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Current Affairs – English

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**GUIDANCE BY EXPERIENCED JUDGES,
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PAHUJA LAW ACADEMY

CURRENT AFFAIRS

MONTHS OF DECEMBER 2022

LEGAL NEWS

➤ **Women in Judiciary**

- The third time in the history of the Supreme Court that a bench comprising only women judges was hearing cases.
- Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud has set up the bench comprising Justices Hima Kohli and Bela M Trivedi.
- The first time the Supreme Court had an all-woman bench was in 2013 & the second occasion came in 2018.
- The apex court had its first woman judge in 1989, when Justice M Fatima Beevi was appointed after her retirement as a judge of Kerala High Court.
- Since its inception, India has seen only 11 women judges in the Supreme Court and no women CJI for that matter.
- The apex court currently has only three women judges:
- Justices Kohli, B V Nagarathna, and Trivedi.
- Justice Nagarathna is set to go on to be the country's first woman Chief Justice in 2027.

➤ **Delimitation in Jammu and Kashmir**

- Delimitation is the act of redrawing boundaries of an Assembly or Lok Sabha seat to represent changes in population over time.
- Recently, the Supreme Court questioned petitioners about the reason for not challenging the constitutional validity of a specific provision in the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act.
- Delimitation exercise in question:
- A provision in the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019 that confers the Delimitation Commission with the power to "carry out" the re-adjustment of constituencies in the Union Territory formed after the abrogation of Article 370 in the erstwhile State was in question.
- After the abrogation of J&K's special status in 2019, the delimitation of Lok Sabha and Assembly seats in the newly-created Union Territory would be as per the provisions of the Indian Constitution.
- On March 6, 2020, the government set up the Delimitation Commission, headed by retired Supreme Court judge Ranjana Prakash Desai, which was tasked with winding up delimitation in J&K in a year.
- As per the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Bill, the number of Assembly seats in J&K would increase from 107 to 114, which is expected to benefit the Jammu region.
- The Delimitation Commission in India is a high-power body whose orders have the force of law. Its orders cannot be called in question before any court.
- These orders come into force on a date to be specified by the President of India on this behalf.
- **Constitutional Provisions:**
 - **Article 82:** This provides the Parliament with the authority to enact a Delimitation Act after every Census.

- **Article 170:** This provides for the States to get divided into territorial constituencies as per the Delimitation Act after every Census.

➤ **SC upholds 10 per cent quota for EWS**

- The Supreme Court (SC) With the 3:2 split verdict upheld the 10 per cent reservation for the economically weaker section (EWS) among forward castes in government jobs and colleges across India.
- A Bench comprising Chief Justice of India (CJI) U U Lalit and Justices Dinesh Maheshwari, S Ravindra Bhat, Bela M Trivedi, and J B Pardiwala delivered the judgment.
- **Article 14** states that the State shall not deny to any person equality before the law or the equal protection of the laws within the territory of India. **Supreme Court** held that where equals and unequal's are treated differently, Article 14 does not apply.
- **Article 15** provides that the State shall not discriminate against any citizen on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth.
- **Exception to article 15 – The 103rd Constitutional Amendment** provides 10% reservation in government jobs and educational institutions to the 'economically weaker sections' of the society but excludes the 'poorest of poor' among Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), Socially and Educationally Backward Classes (SEBC) and Other Backward Classes (OBC) from its scope.
- **Indira Sawhney judgment in 1992:** SC upheld the principle that the combined reservation beneficiaries should not exceed 50% of India's population. However, with EWS reservation of 10%, the total reservation in India's population amounts to almost 60%.
- The SC verdict was based on three questions that focused on:-
 - ✓ EWS Reservation's constitutionality and its impact on basic structure
 - ✓ If 103rd amendment breaches the Constitution's basic structure by permitting the government to make special provision in relation to admission to private unaided institutions.
 - ✓ If the amendment breaches the basic structure by excluding SEBCs, OBCs, SCs, and STs from the scope of EWS reservation

➤ **National Judicial Commission Bill**

- The National Judicial Commission Bill is a private member Bill that proposes major reforms in the Indian Judiciary.
- The 2022 Bill proposes the regulation of procedures that are to be followed by the National Judicial Commission for recommending the appointment of the Chief Justice of India (CJI) and other judges of the Supreme Court as well as Chief Justice and other judges of the High Courts.
- The Bill requires the Parliament to present an address to the President of India in relation to the proceedings for the removal of a judge and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.
- The Bill aims to regulate the judges' transfers. It proposes judicial standards to ensure their accountability.
- It also establishes a credible and expedient mechanism for investigating individual complaints regarding misbehaviour or incapacity of a judge of the Supreme Court or a High Court and regulating the procedures for such investigations.
- The National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) is an independent commission that was proposed to replace the existing collegium system for the appointment of Judges to the Supreme Court and High Courts.
- The commission was established by amending the Constitution of India through the 99th constitution amendment with the Constitution (Ninety-Ninth Amendment) Act, 2014.
- The NJAC Act and the Constitutional Amendment Act came into force from 13 April 2015.
- On 16 October 2015, the Constitution Bench of Supreme Court by a 4:1 majority upheld the collegium system and struck down the NJAC as unconstitutional.

- Justices J. S. Khehar, Madan Lokur, Kurian Joseph and Adarsh Kumar Goel had declared the 99th Amendment and NJAC Act unconstitutional while Justice Jasti Chelameswar upheld it.

➤ **SC moots idea of 'Project Great Indian Bustard'**

- Recently, the Supreme Court (SC) sought Centre's review on the idea of 'Project Great Indian Bustard (GIB)' to save endangered birds.
- The Supreme Court had set up a three-member committee to assess the feasibility of laying high-voltage underground power cables.
- SC directed the committee to submit an updated status report on steps to safeguard the GIB.
- Project GIB is on the lines of 'Project Tiger', which was started in 1973 to save the big cats.
- It is considered India's most critically endangered bird species.
- It is especially found in Rajasthan and Gujarat.
- One of the heaviest flying birds endemic to the Indian subcontinent.
- State Bird of Rajasthan.
- Recently, the Delhi High Court, in the case of Hamdard National Foundation (India) vs Sadar Laboratories Pvt. Ltd., restrained Sadar Laboratories from manufacturing and selling beverages under the impugned trademark 'Dil Afza'.
- A Division Bench of the Delhi High Court restrained the respondent (Sadar Laboratories Pvt. Ltd.) from manufacturing and selling any product under the trademark 'Dil Afza' till the final disposal of the trademark infringement suit.
- The court held that "it is not difficult to conceive that a person who looks at the label of 'Dil Afza' may recall the label of 'Rooh Afza' as the word 'Afza' is common and the meaning of the words 'Rooh' and 'Dil', when translated in English, are commonly used in conjunction.
- Trademark refers to graphical representation of goods or services to make it distinguishable from others.
- It can be words, symbols, sound, colours, shape of goods, graphics representation or packaging etc.
- It protects owner against unfair competition, prevents damage to reputation of owner and consumer welfare.
- In India, trademarks are governed under Trademarks Act, 1999 (it deals with precise nature of rights one can acquire in respect of trademarks), under aegis of Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion (DIPP), Ministry of Commerce.

IMPORTANT DAYS

➤ **World Aids Day observed every year on 1 December**

- Every year December 1st is observed as World AIDS Day.
- "Equalize" is this year's World AIDS Day theme.
- The World Health Organization (WHO) founded World AIDS Day on December 1 in 1988.
- It aims to promote information sharing between local and national authorities, international organisations, and private citizens.
- Approximately 38 million individuals globally carry the HIV virus.

➤ **Nagaland celebrates 60th statehood day on December 1**

- Nagaland on 01 December 2022, celebrated its 60th statehood day.
- It became the 16th State of the Union of India on 1st December 1963.
- On the occasion, the Chief Minister launched the SAHYOG project of Nagaland Police and also flagged off Nagaland Police Special Operation Group Vehicles.

➤ **National Pollution Control Day 2022 observed on December 2**

- National Pollution Control Day is observed every year on 2 December in India.

- The day is recognized to commemorate the precious lives that were lost in the Bhopal Gas Tragedy.
 - The main aim and objectives of celebrating the National Pollution Prevention Day 2022 in India is to create awareness among people about the judicious use of industries to prevent uncalled-for industrial disasters.
- **International Day for the Abolition of Slavery observed on 2 December**
- The International Day for the Abolition of Slavery is celebrated on December 2 every year.
 - The theme of International Day for the Abolition of Slavery is 'Stories of Courage: Resistance to Slavery and Unity against Racism.'
 - The day is observed to remind us of the evils of enslavement, forced Labor and sexual exploitation, and trafficking and to eliminate slavery practiced in our time.
- **World Computer Literacy Day observed on 2 December**
- World Computer Literacy Day is celebrated on December 2 every year.
 - It is celebrated to address the digital divide that affects millions across the world and make computers more accessible to everyone.
 - World Computer Literacy Day was first marked in 2001 by an Indian company, the National Institute of Information Technology (NIIT) to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the institute.
- **International Day of Persons with Disabilities observed on 3 December**
- The International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD) is observed on December 3 every year to spread awareness about the rights and well-being of people with disabilities.
 - Theme: "Transformative solutions for inclusive development: the role of innovation in fueling an accessible and equitable world."
 - International Day of Persons with Disabilities began in 1992 by United Nations.
- **Indian Navy Day observed on 4 December**
- Indian Navy Day is celebrated on 4 December every year to recognize the achievements and role of the Indian Navy in the country.
 - December 4 was chosen as that day in 1971 during Operation Trident.
 - The Indian Navy sank 4 Pakistani vessels including PNS Khaibar, killing hundreds of Pakistani Navy personnel.
 - Chhatrapati Shivaji is called the father of the Indian Navy.
- **R. Venkataraman's 109th Birth Anniversary Celebrated on 4 December**
- R. Venkataraman's 109th Birth Anniversary is celebrated on 4 December every year.
 - R. Venkataraman was born in Rajamadam village near Tanjore district in Tamil Nadu on 25 July 1913.
 - He served as Union Minister and as the eighth president of India.
 - He participated in the Quit India Movement in 1942.
 - He was appointed as a member of the Constituent Assembly.
- **World Soil Day Observed on 5 December**
- World Soil Day (WSD) is held every year on 5 December as a means to focus attention on the importance of healthy soil and to advocate for the sustainable management of soil resources.
 - World Soil Day 2022 Theme: "Soils: where food begins".
 - In December 2013 the UN General Assembly designated 5 December 2014 as the first official World Soil Day.

- **Dr. BR Ambedkar's 66th death anniversary observed on 6 December**
 - India observes 6 Dec as Mahaparinirvan Divas to mark the death anniversary of Dr. BR Ambedkar.
 - On 6 Dec 1956, he passed away.
 - The day is observed to commemorate his contribution to society.
 - BR Ambedkar, the father of the Indian Constitution, was born on April 14, 1891.
 - He was also among the 7 members of the drafting committee who prepared a draft of the Constitution of independent India.

- **Armed Forces Flag Day Observed on 7 December**
 - Every year on December 7, India commemorates Armed Forces Flag Day to raise donations for the welfare of the Armed Forces Staff.
 - On 28th August 1949, the Ministry of Defence decided to celebrate this day, to honor the soldiers, sailors, and airmen.
 - The welfare schemes are funded by the Armed Forces Flag Day Fund (AFFD Govt of India).

- **International Civil Aviation Day Celebrated on 7 December**
 - International Civil Aviation day is celebrated on 7 Dec every year to raise awareness about the role that international civil aviation plays and its importance.
 - The International Civil Aviation Organisation is a UN body that takes care of international standards for aviation safety.
 - In 1996, the UN's General Assembly declared this day to be observed as International Civil Aviation Day.

- **International Anti-Corruption Day observed on 9 December**
 - International Anti-Corruption Day is observed on 9 December every year to highlight how corruption affects health, education, justice, democracy, prosperity, and development.
 - International Anti Corruption Day 2022 Theme is "UNCAC at 20: Uniting the World Against Corruption".
 - The UNGA designated 9 December as International Anti-Corruption Day in 2005.

- **Human Rights Day celebrated on 10 December**
 - Human Rights Day is celebrated annually around the world on 10 December every year.
 - The 2022 Theme of Human Rights Day is 'Dignity, Freedom, and Justice for All.'
 - The date was chosen to honor the United Nations General Assembly's adoption and proclamation, on 10 December 1948 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR).

- **UNICEF Day Observed every year on 11 December**
 - The UNICEF Day is observed on December 11 every year.
 - The theme for 2022 is: "All girls deserve better—the world deserves better."
 - The UN General Assembly created UNICEF on December 11, 1946, as the UN International Children's Emergency Fund to improve the health, nutrition, education, and general welfare of children devastated due to World War II.
 - UNICEF Headquarters: New York.

- **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's 72nd death anniversary: 15 December 2022**
 - Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's 72nd death anniversary was observed on 15 Dec'22.
 - He served as the first Deputy PM and Home Minister of India from 1947-50.
 - He was appointed as the 49th President of the Indian National Congress.
 - He is also known as the 'Iron Man of India' and is often called the "patron saint of India's civil servants" for having established the modern All India Services system.

➤ **Vijay Diwas Celebrated on 16 December**

- Vijay Diwas is celebrated on December 16 every year to honor the victory of Indian armed forces over Pakistan in the 1971 war.
- On December 16, 1971, India won the war against Pakistan after fighting for 13 days.
- The chief of the Pakistani forces, General A. K. Niazi surrendered to the joint forces of the Indian Army and Bangladesh's Mukti Bahini, along with 93,000 Pakistani troops.

➤ **Minority Rights Day observed on 18 December**

- Every year on 18 December, Minority Rights Day is observed to promote the rights of Minority communities in India.
- The United Nations on December 18, 1992 adopted and broadcast the Statement on the individual's Rights belonging to Religious or Linguistic National or Ethnic Minorities.
- The theme of Minority Rights Day 2022 is "All in 4 Minority Rights."

➤ **International Migrants Day celebrated on 18 December**

- International Migrants Day is celebrated on 18 December every year to raise awareness about the protection of migrants and refugees.
- Theme for 2022: Integrating migrants into primary health care.
- On 18 December 1990, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution on the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.

➤ **National Farmer's Day celebrated on 23 December**

- Kisan Divas or Farmer's Day in India or National Farmer's Day is celebrated on 23 December every year.
- The theme for 2022 is: "Igniting Young Minds By Innovative Farmers"
- The day is celebrated to mark the anniversary of our India's fifth Prime Minister Choudhry Charan Singh.
- He played an important part in the enactment and drafting of numerous agricultural reform bills.

➤ **National Consumer Rights Day observed on 24 December**

- National Consumer Rights Day is observed on 24 December every year.
- The Consumer Protection Act, of 1986 received the assent of the President on this day.
- The theme for 2022 is "Fair Digital Finance."
- It also provides awareness about consumer rights and responsibilities.
- While World Consumer Day is celebrated on 15th March every year.

➤ **Good Governance Day observed on 25 December**

- Every year 25 December is observed as Good Governance Day to mark the birth anniversary of the 10th Prime Minister of India Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
- It is observed to increase public access to government programs and services via good governance.
- It was established with the slogan "Good Governance through e-Governance."
- It was started in 2014 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

APPOINTMENTS

- **Hansraj Gangaram Ahir appointed as the new NCBC chairperson**
 - Hansraj Gangaram Ahir appointed as Chairperson of National Commission for Backward Classes on 2 December 2022.
 - He belongs to Maharashtra and is an Agriculturist by profession.
 - He belongs to District Chandrapur, State of Maharashtra.
 - He had been Union Minister of State for Home Affairs and Union Minister of State for Chemicals and Fertilizers, Government of India during the 16th Lok Sabha. Vijender Sharma elected president of ICAI.

- **Arun Kumar Singh appointed Chairman of ONGC**
 - Arun Kumar Singh has been appointed as Chairman of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC).
 - Vetsa Rama Krishna Gupta has taken over the additional charge of Chairman and Managing Director of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), post superannuation of Arun Kumar Singh.
 - ONGC had been without a regular chairman and managing director since April 202.

- **K V Shaji Appointed Chairman of NABARD**
 - K V Shaji has been named Chairman of the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).
 - He formerly served as NABARD's Deputy Managing Director (DMD) till May 21, 2020.
 - National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) is an apex regulatory body for overall regulation of regional rural banks and apex cooperative banks in India.

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

- **Vijender Sharma elected president of Institute of Cost Accountants of India (ICAI)**
 - Vijender Sharma has been elected as the new president of the Institute of Cost Accountants of India for the year 2022-23.
 - Rakesh Bhalla was elected as the vice president for 2022-23.
 - V. Sharma is a fellow member of ICAI and a law graduate and a leading practicing cost accountant since 1998 and an insolvency professional since January 2017.

- **Bhupendra Patel to take oath as Gujarat CM**
 - Bhupendra Patel will take oath as the 17 Chief Minister of Gujarat on 12 December 2022.
 - Patel is an MLA from the Ghatlodia seat, a post previously held by Anandiben Patel.
 - He had also served as the chairman of the Standing Committee of Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation and Ahmedabad Urban Development Authority (AUDA).
 - He has been serving as the CM of Gujarat since September 2021.

- **Dina Boluarte assumes office as first female President of Peru**
 - Dina Boluarte has created history by becoming Peru's first female President.

- She was appointed after Congress ousted former president Pedro Castillo.
 - She is the sixth Peruvian president in less than five years.
 - Boluarte's term will extend through July 2026.
 - On July 29, 2021, she was sworn in as Minister for Development and Social Inclusion, a position she held until November 25, 2022.
- **Sukhvinder Sukhu takes oath as new CM of Himachal Pradesh**
- Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, a former Congress state chief, took oath as the new Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh.
 - He is the 4-time incumbent MLA of the Nadaun assembly constituency of Himachal Pradesh.
 - He was born on 27 March 1964 in Sera village of Nadaun tehsil of Hamirpur district.
 - He is a lawyer by education, having graduated from Himachal Pradesh University.
- **Meghna Ahlawat has been elected as first female president of TTFI**
- Meghna Ahlawat was elected president of the Table Tennis Federation of India in Dec'22.
 - Meghna Ahlawat has been elected its first female President.
 - While, 8th-timernational champion K. Mehtatookover as the new secretary general of the TTFI, and P.N.Reddy has been elected as the Treasurer of the TFI.
 - Ahlawat is the wife of Haryana Dy. CM DushyantChautala.
- **PT Usha becomes first woman president of Indian Olympic Association**
- PT Usha was elected as the first woman president of Indian Olympic Association (IOA) on 10 Dec'22.
 - Ajay Patel, Gagan Narang and Rajlaxmi S.Deohave been elected as vice presidents. She is a multiple Asian Games gold medallist and fourth place finisher in the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics 400m hurdles final.
 - The elections were held under the supervision of SC appointed retired SC judge L N Rao.
- **Mette Frederiksen has been re-elected as the PM of Denmark**
- Mette Frederiksen has been re-elected as Denmark PM.
 - She is the Danish politician who has been Prime Minister of Denmark since June 2019.
 - She is also the youngest prime minister in Danish history.
 - Denmark is a Scandinavian country comprising the Jutland Peninsula and numerous islands.
- **Indian-origin Leo Varadkar elected as Ireland's new Prime Minister**
- Indian origin Leo Varadkar was elected as the Prime Minister of the Republic of Ireland for the second time.
 - Michael Martin has become the Deputy PM and Foreign Minister.
 - In a special session in the lower house of the Irish parliament, Dail voted to approve Leo Varadkar's nomination as the Prime Minister.
 - The lower house of the parliament is called Dail.
- **Praveen Kumar appointed acting Central Vigilance Commissioner**
- The government of India appointed the vigilance commissioner Praveen Kumar Srivastava as the acting Central Vigilance Commissioner.
 - The incumbent CVC chief Suresh N Patel completed his term on 24 December 2022.
 - Central Vigilance Commissioner was made a statutory body by the CVC Act 2003.
- **Santosh Kumar Yadav appointed as the chairman of NHAI**
- Government of India has appointed Santosh Kumar Yadav as the chairman of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI).

- He is currently additional secretary in the Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education.
- Subhasish Panda has also been appointed as Delhi Development Authority (DDA) vice chairman.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

- **Ukrainian President Zelenskiy named Time's 2022 'Person of the Year'**
 - Time magazine named Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky 2022's "Person of the Year".
 - He was named for his courage in resisting Russia's devastating invasion.
 - On 24 February 2022, Russia invaded Ukraine in a major escalation of the Russo-Ukrainian War, which began in 2014.
 - 'Person of the Year' is an annual issue of the United States news magazine 'Time', started in 1927.
- **Sargam Koushal brings Mrs World 2022 title back to India after 21 years**
 - Sargam Koushal scripted history as she won the Mrs World 2022 title after 21 years while representing India in the beauty pageant.
 - Beating contestants from 63 countries, the 32-year-old secured the crown at the event that took place in Las Vegas, in December 2022.
 - Mrs Polynesia was named the first runner-up, followed by Mrs Canada as the second runner-up.
- **Russia replaces Iraq as top oil supplier to India in November 2022**
 - Russia has for the first time emerged as a top oil supplier to India replacing Iraq.
 - India's oil imports from Russia rose for the fifth straight month, to taking 908,000 barrels per day (BPD) in November, up 4% from October, the data showed.
 - G7 nations, Australia, and the 27 European Union countries have imposed a price cap of \$60 a barrel on Russian seaborne oil from Dec.
- **Falguni Nayar, Roshni Nadar in 'World's 100 Most Powerful Women' list**
 - Forbes' annual list of 'The World's 100 Most Powerful Women in 2022'
 - Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is ranked 36 while Roshni Nadar (rank: 53), SEBI Chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch (rank: 54), and SAI Chairperson Soma Mondal (rank: 67).
 - Biocon Executive Chairperson Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw and Nykaa founder Falguni Nayar is ranked 72 and 89 respectively.
- **US President Joe Biden signs gay marriage legislation**
 - US President Joe Biden signed gay marriage law in Dec 2022.
 - This law establishes statutory authority for same-sex and interracial marriages.
 - This law officially repeals the Marriage Act of 1996, which defined marriage as between a man and a woman.
 - As of 2022, marriage between same-sex couples is legally recognized in 33 countries including Argentina, Australia, etc.
- **US prints first banknotes with women's signatures**
 - The U.S. The Treasury (United States of America's Finance Ministry) has printed the first US banknotes (currency notes) with two women's signatures. The new currency notes of \$1 and \$5 value carry the signature of the Secretary of Treasury (American Finance Minister) Janet Yellen and Lynn Malerba. The United States currency notes are popularly called as Greenback

- **U.N. Convention on Biological Diversity, COP 15 Commences in Canada**
 - The United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, also called as Conference of Parties (COP-15) commenced in Montreal, Canada.
 - The two-weeklong conference (7-19 December 2022) was originally scheduled to be held in Kunming, China in October but was shifted to Montreal, Canada due to covid situation in China.
 - This is the second part of the COP15.
 - The first part was hosted by China on 18 August 2021 virtually and the second part was to be held in a face to face conference but it has been shifted from China to Canada.

- **Adani Green becomes World's Largest Wind-Solar Hybrid Power Developer**
 - Adani Green Energy Ltd (AGEL) has become the becomes world's largest wind-solar hybrid power developer in December 2022.
 - Adani Green Energy Lid (AGER) commissioned its third wind-solar hybrid power plant at Jaisalmer in Rajasthan in December 2022.
 - Earlier, in May 2022, AGER had operationalized India's first hybrid power plant of 390 MW.

- **Japan's first-ever lunar mission launched**
 - Japanese space startup ispace Inc has launched its own private lander M1 to the Moon under its HAKUTO-R mission, from the SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket.
 - HAKUTO-R refers to the white rabbit.
 - Its lunar lander contains two rovers who were expected to touch down on the visible side of the moon in April 2023.
 - If the rover Rashid lands successfully, it will be the Arab world's first Moon mission.

- **New Zealand passes tobacco law to ban smoking for next generation**
 - In a remarkable step, New Zealand has adopted a measure that will prohibit the sale of cigarettes to anybody born on or after January 1, 2009.
 - New Zealand is believed to be the first country in the world to implement the annually rising smoking age.
 - The restrictions will take effect in 2023, with New Zealand aiming to be "smoke-free" by 2025.

- **UN member states expelled Iran from women's rights group**
 - United Nations member states removed Iran from UN women's rights group on 15 December 2022.
 - Iran is a country in Western Asia.
 - The government of Iran is an Islamic theocracy that includes some elements of a presidential system.
 - President: Ebrahim Raisi
 - Capital: Tehran

- **UN recognises Namami Gange as one of the top 10 World Renew Flagships**
 - The United Nations has recognised the Namami Gange initiative to rejuvenate India's sacred River Ganga as one of the top 10 World Restoration Flagships to revive the natural world.
 - NMCG receives award at a function in 15th conference of parties to the convention on biodiversity in Montreal, Canada.
 - Namami Gange was selected from over 150 such initiatives from 70 countries across the globe.

➤ **UNSC adopts first-ever resolution on Myanmar**

- The U.N. Security Council has adopted its first ever resolution on Myanmar in 74 years to demand an end to violence.
- The resolution urges to immediately release all arbitrarily detained prisoners, including Suu Kyi and ex-President Win Myint.
- It also demands an immediate end to all forms of violence and asks for all parties to respect human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law.

 **NATIONAL NEWS**

➤ **India to host 17th Pravasi Bhartiya Diwas in Indore in January 2023**

- India will be hosting the 17th Pravasi Bhartiya Diwas in Indore from 8-10 January 2023.
- Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali, President of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, will be the Chief Guest at the 17th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD).
- Australian Member of Parliament (MP) Zaneta Mascarenhas will be the guest of honour at the Youth Pravasi Bharatiya Divas which will be held on 8 January, 2023.

➤ **Aam Aadmi Party becomes 9th 'National party' of India**

- Aam Aadmi Party has become the 9th 'National party' of India Within a decade of its formation in Dec'22.
- AAP has become India's 9th national party with its performance in the Gujarat elections.
- The Election Commission of India gives national and state tags to parties, which allows them to use their symbol across India or in a respective state.
- ECI Formed: 25 Jan 1950.

➤ **Ladakh's Hanle becomes India's first Dark Sky Reserve**

- The administration of the Union Territory of Ladakh has officially identified a Ladakh's Hanle as India's first dark sky reserve and will be known as the Hanle Dark Sky Reserve (HDSR).
- The UT has earmarked this area covering a cluster of six hamlets of Hanle revenue range.
- These hamlets include Bhok, Khuldo, Shado, Punguk, Naga and the Tibetan Refugee habitations.

➤ **Country's first Infantry Museum opens for public in Indore, MP**

- The country's first Infantry Museum has been opened for public at Mhow, Indore, Madhya Pradesh in December 2022.
- It will showcase Infantry Corps' history from 1747 to 2020, in which the sacrifice of valour and valiant soldiers have been preserved in statues, murals and photo galleries.
- It is the first in the country and second in the world.
- Before this, such a museum was built in the USA.

➤ **India International Science Festival (IISF) to be held in Bhopal**

- IISF-2022 will be held in Bhopal in Jan 2023.
- IISF is the initiative of the Ministry of Science & Technology and the Ministry of Earth Science in association with Vijnana Bharati.
- The IISF 2022 is the eighth edition since its inception in 2015.
- The 1st and 2nd IISF were held in New Delhi, the third in Chennai, 4th in Lucknow, 5th in Kolkata, 6th through virtual mode and 7th one in Goa.

- **India will launch its quadrivalent vaccine called Cervavac in 2023**
 - India will launch its quadrivalent vaccine called Cervavac in 2023 for the nationwide immunisation drive of girls aged 9-14 years.
 - Developed by the Serum Institute of India (SII), Cervavac offers protection against four strains of HPV —16, 18, 6, and 11.
 - HPV (human papillomavirus) is a viral infection passed between people through skin-to-skin contact.

- **Atal Innovation Mission and UNDP India launch 5th edition of Youth Co:Lab**
 - Asia Pacific's largest youth innovation movement was jointly launched by Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog and UNDP India December 15th 2022.
 - Launched in 2019, Youth Co:Lab is an UNDP India initiative that aims to establish a common agenda for Asia-Pacific countries to invest in and empower youths.
 - The Youth Co:Lab initiative, till date, has been implemented in 28 countries
 - The Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) is a flagship initiative set up by the NITI Aayog in 2016 to promote innovation and entrepreneurship across the country.
 - AIM has multiple programs to encourage and support innovation in the country, this includes:
 - ✓ Atal Tinkering Labs
 - ✓ Atal Incubators
 - ✓ Atal Community Innovation Centres
 - ✓ Atal New India Challenges
 - ✓ Atmanirbhar Bharat ARISE-ANIC

- **Indian Railways opens nation's longest 'escape tunnel' in Kashmir**
 - India's longest escape tunnel was completed by the Indian Railways.
 - The track is 12.89 km long, built on the 111 km under-construction Banihal-Katra railway line in Jammu and Kashmir.
 - This longest tunnel is part of the Udampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Railway Line (USBRL) project.
 - The escape tunnel 'T-13' has been constructed to facilitate rescue work in case of an emergency.

- **India to be the first country to auction 'SatCom' Spectrum**
 - India will be the first country to auction spectrum for satellite communication.
 - Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai) will make recommendations to make permissions required for satellite communication from various ministries.
 - Trai has received a reference from Telecom Department for the spectrum required to be put to auction and associated aspects of satellite-based communication.

- **IEX becomes India's first carbon-neutral power exchange**
 - Indian Energy Exchange (IEX) became the country's first carbon-neutral power exchange in December 2022.
 - IEX voluntarily cancelled CERs (certified emissions reductions) from clean projects.
 - As per UNEP 2022 report, global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions must be cut 45% by 2030 to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees.
 - Total global GHG emissions were estimated at around 53 GtCO₂eq in 2021.

STATE NEWS

- **Tamil Nadu becomes 1st state to launch its own climate change mission**
 - Tamil Nadu has become the first state to launch its own climate change mission to protect the natural resources in the state as well as to restore them.
 - The State's Climate Action Plan will be implemented by the TNGCC.
 - Tamil Nadu has decided to stop any additions to its existing coal power capacity as the mission sought to generate half of its electricity through renewable sources by 2030.

- **Home Ministry approves the name change of two places in Uttar Pradesh**
 - The Union Home Ministry on 27 Dec'22 gave its consent to change the names of two places in Uttar Pradesh.
 - The ministry approved changing the name of the municipal council 'Mundera Bazaar' in Gorakhpur district to 'Chauri-Chaura' and that of 'Telia Afghan' village in Deoria district to 'Telia Shukla'.
 - Under Article 3 of the constitution, Parliament has the power to change the name of a state.

- **Ramappa Temple (Rudreshwara temple), Telangana**
 - Ramappa Temple is Kakatiya style Hindu temple dedicated to the god Shiva.
 - Temple which dates back to 1213 AD & was built by the patronage of the Kakatiya ruler Kakati Ganapathi Deva.
 - The temple got its name Ramappa because of its chief sculptor Ramappa.
 - Ramappa Temple is probably the only temple in India that is named after the architect.
 - In 2021 it was listed as UNESCO World Heritage Site President lays foundation for pilgrimage infra at Ramappa Temple
 - Foundation stone was laid for the development of pilgrimage infrastructure at Ramappa temple, Telangana.
 - It will be done under the 'Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD)' scheme.

- **Chief Justice of India Inaugurates Digitisation Hubs in 10 districts of Odisha**
 - Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud virtually inaugurated 10 district court digitisation hubs (DCDH) in Odisha.
 - He said that modernisation of judiciary is the need of the hour.
 - The hubs at Angul, Bhadrak, Jharsuguda, Kalahandi, Keonjhar, Koraput, Malkangiri, Mayurbhanj, Nayagarh and Sonepur, will take care of digitisation work of all 30 districts of the state.

- **Goa Liberation Day**
 - 'Goa Liberation Day' is celebrated on December 19 to commemorate the state's liberation from Portuguese rule in 1961.
 - As part of Operation Vijay, the Indian armed forces used the armed forces tri-branch with the help of local resistance movements to eradicate European rule from the country.
 - The Day honors the day the state finally freed itself from Portuguese hegemony.
 - The capital of the state of Goa, which is bordered by the states of Maharashtra and Karnataka, is Panaji.
 - After being liberated from Portuguese rule, it joined India and received statehood from the government in 1987.

- **Dharmadam becomes first complete library constituency in India**
 - Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan's constituency has achieved a new record recently.
 - It has become the only constituency in India to have a library in all the wards.

- CM Vijayan’s constituency Dharmadam has achieved the position of complete library constituency in India, the first in India.
- Out of the total 138 wards in the constituency, there were no libraries in 63 wards. Dharmadam reached the achievement with the opening of libraries in these wards too.
- Kerala which was the first state to achieve 100% literacy status in India is also perhaps the only state in India that has a library in every village.

INDEX AND RANKING

- **India ranked 48th in ICAO's international aviation safety ranking 2022**
 - India ranked 48th position in the global aviation safety ranking released by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) on 5 Dec 2022.
 - India’s score in terms of effective implementation of key safety elements has improved to 85.49%, putting it ahead of China (49), Israel (50), and Turkey (54).
 - Four years ago, India was in the 102nd position.
 - Singapore has topped the chart.
- **India ranked 87th in the world's strongest passport list 2022**
 - India has ranked 87 in the world's strongest passport list released on 7 December 2022 by Arton Capital.
 - The UAE ranked first, it is followed by Germany, Sweden, Finland, Luxembourg, Spain France.
 - While Afghanistan stood last, Pakistan stood at 94.
 - Emirati passport holders can enter 121 countries without a visa, and get a visa on arrival in a further 59 states.
- **Falguni Nayar, Roshni Nadar in 'World’s 100 Most Powerful Women' list**
 - Forbes’ annual list of 'The World’s 100 Most Powerful Women in 2022' has been released on 7 December 2022.
 - Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is ranked 36 while Roshni Nadar (rank: 53), SEBI Chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch (rank: 54), and SAI Chairperson Soma Mondal (rank: 67).
 - Biocon Executive Chairperson Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw and Nykaa founder Falguni Nayar is ranked 72 and 89 respectively.
- **IPL remains the most searched query on Google in India on 2022**
 - Google has released its “Year in Search 2022” report, which highlights the topics that generated the most interest and were most frequently searched on the website this year.
 - India’s search trends have changed noticeably since last year, according to the list, which is published annually for various nations.
 - The Indian Premier League (IPL), which was also the most searched sporting event in the nation, came out on top of all 2022 trending search results in India.
- **Road accidents in India 2021’ Report published**
 - It has been published by Ministry of Road, Transport and Highways.
 - The report is based on the information or data received from police departments of the states and UTs.
 - In 2021, there were 4,12,432 incidents of road accidents.
 - These incidents have caused nearly 1.54 lakh deaths.

- In 2020, India witnessed an unprecedented decline in the number of road accidents, fatalities and injuries.
- **Oxfam India releases 'India Inequality Report 2022: Digital Divide'**
- Oxfam India released 'India Inequality Report 2022: Digital Divide' in Dec2022.
 - As per the report,61% of men and 31% of women-owned mobile phones in 2021.
 - In India, women account for only one-third of internet users.
 - 15% fewer women than men own a mobile phone, and 33% fewer use mobile internet services.
 - In the Asia-Pacific region, India has the widest gender gap in using the internet.
- **WMO releases Global Water Resources Report 2021**
- World Meteorological Organization has released its first annual Global Water Resources Report 2021 in December 2022.
 - Currently, 3.6 billion people face inadequate access to water and is expected to increase to more than 5 billion by 2050.
 - The 1st edition of the report looks at the volume of water flowing through a river channel.
 - WMO Secretary General:Petteri Taalas.
- **World Malaria Report 2022 released by WHO**
- The 2022 report is based on information received from 84 malaria-endemic countries in all WHO regions.
 - It provides a comprehensive and up-to-date assessment of trends in malaria control and elimination across the globe.
 - As for Malaria cases, the upward trend continued but at a slower rate, with 247 million cases in 2021, compared to 245 million cases in 2020 and 232 million in 2019.
- **India ranked 5th in 2022 Hurun Global 500 list**
- India's rank jumped to 5th position from 9th position with 20 companies featured in the 2022 Hurun Global 500 List released in December 2022.
 - According to the list, Reliance Industries is the most valuable company followed by TCS and HDFC Bank.
 - The US topped the 2022 Hurun Global 500 list, whereas China ranked second with 35 companies, and was followed by Japan, UK, India and Canada.
- **The Economist releases Global Food Security Index 2022 report**
- The 2022 Global Food Security Index (GFSI) report was released by the British weekly The Economist in December 2022.
 - The report shows a deterioration in the global food environment for the third year, threatening food security.
 - Finland topped the list while India is ranked at 68th position.
 - South Africa overtook Tunisia to become the most food-secure country in Africa.
- **India jumps from 7th to 3rd global ranking in scientific publications**
- India has been ranked 3rd globally in the publication of scientific papers.
 - According to the National Science Foundation (NSF)'s Science & Engineering Indicators 2022 report, India's global position in scientific publications has improved from 7th in 2010 to 3rd in 2020.
 - China leads the world in the publication of the maximum number of scientific papers followed by the USA.

➤ **Puducherry adjudged best performing State in Social Progress Index**

- The Prime Minister Economic Advisory Council (PMEAC) on 20 December 2022 released the Social Progress Index (SPI) for States and Districts prepared by the Institute for Competitiveness and Social Progress Imperative.
- Puducherry has the highest SPI score of 65.99 in the country.
- Aizawl (Mizoram), Solan (Himachal Pradesh), and Shimla (Himachal Pradesh) are the top 3 best-performing districts.

 **SPORTS**

➤ **Deepika Padukone to unveil the FIFA World Cup trophy during the finals**

- Actor Deepika Padukone will unveil the FIFA World Cup 2022 trophy in Qatar during the final match of FIFA World Cup on 18 Dec 2022.
- She will be the first Bollywood actor to unveil FIFA World Cup trophy.
- The final match will be played at the Lusail Iconic Stadium in Qatar on 18 Dec.
- The tournament is being held from Nov 20 to Dec 18.
- She was also awarded the TIME 100 Impact Award in 2022

➤ **Union Sports Minister unveils Hockey World Cup trophy in New Delhi**

- Union Minister for Youth Affairs & Sports Anurag Thakur unveiled Hockey World Cup trophy in New Delhi on 16 December 2022.
- The event was also attended by 1975 Hockey World Cup winners.
- The FIH Men's World Cup 2023 Bhubaneswar -Rourkela will begin on 13th January 2023.
- The nationwide Trophy Tour was launched in Bhubaneswar on 5th December by Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik.

➤ **Qatar successfully hosted FIFA World Cup 2022**

- The 2022 FIFA World Cup was held in Qatar in Dec 2022.
- Qatar is a peninsular Arab country.
- Qatar became a British protectorate in 1916, and gained independence in 1971.
- In 2017, the total population of Qatar was 2.6 million, with 313,000 of them Qatari citizens and 2.3 million expatriates.
- Qatar Capital is Doha.

➤ **Sukant Kadam wins gold medal at Peru Para Badminton International**

- Sukant Kadam won a gold medal at the Peru Para-Badminton International Championship in Dec'22.
- India won 14 medals (6 gold, 1 silver, and 7 bronze).
- He defeated Chee Hiong Ang in straight sets with a score line of 21-14 and 21-15.
- Indian men's doubles pair Nehal and Breno Johann and the women's doubles duo of Parul Parmar and Vaishali Nilesh Patel won gold in their respective categories.

➤ **Indian sailor Anandi wins gold medal at 34th King's Cup Regatta 2022**

- Indian Sailor Anandi Nandan Chandavarkar won Gold at 34th King's Cup Regatta 2022 held in Phuket, Thailand on 11 Dec 2022.
- She participated in the French Open Skiff National event and finished 5th in the U-15 category.
- She also participated in Japanese Open Skiff Nationals 2022.
- The King's Cup Regatta started in 1987 and is a one-week event held annually in Phuket, Thailand

- **Mirabai Chanu clinches silver at Weightlifting World Championship**
 - Mirabai Chanu won silver at the 2022 World Weightlifting Championships in Colombia on 7 Dec 2022.
 - She beat the Tokyo 2020 champion Hou Zhihua of China.
 - She lifted a combined weight of 200 kg compared to Zhihua's total of 198 kg.
 - Meanwhile, China's Jiang Huihua took home the gold medal with a combined weight of 206 kg.

- **Argentina beat France to win FIFA World Cup 2022**
 - Argentina defeated France 4-2 on penalties to win their third World Cup, after 36 years, on 19 December 2022.
 - It had won two in 1978 and 1986 under Diego Maradona.
 - Golden Ball was awarded to Lionel Messi.
 - Messi becomes highest goal scorer for Argentina in FIFA W-Cup history
 - He also got this award in 2014.
 - With eight goals, Kylian Mbappe was awarded the Golden boot.
 - Enzo Fernandez was awarded the Young Player of the Tournament award.
 - While the goalkeeper of the tournament was given to Emiliano Martinez.

- **Manu Bhaker bags gold medal in National Shooting Championship**
 - Manu Bhaker bagged a gold medal in the 10-metre pistol junior women's event at the National Shooting Championship in Bhopal.
 - Representing Haryana at the 65th edition of the National Shooting Championship, Manu Bhaker beat Telangana's, Esha Singh.
 - Olympic silver medallist Vijay Kumar from Himachal Pradesh bagged the national title in the men's 25m centre fire pistol.

- **India wins 6 gold medals at International Junior Science Olympiad**
 - India secured the top rank at the 19th International Junior Science Olympiad 2022 held in Bogota, Colombia by winning 6 gold medals.
 - Arittra Malhotra, Rajdeep Mishra, Devesh Pankaj Bhaiya, Banibrata Majee, and Avaneesh Bansal were the students who bagged gold medals at the IJSO 2022, Bogota.
 - This is the third successive year and fourth overall that India has topped the medals tally.

- **Neeraj Chopra becomes the most written-about athlete in 2022**
 - According to the World Athletics, javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra of India was the most written about track and field athlete in 2022, displacing the Jamaican legend Usain Bolt from the top lists.
 - He won the silver medal at the World Athletic Championships 2022 in Oregon, becoming only the 2nd Indian to win a world's medal after Anju Bobby George's bronze in the women's long jump in 2003.

- **India wins blind T20 cricket world cup for third consecutive times**
 - India won the 3rd T20 World Cup for Blind, played at the M.Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru, Karnataka on 17 Dec 2022.
 - All the three T20 World Cup for Blind have been hosted by India.
 - India defeated Bangladesh by 120 runs in the final.
 - Governor of Karnataka Thawar Chand Gehlot presented the winners and runners up trophies.
 - The 4th T20 World Cup for Blind will be held in Pakistan in 2023.

- **Indian women's hockey team wins FIH Nations Cup**
 - The Indian women Hockey team won the inaugural FIH Nations Cup at Valencia, Spain on 17 December 2022.
 - With this win, the Indian team has been promoted to the 2023-24 FIH Hockey Women's Pro League.
 - The winning goal was scored by Gurjit Kaur of India.
 - India finished third in the 2021-22 FIH Pro League.
- **New Delhi to host the 36th Asian Wrestling Championships 2023**
 - The United World Wrestling (UWW) announced on 20 December 2022 that the 36th Asian Wrestling Championships 2023 will be held in New Delhi, from 28 March to 2 April 2023.
 - New Delhi will be hosting the event for the 7th time.
 - It will offer ranking points to the wrestlers which will determine their seedings for the World Championships to be held in Belgrade, Serbia from 16 to 24 Sept 2023.
- **Goa to host 1st ever World Table Tennis series event in February 2023**
 - Goa will host India's first ever World Table Tennis (WTT) series event from 27 Feb to 5 March 2023 at the Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Stadium, Goa.
 - WTT Series is the official professional table tennis series of events.
 - It will be hosted by Stupa Analytics Company, in association with the Goa govt and the Table Tennis Federation of India.
- **Sam Curran becomes most expensive player in IPL history**
 - Cricketer Sam Curran on 23 December 2022 became the costliest cricketer ever to be bought by any franchise of the Indian Premier League (IPL).
 - He was bought by Punjab Kings during the IPL auction for ₹18.5 crores.
 - The IPL auctions for the 2023 season are being held in Kerala.
 - He broke cricketer Ishan Kishan's record who was picked last season for ₹15.25 crore by Mumbai Indians.

✚ AWARDS

- **Canara Bank wins Banker's Bank of the Year Award 2022**
 - Canara Bank won the 'Banker's Bank of the Year Award 2022' for India segment at the Global Banking Summit held in London in December 2022.
 - Bank Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer LV Prabhakar received the award from the organisers.
 - The Banker's magazine is a premier global banking and finance resource for more than 180 countries across the world.
- **PETA India's 2022 Person of the Year title**
 - Sonakshi Sinha has been awarded PETA India's 2022 Person of the Year title.
 - Sonakshi's actions helped save the lives of many animals killed for fashion, but her strong advocacy for dog and cat rights earned her the title.
 - She is actively involved in animal welfare activities and regularly voices out the need for stronger animal protection laws.
 - PETA stands for People for Ethical Treatment of Animals. PETA was founded in 1980 and is dedicated to establishing and defending the rights of all animals.
 - The international animal rights non-profit group endorsed the title and celebrated the actions of the "Dabang" actress for saving animal lives in India.
 - Last year, Alia Bhatt was awarded the same title.

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

➤ **Sahitya Akademi Award 2022**

- Sahitya Akademi, an organisation founded in 1954 for promotion of literature, announced various Awards for 2022.
- Sahitya Akademi recognizes 24 Indian languages which includes Rajasthani ,English and 22 languages recognized under the 8th Schedule of the Indian constitution.
- Sahitya Akademi Award is given to the most outstanding books of literary merit published in any of the major Indian languages recognised by the Akademi.
- The first Awards were given in 1955.
- The Sahitya Akademi announced the winners of Sahitya Akademi Awards 2022 in 24 Indian languages(including English) on 22 Dec'22.
- Writer M. Rajendran from Tamil Nadu was awarded for his novel 'Kala Pani'.
- Novelist Anuradha Roy, Tamil author M. Rajendran were among 23 litterateurs awarded the Sahitya Akademi Awards for 2022.
- The winners include 7 books of poetry, 6 novel, 2 short stories, 3 dramas/plays, 2 literary criticism and 1 each under autobiographical essays.

➤ **Global Achievers Award 2022**

- HBW News announced the winners of the Global Achievers Award 2022.
- This award is an initiative to recognize top global leaders and organizations for their outstanding achievements and contributions.
- The Winners list includes Katrina Kaif for achievement in Bollywood, Nandan Nilekani for IT Industry, Selena Gomez for her achievement in singing, etc
- HBW News is a new age international media platform that brings news stories, opinions and analysis from more than 30 countries.

➤ **Rafael Nadal and Iga Swiatek crowned ITF World Champions 2022**

- Rafael Nadal and Iga Swiatek were crowned the ITF world champion 2022 in their respective categories.
- Rafael Nadal was crowned the ITF world champion for the fifth time in his career.
- In the men's doubles category, Rajeev Ram and Joe Salisbury won the award while Barbora Krejickova and Katerina Siniakova took the women's doubles honour for the third time.

➤ **Jamnalal Bajaj Award 2022 announced**

- The Jamnalal Bajaj Foundation has announced the winners of the Jamnalal Bajaj award 2022.
- The Foundation gives 4 awards in different categories.
- Three are given to Indians and one award, for promoting Gandhian values outside is given to a foreigner.
- The Jamnalal Bajaj Foundation was established in 1977.
- Jamnalal Bajaj was among the stalwarts of India's freedom movement.

➤ **Venkaiah Naidu conferred with SIES Award for public leadership**

- Former Vice President Venkaiah Naidu has been conferred with the 25th Sri Chandra sekarendra Saraswathi National Eminence Award.
- Other awardees are Arif Mohammed Khan, Ratan Tata, Dr Marthanda Varma Sankaran Valianathan, Ajay Sood and Vishakha Hari.
- The awards were instituted by the South Indian Education Society in 1998 in memory of the late Seer of Kanchi, Sri Chandrasekharendra Saraswati.

- **Cuban activist Aleida Guevara awarded 1st KR Gouri Amma National Award**
 - Noted Cuban social worker and human rights advocate, Aleida Guevara has been selected for the first KR Gouri Amma national award on 29 December 2022.
 - It was instituted by the K.R. Gouri Amma Foundation.
 - Dr. Aleida is also an active member of the Cuban Medical Mission.
 - She was awarded for her efforts to rehabilitate differently-abled children and provide debt relief to developing countries.

- **Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs wins at Digital India Awards 2022**
 - The Smart Cities Mission, Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs has won the Platinum Icon in the Digital India Awards 2022.
 - They have been awarded for their initiative “Data Smart Cities: Empowering Cities through Data”.
 - The award was announced under the ‘Data Sharing and Use for Socio-Economic Development’ category.

- **Antim Panghal nominated for Rising Star of the Year award**
 - Indian women’s wrestler Antim Panghal has been nominated for United World Wrestling 2022 Rising Star of the Year award in Dec2022.
 - Japan’s Nonoka Ozaki, USA’s Amit Elor, Sweden’s Emma Malmgren and Andreea Ana of Romania are the other in the five-woman nominees list.
 - Antim Panghal created history in Aug 2022 by winning India’s first-ever gold medal at the World U20 Wrestling Championships.

- **Sudeep & Shobhana won Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize 2021-22**
 - The Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize has been jointly won by Sudeep Sen for his genre Anthropocene: Climate Change, Contagion, Consolation and Shobhana Kumar for her haibun collection A Sky Full of Bucket Lists.
 - Tagore Prize for social achievement were awarded to SK Roy, producer of the Jaipur Literature Festival.
 - It was started in 2018 to recognise literary and social accomplishments.

- **Prabhu Chandra Mishra honoured with Atal Samman Award**
 - Prabhu Chandra Mishra awarded Atal Samman Award for his excellence in field of science & research.
 - His area of work is StemCell & Regenerative Medicine in infertility.
 - He is the President of International Association of StemCell & Regenerative Medicine.
 - He also wrote a book on stemcells, called StemCell & Regenerative Medicine in infertility.

- **New York Film Critics Circle awards 2022: Filmmaker SS Rajamouli won Best Director**
 - SS Rajamouli won the Best Director Award for RRR at the New York Film Critics Circle 2022.
 - The group is one of the first critics’ groups to weigh in on the awards season.
 - Rajamouli’s win surprised many as his competitors included Steven Spielberg, Darron Aronofsky, Sarah Polley, and Gina Prince-Blythewood.
 - A pre-Independence fictional story, “RRR” stars Ram Charan and Jr NTR as real-life Indian revolutionaries in the 1920s Alluri Sitarama Raju and Komaram Bheem, respectively.

SCHEME

- **Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kaam Karyakram (PMKKK) Renamed as Promotion of Prime Minister's Heritage (PM Vikas) Scheme**
 - The Minister of Minority Affairs, Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani in a reply to a question in the Lok Sabha informed that the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Ko Kaam Karyakram (PMKKK) has now been named as Pradhan Mantri Virasat Ka Samvardhan (PM VIKAS) Scheme.
 - The integrated scheme converges five erstwhile schemes of the Ministry viz. Seekho aur Kamao, USTTAD, Hamari Dharohar, Nai Roshni and Nai Manzil.
 - The scheme has been approved by the Cabinet for the period of 15th Finance Commission.

- **Google launches anti-misinformation campaign in India**
 - Google's Jigsaw subsidiary launched a new anti-misinformation project in India in Dec'22.
 - It is aimed at preventing misleading information that has been blamed for inciting violence.
 - In 2022, Google conducted an experiment in Europe where it sought to counter anti-refugee narratives online in the wake of the Russian invasion of Ukraine.
 - Google HQ:-California
 - Google CEO:- Sundar Pichai

- **LG Manoj Sinha Launched 3 New Schemes for J&K**
 - Jammu and Kashmir Lt Governor Manoj Sinha announced three New Schemes- Holistic Development of Agriculture & Allied Sectors, Aspirational Towns, and Aspirational Panchayat for J&K Union Territory.
 - The projects which have now been approved by the administrative council, have an outlay of 5013 crore rupees.

- **Government starts Pradhan Mantri Adi Adarsh Gram Yojna (PMAAGY)**
 - Under PMAAGY, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs aims to develop 36,428 villages with at least 50% tribal population and 500 Scheduled Tribes into model tribal villages.
 - It is a modified version of 'Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Scheme' and will be implemented during 2021-22 to 2025-26.
 - The objective is to achieve integrated socio-economic development of selected villages.

- **"New India Literacy Programme" to be implemented from year 2022-27**
 - The union govt has approved NILP for the next five financial years (2022-27).
 - Launched in 2022, It aims to support the States and Union Territories in promoting literacy among non-literates in the age group of 15 and above.
 - The scheme has five components namely:
 - ✓ Foundational Literacy and Numeracy
 - ✓ Critical Life Skills.
 - ✓ Vocational Skills Development.
 - ✓ Basic Education.
 - ✓ Continuing Education.

- **Ministry of Railways launched Amrit Bharat Station Scheme**
 - Ministry of Railways has launched the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme.
 - The scheme aims to modernize railway stations across India.
 - It also aims to create master plans to enhance the facilities including and beyond the Minimum Essential Amenities (MEA).
 - Infrastructural development will be ensured for more than 1,000 stations under this scheme.

➤ **PRASHAD Projects**

- The 'National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Augmentation Drive' (PRASHAD) was launched by union govt in 2015 with the objective of holistic development of pilgrimage destinations.
- Under the Scheme, several religious sites have been identified for development such as Amaravati (Andhra Pradesh), Kamakhya (Assam), etc.
- While Swadesh Darshan Scheme was launched in 2015.

 **BOOKS AND AUTHORS**

➤ **Author Mansi Gulati releases her Book 'Miracles of Face Yoga'**

- Mansi Gulati, the Founder of Manasvani, released her book 'Miracles of Face Yoga', in Dec'22.
- It has also been appreciated by the President of India Droupadi Murmu.
- The book 'Face Yoga' is a comprehensive work on face yoga written in lucid and simple language which can be easily understood by beginners.
- Face yoga utilises a series of facial exercises to tone the muscles on the face.

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

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

➤ **A book “The Light We Carry: Overcoming In Uncertain Times” by M. Obama**

- A book titled "The Light We Carry: Overcoming in Uncertain Times", written by Michelle Obama, has been published by Crown Publishing.
- It inspire readers to examine their own lives, identify their sources of gladness, and connect meaningfully in a turbulent world.
- In the book she shares her habits and practice to overcome her feelings of fear, helplessness and self doubt.

➤ **A book titled “The Indian Navy@75” by Commodore Ranjit Rai (r) & Aritra Banerjee**

- A book titled, ‘The Indian Navy@75 Reminiscing the Voyage’ by Commodore Ranjit B Rai (Retd) and defence journalist Aritra Banerjee.
- The books tells you how the exploits and sacrifices of the British-era Royal Indian Navy (RIN) during World War 2 were omitted by British historians who could not digest the RIN’s mutiny in 1946.
- The IN built its own records and archives to rectify that.

➤ **PV Iyer launched his book ‘Fit At Any Age’**

- Air Marshal PV Iyer (retd.) has launched his book ‘Fit At Any Age’ at India International Centre, New Delhi.
- He penned his journey to fitness in the book and shared anecdotes from his life to explain how he became motivated to work out daily.

- He also writes about why it's important to work out and why one's journey towards fitness should start early.
- The book, published by Bloomsbury India.

BANKING, ECONOMY AND FINANCE

- **India to receive \$100 billion in remittances in 2022: World Bank**
 - As per the World Bank report "Migration and Development Brief", India is set to receive \$100 billion as remittances in 2022.
 - In 2021 India received \$89.4 billion in remittances.
 - India is the 1st country in the world to receive \$100 billion in remittances from migrant workers abroad.
 - With a share of 23% of total remittances, the US surpassed the UAE as the top source country in 2020–21.
- **IMF decreases FY23 India's GDP growth forecast to 6.8%**
 - The International Monetary Fund (IMF) reduced India's growth prediction for FY 23 from 7.4% forecasted in July to 6.8%.
 - India's growth projection for FY23 has undergone three decreases, starting from 9% in January of this year.
 - According to the World Economic Outlook (WEO), which was published in Washington, DC, India's growth is predicted to further decelerate in FY 24, reaching 6.1%.
- **Indian Bank launches 'MSME Prerana' programme in Rajasthan**
 - Indian Bank has launched its flagship business mentoring program for Micro Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) entrepreneurs – 'MSME Prerana' – in the state of Rajasthan.
 - "MSME Prerana", is a first-of-its-kind initiative for the MSME sector in the country by any bank.
 - It aims at empowering MSME Entrepreneurs through skill development and capacity-building training in their local languages.
- **GST collections in December up by 15 percent to Rs 1.49 lakh cr**
 - According to a government announcement, India's goods and services tax receipts increased 15% year over year in December to Rs 1.49 lakh crore (\$18.07 billion).
 - It suggesting robust economic activity throughout the holiday season.
 - In November, revenue from goods and services taxes totaled Rs. 1.46 lakh crore.
- **According to CEBR India to Become \$10-Trillion Economy by 2035**
 - The Centre for Economics and Business Research (CEBR), which is a UK-based economics consultancy, predicted that India will become the third-largest economy by 2037.
 - 14th edition of the report noted that over the next five years, the annual rate of GDP growth is expected to average 6.4%. After that, the growth is expected to average 6.5% in the subsequent nine years.
 - As per the report, India seems "unstoppable in its momentum" to become the third economic superpower.
- **World Bank upgrades India's GDP growth forecast for 2022-23 to 6.9 percent**
 - According to the World Bank, Indian economy is set to grow at 6.9 per cent in 2022-23, raising its forecast of 6.5 per cent growth made in October.
 - In October, it had cut India's GDP growth forecast to 6.5 per cent from 7.5 per cent earlier.
 - Now, it has upgraded the projection to 6.9 per cent for 2022-23 (April 2022 -March 2023).

➤ **48th GST Council meeting held in New Delhi**

- The 48th GST Council meeting was held in New Delhi on 17 December 2022.
- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman chaired the meeting.
- GST Council is a constitutional body for making recommendations to the Union and State Government on issues related to Goods and Service Tax.
- It was enacted through the 101st Amendment Act of 2016.
- Tax rates, rules, and regulations under GST are governed by the Council, which consists of the Finance minister, and her counterparts.
- Monetary threshold will be increased, from the current ₹5 crore to ₹20 crore, for launching legal proceedings against offenders.

➤ **IIFL Launches India's First Passive Tax-Saving Fund**

- IIFL Mutual Fund has launched India's first passive tax saver fund.
- IIFL Mutual Fund has launched India's first passive tax saver fund.
- It almost six months after the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) introduced the passive alternative in the Equity Linked Savings Scheme (ELSS) space.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

➤ Agni-V is **Agni-V ballistic missile**

- a nuclear capable intercontinental ballistic missile.
- It is Developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) of India.
- It believed to have a range of around 5,000 to 5,500 kilometers.
- Before Agni 5, the longest range missile India had was Agni-III, with a range of 3000–3500 km.
- Engine: Three-stage solid rocket.
- Propellant: Solid fuel.

➤ **NASA launches international mission 'SWOT' to survey Earth's water**

- The US National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the French space agency Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales (CNES) jointly launched the Surface Water and Ocean Topography (SWOT) mission to track nearly all the water on Earth's surface.
- The SWOT mission was launched through a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket from Vandenberg Space Force Base in California, USA.

➤ **3 Indian-origin women scientists among Australia's "Superstars Of STEM"**

- Three Indian-origin women are among 60 scientists, technologists, engineers, and mathematicians who have been selected as Australia's Superstars of STEM.
- This initiative aims to smash society's gender assumptions about scientists and increase the public visibility of females and non-binary people.
- This year among those recognised as Superstars of STEM include three Indian-origin women: Neelima Kadiyala, Dr Ana Baburamani, and Dr Indrani Mukherjee.
- Female scientists of Sri Lankan descent have also been chosen for distinction, in addition to Indians.

➤ **Google Launches Anti-Misinformation Campaign in India**

- Google's Jigsaw subsidiary is launching a new anti-misinformation project in India.
- It aimed at preventing misleading information that has been blamed for inciting violence.

DEFENCE

- **India-Japan to conduct 1st air combat exercise “Veer Guardian” in 2023**
 - Indian Air Force (IAF) and Japanese Air Self Defence Force (JASDF) are set to hold their maiden bilateral air exercise, “Veer Guardian 23”
 - It was held from January 16 to 26, 2023 at Hyakuri air base and Iruma air base in Japan.
 - Japan also participated for the first time in the multilateral exercise MILAN hosted by the Indian Navy in February 2022.
 - Chief of Defence Staff (CDS): General Anil Chauhan.
- **Pralay Ballistic Missiles :India’s First Tactical Quasi-Ballistic Missile**
 - The decision by the Defence Ministry to procure indigenous short-range ballistic surface-to-surface (SRBM) missile Pralay, a conventional weapon that has become ready for induction in just seven years, gives Indian military the heft to its war-fighting capabilities.
 - A high-level meeting of the Defence Ministry cleared the acquisition of around 120 pralay missiles for the armed forces and their deployment along the borders.
 - India now permits the use of ballistic missiles in tactical roles, therefore the acquisition of these ballistic missiles is considered a significant development for the nation

SUMMIT AND CONFERENCE

- **India to organize 12th World Hindi conference in Fiji in February 2023**
 - The 12th World Hindi Conference is being organized by the Ministry of External Affairs in collaboration with the Government of Fiji from 15-17 February 2023 in Fiji.
 - The theme of the Conference is “Hindi: From Traditional Knowledge to Artificial Intelligence”
 - According to the UN report of 2020, Fiji had a population of more than 896,000 and out of which over 30% is of Indian-origin.
- **New Delhi hosts first India-Central Asia meeting of NSAs**
 - The first India-Central Asia meeting of the National Security Advisers was held in New Delhi on December 2022.
 - National Security Adviser (NSA) Ajit Doval addresses the meeting.
 - This is the first time India is hosting a conclave of top security officials from Central Asian countries including Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.
- **17th Asia Pacific Regional Meeting of the ILO was held in Singapore**
 - The 17th Asia Pacific Regional Meeting (APRM) of the International Labour Organization (ILO) was held in Singapore in December 2022.
 - It brings together representatives of governments, employers' and workers' organizations from Asia, the Pacific and the Arab states.
 - The meeting concluded with the launch of the ‘Singapore Statement’.
- **National Health Ministers’ Conclave held in Varanasi**
 - 2-day National Health Ministers’ Conclave on Universal Health Coverage Day 2022 concluded in Varanasi in December 2022.
 - Uttar Pradesh governor Anandiben Patel inaugurated the conclave.
 - Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare, Dr Mansukh Mandaviya launched operational guidelines for AB-HWCs and Tele-MANAS along with training modules for CHOs and SASHAKT portal at the inaugural ceremony.

- **Union Territory Ladakh to host G20 event in 2023**
 - Ladakh is a region administered by India as a union territory.
 - Ladakh is bordered by the Tibet Autonomous Region to the east, Himachal Pradesh to the south, and the southwest corner of Xinjiang across the Karakoram Pass in the far north.
 - Ladakh was established as a union territory of India on 31 October, 2019.
 - It is both the large stand the second least populous union territory of India.
- **7th edition of India Water Impact Summit concludes**
 - The 7th edition of the India Water Impact Summit concluded on 17 December 2022.
 - The theme of the 7th India Water Impact Summit (IWIS 2022) was 'Restoration and Conservation of Small Rivers in a Large Basin'.
 - Experts from water, environment and administrative sectors consented to an urgent need of forming a National River Framework in the country.
- **Amit Shah chairs the Eastern Zonal Council meeting in Kolkata**
 - Union Home Minister Amit Shah chaired a meeting of the Eastern Zonal Council in Kolkata on 17th Dec'22.
 - In the meeting, issues like security along the inter-state borders, smuggling along the India-Bangladesh border, & connectivity were discussed.
 - The Eastern Zonal Council comprises West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand, and Odisha.
 - It promotes cooperative and competitive federalism in the country.
- **UAE to host the 13th World Trade Organisation Ministerial Meet in 2024**
 - The United Arab Emirates (UAE) will host the 13th World Trade Organisation (WTO) Ministerial meeting in February 2024.
 - The WTO's 12th Ministerial Conference was held in Geneva, Switzerland, from June 12 to June 17, 2022.
 - The Ministerial Conference is the topmost decision-making body of the WTO and usually meets every two years.
 - Director General of WTO : Dr Ngozi -Okonjo-Iweala.

✚ Miscellaneous

- **India to host 17th Pravasi Bhartiya Diwas in Indore in January 2023**
 - India will be hosting the 17th Pravasi Bhartiya Diwas in Indore from 8-10 January 2023
 - Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali, President of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, will be the Chief Guest at the 17th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD).
 - Australian Member of Parliament (MP) Zaneta Mascarenhas will be the guest of honour at the Youth Pravasi Bharatiya Divas which will be held on 8 January, 2023.
- **World Hindi Conference**
 - The World Hindi Conference or Vishva Hindi Sammelan, is a world conference on Hindi language.
 - The first World Hindi Conference was inaugurated on 10 January 1975 by the then PM of India Indira Gandhi in Nagpur.
 - The eleventh conference was hosted by Mauritius in 2018.
 - World Hindi Day is celebrated each year on 10 January while National Hindi Day is celebrated every year on 14 September.
- **National Statistical Commission**
 - The National Statistical Commission of India is an autonomous body which formed in June 2005 under the recommendation of Rangarajan commission.

- The NSC is currently headed by Prof. Rajeeva Laxman Karandikar who was appointed as Chairperson of the Commission on 30 Nov 2022 for a period of three years.
 - Formed: 1 June 2005
 - Headquarters: New Delhi
- **‘Goblin mode’ chosen as Oxford word of the year for 2022**
- The Oxford University Press has chosen 'Goblin Mode' as word of the year for 2022.
 - It was chosen by the general public for the first time.
 - The word 'Goblin Mode' is a “slang term” which means ‘a type of behaviour which is unapologetically self-indulgent, or greedy, typically in a way that rejects social norms.’
 - The word “Goblin mode” came first followed by “Metaverse” and “#IStandWith”
- **Opening Ceremony of Intl Year of Millets 2023 held in Rome, Italy**
- The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, organized an opening ceremony for the International Year of Millets 2023 in Rome, Italy on 6 Dec 2022.
 - India sponsored the proposal for the International Year of Millets 2023 which was accepted by the UN's General Assembly.
 - In India, millets are primarily a Kharif crop, requiring less water and agricultural inputs.
- **Saudi Arabia, a western Asian country, is located in Arabian Peninsula**
- It is the fifth-largest country in Asia and the second-largest in the Arab world
 - Saudi Arabia is the only country with a coastline along both the Red Sea and the Persian Gulf.
 - It is home to Mecca and Medina, the two holiest cities in Islam.
 - Petroleum was discovered in Saudi Arabia in 1938.
 - Capital: Riyadh
 - Currency: Saudi Riyal
 - King: Salman of Saudi Arabia
 - Population: 3.53 crores (2021).
- **S Jaishankar to visit Cyprus, Austria**
- External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will visit the Republic of Cyprus and Austria from December 29 to 3 January 2023.
 - This year marks 60 years of diplomatic relations between India and Cyprus.
 - In Austria, He will meet Austrian Federal Minister for European and International Affairs, Alexander Schallenberg.
 - 2023 marks 75 years of diplomatic relations between India and Austria.
- **Government to open Indian mission in "Lithuania"**
- Lithuania is a country in the Baltic region of Europe.
 - It is one of three Baltic states and lies on the eastern shore of the Baltic Sea.
 - Lithuania's Act of Independence was signed on 16 February 1918.
 - It was the first Soviet republic to proclaim its independence in 1990.

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