiwan: Escalating offensive posturing towards Taiwan

Outcome of the meet on the sidelines of G20:

- There was no joint statement released after the meeting.
- Easing tensions and reopening channels of communication were agreed upon by both the leaders.
- US President: He proposed promoting U.S.-China cooperation on the issues of:
 - Climate change
 - Global macroeconomic stability,
 - Global health and food security.

- The US underlined the human rights concerns surrounding China's activities in Xinjiang, Tibet and Hong Kong.
- China re-emphasised Taiwan's position as being at "the very core of China's core interests" as well as "the bedrock of the political foundation of China-U.S. relations."

"Five noes" by US President:

- Not seek a new Cold War
- Not seek to change China's system
- Not to revitalize its alliances against China
- Not to disturb the cross-Strait status quo
- Not look for conflict with China.

India's stand on US-China dynamics:

- Us-China dynamic: India's engagement with the US-China dynamic has not been an uncomfortable one in the past.
- International acceptance: When the US sought to isolate China in the 1950s, India tried to befriend it and promote its international acceptance.
- Alliance with Russia: When the US and China joined to limit Soviet power in the 1970s, India deepened its alliance with Moscow.
- Modernisation of China: India watched with envy as the US helped the rapid modernisation of the Chinese economy.

Way Forward:

- Stability in bilateral relations: The recent meeting between the two heads of states certainly imply that there is a move toward bringing in more stability into bilateral relations.
- China's more specific objectives like the reunification of Taiwan with the mainland.
- China has not moved away from its path to attain its long term goal of centrality in the international system.
- The "new era" of Xi Jinping is marked by China's efforts to project rather than conceal its capabilities.
- The US's three-pillar approach towards China — "invest, align, compete: This showcases the intent to deal with the threat posed by China without sliding into an inadvertent conflict.

E-RUPEE TO BOLSTER INDIAN ECONOMY

India is witnessing massive growth in digital transactions, the volume and value of Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions increased by 118% in 2022. India's Digital rupee move based on transparent and efficient technology will provide customers with continuous access to the payment system.

India launched its Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) or digital rupee or e-rupee on December 1, 2022. It is an electronic version of cash and will be primarily meant for retail transactions. The pilot will initially cover the four cities of Mumbai, New Delhi, Bengaluru, and Bhubaneswar.

This makes it important to know what CBDCs are, how they are different from cryptocurrencies and UPI transactions, and also about the safety concerns associated with it.

What is CBDC or E-rupee?

- It is a legal tender issued by the RBI in digital form. It is the same as the fiat currency and is exchangeable one-to-one with the fiat currency.
- E-rupee will be in the form of a digital token representing a claim on the central bank and will effectively function as the digital equivalent of a banknote that can be transferred electronically from one holder to another.
- Based on usage and the functions performed by the digital rupee, and considering different levels of accessibility, the RBI has demarcated the digital rupee into two categories:

- Retail E-rupee: It is an electronic version of cash primarily meant for retail transactions, which can potentially be used by almost everyone, and can provide access to safe money for payment and settlements.
- Wholesale CBDC: It is designed for restricted access to select financial institutions.
- Financial transactions involving government securities (G-Sec) and interbank transactions could be transformed by this technology.
- It also makes the capital market more efficient and secure in terms of operational costs, use of collateral, and liquidity management.

How will the E-rupee be Circulated in the Market?

- E-rupees will be issued in the same denominations as paper currency and coins, and will be distributed through the intermediaries, that is banks.
- Transactions will be through a digital wallet offered by the participating banks and stored on mobile phones and devices.
- Transactions can be both person to person (P2P) and person to merchant (P2M).
- For P2M transactions (such as shopping), there will be QR codes at the merchant location.
- Users will be able to withdraw digital tokens from banks in the same way they can currently withdraw physical cash.
- They will be able to keep their digital tokens in the wallet, and spend them online or in person, or transfer them via an app.

What are the Advantages of E-rupee?

- Reducing Dependency on Dollar: India can establish Digital Rupee as a superior currency for trade with its strategic partners, thus reducing reliance on the dollar.
- This occurs at a time when India is already in talks with Russia, UAE and Saudi Arabia to allow settlement of trade in the Indian rupee.
- Cutting Cost of Maintaining Physical Currency: CBDC has the potential to reduce dependency on cash. To the extent large cash usage can be replaced by CBDCs, the cost of printing, transporting, storing and distributing currency can be reduced.
- Regulated Intermediation: Along with reducing operational costs, it will offer the public the same features as any private virtual currency (cryptocurrency) without any risks associated with it.
- Unlike crypto, E-rupee has regulated intermediation and control arrangements that plays the crucial role of ensuring integrity and stability of the monetary and financial ecosystem.
- Globalisation of Payment System: CBDC can also enable a more real-time and cost-effective globalisation of payment systems. It could eliminate the need for an expensive network of correspondent banks to settle cross-border payments.
- For Indians working abroad, sending money home will become simpler and cheaper resulting in huge savings for India, the world's top recipient of remittances.

What are the Challenges Associated with E-Rupee?

- Privacy and Security Concern: E-rupee has the capacity to accumulate sensitive user and payment data on a massive scale. In the wrong hands, this data can be easily used to spy on the private transactions of citizens.
- If implemented without proper security protocols, an E-Rupee could substantially amplify the scope and scale of many of the security and privacy threats that already exist in today's financial system.
- Digital Divide and Financial Illiteracy: High level of digital illiteracy is the biggest challenge and hindrance in the success of E-rupee in India. India had a rank of 73 out of 120 countries for internet literacy (2021).
- Also, digital services are not available in local languages, which is a major barrier to financial literacy.

- Acceptability Concern: Traceability of e-rupee transactions could become a deterrent to its uptake in India where cash transactions are still hugely popular, largely because of their anonymity. According to government data, the volume of bank notes in circulation rose 5% in fiscal year 2022.

What Should be the Way Forward?

- Secured Digital Environment: India's regulatory systems need to catch the evolving risks of data privacy and guide banking institutions to place appropriate safeguards and cushions to avoid any personal data breach.
- Strict KYC Norms: A digital rupee may well be a boon but there is a need to enforce strict compliance of Know Your Customer (KYC) norms to prevent the digital currency's use for terror financing or money laundering.
- Also, given India's still-vast digital divide, a protocol for offline use has to be worked out.

MAPS



Indian and Chinese troops clashed along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the Tawang sector of Arunachal Pradesh on December 9 and the face-off resulted in “minor injuries to a few personnel from both sides”, the Indian Army said.

Types of Soil in India



Alluvial Soil (29.55%)	In the Upper and Middle Ganga plain, two different types of alluvial soils have developed, viz. Khadar and Bhangar.	
Black Soil (19.62%)	It is also known as "Regur Soil" or the "Black Cotton Soil".	
Red Soil (19.62%)	The soil develops a reddish colour due to a wide diffusion of iron in crystalline and metamorphic rocks. It looks yellow when it occurs in a hydrated form.	
Desert Soil (14.02%)	They are generally sandy in structure and saline in nature.	
Laterite Soil (4.77%)	Laterites are not suitable for cultivation. Thus, are widely cut as bricks for use in house construction.	
Mountain Soil	It is also known as "Forest Soil". They are loamy and silty on valley sides and coarse-grained in the upper slopes.	
Snowfields	This soil is found under the snow and glaciers at the highest peak of the greater Himalayas, Karakoram, Ladakh, and Zaskar.	
Grey and Brown Soil	Submontane Soil	Red and Black Soil

A PROLIFERATION OF COMMANDS

India has just one tri-service command and 17 single-service commands with little or no coordination among them. If all theatre commands report to the CDS, as the Lt Gen D.B. Shekatkar Committee proposed, then the three chiefs will have to oversee just the training and equipping of their respective services

NOW



All Defence Forces Commands in India

IMPORTANT MCQ FOR COMPETITIVE EXAMS

1. Grida is a dance form of which Indian state ?
a) Madhya Pradesh
b) Jammu & Kashmir
c) Punjab
d) Rajasthan
2. In which state is the "Clouded Leopard National Park" located?
a) Odisha
b) Himachal Pradesh
c) Sikkim
d) Tripura
3. Who has represented India at the inauguration of the FIFA World Cup 2022 in Qatar ?
a) Narendra Modi
b) Rajnath Singh
c) Droupadi Murmu
d) Jagdeep Dhankhar
4. Who has been appointed as Election Commissioner of India recently ?
a) Abhishek Singhvi
b) Aryama Sundaram
c) Arun Goel
d) Mukul Rohatgi
5. World Children's Day is observed every year on which day ?
a) 19 November
b) 20 November
c) 21 November
d) 17 November
6. What is the name of official mascot of the Qatar World Cup 2022 ?
a) Striker
b) Zakumi
c) Fuleco
d) La'eeb
7. Who was conferred the Gandhi Mandela Award 2022 by Himachal Pradesh governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar?
a) Sheikh Mujibur Rahman
b) Dalai Lama
c) Qaboos bin Said Al Said
d) ISRO
8. Daljeet Kaur passed away recently at age of 69. She was _____.
a) Writer
b) Politician
c) Film Director
d) Actor
9. 53rd International Film Festival of India (IFFI), Telugu superstar _____ was honoured with the Indian Film Personality of the Year 2022 award.
a) N.T. Rama Rao Jr.
b) Pawan Kalyan
c) Mahesh Babu
d) Chiranjeevi
10. What is the name of the football to be used during the world cup 2022 ?
a) Telstar 18
b) Brazuca
c) Telstar Mechta
d) Al Rihla
11. Which of the following autonomous body locates in Delhi Nirvachan Sadan ?
a) UPSC
b) CBI
c) Election Commission of India
d) AIIMS
12. Of the following, the town which does not come within the National Capital Region is?
a) Panipat
b) Rohtak
c) Mathura
d) Khurja
13. On 2-10-1975, which types of banks were established
a) Public Sector Banks
b) Private Sector Banks
c) Regional Rural Banks
d) None of these
14. LIC was established in which year:
a) 1956
b) 1965
c) 1977
d) None of these
15. What is the capital of Somalia?
a) Niamey
b) Belgrade
c) Mogadishu
d) Bujumbura
16. In which Indian state is the "Damdama Lake" located ?
a) Haryana
b) West Bengal
c) Uttar Pradesh
d) Jharkhand
17. The Indian government has invited which country's President as the chief guest for the Republic day parade 2023 ?
a) USA
b) Israel
c) Egypt
d) Russia
18. Who has become the first male player to score in 5 World Cups?
a) Cristiano Ronaldo
b) Lionel Messi
c) Karim Benzema
d) Sergio Ramos

19. **Vikram Gokhale passed away recently at the age of 77. He was what ?**
a) Writer
b) Politician
c) Actor
d) Social Worker
20. **National Milk Day is celebrated on _____ every year to signify the importance and benefits of milk.**
a) 24th November
b) 25th November
c) 26th November
d) 27th November
21. **The National Cadet Corps (NCC) celebrated its _____ anniversary of its Raising Day on November 27th, 2022.**
a) 71st
b) 72nd
c) 73rd
d) 74th
22. **India has sent a team to which country to assess potential lithium deposits ?**
a) Australia
b) Brazil
c) Argentina
d) Egypt
23. **Which year is declared as the 'International Year of Millets (IYM)' ?**
a) 2021
b) 2022
c) 2023
d) 2025
24. **Who has been named as the national ambassador for TB Mukta Bharat Campaign ?**
a) Virat Kohli
b) Deepika Padukone
c) Deepa Malik
d) PV Sindhu
25. **Which of the following is Not a Greenhouse Gas ?**
a) Oxygen
b) Methane
c) Nitrous Oxide
d) Carbondioxide
26. **Which forests are called "Lungs of the Earth" ?**
a) Tongass
b) Congo
c) Nile
d) Amazon
27. **BIS stands for**
a) Bank Information Settlements
b) Bank for International Standardization
c) Bank for International Settlements
d) None of The Above
28. **Currency Swaps are**
a) common currency transactions involving borrowing and lending
b) currency loans from an outer country
c) back to back loan
d) none of the above
29. **Where is the headquarters of the "United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees" (UNHCR) located ?**
a) Madrid, Spain
b) Lyon, France
c) Vienna, Austria
d) Geneva, Switzerland
30. **Which of these Indian University is included in the list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites ?**
a) Mahatma Gandhi University
b) Jawaharlal Nehru University
c) Banaras Hindu University
d) Nalanda University
31. **Who has made a world record of making the fastest double century in a One Day International (ODI) against Bangladesh recently ?**
a) Virat Kohli
b) Rohit Sharma
c) KL Rahul
d) Ishan Kishan
32. **Who has been appointed as the new MD & CEO of Ashok Leyland ?**
a) Shenu Agarwal
b) Jaykumar Sammed
c) Vinit Kumar
d) Arun Kumar Singh
33. **UNICEF Day is celebrated every year on which day ?**
a) December 15
b) December 14
c) December 13
d) December 11
34. **International Mountain Day is observed every year on 11 December, the theme for 2022 is _____.**
a) Sustainable mountain tourism
b) Mountain biodiversity
c) Mountain minorities and indigenous peoples
d) Women move mountains I
35. **Which state is set to become the first state to launch its own Climate Change Mission?**
a) Karnataka
b) Kerala
c) Tamil Nadu
d) Andhra Pradesh
36. **Who has took oath as the New Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh at historic ridge ground in Shimla ?**
a) Sonam Dixit
b) Vipin Kohli
c) Rajendra Sharma
d) Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu
37. **What is the rank of India in 2022 Hurun Global 500 list ?**

- a) 1st
b) 2nd
c) 4th
d) 5th
38. Which of the following has won the World Athlete of the Year 2022 award ?
a) Andre Levrono & Dalilah Muhammad
b) Femke Bol & Allyson Felix
c) Athing Mu & Abby Steiner
d) McLaughlin-Levrone & Mondo Duplantis
39. Arrange the continents from largest to smallest ?
A) Africa
B) Europe
C) North America
D) Asia
E) Australia
F) South America
G) Antarctica
a) D, A, C, F, G, B, E
b) A, C, B, F, E, D, G
c) D, B, F, C, G, A, E
d) E, A, C, D, G, F, B
40. Name the continent where 'Tundra' type of climate is not found
a) Europe
b) Asia
c) Africa
d) North America
41. Which among the following is wrong
a) All the currency notes except the Hundred Rupee note is issued by RBI
b) All the Currency notes are issued by RBI
c) Only Notes of Rupee 100 issued by RBI
d) All of the Above
42. Arundhati Bhattacharya is concerned with
a) ICICI Bank
b) State Bank of India
c) Corporation Bank
d) None of The Above
43. Where in India is the "Vembanad Lake" located ?
a) Telangana
b) Gujarat
c) Kerala
d) Tamil Nadu
44. In which state is the Munnar hill station located ?
a) Kerala
b) Tamil Nadu
c) Himachal Pradesh
d) Rajasthan
45. Retail inflation of India has eased to how much percent in November 2022 from 6.77% in the previous month ?
a) 6.66%
b) 6.30%
c) 6.00%
d) 5.88%
46. The National Energy Conservation Day is celebrated every year on _____ 2022.
a) 15th December
b) 14th December
c) 13th December
d) 12th December
47. First G20 Finance and Central Bank Deputies Meeting are scheduled to be held in which of the following city on 13-15 December 2022 ?
a) Bengaluru
b) New Delhi
c) Guwahati
d) Ahmedabad
48. Which of the following country will host an International Conference "Standing with the Ukrainian People" ?
a) France
b) Australia
c) UK
d) USA
49. Which Indian film has been nominated in two categories at the Golden Globe Awards to be held in January 2023 ?
a) Gangubai Kathiawadi
b) RRR
c) Kantara
d) Chhello Show
50. Which country recently passed a law to completely end tobacco smoking by banning youth from buying cigarettes for life ?
a) Italy
b) Canada
c) Australia
d) New Zealand
51. Which country replaces Iraq as top oil supplier to India in November ?
a) Russia
b) Qatar
c) Saudi Arabia
d) Lebanon
52. India plans to commission 20 nuclear power plants by _____.
a) 2035
b) 2034
c) 2033
d) 2031
53. The biggest public sector undertaking in the country is
a) Iron and steel Plants
b) Roadways
c) Railways
d) Airways
54. What is the Study of human beauty called ?
a) Argology
b) Kalology
c) Agrostology
d) Oncology

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <p>55. The Asian Development Bank (ADB), established to facilitate economic development in Asia, is headquartered in ____.</p> <p>a) Bangkok, Thailand
b) Tokyo, Japan
c) Manila, Philippines
d) Jakarta, Indonesia</p> | <p>a) Mike Maignan
b) Manuel Neuer
c) Emiliano Martinez
d) Gianluigi Donnarumma</p> | <p>a) Prime Meridian
b) Poles
c) Equator
d) No where</p> |
| <p>56. Currently, the reserve Bank of India (RBI) acts as banker to all the State Govt In India, except _____.</p> <p>a) Nagaland
b) Kerala
c) Sikkim
d) Goa</p> | <p>62. Who will host the 2026 World Cup?</p> <p>a) United States, Mexico and Canada
b) Australia and Newzealand
c) France
d) Germany</p> | <p>68. As per Census 2011, which of the following is the most thickly populated state in India ?</p> <p>a) Bihar
b) Maharashtra
c) West Bengal
d) Goa</p> |
| <p>57. Which of these states is not known for the Mountain Railways of India ?</p> <p>a) Himachal Pradesh
b) Assam
c) Tamil Nadu
d) West Bengal</p> | <p>63. The eighth edition of the India International Science Festival (IISF) will be held in which city ?</p> <p>a) Varanasi
b) New Delhi
c) Bhopal
d) Ahmedabad</p> | <p>69. ICICI stands for</p> <p>a) Indian Credit and Investment Corporation of India
b) Investment Corporation In Credit
c) Industrial Credit Investment Corporation of India
d) None of These</p> |
| <p>58. Yakshagana is theatrical dance-art form famously performed in</p> <p>a) Karnataka
b) Haryana
c) Uttar Pradesh
d) Tamil Nadu</p> | <p>64. On December 16, 'Vijay Diwas' is celebrated by India to commemorate the independence of which country ?</p> <p>a) Bangladesh
b) Greece
c) Fiji
d) Italy</p> | <p>70. World Bank was comes into existence on</p> <p>a) July, 1946
b) July, 1945
c) July, 1944
d) None of The Above</p> |
| <p>59. Which player won the Golden Boot Award in the FIFA World Cup 2022 ?</p> <p>a) Neymar
b) Cristiano Ronaldo
c) Lionel Messi
d) Kylian Mbappe</p> | <p>65. 16th 'SURYA KIRAN-XVI' joint training exercise to be held between India and which country ?</p> <p>a) Kenya
b) Colombia
c) Cuba
d) Nepal</p> | <p>71. Gaur is the state animal of which state ?</p> <p>a) Odisha
b) Gujarat
c) Bihar
d) Rajasthan</p> |
| <p>60. In FIFA World Cup 2022, Golden Ball Award goes to ?</p> <p>a) Kylian Mbappe
b) Cristiano Ronaldo
c) Luka Modric
d) Lionel Messi</p> | <p>66. Twitter suspended the query handle of which country's Rival Platform Koo ?</p> <p>a) Indonesia
b) India
c) China
d) Greece</p> | <p>72. The "Shirui Lily Festival" is celebrated in which part of India?</p> <p>a) Manipur
b) Puducherry
c) Goa
d) Meghalaya</p> |
| <p>61. Name the player, who awarded Golden Glove Award in the FIFA World Cup 2022 ?</p> | <p>67. At which particular place on earth are days and nights of equal length always ?</p> | <p>73. A polling booth located in a remote forest area of Gir Somnath district in Gujarat recorded 100 per cent voting after its lone voter cast his vote in the first phase of the state Assembly elections.</p> |

- Name the only, who voter cast his vote.
a) Bharatdas Bapu
b) Mahant Haridasji Udasin
c) Jagjivan Ram Tripathi
d) Girish Kumar Sharma
74. The gross GST revenue collected in the month of November 2022 is _____.
a) Rs. 1,25,867 crore
b) Rs. 1,35,867 crore
c) Rs. 1,45,867 crore
d) Rs. 1,55,867 crore
75. On _____ is celebrated as the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, worldwide .
a) December 1st
b) December 5th
c) December 4th
d) December 3rd
76. Which edition of the Hornbill Festival 2022 begins at Naga Heritage Village Kisama, Nagaland ?
a) 20th
b) 21st
c) 22nd
d) 23rd
77. The International Day for the Abolition of Slavery is celebrated, each year, on _____.
a) December 1
b) December 2
c) December 3
d) December 4
78. The 12th Edition of Exercise Agni Warrior, a bilateral exercise between the _____ & Indian Army.
a) Singapore
b) Japan
c) France
d) USA
79. Who has assumed the Presidency of the UN Security Council for the month of December.
a) China
b) India
c) USA
d) France
80. National Pollution Control Day is observed every year on _____ in India.
a) 1 December
b) 2 December
c) 3 December
d) 4 December
81. 6 months day and 6 months night - Country Name ?
a) Nepal
b) Tibet
c) Norway
d) Iceland
82. Which is a green planet in the solar system ?
a) Pluto
b) Venus
c) Uranus
d) Mars
83. The Headquarter of SIDBI is located at
a) Lucknow
b) New Delhi
c) Mumbai
d) Bengaluru
84. ALM stands for
a) Asset Liasoning Management
b) Asset Level Management
c) Asset Liability management
d) Assertive Legal Management
85. In which state of India is the Shivalik Fossil Park located ?
a) Goa
b) Himachal Pradesh
c) Tamil Nadu
d) Maharashtra
86. In which part of India is the "Majuli Island" located ?
a) Ladakh
b) Assam
c) Odisha
d) Andhra Pradesh
87. The Goa Liberation day is celebrated every year on which day ?
a) 17 December
b) 18 December
c) 19 December
d) 20 December
88. Who among the following actress has been awarded PETA India's 2022 Person of the Year title ?
a) Sonakshi Sinha
b) Alia Bhatt
c) Hema Malini
d) Jacqueline Fernandez
89. Which of the following team has won 9th Season of the Pro Kabaddi League title 2022 ?
a) Bengaluru Bulls
b) Jaipur Pink Panthers
c) Dabang Delhi
d) Telugu Titans
90. A BSF veteran Bhairon Singh Rathore passed away recently at the age of 81. He was the hero of which war ?
a) World War I 1914
b) India-China War 1962
c) Kargil War 1999
d) India-Pakistan War 1971
91. Recently Indian forces acquiring, which ballistic missile for striking targets at 150-500 Km.
a) Drishti
b) Shakti
c) Yaayu
d) Pralay
92. The 48th GST Council meeting was held in which of the following city ?
a) Bengaluru
b) New Delhi

- c) Guwahati
d) Ahmedabad
93. **Indian-Origin Leo Varadkar has been re-elected as the Prime Minister of which country ?**
a) Netherland
b) Mauritius
c) Ireland
d) Finland
94. **According to Bloomberg 50 Report, who has topped the list of people whose wealth witnessed the maximum rise globally during this year ?**
a) Bill Gates
b) Warren Buffet
c) Gautam Adani
d) Mark Zuckerberg
95. **Telecom company Nokia belongs to which country ?**
a) Denmark
b) USA
c) Sweden
d) Finland
96. **Film and Television institute of India is located at**
a) Pune (Maharashtra)
b) Rajkot (Gujarat)
c) Pimpri (Maharashtra)
d) Perambur (Tamilnadu)
97. **Which of the following is correct**
a) Reserve Bank of India Act, 1935
b) Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934
c) Reserve Bank of India Act, 1930
d) None of These
98. **World Bank was comes into existence on**
a) July, 1946
b) July, 1945
c) July, 1944
d) None of The Above
99. **In which state is the "Gorumara National Park" situated ?**
a) Chhattisgarh
b) Jharkhand
c) Sikkim
d) West Bengal
100. **Where in India is the "Mount Manirang" located ?**
a) Himachal Pradesh
b) Assam
c) Jammu & Kashmir
d) Tripura
101. **The Food Safety and Standard Authority of India (FSSAI) has approved which animal as a 'food animal' recently ?**
a) Himalayan Musk Deer
b) Himalayan Yak
c) Himalayan Black bear
d) Himalayan Serow
102. **Who has been awarded the Para Sports Person of the Year 2022?**
a) Devendra Jhajharia
b) Singhraj Adhana
c) Deepa Malik
d) Avani Lekhara
103. **Which Indian city stood at 22nd rank in a global index that measures annual price appreciation of premium residential properties, according to Knight Frank ?**
a) Mumbai
b) Delhi
c) Bengaluru
d) Chennai
104. **Which of the following city will host the first G20 Sherpa Meeting in India from 4 to 7 December ?**
a) Bengaluru
b) New Delhi
c) Mumbai
d) Udaipur
105. **International Day of Solidarity with Palestinian People is observed every year on which day ?**
a) 25 November
b) 26 November
c) 27 November
d) 29 November
106. **Which of the following film won the 'Golden Peacock' for the best film of the 53rd edition of International Film Festival ?**
a) Cinema Bandi
b) No End
c) I Have Electric Dreams
d) Spotlight
107. **Which player hit a world record seven sixes in the 49th over of Maharashtra's Vijay Hazare Trophy quarter-final against Uttar Pradesh ?**
a) Tilak Varma
b) Ruturaj Gaikwad
c) Mohsin Khan
d) Ayush Badoni
108. **India _____ joint military Exercise "Harimau Shakti - 2022" commenced.**
a) Indonesia
b) France
c) Japan
d) Malaysia
109. **The part of earth where life exists**
a) Biosphere
b) Atmosphere
c) Lithosphere
d) Hydrosphere
110. **The two forms of democracy are**
a) Parliamentary and King
b) Monarchical and Republican
c) Direct and Indirect
d) Parliamentary and Presidential

111. Who was the first Indian Governor of the Reserve Bank of India
a) C.D. Deshmukh
b) Schindra Ray
c) S. Mukherjee

d) I.G. Patel

112. Which sector has the maximum quantum of disguised unemployment in India

a) Agriculture
b) Industry
c) Trade
d) Transport

ANSWER KEY

1-a	2-d	3-a	4-c	5-b	6-d	7-b	8-d	9-d	10-d	11-c	12-c	13-c	14-a	15-c
16-a	17-c	18-a	19-c	20-c	21-d	22-c	23-c	24-c	25-a	26-d	27-c	28-d	29-d	30-d
31-d	32-a	33-d	34-d	35-c	36-d	37-d	38-d	39-a	40-c	41-d	42-b	43-c	44-a	45-d
46-b	47-a	48-a	49-b	50-d	51-a	52-d	53-c	54-b	55-c	56-c	57-b	58-a	59-d	60-d
61-c	62-a	63-c	64-a	65-d	66-b	67-c	68-a	69-c	70-c	71-c	72-a	73-b	74-c	75-d
76-d	77-b	78-a	79-b	80-b	81-c	82-c	83-a	84-c	85-b	86-b	87-c	88-a	89-b	90-d
91-d	92-b	93-c	94-c	95-d	96-a	97-b	98-c	99-d	100-a	101-b	102-d	103-a	104-d	105-d
106-c	107-b	108-d	109-a	110-d	111-a	112-a								



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