

Weekly Current Affairs

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05 Dec to 11 Dec 2022

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International Relations

Arton Capital Passport Index 2022

Why in News:

- According to Arton Capital's Passport Index 2022, India is now rated 87.

key points:

- The Passport Index 2022 from Arton Capital has been published to assess the best and worst passports in the world.
- This year, 193 UN member nations and 6 territories are included in Passport Index 2022. (ROC Taiwan, Macao, Hong Kong, Kosovo, Palestinian Territories and Vatican).
- Arton Capital uses publicly available information from governments that is continuously updated with data gathered through crowdsourcing.
- A three-tier system that includes visa-exempt, visa on arrival, ETA, and eVisa is used to determine passport rank.
- The report claims that the UAE has the strongest passport in the entire world.
- 180 countries now allow visa-free travel or "visa on arrival" for holders of UAE passports.
- According to the survey, nine of the top ten strongest passports are issued by European nations.
- Despite the mobility difference, practically every passport will have higher value in 2022, according to an index published by Arton Capital.
- According to the survey, Afghanistan (38), Syria (39), Iraq (40), and Pakistan have the weakest passports (44).



Source: The Hindu



Gautam Adani among 3 Indian billionaires on Forbes Asia Heroes of Philanthropy list

Why in news:

- The 16th iteration of Forbes Asia's Heroes of Philanthropy list has been published.



key points:

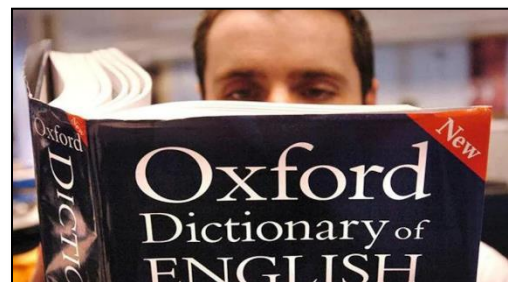
- This year's Forbes Asia Heroes of Philanthropy list includes Gautam Adani, CEO of the Asia Adani Group, Shiv Nadar of HCL Technologies, and Ashok Soota of Happiest Minds Technologies.
- Gautam Adani, CEO of the Adani Group, is included as one of India's most generous donors in the Forbes list.
- Forbes has listed Gautam Adani as promising to donate Rs 60,000 crore when he turns 60 in June.
- According to Forbes, this money will be donated through the 1996-founded Adani Foundation and used for healthcare, education, and skill development.
- Shiv Nadar, a self-made billionaire and philanthropist, is regarded as one of India's top philanthropists. Through the Shiv Nadar Foundation, he has donated nearly \$1 billion of his wealth over a number of years to various social causes.
- The medical research trust established by Ashok Soota in April 2021 has been promised Rs 600 crore for the investigation of ageing and neurological disorders.

Source: Business Standard

Oxford dictionary chooses 'Goblin Mode' as word of year 2022

Why in News:

- By means of an online vote, "Goblin mode" has been selected by Oxford Dictionaries as the Oxford Word of the Year.



key points:

- The Oxford Word of the Year has been chosen by the general public for the first time.



- In 2009, the phrase "Goblin Mode" initially surfaced on Twitter.
- "A form of behavior that is unashamedly self-indulgent, lazy, sloppy, or greedy, usually in a way that breaches social standards or expectations," is what the definition of the phrase "goblin mode" says.
- Wax was chosen as the Oxford Word of the Year for 2021.
- Out of the more than 340,000 votes cast, "Goblin Mode" received 93%, with "Metaverse" coming in second with 4%.
- In contrast to the ideal expression of being the best version of someone, #GoblinMode is frequently used on TikTok.
- Between November 21 and December 2, people had the opportunity to vote for the Oxford Word of the Year.
- The American dictionary publisher Merriam-Webster has selected "Gaslighting" as its word of the year for 2022.

Source: Times of India

SIPRI's list of top 100 global arms companies

Why in News:

- The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute has compiled a list of the top 100 defence companies in the world, which includes two government-owned Indian defence firms: Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL).



key points:

- In the SIPRI study, HAL was placed 63rd in 2021 with sales of 1.8 billion dollars and 42nd in 2018 with 3.3 billion dollars in arms sales.
- For the Indian Air Force, HAL is the producer of fighter jets like the LCA Tejas and Su-30 MKI, helicopters like the LCH Prachanda, trainer planes, cargo planes, etc.
- BEL produces cutting-edge electrical equipment for the military.
- Along with HAL and BEL, the Indian Ordnance Factories were listed among the top 100 defence firms in the previous edition.
- According to SIPRI, the top 100 countries in the world sold 592 billion dollars' worth of arms in total in 2021, a 1.9 percent increase from the previous year.



- The top 100 military corporations in the world, according to the report published this year, include 40 American firms, with the top 5 being all American.
- In the study that was published this year, eight Chinese businesses were listed among the top 100.
- India is the world's second-largest arms importer after Saudi Arabia, and it also makes the third-largest military expenditures worldwide after the United States and China.
- Dedicated to doing research on armed conflict, weaponry, arms control, and disarmament, SIPRI is an independent international organization.
- SIPRI was founded in 1966 and has its headquarters in Solna, Sweden.

Source: The Hindu

India to Become 8th Largest Advertising Market in 2023

Why in News:

- India will surpass Brazil to take over as the eighth-largest advertising market in 2023, according to GroupM's global end-of-year forecast.

key points:

- India is the ninth-largest advertising market in the world, according to GroupM's "This Year, Next Year 2022" report.
- According to the estimate, India's total advertising revenue will increase by 15.8% to 14.9 billion dollars in 2022 and by a further 16.8% in 2023.
- The value of retail media in India is predicted to be 551 million dollars in 2022 and to nearly quadruple by 2027, according to the analysis.
- This year, TV advertising, which currently accounts for 36% of the advertising market share, is anticipated to expand by 10.8% and double.
- The world's largest advertising market, according to the report, is the United States, which is followed by China, Japan, the United Kingdom, Germany, France, Canada, Brazil, and India.



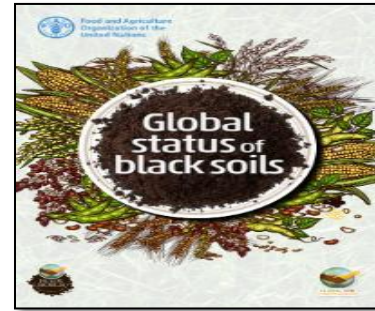
Source: Indian Express



“Global Status of Black Soils” Report

Why in News:

- On World Soil Day, the Food and Agriculture Organization published a report titled "Global status of black soils."



key points:

- The research claims that the loss of soil organic carbon stores is brought about by changes in land use, unsustainable management techniques, and the indiscriminate use of agrochemicals.
- Approximately 2.86 percent of the earth's surface is made up of black soil, which also contributes 17.36 percent of cropland, 8.05 percent of the world's SOC supply, and 30.06 percent of the cropland soil organic carbon stock.
- Despite making up a relatively minor fraction of the world's soil, black soil is crucial to both the security of the world's food supply and its economic growth.
- According to the report, nations have lost between 20 and 50 percent of their initial soil organic carbon stock due to the release of carbon into the atmosphere as carbon dioxide.
- Healthy black soil can contribute roughly 10% of the world's total soil organic carbon sequestration.
- According to the analysis, Latin America and the Caribbean contain roughly 10% of the potential for black soil, whereas Europe and Eurasia have a potential of more than 65%.
- Depending on the geography, different places with black soil are employed for crop cultivation.
- In terms of overall cropland, Europe and Eurasia account for 70% of the black soil, while North America, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Asia each provide 10%.
- Black soil has a thick, deep-colored soil horizon that is packed with organic matter.
- Black soils have a high moisture storage capacity, making them fertile and able to produce high agricultural yields.
- Due to their capacity to absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and store it in soil organic matter, black soils are crucial for reducing climate change and adapting to it (carbon sequestration).

Source: Business Standard



Fifth European Union-India Competition Week 2022

Why in News:

- The fifth EU-India Competition Week will take place in New Delhi from December 5 to December 7 of this year.



key points:

- Every year, the European Union-India Competition Week is planned to serve as a forum for communication between representatives of the European Commission Directorate-General for Competition and the Competition Commission of India (CCI).
- It is based on the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the European Union and India agreed in 2013 regarding cooperation in the area of competition law.
- The inaugural year of the week-long EU-India Competition Week event was 2018.
- The Competition Cooperation project includes the EU-India Competition Week.
- A 5-year program funded by the EU, the Competition Cooperation Project offers cooperation and technical support to competition authorities in Asia.
- Representatives of the Directorate-General for Competition (DG COMP) of the European Commission and the Competition Commission of India are present for the fifth EU-India Competition Week.
- The competition authorities from France and Belgium will also attend the 2022 edition.
- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for cooperation in the area of competition legislation was signed in 2013 by the Directorate General of Competition (DG COMP) of the European Commission and the Competition Commission of India (CCI).
- This MoU aims to coordinate enforcement efforts involving comparable or related issues between EU and Indian competition authorities.
- Provisions were made regarding positive and negative parity as well as the sharing of best practices and knowledge via study tours, seminars, or initiatives of a similar nature.

Source: Indian Express



Sylhet-Silchar Festival

Why in News:

- In Assam's Barak Valley, the inaugural Sylhet-Silchar Festival to honor the cultural ties between India and Bangladesh was held.



key points:

- The Sylhet-Silchar Festival seeks to improve ties between Bangladesh and India on a bilateral basis.
- The Bangladesh Foundation for Regional Studies and the India Foundation collaborate to conduct the two-day festival.
- The Sylhet-Silchar Festival honors both the 50th anniversary of Bangladesh's liberation from Pakistan and the 75th anniversary of India's independence.
- The Sylhet-Silchar Festival highlights the local fare, artwork, crafts, culture, and goods from the two nearby Sylhet (Bangladesh) and Silchar regions (India).
- Long-standing cultural ties between Sylhet and Silchar include a shared language, customs, and cuisine.
- Experts and decision-makers participated in a series of panel discussions during the event about topics relating to shared prospects for progress.
- There are 29 transboundary rivers in the basin, which start in India and go through Bangladesh on their way to the Bay of Bengal.

Source: Indian Express

India 8th highest risk country for mass killings, claims US report

Why in News:

- India is ranked eighth among the nation's most at risk for mass murder in the years 2022 and 2023, according to a report by the US think tank Early Warning Project.



key points:

- India's ranking on the list has dropped from where it was the year before; it was previously ranked second.
- The Early Warning Project analysis states that there is a 7.4 percent, or nearly one in 14, chance that new mass killings would begin in India in 2022-2023.



- Pakistan topped this year's list according to the Early Warning Project report, with Yemen coming in second, Myanmar third, Ethiopia fifth, Nigeria sixth, and Afghanistan seventh.
- India's performance is inferior to Sudan (ranked ninth), Somalia (ranked tenth), Syria (ranked eleventh), Iraq (12th), and Zimbabwe (14th).
- India was ranked second among the top 15 high-risk nations over the previous five years, according to the research for the years 2021–2022.
- The project is a collaboration between the Dickey Center for International Understanding at Dartmouth College and the Simon-Skjodt Center for the Prevention of Genocide at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.
- The report defines mass murder as the deliberate killing of 1,000 or more civilians by armed forces (governmental or non-governmental) in a period of one year or less because they belonged to a certain group.

Source: The Hindu

EIU Cost of Living Index 2022

Why in News:

- The London-based Economist Intelligence Unit has published the Worldwide Cost of Living 2022 report (EIU).

key points:

- In 172 nations around the world, the Worldwide Cost of Living Report examines the costs of more than 200 commodities and services.
- The semiannual survey discovered significant changes in city living expenses, mostly brought on by the conflict in Ukraine.
- The position of Moscow has risen from 72nd in 2021 to 37th in 2022.
- Los Angeles and Hong Kong have been added to the list at the fourth position this year, while Tel Aviv, which topped the list in the year 2021, has slid to the third position this year.
- Following the global energy crisis, the weakening of currencies and economies has also led to a decrease in the cost of living in many European towns.
- The capital of Ukraine, Kyiv, is not listed in this year's Worldwide Cost of Living 2022 report.
- The study found that global inflation increased by 8.1% in the previous year.



- The three cities with the greatest inflation rates are Tehran, Buenos Aires, and Istanbul.

Source: Business Standard

Global Water Resources Report 2021 released by WMO

Why in News:

- In order to evaluate the effects of climatic, environmental, and socioeconomic change on the planet's water resources, the World Meteorological Organization has released its first Global Water Resources Report.



key points:

- Governments were asked by the COP27 United Nations Climate Change Conference to further incorporate water into adaptation efforts.
- Water is mentioned in a COP result document for the first time, recognizing its critical role.
- The cryosphere, terrestrial water storage, and streamflow were the main topics of the first Water Resources Report.
- Verified accessible hydrological data are scarce.
- The report states that 2021 saw more drought-like conditions than usual in a significant portion of the world.
- The report claims that this was a year in which a La Nina event and climate change both had an impact on rainfall patterns.
- 74% of all-natural disasters between 2001 and 2018 were water-related, according to UN-Water.
- The Global Water Resources Report 2021 states that 6 billion people experience water scarcity for at least one month out of every year.

Source: The Hindu



Global Wage Report 2022-2023

Why in News:

- The International Labor Organization has produced a paper titled "Global Wage Report 2022-2023: The Impact of Inflation and COVID-19 on Wages and Purchasing Power" (ILO).



key points:

- For the first time since the global financial crisis of 2008, worldwide earnings are projected to fall in 2022 due to rising living expenses.
- The report claims that real monthly wages are declining in many countries as a result of the severe inflation crisis and global economic slowdown, which are both partly brought on by the conflict in Ukraine and the global energy crisis.
- The first half of 2022 is anticipated to see monthly wages fall by 0.9 percent in real terms, marking the first negative real global wage growth of the twenty-first century, according to the Global Wages Report.
- Despite efforts to stay up with inflation, the analysis predicts that minimum salaries in nations like Bulgaria, Spain, Sri Lanka, South Korea, the United Kingdom, and the United States will fall in real terms from 2020 to 2022.
- The difference between real pay growth in high-income nations in 2022 and real labor productivity growth is at its widest point since 1999.
- The paper claims that there is a significant disparity between the average real pay levels of G20 nations and G20 economies.

Source: Business Standard

Australia-India Centre for Energy (AICE)

Why in News:

- In order to work on the 2030 SDGs, the Australian universities and the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras are collaborating to launch the Australia-India Energy Center (AICE).



key points:

- The Australia-India Energy Center (AICE) is a virtual center created to encourage cooperation between Australian and Indian academic institutions, research organizations, and business sectors in the energy sector.
- During the two-day Energy Summit 2022 that IIT Madras is hosting in December 2022, the Australia-India Energy Center will be unveiled.
- Through innovative research, technology development, and technology deployment, the Australia-India Energy Center's primary goal is to strengthen bilateral cooperation between India and Australia in the energy sector.
- The Australia-India Energy Center aims to serve as a significant bilateral platform for academia, business, and government organizations to engage in science, technology, economics, policy, and governance related to SDG 7 and other related SDGs.
- IIT Madras and Deakin University in Australia will be in charge of the collaboration under the Australia-India Energy Center.
- The program will begin with the goal of fostering cooperation between Indian and Australian governments, funding organizations, and lone researchers.
- By locating cooperative laboratories, the Australia-India Energy Center will also work to advance seamless research and development.
- The Young International Fellows (YIFs) and Global Research Fellows (GRFs) exchange between Australia and India will be sped up through the Australia-India Energy Center.
- The Australia-India Energy Center will also encourage collaborations with other institutions in the South Asian and ASEAN regions to create novel, long-lasting responses to the world's energy problems.

Source: The Hindu

Global Technology Summit 2022

Why in News:

The Global Technology Summit (GTS), in its seventh iteration, took place in New Delhi from November 29 to December 1.



key points:

- The Geopolitics of Technology will be the focus of the Global Technology Summit in 2022.
- The Global Technology Summit, India's top annual Geotechnology event, brings together leading global stakeholders from the business community, government officials, scientists, and other fields to discuss technology and shifting geopolitics.
- The major goal of the Global Technology Summit is to find innovative solutions to the varied problems of all parties without impeding the advancement of technology or novel concepts.
- The Global Technology Summit's first iteration took place in 2016.
- This year's Global Technology Summit, which was in its seventh year, used a hybrid format.
- Both Carnegie India and the Ministry of External Affairs served as co-hosts of the Global Technology Summit.
- The global technology summit aims to examine the current state of global alliances, emerging technologies, and their impact on geopolitics as India assumes the G20 presidency.
- The benefits and difficulties of sustainable technologies as well as emerging geopolitics in the technology sector were the main topics of discussion at the Global Technology Summit.
- Ministers and other top government representatives from the US, EU, Singapore, Japan, Nigeria, Brazil, Bhutan, and other nations also attend the Global Technology Summit.

Source: The Hindu



National

BBC releases list of 100 most influential women: 4 Indian women in the list

Why in News:

- The British Broadcasting Corporation has released a list of the top 100 women in the world (BBC).



key points:

- Women from a variety of professions, including politics, science, sport, entertainment, and literature are represented on the list, which was published by the British Broadcasting Corporation.
- Four Indian women, including social activist Sneha Jawale, author Gitanjali Shree, engineer Sirisha Bandla, and actress Priyanka Chopra, made the British Broadcasting Corporation's list of the 100 most influential women this year.
- From local activists to world leaders, the British Broadcasting Corporation's list includes them all.
- For the first time, the BBC has enlisted the assistance of "100 women" who have previously been on this list.
- The BBC's Most Influential Women list is released to commemorate the BBC's 100th birthday, the BBC World Service's 90th anniversary, and the 10th season of the program.

Source: Indian Express

Google Launches Anti-Misinformation Campaign in India

Why in News:

- A fresh anti-misinformation initiative has been introduced in India by Jigsaw, a Google subsidiary.



key points:

- The project seeks to halt the false information that has been held responsible for deaths and acts of violence.
- Similar to other nations, misinformation travels quickly throughout India, primarily through social media, causing tensions on the political and religious fronts.
- The Indian government previously urged Twitter, Facebook, Google, YouTube, and Meta (Facebook) to take action to halt the spread of false information.
- Under this project, a "Prebaking" video will be utilized.
- The purpose of prebaking videos is to counter false claims before they spread widely.
- The YouTube platform and other social media platforms will both make use of it.
- Jigsaw has worked with the German NGO Alfred Lan decker Foundation, the charitable investment company Omidyar Network India, and a number of other smaller regional partners to make five videos in three distinct languages.
- The video would initially be broadcast in Bengali, Hindi, and Marathi.
- The American multinational corporation Google was founded in 1998 by Larry Page and Sergey Brin.
- Google underwent a reorganization in 2015 to become a fully owned subsidiary of Alphabet Company.

Source: Business Standard

India Jumps To 48th Rank in Global Aviation Safety Ranking

Why in News:

- In the International Civil Aviation Organization's ranking of the world's aviation safety, India has risen to the 48th spot.



key points:

- India and Georgia are ranked 48th overall with an 85.49 percent overall score.
- Singapore has been ranked first in the world for aviation security, followed by the UAE and South Korea in second and third, respectively.
- The International Civil Aviation Organization is a specialized UN body with its main office in Montreal, Quebec, Canada's Quartier International.



- Six categories of effective implementation (EI) are evaluated in accordance with International Civil Aviation Organization standards: LEG, ORG, PEL, OPS, AIR, and AGA.
- In order to ensure the safe and orderly growth of international air travel, the International Civil Aviation Organization encourages its planning and development.

Source: PIB

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

Why in News:

- The third wind-solar hybrid power plant of the Adani Group's Adani Green Energy Limited (AGEL) has been put into operation in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan. AGEL is the company's renewable energy division.



key points:

- After this 450 MW facility was successfully commissioned, AGEL's overall operating generation capacity increased to 7.17 GW.
- The Jaisalmer, Rajasthan, Hybrid Power Plant's total operating generation capacity is 450 MW.
- The project includes 150 MW of wind power and 600 MW of solar power.
- Adani Green Energy now has the largest operational hybrid power generation capacity of 1,440 MW thanks to this hybrid facility.
- The first 390 MW hybrid power plant in India was initially put into service by AGEL in May 2022.
- The Adani Group launched the largest co-located 600 MW hybrid power plant in the world in September 2022.
- With a total portfolio size of 20.4 GW, Adani Green Energy Limited (AGEL), a subsidiary of the Adani Group with headquarters in India, has the largest global renewable portfolio.
- Adani Green Energy Limited creates utility-scale grid-connected solar, wind, and hybrid power plants. It then owns, operates, and maintains these facilities.

Source: Business Standard



IIT-Madras devises a system to generate power from sea waves

Why in News:

- A gadget known as "Sindhuja" or "Ocean Wave Energy Converter" was created by scientists at the Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) that can produce energy from ocean waves.



key points:

- During the second week of November 2022, the device's testing was finished.
- The Sindhuja device was positioned 6 kilometers off the coast of Tuticorin, Tamil Nadu, at a depth of 20 meters.
- IIT Madras worked with the start-up Virya Paramita Energy (VPE) Pvt Ltd and the Motilal Nehru National Institute of Technology (MNNIT) in Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh, on the Ocean Chav Energy Converter test.
- In the next three years, 1 MW of electricity can be produced from ocean waves with the aid of the Ocean Wave Energy Converter.
- India wants to develop a blue economy, clean energy, and deep-water missions.
- India's goal of producing 500 GW of renewable electricity by 2030 could be achieved with the aid of the Ocean Wave Energy Converter.
- The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of the Australian Government provided funding for Sindhuja-1 under the Australian Alumni Grant Scheme 2022, TBI-KIET under the DST fund-endeavor program, and the "Innovative Research Project" of IIT Madras.
- GKS Institute of Engineering and Technology and MCKV Institute of Engineering, both in West Bengal, created the electrical storage system.

Source: The Hindu

Community Innovator Fellowship Program

Why in News:

- The Community Innovator Fellowship application has been started on December 1, 2022, by the government.



key points:

- Community Innovator Fellowship (CIF) is an initiative of the Atal Innovation Mission.
- The Community Innovator Fellowship Program is being implemented in collaboration with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) India.
- The objective of the Community Innovator Fellowship Program is to facilitate knowledge creation and provide infrastructure support to aspiring community innovators and help them in their entrepreneurial journey.
- The Community Innovator Fellowship Program is a one-year fellowship program designed to provide support for innovators involved in solving challenges facing communities.
- Any community innovator between the ages of 18 to 35 can apply to the Community Innovator Fellowship Program.
- The Community Innovator Fellowship Program initiative strives to provide an enabling environment that fosters knowledge, mentorship, community immersion, and inclusion through infrastructure and funding support.
- The Community Innovator Fellowship Program consists of 5 phases, and the content and curriculum for the five phases are curated on digital learning platforms.
- Atal Community Innovation Centers have been set up to promote innovation and entrepreneurship in unserved and underserved areas of India.
- Each Atal Community Innovation Center is provided a grant of up to Rs 2.5 crore for a period of 5 years.

Source: The Hindu

Facial recognition technology is introduced at 3 airports in India under the Digi Yatra initiative

Why in News:

- The Union Civil Aviation Minister has announced the commencement of the Digi Yatra, which will go from New Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport to three other airports across the nation: Bengaluru, Varanasi, and New Delhi.



key points:

- Digi Yatra Foundation is carrying out the project.
- Airports Authority of India (26% ownership), Bengaluru Airport, Delhi Airport, Hyderabad Airport, Mumbai Airport, and Cochin International Airport are all shareholders in the joint venture firm known as Digi Yatra Foundation.
- For domestic travelers, participation in the Digi Yatra program is currently optional.
- Before travelling, those who choose Digi Yatra must download the app, register, link their Aadhaar information, snap a selfie, and upload their boarding card.
- A traveler using Digi Yatra can use a special e-gate to bypass the line.
- In consideration of privacy issues, Digi Yatra does not maintain a central database of personally identifiable information.
- The passenger ID and travel credentials are kept by Digi Yatra on the passenger's smartphone in a secure wallet.
- Blockchain technology will be used to submit the data for Digi Yatra, and all data will be wiped from the server after 24 hours.
- Based on facial recognition technology, Digi Yatra aims to offer contactless, seamless passenger processing at airports (FRT).
- At several airport checkpoints, this will automatically process passenger data based on facial recognition technology.

Source: The Hindu

Burgundy Private Hurun India 500

Why in News:

- The private banking division of Axis Bank, Burgundy Pvt, and Hurun India jointly publish the "2022 Burgundy Pvt Hurun India 500," the second iteration of the list ranking the 500 most valuable companies in India.



key points:

- The Burgundy Pvt Hurun India 500 list's deadline was set for October 30, 2022.
- Pvt. Burgundy Reliance Industries Limited (RIL), which has a valuation of Rs 17.2 lakh crore, is the most valuable listed business in India, according to the Hurun India 500 ranking.



- Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) Burgundy Pvt, valued at Rs 11.7 lakh crore, is ranked second on the Hurun India 500 list for Burgundy Pvt, while HDFC Bank Burgundy Pvt, valued at Rs 8.3 lakh crore, is third.
- 36 Indian cities are home to the Burgundy Pvt Hurun India 500 companies, with Mumbai (159), Bengaluru (63), and Delhi (42) at the top of the list.
- Burgundy Pvt 500 firms on the Hurun India 500 list employ up to 1.5% of the Indian workforce and provide top-line revenue equal to 29% of India's GDP (GDP).
- These businesses' combined market worth is US\$ 2.7 trillion, which is comparable to India's current GDP.
- Pvt. Burgundy More people were employed by the 500 companies on the Hurun India 500 list—7.26 million—and their combined sales were \$820 billion, more than the population of the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Source: Indian Express

State

Maharashtra: First state to set up Divyang Department

Why in News:

- The creation of a distinct government agency for Divyang has received approval from the Maharashtra state government (Divyang).

key points:

- The Maharashtra government announced this development in honour of International Day of Persons with Disabilities.
- The first state in India to have a distinct department for Divyang is Maharashtra (Divyang).
- This department was created to assist the state's physically and intellectually challenged citizens with their educational and employment needs.
- It was established to guarantee the welfare of people with disabilities and successfully carry out numerous government initiatives aimed at them.



- A total of Rs 1143 crore has been set aside to fill the 2063 new positions in the new department.
- Previously, the Department of Social Justice, which is overseen by the Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment, had authority over all complaints and issues involving people with disabilities.
- All of the sections of the Department of Social Justice and Special Assistance that deal with issues relating to the disabled will be combined to become the Disabled Department.
- More than 2.5 crore disabled people live in the state at the moment.
- The government will appoint about 2,000 special trainers for various disabilities.

Source: Indian Express

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

Why in News:

- On the model of One District, One Product, the Yogi Adityanath-led administration in Uttar Pradesh has introduced the "One District, One Sports" (ODOS) program.



key points:

- Each district in Uttar Pradesh will have its own distinct sport under the One District, One Sports initiative, and its distinct character would be guaranteed.
- The government hopes to give a platform for sportspeople to be developed as state representatives at the national and international levels through the One District, One Sports program.
- As part of the One District, One Sports initiative, one sport will be chosen for each of the 75 districts in the United Provinces, and efforts will be made district by district to identify and develop sport-specific talent and provide opportunities for it to compete at district, state, national, and international tournaments.
- In accordance with One District, One Sports, competent coaches in each district's Khelo India Center will work to maximize the players' talent.
- The One District, One Sports program will include activities like athletics, hockey, table tennis, badminton, weightlifting, boxing, archery, football, swimming, shooting, kabaddi, and lawn tennis.



Source: Indian Express

Hyderabad gets India's first real-time Gold ATM

Why in News:

- India's first Gold ATM and world's first real-time Gold ATM has been launched in Begumpet, Hyderabad.



key points:

- This ATM has been set up by Goldsika in association with Opencube Technologies (Technology Support).
- In this ATM, people can put their debit or credit card in Goldcoin and buy gold coins from it.
- The capacity of the ATM installed in Hyderabad is to hold 5 kg of gold.
- 8 options have been made available in the ATM for the amount of gold ranging from 0.5 grams to 100 grams.
- It is India's first and world's first real-time gold ATM.
- Coins received from Gold ATM will be 24 carat gold and 999 certified.
- Keeping in mind the safety features, built-in camera and sound alarm system have also been included in the ATM.

Source: Indian Express

Haryana Open Loop Ticketing System

Why in News:

- On the occasion of the Geeta Mahotsav 2022 in Kurukshetra, President of India Draupadi Murmu announced the introduction of the "Open Loop Ticketing System" for the Haryana State Transport Corporation.



key points:

- As a result, Haryana would be the first state to implement an open-loop ticketing system for public transportation.
- The open-loop ticketing system intends to make it unnecessary for commuters to purchase paper tickets for buses that travel on roads.



- A National Common Mobility Card (NCMC) issued by the AU Small Finance Bank, Electronic Ticket Issuing Machines (ETIMs), a GPS system, and an online reservation system are all components of the open-loop ticketing system.
- The AU Small Finance Bank will offer ETIM and ticket payment transaction capacity using cash, a QR code, or UPI under the open-loop ticketing system.
- For bus routes beginning in the first six districts—Faridabad, Chandigarh, Karnal, Sonapat, Bhiwani, and Sirsa—the open-loop ticketing system will be implemented.
- In the initial phase of the open-loop ticketing system, more than 10 lakh National Common Mobility Cards (NCMCs) would be distributed, enabling commuters to use more than two transportation networks without having to purchase two separate tickets.
- Bus fares will be transparent thanks to an open loop ticketing system, and revenue loss can be reduced as a result.
- Passengers' travel experiences will be enhanced by the open loop ticketing system, which will also help to lessen the need for cash transactions.
- The main goal of the open loop ticketing system is to make road transportation in Haryana cashless and contactless.

Source: Indian Express

Nirogi Haryana Health Scheme

Why in News:

- The Haryana government has launched the Nirogi Haryana Health Scheme.

key points:

- The Nirogi Haryana Project was started with the intention of giving the recipient households thorough free health examinations and essential medical care.
- The District Hospital in Sector 6 of Panchkula has begun the first phase of the Nirogi Haryana Health Scheme.
- The mentioned beneficiaries have access to 51 medical facilities in the Panchkula district.
- Nirogi Haryana Health Scheme eligibility in Panchkula includes 1,82,354 people from 42,000 Antyodaya Yojana-listed families.



- Age-based categories for beneficiaries of the Nirogi Haryana Swasthya Yojana include 0 to 6 months, 6 to 59 months, 6 to 18 years, 18 to 40 years, 40 to 60 years, and above 80 years.
- A distinctive colored OPD card with eight pages will be given to each of these categories.
- The ANM or ASHA worker would provide the empaneled beneficiaries an "invitation letter" to attend their health facilities on a particular date.
- The Nirogi Haryana Health Scheme offers a full general physical examination that includes measurements of the patient's height, weight, pulse, and blood pressure as well as dental and eye examinations.
- The thorough health examination offered by the Nirogi Haryana Yojana will aid in the early detection of conditions including diabetes, cancer, high blood pressure, and child malnutrition, among others.
- To evaluate disease and health management, the whole data set gathered during the Nirogi Haryana Swasthya Yojana's implementation would be kept online.

Source: Indian Express

Awards

India's greenhouse-in-a-box wins Prince William's Earth shot Prize 2022

Why in News:

- In Boston on Friday, Prince William and the Earth shot Prize announced the 2022 winners.

key points:

- One of the five winners of The Earth shot Awards is the Indian startup Kheti, which offers local smallholder farmers a ground-breaking way to save costs, boost yields, and safeguard livelihoods in the face of climate change.
- At the second annual Earth shot Awards presentation, which starts streaming on PBS.org and the PBS app on December 5, each winner received a \$1 million prize.



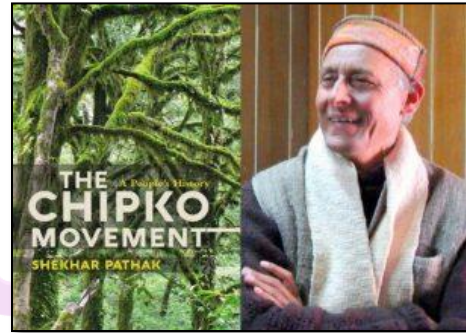
- The Earthshot Prize seeks to identify and promote creative answers that maintain global stability.
- Five winners will be chosen annually for their ground-breaking approaches to the five most pressing environmental issues facing our world in this crucial ten-year period.
- The five Earthshots are: Preserve and restore nature; purify our air; renew our oceans; create a world without waste; and stabilize our climate.

Source: Indian Express

Book on Chipko Movement wins Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay NIF Book Award

Why in News:

- The popular Chipko Andolan forest conservation campaign is the subject of Shekhar Pathak's book, which has been chosen as the winner of the Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay NIF Book Award 2022.



key points:

- "Chipko Movement: A People's History," translated from Hindi by Manisha Chowdhary, was chosen from a broad selection of five works that covered a wide range of modern Indian history and various themes and perspectives.
- A judging team of six people, led by political scientist Neeraj Gopal Jayal, chose the prize.
- Entrepreneur Manish Sabharwal, historians Srinath Raghavan and Nayanjot Lahiri, ex-diplomat Navtej Sarna, and attorney Rahul Mathan were also on the jury.
- Swetha S. Balakrishnan's "Accidental Feminism: Gender Parity and Selective Mobility Among India's Professional Elite" was among the other books that made the shortlist.
- The Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay NIF Book Prize honors and recognizes outstanding nonfiction writing in contemporary or modern India by authors of all nationalities.
- A trophy, citation, and a cash reward of Rs 15 lakh are included with the NIF Book Award.



- The Kamaladevi NIF Book Prize was established in 2018 and is based on the New India Foundation's objective to support excellent research and writing on all facets of independent India.
- The honor is named in honor of institution-builder Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay, who made a significant impact on the freedom struggle, the women's movement, the resettlement of refugees, and the resurgence of handicrafts.

Source: Indian Express

Science & Tech

3 Indian-origin women scientists among Australia's "STEM superstars"

Why in News:

- Out of 60 female scientists, technicians, engineers, and mathematicians, three are of Indian descent and have been chosen as Australia's "STEM Superstars."

key points:

- This campaign was started with the intention of dispelling societal gender prejudices regarding scientists.
- Three women of Indian descent will be honoured as STEM Superstars in the year 2022: Neelima Kadiala, Dr. Ana Baburamani, and Dr. Indrani Mukherjee.
- Sri Lankan-born women scientists have also been chosen for this year's STEM superstar list, joining Indian women scientists.
- Science and Technology Australia (STA), which represents more than 105,000 scientists and technologists and is the nation's leading organization in the STEM superstar field, choose 60 Australian experts each year.
- Neelima Kadiala, an IT program manager at Challenger Limited and a Superstar of STEM selection, has over 15 years of experience working in a variety of industries, including financial services, telecommunications, and FMCG.
- A STEM superstar named Dr. Ana Baburamani serves as the Department of Defense's Science and Technology Group's Scientific Adviser.
- Geologist Dr. Indrani Mukherjee, who was selected as a STEM superstar, studies biological transitions at the University of Tasmania.



Source: Business Standard

Economy

ICICI Bank launches STACK for real estate companies

Why in News:

- For businesses in the real estate industry, ICICI Bank has announced the launch of STACK, which will provide solutions for all of their banking needs on a single platform.



key points:

- STACK combines physical and digital solutions.
- The goal of STACK is to make banking transactions speedier for real estate industry participants like builders, Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs), and Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs).
- The STACK program is a continuation of the bank's "ICICI Stack for Corporates" effort, which was started with the goal of giving corporations and the people in their ecosystem a tailored set of banking options.
- The bank enables builders to open accounts through STACK, including a specialized RERA account, an escrow account for project lending, and a current account for handling everyday costs.
- Construction finance, inventory funding, and lease rental discounting (LRD) facilities are just a few of the loans the bank provides to builders under STACK over the course of their projects. The bank also makes it possible for contractors to increase operational and financial efficiency. Additionally, will offer services like overdrafts, letters of credit, and bank guarantees.
- For those looking to purchase a home, STACK offers a one-stop shop for mortgage loans.
- As part of STACK, the bank will also give developers a specially designed tool for quickly and easily processing refunds for various projects that are still in the planning stages.

Source: The Hindu



Defence

US, India Navy Conduct Joint Special Forces Exercise in Goa

Why in News:

- Goa has hosted the seventh iteration of Drill Sangam, a combined Naval Special Forces exercise between the US Navy SEALs and the Indian Navy MARCO.



key points:

- An important military and political endeavor between the two countries, Exercise Sangam was first held in 1994.
- Personnel from SEAL Team Five, stationed in San Diego, California, and Indian Navy Marco from INS Abhimanyu are participating in the seventh round of Exercise Sangam.
- The US and Indian Special Forces are only participating in Exercise Sangam on a bilateral basis.
- Maritime Interdiction Operations, Direct Action Mission, Combat Free Fall Jump, Special Heliborne Operations, and other skill drills will be covered during the three-week long exercise Sangam.
- The purpose of Exercise Sangam is to discuss various facets of Maritime Special Operations.
- The Marine Commando Force (Marcos) of the Indian Navy was established in the year 1985 as the Indian Marine Special Forces (IMSF).
- The Few the Fearless was the MARCO's motto for the Indian Navy.

Source: PIB



Personality

Dina Boluarte becomes Peru's first female president

Why in News:

- Dina Boluarte, a former vice president, is now Peru's sixth and first female president.



key points:

- The tenure of Dina, Peru's first female president, runs through 2026.
- 101 of the 130 members of the parliament voted in favour of the resolution, while just 6 supported the President.
- In a statement prior to a vote on an impeachment resolution in parliament, Francisco Morales, the head of Peru's Constitutional Court, commanded Vice President Dina Boluarte to assume the presidency.
- The President of Peru has the authority to dissolve the Congress, whereas the Congress has the authority to remove the President.
- Prior to it, Pedro Castillo, who had been elected president of Peru in July 2021, had to resign from office owing to allegations of corruption.
- Almost every former president over the past 40 years has been charged with corruption involving big firms.
- The Sol is Peru's official currency, and Lima is the country's capital.

Source: Indian Express

Volodymyr Zelensky is Time Magazine's 2022 Person of the Year

Why in News:

- Volodymyr Zelensky, the president of Ukraine, has been selected Time Magazine's Person of the Year for 2022.



key points:

- A person, a group, an idea, or an object that has had a significant impact on the events of the year is highlighted in the annual Time magazine issue titled Person of the Year.
- The first Person of the Year award was given out by Time magazine in 1927.
- Mahatma Gandhi received the Person of the Year award in the 1930 edition.
- The 2022 Person of the Year is Volodymyr Zelensky, president of Ukraine, who rose to prominence after being instrumental in containing Russian aggression.
- Volodymyr Zelensky led a valiant defence against the Russian invasion in 2022, and as a result, the magazine awarded him Person of the Year for 2022.
- Zelensky delivered remarks every day after Russia invaded Ukraine (on February 24), and both Ukrainian and international governments listened to him.
- Zelensky shares the title for the year 2022 with the "Spirit of Ukraine."

Source: The Hindu

Deepika Padukone to unveil FIFA World Cup trophy ahead of final in Qatar

Why in News:

- The FIFA World Cup trophy will be unveiled by Deepika Padukone in Qatar prior to the World Cup final on December 18.



key points:

- On December 18, the FIFA World Cup final will take place in Qatar at the Lusail Iconic Stadium.
- Qatar is serving as the FIFA World Cup's host nation this year.
- Deepika Padukone will become the first international actor to do so during the finals to present the FIFA World Cup trophy.
- Nora Fatehi, an actress and dancer, gave the performance at the FIFA World Cup 2022 Fan Festival in Doha's Al Bidda Park.
- Deepika Padukone was previously listed by Time as one of the 2018 list of the 100 Most Influential People in the World.
- Deepika Padukone received the TIME100 Impact Award in the year 2022 as well.
- In addition, Deepika Padukone founded the Live Love Laugh Foundation, which promotes mental health awareness in India.



- This year, Deepika Padukone represented India at the Cannes Film Festival.

Source: Livemint

Sports

Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone and Mondo Duplantis were named World Athletics Athletes 2022

Why in News:

- USA's Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone and Sweden's Mondo Duplantis have been awarded the 2022 World Athlete of the Year at the World Athletics Awards.



key points:

- The World Athletics Awards 2022, organized by the International Athletics Federation, has been held at Le Meridien.
- The world record in the women's 400 m hurdles was broken twice by McLaughlin-Levrone.
- McLaughlin-Levrone became the first American since fellow 400m hurdler Dalilah Muhammad to win Athlete of the Year in 2019.
- The world pole vault record has been broken by Duplantis on three occasions.
- This is the second Diamond League trophy for Sweden, who holds the world pole vault record.
- Duplantis holds both indoor and outdoor world records in the pole vault this year.

Source: Livemint



World champion Rudranksh Patil clinches gold in 10m air rifle in ISSF President's Cup

Why in News:

- The Presidents Cup of the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) was won by Indian shooter Rudraksh Patil in Cairo, Egypt.



key points:

- Rudraksh Patil defeated Danilo Solazzo of Italy in the 10m rifle play-off, 16-8.
- The competition, which started on November 28, had athletes from 42 nations representing 43 ISSF member federations from every continent.
- 18-year-old Rudraksh Patil won gold in the men's 10m air rifle event at the ISSF Rifle/Pistol World Championships 2022 in Cairo, Egypt, earning his nation's first Olympic quota for the 2024 Paris Games.
- Olympic gold medalist Abhinav Bindra, Manavjit Singh Sandhu, Om Prakash Mitharwal, and Ankur Mittal are the other five Indian shooting world champions.
- India won five medals at the ISSF President's Cup in 2021, including two gold, two silver, and one bronze.

Source: Times of India

Important Days

India observed December 6 as 67th Mahaparinirvan Divas

Why in discussion:

- In India, December 6, 2022, is observed as Mahaparinirvan Divas.



key points:

- The government wants to celebrate the 67th Mahaparinirvan Diwas as Mahaparinirvan Divas in honor of Bharat Ratna Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar.
- Every year, on December 6, the death anniversary of Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar is commemorated as "Mahaparinirvan Divas."
- Sanskrit word parinirvana, which means "liberation" or "moksha" after death, is believed to be a central concept in Buddhism.
- On April 14, 1891, "Doctor. Bhimrao Ambedkar" was born in "Mhow" in the Central Provinces (now Madhya Pradesh).
- Dr. Ambedkar was a scholar of comparative religious philosophy as well as a social reformer, lawyer, economist, writer, and polyglot.
- As the country's first law minister after independence, Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar is referred to as the "Father of the Indian Constitution."
- He helped Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar found the "Bahishkrit Hitkarini Sabha" in 1923, and he also led the "Mahad Satyagraha" in March 1927.

Source: Indian Express

World soil day 2022

Why in News:

- Every year on December 5, World Soil Day is commemorated with the goal of highlighting the value of good soil and advancing sustainable management of soil resources.



key points:

- The theme for World Soil Day 2022 is 'Soil: Where Food Begins'.
- The goal of World Soil Day is to increase public understanding of the value of healthy soil for ecosystems, food security, and human health.
- The International Union of Soil Sciences initially discussed World Soil Day in 2002, but FAO did not formally endorse it until 2013.
- The International Union of Soil Sciences (IUSS) proposed an International Day to Honor Soil in 2002.
- The FAO Conference in June 2013 unanimously endorsed World Soil Day and asked for the 68th United Nations General Assembly to formally adopt it.



- The United Nations General Assembly declared December 5, 2014, to be the first official World Soil Day in December 2013.
- The first World Soil Day was formally observed in 2016 in honor of the emperor.

Source: Livemint

International Day of Persons with Disabilities 2022

Why in News:

- The third of December is recognized worldwide as the International Day of Persons with Disabilities each year.



key points:

- "Transformative Solutions for Inclusive Development: The Role of Innovation in Promoting an Accessible and Equitable World" is the subject chosen for this year's International Day of Persons with Disabilities.
- The purpose of celebrating International Day of Persons with Disabilities is to draw attention to problems that impact persons with disabilities and to advance their welfare, dignity, and fundamental rights.
- The purpose of celebrating International Day of Persons with Disabilities is to promote greater integration of people with disabilities into society's sociopolitical, economic, and cultural spheres.
- The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 1981 the International Year of Persons with Disabilities in the year 1976.
- On October 4, 1992, at the 37th UN General Assembly Plenary Session, December 3 was declared the International Day of Persons with Disabilities.
- Disability is a complicated and multifaceted notion with numerous connected legal, political, and social structures, the meaning of which changes across geographical boundaries.
- A physical or mental condition, or both, that restricts a person's sense of movement, activity, or perception is known as a disability.

Source: Livemint

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