

# Bi-Weekly Current Affairs (16-31 Dec 2022) English PDF

## Bi-Weekly One Liner Updates 16-31st December 2022

Dear readers,

**Bi-Weekly One-Liners Updates** is a collection of important news and events that occurred in the **two weeks** (16-30th) of **November 2022**. This file is important for, **Banking, SSC, Railway & Insurance** exams.

### **Banking & Financial Awareness**

1. According to the Asian Development Bank revised forecast, what would be the growth of India for the fiscal 2022-23 \_\_\_\_\_7%.

**Note:**

- India will grow at 7.2% for FY 2023-24.
- Reason: Sustained by positive effects from structural reform and from public investment catalysing private investment.
- Inflation in India is still expected to rise to 6.7 % in 2022-23 before falling back to 5.8%.
- As per the bank, Asia will expand at 4.2% this year and accelerate to 4.6% in 2023.

2. Which fintech firms have been asked by RBI to pause onboarding of new online payment merchants \_\_\_\_\_**Razorpay and Cashfree**.

**Note:**

- Reason: As the central bank requires to make certain changes and provide more information before it is granted the final payment aggregator (PA) licence.
- Another fintech firm, Cashfree has also been asked to temporarily stop onboarding new customers.
- It is one among several fintech companies to receive in-principle approval from the RBI for a PA licence.

3. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has introduced performance benchmarking and categorisation for the PMS industry. What is the full form of PMS \_\_\_\_\_**Portfolio Management Services**.

**Note:**

- The move will help investors assess and compare the performance of service providers.
- This move will come into effect from April 1, 2023.
- The SEBI has directed portfolio managers to adopt an additional layer of broadly defined investment strategies categorised as equity, debt, hybrid, and multi-asset.

4. Which small finance bank has joined hands with the HDFC Life for bancassurance business model \_\_\_\_\_**AU Small Finance Bank**.

**Note:**

- This partnership would enable diverse customers of AU Small Finance Bank to access the entire range of life insurance products offered by HDFC Life.
- According to the Swiss Re report (2019), India has the highest protection gap of 83% in comparison to other insurance markets.
- HDFC Life MD & CEO: Vibha Padalkar



**Join Our Classroom Program Now**



5. Which financial service provider has launched a dedicated platform providing comprehensive investor education and market analysis named Roots \_\_\_\_\_ **HDFC Securities.**

**Note:**

- It offers multiple forms of valuable information, including articles, bite-sized tips, podcasts by experts, video tutorials and explainers, and live social media feed on the Indian financial markets
- This platform produces content which are being searched on Google by current or prospective investors and traders.

6. Which bank has announced the ZERO Fee Banking on savings accounts and waived fees on multiple banking services, including Passbook charges, NEFT charges \_\_\_\_\_ **IDFC FIRST Bank.**

**Note:**

- As per the bank, the customers maintaining as low as ₹10,000 Average Monthly Balance, and the ₹25,000 AMB savings account variant will get these benefits.
- IDFC Bank has celebrated its Foundation Day on 18 December.
- This is a customer friendly initiative from IDFC FIRST Bank.

7. Which bank has launched a new special retail term deposit dubbed as "Ind Shakti 555 days", effective from December 19, 2022 \_\_\_\_\_ **Indian Bank.**

**Note:**

- This product is offering higher rate of interest for investment starting from Rs. 5000 to less than 2 Crore for 555 days in the form of FD/MMD with callable options.
- An interest rate of 7% for the general public and 7.15% for senior citizens.
- It is offering an interest rate of 3.00% on deposits that mature in the next 30 to 45 days.

8. RBI has imposed a penalty of Rs 2.66 crore on operations of which bank for non-compliance with directions on cyber security framework \_\_\_\_\_ **Bank of Bahrain & Kuwait BSC.**

**Note:**

- The bank has failed to implement systems to detect unusual and unauthorised, internal or external activities in its database
- RBI has also imposed penalty on 20 co-operative banks, including 17 from Gujarat for contravention of various norms
- The penalty on 17 co-operative banks range between Rs 50,000 - Rs 7 lakh

9. Which bank has signed an MoU with the Controller General of Defence Accounts, Ministry of Defence for extending the banking services to the Defence Pensioners and their families \_\_\_\_\_ **Bandhan Bank.**

**Note:**

- The Bank will provide services to Defence Pensioners and their families through 557 branches.
- The Bank is aligned with the vision of govt in being a one-stop solution to all pension-related activities of Defence pensioners under the Outreach Programme for Defence Pensioners on SPARSH.

10. Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman has informed that NiC has witnessed an annual growth of 7.98% to Rs 31.92 lakh crore as of December 2, 2022. What is the full form of NiC \_\_\_\_\_ **Note in Circulation.**

**Note:**

- The demand for currency depends upon several macroeconomic factors, including economic growth and level of interest rates.
- The quantum of cash or banknotes in the economy depends on the requirement for meeting the demand for banknotes due to GDP growth, inflation, and replacement of soiled banknotes.



11. UT Ladakh and which bank have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to provide banking facilities to the UT employees \_\_\_\_\_ **Jammu and Kashmir Bank Ltd.**

**Note:**

- Under the MoU, J&K Bank would give the most favoured client status to the UT Administration as well as the active permanent employees who have their salary accounts in J&K Bank
- Aim: To increase awareness about banking facilities
- J&K Bank will also organize various financial literacy camps at its centres for UT employees.

12. Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has announced that it will introduce a regulatory framework for EOP for direct plans of mutual fund schemes. What is the full form of EOP \_\_\_\_\_ **Execution Only Platforms.**

**Note:**

- The new rules will make it convenient for investors to make investment via Execution Only Platforms (EOPs) as well as appropriate investor protection mechanisms.
- It will have investor protection mechanism, cyber security requirements, pricing of services and grievance redressal.

13. Paytm has partnered with which general insurance to launch a group insurance plan called 'Paytm Payment Protect' \_\_\_\_\_ **HDFC ERGO.**

**Note:**

- Aim: To insure transactions made through UPI across all apps and wallets.
- With the new insurance offering users would be able to secure themselves against mobile fraudulent transactions up to Rs 10,000.
- To avail this insurance, users need to pay Rs 30 per annum.
- Higher cover options for cover up to Rs 1 lakh per annum will soon be added to the product.

14. Which financial service authority has signed an MoU with the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW) for mutual assistance and cooperation in the area of sustainable finance \_\_\_\_\_ **International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA).**

**Note:**

- India recently launched Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for the Environment) as an India-led global movement to protect and preserve the environment.
- CEEW research has estimated that India's net zero by 2070 target would require USD 10 trillion in investments.

15. Which digital payments services platform has received in-principle approval from the Reserve Bank of India to act as a payment aggregator (PA) \_\_\_\_\_ **Worldline ePayments India.**

**Note:**

- The authorisation by the RBI was under the provisions of the Guidelines on Regulation of Payment dated March 17, 2020.
- Payment Aggregator: It is a service provider that integrates various options of online payments together and brings them into one place for merchants.

16. In December 2022, the total valuation of Indian Premier League (IPL) has been surpassed to \_\_\_\_\_ **\$10 billion.**

**Note:**

- According to the D and P Advisory report titled "Beyond 22 Yards" stated that the league is currently worth \$10.9 billion.



➤ According to the reports, the IPL attained the significant milestone after selling its media rights for the years 2023 to 2027.

➤ In less than 15 years since its beginning, the IPL has reached the milestone.

**17.** In December 2022, which stock exchange has received in-principle approval from SEBI to set up a Social Stock Exchange (SSE) as a separate segment \_\_\_\_\_ **National Stock Exchange of India.**

**Note:**

➤ The creation of the SSE was proposed by FM Sitharaman in her Union Budget speech for 2019-20.

➤ The SSE will work for listing social enterprises and voluntary organisations working for the realisation of a social welfare objective.

➤ The SSE will help these organisations to raise capital as equity, debt or as units like a mutual fund.

**18.** Which organisation has collaborated with Online PSB Loans and MSME lender SIDBI to launch FIT Rank – a comprehensive ranking model for MSMEs \_\_\_\_\_ **TransUnion CIBIL.**

**Note:**

➤ FIT Rank will leverage the details available with Goods and Services Tax (GST) filings, Bank Statements, and Income Tax returns (ITR) information to provide a ranking model for MSME lending.

➤ This is the first-ever credit default predictor model developed by CIBIL in collaboration with OPL.

**19.** As per the International Monetary Fund (IMF), what would be the India's GDP growth rate for the current fiscal year (2022-23) \_\_\_\_\_ **6.8 per cent.**

**Note:**

➤ IMF has also estimated the India's growth rate of 6.1 per cent in the next fiscal years (2023-24).

➤ In its report, IMF has stated that the growth of India is expected to moderate as it is navigating a "very difficult" external environment.

➤ IMF has also highlighted that Indian economy has rebounded from the deep pandemic-related downturn.

**20.** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has mandated banks in the country to renew their locker agreements with existing locker customers by which date \_\_\_\_\_ **1st January, 2023.**

**Note:**

➤ All the existing locker depositors are required to furnish proof of eligibility for a renewed locker arrangement.

➤ RBI has advised the banks to install CCTV camera at entry and exit points of the strong room and the common areas of operation.

➤ It mandates to preserve its recording for a period of not less than 180 days.

**21.** International Finance Corporation (IFC) has provided a loan of USD 400 million to which finance institution to boost the green affordable housing finance in India \_\_\_\_\_ **Housing Development Finance Corporation (HDFC) Limited.**

**Note:**

➤ The loan will support India's shift towards a more sustainable growth path, creating jobs and ensuring long-term business growth.

➤ It focuses on its green affordable housing portfolio, with 75 per cent (USD 300 million) of the proceeds earmarked for this sector.

**22.** According to the British consultancy, Centre for Economics and Business Research (CEBR) report, India will become third largest economy by which year from the current fifth spot \_\_\_\_\_ **2035.**



**Note:**

- Report title: World Economic League Table
- India's annual rate of GDP growth is expected to average 6.4% after which growth is expected to average 6.5% in the subsequent nine years.
- The world gross domestic product will be doubled by 2037 as developing economies will catch up with the richer ones.

23. RBI has issued an order to migrate the payments fraud reporting module to which portal on January 1, 2023 \_\_\_\_\_ **DAKSH**.

**Note:**

- Aim: To streamline reporting, enhance efficiency and automate the payments fraud management process.
- Earlier, it was facilitated through Electronic Data Submission Portal (EDSP).
- As per the RBI, all authorised Payment System Operators (PSOs) and payment system participants in India are required to report all payment frauds.

24. Which financial service provider has received Perpetual Licence from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for its bill payments business, BillAvenue \_\_\_\_\_ **Infibeam Avenues Ltd**.

**Note:**

- The licence will allow BillAvenue to function as a Bharat Bill Payment Operating Unit (BBPOU) under Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS).
- BillAvenue can operate as both biller and customer operating unit onboarding billers and agent institutions to service customers.
- It will help the company offer safe, secure and uninterrupted services.

25. India has signed a \$125 million loan agreement with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to develop climate-resilient sewage collection and treatment, and drainage and water supply systems in which state \_\_\_\_\_ **Tamil Nadu**.

**Note:**

- The tranche 3 loan for Tamil Nadu Urban Flagship Investment Program signed between Rajat Kumar Mishra (Additional Secretary, DEA) and Hoe Yun Jeong (Officer-in-Charge of ADB's India Resident Mission).
- This loan will cover Coimbatore, Madurai, and Thoothukudi

26. Which bank has launched its flagship business mentoring program for MSME entrepreneurs named 'MSME Prerana' in Rajasthan \_\_\_\_\_ **Indian Bank**.

**Note:**

- Aim: To empower MSME Entrepreneurs through skill development and capacity building training in their local languages.
- This program will also assist them in acquiring necessary financial and managerial skills, capacity to handle crisis in business.
- The training program will be provided in collaboration with M/s Poornatha & Co.

27. Along with State Bank of India (SBI), and ICICI Bank, which bank will start issuing RuPay credit cards over the UPI by March 2023 \_\_\_\_\_ **Axis Bank**.

**Note:**

- Presently, the RuPay credit card segment on the UPI platform is live with Union Bank of India, Punjab National Bank, Indian Bank and HDFC Bank.
- The RBI has authorised the connection of credit cards to UPI in June 2022.



➤ Users will benefit from more convenience as a result of the change, which will also expand the adoption of digital payments.

**28.** Recently SEBI has expanded the High Powered Steering Committee on Cyber Security (HPSC-CS) members to eight members. Who is the head of this committee \_\_\_\_\_ **Navin Kumar Singh (DG at NCIIPC).**

**Note:**

➤ SEBI has expanded two of its committees- (1) High Powered Steering Committee on Cyber Security (HPSC-CS) and (2) Information Systems Security Committee (ISSC).

➤ SEBI has also expanded its panel on Information Systems Security Committee (ISSC) to seven members, chaired by Prof Krishnamurthy.

**29.** According to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) annual report on trend and progress of banking in India, the health of Indian banks continued to improve in 2021–2022 with their balance sheet rising at double digits after a gap of how many years \_\_\_\_\_ **Seven years.**

**Note:**

➤ PSBs account for 62% of the deposits of scheduled commercial banks, while on loans, they corner 58% market share.

➤ Credit growth of banks was at a 10-year high at the end September 2022.

### Obituaries

**1.** A BSF veteran, Bhairon Singh Rathore, who has been passed away, had fought which war \_\_\_\_\_ **1971 India-Pakistan War.**

**Note:**

➤ He served in the 14th BSF unit during the war and retired from service in 1987.

➤ The BSF veteran's bravery at Rajasthan's Longewala post during the war was portrayed by actor Suniel Shetty in the Bollywood movie 'Border'.

➤ He was awarded the Sena Medal in 1972 for his bravery.

**2.** Abigail Kinoiki Kekaulike Kawānanakoa, who has been passed away, was a princess of \_\_\_\_\_ **Hawaii.**

**Note:**

➤ She was born on 23rd April 1926 in Honolulu, Oahu, Territory of Hawaii.

**3.** H R Keshava Murthy, who has been passed away, was a great exponent of which music form \_\_\_\_\_ **Gamaka.**

**Note:**

➤ He training in music from his father and later from Venkateshaiah.

➤ He was honoured with Shantala Natya Sri Award by the Government of Karnataka in 1998 and Padma Shri in 2022 by the Government of India in the field of arts.

➤ Gamaka: It is a form of storytelling by singing that originated in Karnataka, India.

**4.** Veteran actor, Kaikala Satyanarayana, who has been passed away, was an actor of which regional cinema \_\_\_\_\_ **Telugu.**

**Note:**

➤ He was honoured with the several awards including Raghupati Venkaiah Award (2011), Filmfare Awards for lifetime achievement award for Telugu cinema (2017) and the Andhra Pradesh government's Nandi film awards.



➤ He was also elected to the 11th Lok Sabha from Machilipatnam on Telugu Desam Party (TDP) but withdrew from politics after 1998.

5. Legend PM Sinha, who popularly known as Suman has been passed away, was associated with which organisation between 1992 and 2002. \_\_\_\_\_ **PepsiCo.**

**Note:**

- He started his career from Hindustan Lever Ltd (HLL, later HUL).
- He served as the chairman of PepsiCo India between 1992 and 2002.
- He was also credited with launching bottled water brand Aquafina in India.
- He helped acquire Duke's in Mumbai and snack food company, Uncle Chipps.

6. Kathy Whitworth, who has been passed away, was associated with which sports \_\_\_\_\_ **Golf.**

**Note:**

- She is considered one of the greatest golfers of all time.
- She had 88 wins on the Ladies Professional Golf Association (LPGA) Tour which include six LPGA major championships.
- Her 88 wins are six more than Sam Snead and Tiger Woods, who hold the record for the men's game.

7. Veteran scholar, Sribhashyam Vijayasarathi, who has been passed away, was a scholar in which language \_\_\_\_\_ **Sanskrit.**

**Note:**

- In 2020, he was honoured with the Padma Shri for his excellent work in the field of Literature and Education.
- He was also the founder of Sri Yagna Varaha Swamy Kshetram (temple complex).
- He has written 100 books in Sanskrit and Telugu.

8. Legend Edson Arantes do Nascimento, who was popularly known as Pele has been passed away, was associated with which sports \_\_\_\_\_ **Football.**

**Note:**

- He is the only player to win the World Cup three times (1958, 1962 and 1970).
- He was named Fifa's Player of the Century in 2000.
- During his 21-year career, he has scored the most career goals of 1,283 in 1,363 games including 77 goals in 92 matches for his country.

### Important Days

1. National Minorities Rights Day is commemorated on which date every year in India \_\_\_\_\_ **December 18.**

**Note:**

- Its aim is to safeguard the individual rights of the religious, ethnic, racial, or linguistic minorities in the country.
- This day is a reminder about the rights of minorities and to raise awareness about it.

2. International Migrants Day is observed annually on which date to bring attention to the social and economic realities of migrants around the world \_\_\_\_\_ **December 18.**

**Note:**

- This day is observed to guarantee that the rights of migrants are equally respected and not violated.



➤ The mobility of people is still influenced by a range of factors despite the world's rapid growth and change.

3. Which state has observed its Liberation day every year on December 19 in India to mark the victory of Indian armed forces to free from 450 years of the Portuguese rule \_\_\_\_\_ **Goa**.

**Note:**

➤ Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia led the Goa liberation movement on June 18, 1946, with the aim of liberating Goa by gathering young Goans.

➤ The Union of India was completed with Goa's liberation on December 19, 1961.

➤ Goa continued to be a UT till 1987 and then was given statehood by becoming the 25th state of India.

4. International Human Solidarity Day (IHSD) is observed annually on which date across the globe to celebrate the ideal of unity in diversity \_\_\_\_\_ **December 20**.

**Note:**

➤ IHSD highlights the goal of the United Nations and its member states to create awareness about poverty and the need to reduce poverty in independent nations.

➤ The annual celebration reminds world citizens of the issues faced by poor people and nations affected by poverty.

5. National Mathematics Day is celebrated on which date across the nation every year \_\_\_\_\_ **December 22**.

**Note:**

➤ The National Mathematics Day is marked to recognise and celebrate the works of Srinivasa Ramanujan.

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

➤ This year nation celebrates his 135th birth anniversary of Ramanujan.

6. Which date is observed as Farmers' Day or Kisan Diwas across India \_\_\_\_\_ **December 23**.

**Note:**

➤ Farmers are the backbone of our economy and to honour their hardship, this day was coined by the government of India in 2001.

➤ This day also marks the birth anniversary of the 'Champion of Indian Peasants' and the fifth Prime Minister of India, Chaudhary Charan Singh.

7. Every year on which date India observed the National Consumer Day or Bharatiya Grahak Diwas \_\_\_\_\_ **December 24**.

**Note:**

➤ This day is used to make all consumers aware of their powers and rights.

➤ This day was made under the Consumer Protection Act, which came to power in 1986 to create awareness and save consumers from market exploitation like defective products or expensive pricing.

8. India observed "Good Governance Day" on which date to mark the birth anniversary of former Indian Prime Minister, Atal Vihari Vajpayee \_\_\_\_\_ **25th December**.

**Note:**

➤ In 2014, PM Narendra Modi has announced to observe "Good Governance Day" every year on December 25 in memory of the former PM.

➤ Purpose of this day: To increase public access to various government programmes and services via good governance.

➤ It was established with the slogan "Good Governance through e-Governance."



9. India has observed first 'Veer Bal Diwas' on which date to honor the 'Sahibzadas', the four sons of Guru Gobind Singh \_\_\_\_\_ **December 26.**

**Note:**

- This day is observed to pay honor and tribute to the sacrifices made by Sahibzada Zorawar Singh (6) and Sahibzada Fateh Singh (9), who were laid down their lives while defending their faith in Sirhind, Punjab.
- Veer Bal Diwas has been celebrated at an event hosted by PM Narendra Modi at Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium, Delhi.

### New Appointments

1. Who has been appointed as the president of retail business of DealShare (Social e-commerce company) \_\_\_\_\_ **Kamaldeep Singh.**

**Note:**

- Prior to this role, he served as the Chief Executive Officer of Big Bazaar, where he was responsible for retail operations, organizational transformation, and business strategy execution.
- Recently, the DealShare startup owned and operated by Merabo Labs Pvt Ltd has raised an additional \$45 million from Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA).

2. Who has been appointed as the inaugural CEO of the organising committee for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Brisbane \_\_\_\_\_ **Cindy Hook.**

**Note:**

- She had stepped away from her role as CEO of Deloitte Asia Pacific earlier this year.
- She had worked for the international professional services network in the U.S. and in Australia.
- The International Olympic Committee awarded the 2032 Games to Brisbane in July of last year.

3. Who has been appointed as the first black president of the Harvard University \_\_\_\_\_ **Dr Claudine Gay.**

**Note:**

- Dr Gay, who is a dean at Harvard, has been appointed as 30th president the university.
- She will replace Lawrence Bacow, who will retire on July 2023.
- She will also be the second woman to head the elite college in Cambridge, Massachusetts.
- Notably, she is the daughter of Haitian immigrants and received her bachelor's degree from Stanford University in 1992.

4. Who has been appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of NHPC Ltd, with effect from December 13, 2022 \_\_\_\_\_ **Rajeev Kumar Vishnoi.**

**Note:**

- He is also the CMD of Rishikesh-based THDC India Limited.
- Earlier, Yamuna Kumar Chaubey, Director of NHPC (Technical) was holding the additional charge of CMD of the company.
- NHPC Ltd is a Mini-Ratna Category-I Enterprise of the Government of India.
- NHPC HQ: Faridabad, Haryana; Founded: 1975

5. Who has been re-elected as the Prime Minister of Ireland in line with a coalition deal struck in 2020 \_\_\_\_\_ **Leo Varadkar.**



**Note:**

- He has replaced Micheal Martin as Taoiseach (premier) in a rotation deal between his Fine Gael (party) and Martin's Fianna Fail (party).
- He was born in Dublin to an Irish mother who worked as a nurse and an Indian immigrant father, who was a qualified doctor.
- In 2007, he secured election for Fine Gael in Dublin West.

6. Who has been appointed as the chairperson of the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) for a period of three years \_\_\_\_\_ **Dinesh Kumar Shukla**.

**Note:**

- He has succeeded G. Nageswara Rao to the top post.
- Prior to this role, he has been the executive director of the AERB.
- He was a graduate in mechanical engineering from the Jabalpur University, Shukla joined the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) in 1981.

7. Who has been appointed as the new chairperson of New Delhi International Arbitration Centre (NDIAC) \_\_\_\_\_ **Justice, Hemant Gupta**.

**Note:**

- The govt has also appointed Anant Vijay Palli as the part-time members of NIDAC.
- Justice Gupta was served as Chief Justice of the Madhya Pradesh High Court.
- Purpose of NDIAC: To create an independent and autonomous regime for institutionalised arbitration.

8. Who has been appointed as the new chief executive officer of Air India's Low Cost Carrier (LCC) business from January 1, 2023 \_\_\_\_\_ **Aloke Singh**.

**Note:**

- The LCC business will comprise AirAsia India and Air India Express.
- The current AirAsia India CEO, Sunil Bhaskaran will assume the leadership of a new initiative -- an aviation training academy.
- AirAsia India was launched in 2014 while Air India Express started operations back in 2005.

9. Who has been appointed as the MD & CEO of SBI Funds Management Limited (SBIFML) \_\_\_\_\_ **Shamsher Singh**.

**Note:**

- Prior to this role, he served as the Deputy MD of State Bank of India.
- He had joined SBI as probationary officer in June 1990.
- He has more than 32 years of rich experience working with SBI in various verticals, including investment banking, treasury, corporate banking and branch banking.

10. Who has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia \_\_\_\_\_ **Dr. Suhel Ajaz Khan**.

**Note:**

- He will replace Dr. Ausaf Sayeed, a 1989 batch IFS officer.
- Presently, he is serving as the Ambassador of India to the Republic of Lebanon.
- He has also served as a United Nations Pension Board member in 2016 and 2017.

11. Who has been reappointed as the managing director and chief executive officer of Equitas Small Finance Bank \_\_\_\_\_ **P.N. Vasudevan**.



**Note:**

- His current term as MD, CEO will expire on July 22, 2023.
- The board of Bank has decided to renew his term for a further period of 3 years with effect from July 23, 2023, subject to approval from RBI.
- He is the founder of Equitas and has been associated with its journey as a microfinance institution since 2007.

**12. Who has become the 12th prime minister of Fiji after a coalition of parties voted to elect him \_\_\_\_\_ Sitiveni Rabuka.**

**Note:**

- His appointment has ended 10 days of uncertainty after an election delivered a hung parliament.
- Social Democratic Liberal party held the balance of power and voted to form a coalition with Rabuka's People's Alliance and the National Federation party.

**13. Who has been appointed as the new Prime Minister of Nepal for the third time \_\_\_\_\_ Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda'.**

**Note:**

- He will head the new government until 2025 as part of a deal reached with another party.
- He has replaced Sher Bahadur Deuba of the Nepali Congress party.
- Prachanda's Maoist Centre party has won 32 seats in the 275-member House of Representatives.

**14. Who has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Railway Board with effect from January 1, 2023 \_\_\_\_\_ Anil Kumar Lahoti.**

**Note:**

- He will replace Vinay Kumar Tripathi.
- Lahoti belongs to the 1984 batch of Indian Railway Service of Engineers (IRSE).
- Lahoti was appointed as the general manager of Central Railway in July 2021.

**15. The Reserve Bank of India has approved the re-appointed whom as MD & CEO of Suryoday Small Finance Bank for three years, with effect from 23 January 2023 \_\_\_\_\_ Baskar Babu Ramachandran.**

**Note:**

- He has several years of experience in the banking and finance sector.
- Prior to co-founding the Suryoday Micro Finance Private Limited, he had worked with various companies including GE Capital Transportation Financial Services and HDFC Bank.

**16. Who has been appointed as chairman of National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) \_\_\_\_\_ Santosh Kumar Yadav.**

**Note:**

- He is currently serving as an additional secretary in the Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education.
- Subhasish Panda has been appointed as vice chairman of Delhi Development Authority.
- Ganji Kamala V Rao has been named CEO of FSSAI, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

**17. Who has been appointed as the acting Central Vigilance Commissioner (CVC) \_\_\_\_\_ Praveen Kumar Srivastava.**

**Note:**

- He has replaced Suresh N Patel, who completed his term as the chief of CVC on December 24, 2022.
- Srivastava is a 1988-batch IAS officer of Assam-Meghalaya cadre.



- He was retired as Secretary (Coordination), Cabinet Secretariat on January 31, 2022

**18.** Who has been sworn-in as the new prime minister of Israel for a sixth time, after Israel's parliament (Knesset) has passed a vote of confidence in new government \_\_\_\_\_ **Benjamin Netanyahu.**

**Note:**

- Out of 120 members, 63 lawmakers have voted in favour of new government.
- He is the longest-serving Prime Minister of Israel.
- He served as premier of country from 1996 to 1999 and a record 12-year tenure from 2009 to 2021.

**19.** UN Secretary-General, António Guterres has appointed whom as UN Coordinator for the Black Sea Grain Initiative \_\_\_\_ **Abdullah Abdul Samad Dashti of Kuwait.**

**Note:**

- He has replaced Amir Mahmoud Abdulla of Sudan.
- The Initiative was launched by Ukraine, Türkiye, Russian Federation and UN on 22 July 2022.

### Important News - India

**1.** Parliament has passed the New Delhi International Arbitration Centre (Amendment) Bill, 2022 with Rajya Sabha to rename the New Delhi International Arbitration Centre as \_\_\_\_\_ **India International Arbitration Centre.**

**Note:**

- The bill was already passed in Lok Sabha.
- The Bill allows the govt to provide for removing any difficulties in implementing the Act up to five years from the date of commencement of the Act.

**2.** In December 2022, Gamocha has been received the GI tags, is associated with which state of India \_\_\_\_\_ **Assam.**

**Note:**

- The govt of India has granted the GIs tags to nine new items on 14th December 2022 including Gamocha (Assam), Tandur red gram (Telangana), Raktsey Karpo apricot (Ladakh), Alibag white onion (Maharashtra).
- Kerala has been awarded five GI tags for its agricultural produce.
- With this, the total number of GI tags in India comes to 432.
- Top five states holding the maximum number of GIs are Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, and Kerala.

**3.** A group of nine (G7, Norway and Denmark) rich industrialized nations have approved a deal to provide 15.5 billion US dollars to which country \_\_\_\_\_ **Vietnam.**

**Note:**

- Reason: To help the Southeast Asian nation move faster from coal power to renewable energy, cutting its climate-damaging pollution.
- This grant will help Vietnam to reduce its emissions to “net zero” by 2050.
- It is a goal which experts say needs to be met globally to cap global warming at 1.5 degrees Celsius.

**4.** Nitin Gadkari (Minister of Road Transport and Highways) has inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of how many National Highway development projects worth 45, 536 crore rupees in Kerala \_\_\_\_\_ **15.**



**Note:**

- The event was organised at the Travancore International Convention Centre at Karyavattom Sports Hub, Thiruvananthapuram.
- The event was presided by Kerala CM, Pinarayi Vijayan
- It will also enhance tourism possibilities in Bekal, Kannur, Kozhikode, Fort Kochi, Alappuzha, Varkala and Kovalam

5. The eighth edition of the India International Science Festival (IISF) will be held in which city of India in January 2023 \_\_\_\_\_ **Bhopal**.

**Note:**

- Agenda: To celebrate the country's achievements in the field of science, technology and innovation.
- IISF is the initiative of the Ministry of Science and Technology and Earth Sciences in association with Vijnana Bharati.
- 14 events will be organised during the four-day event beginning January 21 at the Maulana Azad Institute of Technology, Bhopal.

6. Which exchange has become first carbon-neutral power exchange of India, using market based tradable instruments to offset its carbon emissions \_\_\_\_\_ **Indian Energy Exchange (IEX)**.

**Note:**

- To reduce carbon footprint, IEX has voluntarily cancelled CERs (certified emissions reductions) from clean projects registered under the Clean Development Mechanism, UNFCCC.
- As per the UNEP 2022 report, global greenhouse gas emissions must be cut 45% by 2030 to get on track to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees.

7. Which edition of Youth Co:Lab was jointly launched by Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog and UNDP India \_\_\_\_\_ **5th**.

**Note:**

- Youth Co:Lab is an initiative launched in 2019 by UNDP India in partnership with Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog.
- Aim: To establish a common agenda for Asia-Pacific countries to invest in and empower youth to accelerate implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through leadership, social innovation, and entrepreneurship.

8. PM Modi has launched the "Grih Pravesh" programme in which state of India, under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana Urban and Rural schemes \_\_\_\_\_ **Agartala, Tripura**.

**Note:**

- PM Modi has visited Tripura and Meghalaya to inaugurate and lay the foundation stones of projects worth over Rs 6,800 crore.
- He has also inaugurated connectivity projects for the widening of the Agartala bypass (Khayerpur – Amtali) NH-08.
- He has inaugurated spawn laboratory at the Mushroom Development Centre in Meghalaya.

9. Name the campaign which was launched by Union Minister for Personnel, Public Grievances, and Pensions, Dr Jitendra Singh, under the Good Governance Week 2022 in New Delhi \_\_\_\_\_ **Prashasan Gaon ki Ore**.

**Note:**

- He has also launched the Good Governance Week portal, [www.pgportal.gov.in](http://www.pgportal.gov.in).
- In the 5 days campaign, over 300 New Services identified by District Collectors across the country will be added for Online Service Delivery.



10. Which tech giant company has granted a fund of \$1 million to IIT Madras to build India's first Responsible AI center \_\_\_\_\_ **Google**.

**Note:**

- In addition, Google has also planned to collaborate with Indian Institute of Science (IISc) for project Vaani.
- Furthermore, under the partnership, Google aims to build an artificial intelligence/machine learning (AI/ML) model to collect language samples from 773 districts across India.
- Project Vaani aims to ensure the collected and produced data will be open-source.

11. Who has launched one of India's first-ever Surety Bond Insurance products from Bajaj Allianz \_\_\_\_\_ **Nitin Gadkari, Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways**.

**Note:**

- Surety Bond Insurance:
- It is a risk transfer tool for the principal and shields them from the losses that may arise in case the contractor fails to perform their contractual obligation.
- It will act as a security arrangement for infrastructure projects.
- It will insulate the contractor as well as the principal.

12. MoS Civil Aviation, V. K. Singh has informed that the Rajya Sabha, that govt has accorded in-principle approval for setting up \_\_\_\_\_ Greenfield Airports across the country \_\_\_\_\_ **21**.

**Note:**

- So far nine Greenfield airports have already been operationalized and the tenth Greenfield airport at Mopa, Goa.
- Development of a Greenfield airport is governed under the Greenfield Airports (GFA) Policy, 2008.
- For setting up of GFA, State Government need to send a proposal to MoCA for 2-stage approval.

13. Which tech giant company has announced a partnership with the DigiLocker to bring the govt issued ID to the local storage of Android devices \_\_\_\_\_ **Google**.

**Note:**

- DigiLocker is a govt authorised identification storage system,
- This partnership is a part of Google's AI offerings that include on-device processing of text and images to identify important documents, and organise them.
- The Android operating system of Google will also tap into the DigiLocker API.

14. Name the India's first Green Steel Brand that was launched by Jyotiraditya Scindia in New Delhi on 20th December 2022 \_\_\_\_\_ **KALYANI FeRESTA**.

**Note:**

- This first-of-its-kind steel was manufactured by a Pune-based Steel company, Kalyani group.
- It was manufactured by using renewable energy resources, leaving zero carbon footprints in the environment.
- The plant where green steel is being produced has the capacity to manufacture 250,000 tonnes of steel.

15. According to the 2022 Social Progress Index, which state/UT has been emerged as the best-performing States, followed by Lakshadweep, and Goa \_\_\_\_\_ **Puducherry**.

**Note:**

- Top three performing districts: Shimla, Solan, and Aizawl



➤ The index assesses states and districts based on 12 components across three critical dimensions - Basic Human Needs, Foundations of Wellbeing, and Opportunity.

➤ The report was prepared by Institute for Competitiveness and the Social Progress Imperative and mandated by EAC-PM.

**16.** Which institute has launched a programme to create Impact Leaders in the areas of Environmental-Social-Governance (ESG) \_\_\_\_\_ **Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs.**

**Note:**

➤ IICA is an autonomous institution under the aegis of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.

➤ Leena Nandan (Environment Secretary) was the Chief Guest at the launch of the programme.

➤ IICA has also formed a National Association of Impact Leaders which is a membership-based association only for ESG professionals.

**17.** The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology Startup Hub has joined hands with Google to train how many startups under the Appscale Academy program of 2023 and help scale their app businesses \_\_\_\_\_ **100.**

**Note:**

➤ They will also launch a multi-city roadshow, aiming to engage over 1,000 startups in cities such as Surat, Indore, Coimbatore, Gangtok, and Jaipur.

➤ The startups will be trained on several aspects such as UX design, business model and monetization strategies and many more.

**18.** Which tech giant company has partnered with Viasat (global communications company) to deliver satellite internet access to 10 million people across the world by 2025 \_\_\_\_\_ **Microsoft.**

**Note:**

➤ Viasat is the first satellite partner to work with Airband Initiative of Microsoft.

➤ Both will provide pilot technologies including, satellites and fixed wireless.

➤ As per the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), around one-third of the world's population have still never used the internet.

**19.** How many Rafale aircraft has been received by India from France till 15th December 2022 \_\_\_\_\_ **36 (All).**

**Note:**

➤ The aircraft has arrived after a quick en-route mid-air refuelling from a UAE Air Force tanker aircraft.

➤ India and France had signed the inter-government agreement in 2016 to provide 36 Rafale fighter jets at a cost of around 60,000 crore rupees to India.

➤ The first batch of five Rafale jets had arrived on 29th July, 2020.

**20.** Which state government has signed an MoU with Hinduja group for an investment worth Rs 35,000 crore in 11 sectors \_\_\_\_\_ **Maharashtra.**

**Note:**

➤ Hinduja group has identified 11 sectors for investment in the state, which includes renewable energy, media and entertainment, cyber security, healthcare, infrastructure, education, manufacturing and new age technologies.

➤ It also focuses on the economic development of the rural sector for creating opportunities and employment for the people of Maharashtra.

**21.** Which private Equity Company has agreed to acquire the Poonawalla Housing Finance (PHFL) at ₹3,900 crore valuation \_\_\_\_\_ **TPG.**



**Note:**

- TPG will infuse an additional equity of up to ₹1,000 crore in Poonawalla Housing Finance in the near term.
- The existing management team led by Manish Jaiswal will continue to carry out the operations.
- PHFL currently has over 153 branches spread across 20 states.
- The group had planned for value unlocking for the housing finance business with an IPO planned in 2025.

**22.** Which renewable energy company has signed a renewable energy agreement of 150 MW with Microsoft India \_\_\_\_\_ **ReNew Power.**

**Note:**

- As part of the arrangement, ReNew will produce 150 MW of clean energy from a recently commissioned solar site near Bikaner, Rajasthan.
- This partnership will pave the way for innovative models that will accelerate the energy transition.
- This deal also signifies that corporates globally are increasingly integrating renewable energy into their operations in every form.

**23.** Doorstep fuel delivery service provider, FuelBuddy has announced a partnership with which petroleum refinery company for supply of its automotive and industrial lubricant, 'SERVO', to customers across the country \_\_\_\_\_ **Indian Oil Corp. Ltd.**

**Note:**

- All customers (new and existing) of FuelBuddy will soon be able to easily place orders of lubricants as per their requirement on the FuelBuddy app.
- The physical delivery of the lubricants will be done at their doorstep at the time of their convenience.

**24.** What is the new name of Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Ko Kaam Karyakram (PMKKK) \_\_\_\_\_ **Pradhan Mantri Virsat Ka Samvardhan (PM VIKAS) Scheme.**

**Note:**

- 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.

**25.** Which edition of the India Water Impact Summit (IWIS 2022) has been inaugurated by the Jal Shakti Minister, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat at Dr. Ambedkar International Centre in New Delhi on 15th December 2022 \_\_\_\_\_ **7th.**

**Note:**

- 2022 Theme: Restoration and Conservation of Small Rivers in a Large Basin.
- Focus: On the select aspects of 'Mapping and Convergence of 5Ps' - People, Policy, Plan, Programme and Project.
- Aim: To give an insight into the potential causes for divergence and formulate a strategy to achieve.

**26.** Which edition of the World Trade Organization ministerial conference will be held in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates in February 2024 \_\_\_\_\_ **13th.**

**Note:**

- The WTO's 12th Ministerial Conference (MC12) took place in June 2022 in Geneva.
- For the UAE, hosting the meeting is part of its own push to position itself as a global hub for business amid growing competition in the Middle East.
- WTO was founded in 1995.



- The WTO is the successor to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

27. Which ministry has organised Delhi International Arts Festival in collaboration with Prasiddha Foundation at Kartavya Path, New Delhi \_\_\_\_\_ **Ministry of Culture.**

**Note:**

- The festival is being organised from 16th December to 30th December.
- Tagline of festival: Where Bharat Meets India
- In the opening ceremony of the event, Kuchipudi dance was performed, which was choreographed by Jayarama Rao.
- On the occasion, Prism Theatre society performed Hindi theatre 'Veer Abhimanyu.'

28. Which organisation has inked an MoU with the CSIR – Indian Institute of Petroleum (CSIR – IIP) to collaborate and work together towards ensuring clean energy solutions \_\_\_\_\_ **TATA Projects Limited.**

**Note:**

- As part of this agreement, clean energy solutions such as room temperature bio-diesel produced from CSIR-IIP shall be used across some of Tata Projects' ongoing sites.
- This partnership will also explore utilization of by-product Green Diesel from the existing DILSAAF™.

29. Which ministry has organised one of its kind musical event, Dance to Decarbonise at the National Stadium in New Delhi on 23rd Dec 2022 \_\_\_\_\_ **Petroleum and Natural Gas Ministry.**

**Note:**

- As per the ministry, the renewable energy generated through dance will be used to charge electric vehicles.
- Aim: To showcase the India's target of achieving net-zero emissions by 2070 weighing against the country's growing economy, and rising energy requirements over transformational energy systems for the future

30. Who is set to launch revamped probity portal and e-HRMS 2.0 portal for central government employees \_\_\_\_\_ **Jitendra Singh.**

**Note:**

- At the revamped e-HRMS 2.0 portal, employees could avail of limited services and it was not connected with other human resource applications.
- The revamped portal is the first digital system in the government of India to provide end-to-end HR services.
- The revamped e-HRMS 2.0 will save several thousand man-hours and tons of printing paper.

31. Union Minister of information and Broadcasting, Anurag Thakur has informed that the Union Cabinet approved the revision of the pension for family pensioners of armed forces under One Rank One Pension (OROP) from which date \_\_\_\_\_ **July 1, 2019.**

- The revision will entail an estimated annual expenditure of Rs 8450 crore.
- The arrears will be with effect from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2022.
- The decision to implement OROP was taken by the Narendra Modi government on November 7, 2015.

32. Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports, Anurag Singh Thakur has inaugurated the Sports Science Centre in which state \_\_\_\_\_ **Udupi, Karnataka.**

**Note:**

- The government has increased the sports budget from 854 crores before 2014 to 3,100 crore rupees (2022) and spent 2700 crore rupees to enhance sporting infrastructure as against 630 crore rupees earlier.



- For Khelo India Games, the government has spent 3,136 crore rupees for a period of five years.

**33.** Which minister has introduced various initiatives, including a right to repair portal and an NTH mobile app and opened new premises of the National Consumer Helpline centre \_\_\_\_\_ **Consumer Affairs Minister, Piyush Goyal.**

**Note:**

- On this portal, manufacturers would share the manual of product details with customers so that they could either repair by self, by third parties, rather than depend on original manufacturers.
- Initially, mobile phones, automobiles and farming equipment will be covered.

**34.** President Droupadi Murmu has inaugurated the project “Development of Srisailam Temple” at Srisailam Temple Complex. This temple is located in which state \_\_\_\_\_ **Andhra Pradesh.**

**Note:**

- The project has been sanctioned and executed under PRASHAD scheme, under Ministry of Tourism.
- The project has been completed with a cost of Rs 43.08 crores.
- The project is 100% funded by the Ministry of Tourism, Govt of India.
- Srisailam Sri Mallikarjuna Swamy Temple is dedicated to Lord Shiva and his consort Goddess Parvati.

**35.** Which IIT institution has developed an artificial heart that would be of great help to people with acute cardiac problems \_\_\_\_\_ **IIT Kanpur.**

**Note:**

- IIT Kanpur and cardiologists from across the country have developed this artificial heart.
- As per the IIT Kanpur Director, Abhay Karandikar, the trial on animals would begin next year, after success in the trial, transplantation can be done in humans in the next two years.
- Most of the implants and stents for heart patients are being imported.

**36.** The govt of India has designated which ministry as the nodal ministry to oversee the online gaming industry in India \_\_\_\_\_ **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).**

**Note:**

- The ministry will soon release rules for online gaming intermediaries and start public consultation on these rules
- In May 2022, the govt set up a seven-member inter-ministerial task force, chaired by Rajeev Chandrasekhar, MoS, IT.
- Aim: To work on online gaming regulations and identify a nodal ministry.

**37.** Which institution has been named the Secretariat for Science 20 (S20), the G20 summit's science working group \_\_\_\_\_ **Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru.**

**Note:**

- S20 2023 theme is 'Disruptive Science for Innovative and Sustainable Development.'
- S20 has been set up as part of efforts by G20 to address global challenges including climate change mitigation and sustainable development.
- G20 is an intergovernmental forum comprising 19 countries and the European Union.

**38.** Which government owned organisation has signed an MoU with the Central TB Division (Ministry of Health and Family Welfare), Uttar Pradesh, and Chhattisgarh to undertake intensified TB elimination project \_\_\_\_\_ **IndianOil.**

**Note:**

- Aim: To end TB in India by 2025, five years ahead of SDG



- It also aims to provide sustainable and equitable access to free TB treatment, and support services to the citizens of UP and Chhattisgarh.
- IndianOil will also introduce Mobile Medical Vans equipped with modern diagnostic technology.

**39.** Union Minister of Power, RK Singh has inaugurated the National Championship "Tehri Water Sports Cup" at Tehri Lake. Tehri Lake is located in which state \_\_\_\_\_ **Uttarakhand**.

**Note:**

- During the event, he has also announced that world-class Kayaking-Canoeing Academy will be set up at Tehri in Uttarakhand.
- This is the first time that the national-level sports competition is being organized at Tehri Lake.
- CM, Pushkar Singh Dhami has also informed that the new sports policy has been implemented in the State.

**40.** Who has launched the "Stay Safe Online" campaign and "G20 Digital Innovation Alliance" (G20-DIA) \_\_\_\_\_ **Ashwini Vaishnaw (Minister of Meity)**.

**Note:**

- Aim of 'Stay Safe Online': To raise awareness about the online world due to the widespread use of social media and rapid adoption of digital payments
- Aim of G20-DIA: To identify, recognize, and enable the adoption of innovative and impactful digital technologies developed by startups
- Nodal Ministry for G20 Digital Economy Working Group: MeitY

**41.** According to the report, released by the Road Transport and Highways Ministry, the road accidents in India have been decreased by how much percent in 2021 as compared to 2019 \_\_\_\_\_ **8.1%**.

**Note:**

- Report title: Road accidents in India -- 2021
- The injuries due to road accidents have also decreased by 14.8%.
- But the fatalities on account of road accidents have increased by 1.9% in 2021
- The MoRTH has also implemented a scheme Grant of Financial Assistance for Administering Road Safety Advocacy and Awards

**42.** The Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has accorded which drone service provider with the DGCA Type Certification and Approval for its AG 365 Agricopter \_\_\_\_\_ **Marut Drones**.

**Note:**

- Marut Drones product, 'AG 365 Agricopter' is India's first Multi-utility Agriculture Medium Category Drone to receive the prestigious certificate.
- It is extensively tested in Agriculture in collaboration with agriculture universities and research institutes.
- It is designed and developed for Indian conditions and can be used for multiple purposes.

**43.** PM Narendra Modi has inaugurated railway projects worth over Rs 5,800 crore in which state through video-conferencing \_\_\_\_\_ **West Bengal**.

**Note:**

- The projects include Joka-Taratata stretch of the Joka-Esplanade Metro Project (Purple Line) and Howrah-New Jalpaiguri Vande Bharat Express.
- Joka-Taratata project is 6.5-km stretch having six stations has been constructed at a cost of more than Rs 2,475 crore.
- He has also laid the foundation stone for redevelopment of New Jalpaiguri Railway Station.



44. Nitin Gadkari (Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways) has inaugurated the phase 1 of Zuari bridge in which state \_\_\_\_\_ **Goa**.

**Note:**

- It will connect North and South Goa.
- It is located on the Zuari river at Cortalim village on Margao-Panaji National Highway
- Under this phase, the 4 Lane Right Hand Side Corridor of the 8 Lane Stayed Cable bridge has been inaugurated.
- This new bridge approaches from Bambolim to Verna and has a total project length of 13.20 KM.

45. HM Amit Shah has launched the Mobile App and Manual of Border Security Force in New Delhi. What is the name of the mobile application \_\_\_\_\_ **Prahari**.

**Note:**

- This app will provide personal information and information related to accommodation, Ayushman CAPF and leaves on their mobiles to jawans.
- It will also connect jawans with the portal of the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- He has also launched revised version of manuals which will increase the understanding of operations, administration and training.

46. Which ministry has notified the National Geospatial Policy, 2022 to promote country's geospatial data industry and develop a national framework to use such data for improving citizen services, and more \_\_\_\_\_ **Ministry of Science and Technology**.

**Note:**

- Aim: To develop high resolution topographical survey and mapping, and high-accuracy digital elevation model by 2030.
- The government will also look to improve availability and access of "better location data" for companies by 2025.

47. Which ministry has launched two key initiative - City Finance Rankings and City Beauty Competition \_\_\_\_\_ **MoHUA**.

**Note:**

- City Finance Rankings: To evaluate, recognize and reward Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) on the basis of three financial parameters - resource mobilization, expenditure performance and fiscal governance systems.
- City Beauty Competition: To recognize the transformational efforts made by cities in India to create beautiful, innovative and inclusive public spaces.

48. Who has inaugurated Incubation Centre at National Research Development Corporation (NRDC), Delhi to provide multi-prong support to StartUps \_\_\_\_\_ **Union Minister of State Science & Technology, Jitendra Singh**.

**Note:**

- NRDC has created incubating start-ups facility and is also promoting beneficial schemes to provide support in terms of funding, mentoring, IP assistance and other allied services to the Start-ups.
- NRDC was established in 1953 with headquarters in Delhi.

49. Centre will roll out new integrated Food Security Scheme from \_\_\_\_\_ to provide free food grains to over 81 crore beneficiaries under National Food Security Act, NFSA in 2023 \_\_\_\_\_ **1st January 2023**.



**Note:**

- It will also ensure effective and uniform implementation of the Act and free foodgrains will concurrently ensure uniform implementation of portability under One Nation One Ration Card across the country.
- Under this scheme, Centre will provide free foodgrains to all NFSA beneficiaries.

**50.** iDEX, flagship initiative of Department of Defence Production, has signed its 150th contract in New Delhi. What is the full form of iDEX \_\_\_\_\_ **Innovations for Defence Excellence.**

**Note:**

- The contract was related to an Indian Navy project of the Defence India Start-up Challenge (DISC 7) SPRINT edition.
- The challenge was titled 'Expendable Mobile Anti-Submarine Warfare Training Target (EMATT) capable of simulating the sound and movement of a submarine'.
- The iDEX framework was launched by the Prime Minister in 2018.

**51.** Atal Incubation Centre (AIC) at the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) has signed an agreements with \_\_\_ for incubation of newer technologies into commercial products \_\_\_\_\_ **MSMEs.**

**Note:**

- The agreements were signed to commemorate the launch of the AIC at the BARC to hasten conversion of products from research labs to the market.
- The incubation agreements are signed specifically for technologies aligned with India's global commitments of achieving Net Zero (carbon neutrality).

**52.** Which government organisation has signed a non-binding Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Tecnimont Private Limited (Indian Subsidiary of Maire Tecnimont Group, Italy) to evaluate and explore the possibility to develop commercial scale Green Methanol Production facility at NTPC project in India \_\_\_\_\_ **NTPC.**

**Note:**

- This project involves capturing carbon from NTPC power plants and converting it into a green fuel.
- It is also considered as a substitute fuel for maritime fuel applications.

**53.** Which ministry has signed an MoU with DRDO for the implementation of Early Warning System (EWS) for Vulnerable Hydro Projects/Power Stations \_\_\_\_\_ **Ministry of Power.**

**Note:**

- The MoU was signed by Alok Kumar (Secretary, Ministry of Power) and Dr. Samir V Kamat (Chairman, DRDO).
- Both will work towards developing suitable mitigation measures against avalanches, landslides, and other geo-hazards
- Ministry of Power has already signed MoUs with CSIR-NGRI, IMD, WIHG and NRSC-ISRO for implementation of EWS

**54.** The government of India and Manipur government have signed a peace agreement with which insurgent group of Manipur for providing the rehabilitation and re-settlement of the armed cadres \_\_\_\_\_ **Zeliangrong United Front (ZUF).**

**Note:**

- The tripartite agreement was signed by the central and Manipur governments and ZUF.
- The ZUF represents Zeliangrong people of the Naga tribes.



➤ The ZUF is listed as one of the 13 active insurgent group in Manipur by the South Asia Terrorism Portal (SATP).

55. Along with IIT Guwahati, which institution has joined hands with European universities to develop a technology to check the quality of potable and other water in India \_\_\_\_\_ **IIT Bombay**.

**Note:**

- The LOTUS Indo-European project is an initiative of the Dept of Science and Technology and the European Commission
- Aim: To provide solutions for issues related to the quality of water supplied across Indian households
- The LOTUS project is built around a novel water quality sensor developed at Ecole Polytechnique in Paris

56. India and which country have signed agreements in various areas including on Defence and Military Cooperation \_\_\_\_\_ **Cyprus**.

**Note:**

- Both countries have also signed a Letter of Intent on Migration and Mobility Partnership to provide a common framework of arrangement and cooperation to facilitate the mobility of students, business people and professionals.
- It will also help in combating irregular migration.
- The agreements were signed between EAM Dr. S Jaishankar and Foreign Minister of Cyprus.

57. Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying has informed that Department of Fisheries, under PM Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) has provided an insurance coverage to fishers. Who is he \_\_\_\_\_ **Parshottam Rupala**.

**Note:**

- The insurance coverage provided under the PMMSY includes:
- Rs.5,00,000/- against accidental death or permanent total disability
- Rs.2,50,000/- for permanent partial disability
- Hospitalization expenses in the event of accident for a sum of Rs. 25,000/-

58. Name the scheme launched by the Ministry of Railways for the modernisation of railway stations across the country \_\_\_\_\_ **Amrit Bharat Station scheme**.

**Note:**

- Aim: Infrastructural development of more than 1,000 stations on a continuous basis with a long-term vision.
- High level platforms (760 to 840 mm) will be provided at all categories of the railway stations.
- The plan has provision to provide free WiFi access to its users.
- The amenities for Divyangjan will be provided at railway stations.

### Important News – State

1. Which state government has launched the Alternative Farming System for Tribal Jhumias/Poppy Planters in ten districts of state \_\_\_\_\_ **Manipur**.

**Note:**

- Districts: Churachandpur, Pherzawl, Noney, Tamenglong, Senapati, Kangpokpi, Ukhrul, Kamjong, Tengnoupal, and Chandel
- The programme was organized by the Eastern Border Areas Development Authority (EBADA), Govt of Manipur, under the funding of the North Eastern Council (NEC), Shilong.



Join Our Classroom Program Now



2. CM Conrad K Sangmaat has inaugurated a football stadium at the P A Sangma Sports Complex, Dakopgre in Tura. He is a CM of which state of India \_\_\_\_\_ **Meghalaya**.

**Note:**

- The stadium and the two indoor stadiums are built over a combined area of over 17,000 sqm.
- The indoor stadiums, along with gymnasium, swimming pool, a table tennis Hall, squash hall and a badminton hall will be ready for inauguration by December 2023.
- The government has also launched a talent identification programme for athletes.

3. Tal Chhapar blackbuck sanctuary is located in which state of India \_\_\_\_\_ **Rajasthan**.

**Note:**

- The famous Tal Chhapar blackbuck sanctuary in Churu district of Rajasthan has received a protective cover against a proposed move of the State government to reduce the size of its eco-sensitive zone.
- The World Wildlife Fund for Nature has also taken up a major project for the conservation of raptors in the sanctuary, spread in an area measuring 7.19 sq. km.
- The Rajasthan High Court has intervened through a suo motu public interest litigation to protect the sanctuary.

4. Which state government has launched 'Friends of Library' programme, under which books would be directly given to those who are unable to access state-run libraries \_\_\_\_\_ **Tamil Nadu**.

**Note:**

- Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozhi (School Education minister) has announced that volunteers' services would be employed for this.
- This project will be helpful to people with disabilities, seniors, kids, and hospital in-patients, among others, who are unable to visit a library.

5. Which state government has made mandatory of Aadhaar number or Aadhaar identification for all those who are eligible for benefits (other than minor children) under various government schemes \_\_\_\_\_ **Tamil Nadu**.

**Note:**

- According to the order, the Aadhaar card is mandatory for government employees, government pensioners and beneficiaries of various schemes.
- The government has also announced remedial mechanisms if Aadhaar identification fails due to poor biometrics or any other reason.

6. Which state/UT government has announced three new schemes- (1) Holistic Development of Agriculture & Allied Sectors, (2) Aspirational Towns, and (3) Aspirational Panchayat for state/UT \_\_\_\_\_ **Jammu & Kashmir**.

**Note:**

- Aim: To transform the agriculture economy of the Union Territory putting it on a new trajectory of growth.
- The projects have an outlay of Rs 5013 crores over the next five years.
- These schemes have been approved by the administrative council, chaired by the L-G.

7. Which UT government has decided to introduce mini snack breaks to battle malnutrition in children \_\_\_\_\_ **Delhi**.

**Note:**

- According to a circular by the Directorate of Education (DoE), schools have been directed to include a 10-minute mini snack break in the school timetable.
- The mini break should be 2.5 hours before the lunch break.



➤ Schools have been asked to prepare a weekly planner of snacks offering three food choices every day which may include food items such as seasonal fruits etc.

8. Which state government is being hosting the Bekal International Beach Festival from 24 Dec - 2 Jan 2022 at the Spice Coast, in the far north of Kerala \_\_\_\_\_ **Kerala**.

**Note:**

- Aim: To revitalise the district's development by showcasing its potential.
- The festival will be staged at the three venues of Chandragiri, Thejaswini, and Payaswini.
- The event will organised by Bekal Resorts Development Corporation (BRDC) in association with the District Tourism Promotion Council, Kudumbashree, Asmi Holidays.

9. Which state government has approved the proposal for grant of industry status to the tourism sector in the state \_\_\_\_\_ **Assam**.

**Note:**

- Aim: To boost investments and generate employment.
- The industry status, fresh investments in tourism infrastructure, permanent in nature, will contribute towards rapid employment generation, public-private partnership and development.
- Tourism is to be one of the main sources of income generation for the people over the years.

10. Which state government has launched the 'Drink From Tap' project in 19 cities and towns of the state \_\_\_\_\_ **Odisha**.

**Note:**

- Aim: To provide safe drinking water provision at every home in the state
- Earlier, this facility was unveiled in Puri and Gopalpur.
- Under the project, drinking water will be supplied round the clock through taps installed in households.

11. Which state/UT has celebrated Losar Festival on December 24, to mark the New Year \_\_\_\_\_ **Ladakh**.

**Note:**

- Ladakhi New Year is the major socio-religious festival of Ladakh celebrated in winter.
- The Losar festivities continue for nine more days from the new year with the offering of prayers in the name of God and Goddess, dances and songs in honour of Ibex and the pilgrimage of Mount Kailash.
- During the festival, they perform the traditional role of the three Lama Jogis and Grandparents.

12. Which state government has received the 'no-objection' certificates from the ministry of home affairs to change the names of two places in state ie. Mundera Bazaarmunicipal council and Chauri Chaura \_\_\_\_\_ **Uttar Pradesh**.

**Note:**

- With this consent, 'Mundera Bazaar' municipal council in Gorakhpur district has been renamed to 'Chauri Chaura' and 'Telia Afghan' village in Deoria district to 'Telia Shukla'
- MHA gives a 'no-objection' certificate to change the name of any place after taking consent from ministry of railways, department of posts and Survey of India

13. Which state government has launched an initiative for the conservation of the Nilgiri Tahr (State animal) at a cost of ₹25.14 crore \_\_\_\_\_ **Tamil Nadu**.

**Note:**

- Aim: To develop a better understanding of the Nilgiri Tahr population through surveys and radio telemetry studies; reintroduce the Tahrs to their historical habitat



- The project is to be implemented from 2022 to 2027.
- Nilgiris Tahr (*Nilgiritragus hylocrius*), endemic to the Western ghats and locally known as 'Varaiaadu'.

14. Which state government has launched the 10th phase of Rythu Bandhu, the investment support scheme for farmers \_\_\_\_\_ **Telangana**.

**Note:**

- Under this phase, 7,676 crores rupees will be deposited in the bank accounts of over 70 lakh 54 thousand farmers towards investment support for the Rabi crop season.
- It is a cash transfer programme.
- It provides investment support for agriculture and horticulture crops by way of a grant of Rs 5,000 per acre to farmers each season.

15. Which state Cabinet has approved the provision of Rs 367.19 crores for five years (2022-23 to 2026-27) for implementation of "empowerment of women in agriculture-promotion of entrepreneurship for women SHG" \_\_\_\_\_ **Odisha**.

**Note:**

- The cabinet was headed by Odisha CM, Naveen Patnaik.
- Aim: To double the mushroom production across the State through area expansion involving women beneficiaries and to make the state self-sufficient in the production of button mushroom and loose flowers

### Important News – World

1. Which country's wildlife officials have declared a Nevada wildflower as endangered species \_\_\_\_\_ **The U.S.**

**Note:**

- It is found on a high-desert ridge, where a lithium mine is planned to help meet the growing demand for electric car batteries.
- The Fish and Wildlife Service has formally listed Tiehm's buckwheat and its accompanying area of 910 acres for the 6-inch-tall flower with yellow blooms.
- Ioneer (Australian mining company) is planning to dig for lithium where the flower grows.

2. Which country's capital has passed a new regulation, which stated that all new houses in capital city built by large-scale homebuilders after April 2025 must install solar power panels to cut household carbon emissions \_\_\_\_\_ **Tokyo**.

**Note:**

- Currently, Japan stands at fifth spot in the world's largest carbon emitters list.
- This mandate requires about 50 major builders to equip homes of up to 2,000 square metres (21,500 square feet) with renewable energy power sources, mainly solar panels.

3. Which country has launched a 'Group of Friends' to promote accountability for crimes against peacekeepers \_\_\_\_\_ **India**.

**Note:**

- EAM, S Jaishankar has announced that New Delhi will maintain a database that will record all crimes against the Blue Helmets.
- Along with India, contributing countries like Bangladesh, Egypt, France, Morocco and Nepal were participated as its co-chairs
- It represents the "political will" of member states, particularly of the troop and police contributing countries



Join Our Classroom Program Now



4. Which organisations has adopted a plan for a global minimum 15 percent tax on multinational businesses, after leaders gave final approval following months of wrangling \_\_\_\_\_ **European Union.**

**Note:**

- The landmark agreement between nearly 140 countries is intended to stop governments racing to cut taxes to lure the world's richest firms to their territory.
- The plan was drawn up under the guidance of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

5. Pokhara Regional International Airport will be officially brought into operation from 1st January 2023. This airport is located in which country \_\_\_\_\_ **Nepal.**

**Note:**

- Inauguration programme of the airport will include different processions, fashion shows at coordination of Pokhara Metropolitan City and Pokhara Tourism Council.
- This airport is going to be a milestone for the promotion of tourism not only in Pokhara.
- This is constructed by a Chinese construction company.

6. According to a government survey, the Associated Press reported, which animal in Western Hudson Bay of Canada, an inland sea connected to the Arctic Ocean, are dying at a fast rate \_\_\_\_\_ **Polar bears.**

**Note:**

- The study has also revealed that females and younger polar bears are the worst affected.
- When the last survey took place in 2016, there were 842 bears in the area, but now only 618 bears left in Western Hudson Bay.
- The polar bear is classified as "vulnerable" on the IUCN Red List

7. Bangladesh PM, Sheikh Hasina has flagged off the first metro rail in Dhaka for its first journey between which two stations \_\_\_\_\_ **Diabari and Agargaon station.**

**Note:**

- This is part of the ambitious Bangladesh project of Mass Rapid Transit to be completed by 2030, that will cover a total length of 129 kilometres out of which 61 kilometres will be underground.
- The rail service was built with financial and technical support from Japan.
- The event was attended by Kiminori Iwama (Japanese Ambassador).

8. Which country has fired three short-range ballistic missiles towards the sea to the east of the Korean peninsula \_\_\_\_\_ **North Korea.**

**Note:**

- South Korea's military has said that these ballistic missiles launch is a grave provocation that undermines peace and stability on Korean Peninsula as well as the international community.
- This latest volley comes 5 days after North Korea flew drones into South Korea's airspace for the first time since 2017.

### Honor & Awards

1. Which movie was awarded Suvarna Chakoram for Best Film at the 27th edition of IFFK which was held in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala \_\_\_\_\_ **Utama (Bolivian movie).**

**Note:**

- Director: Alejandro Loayza Grisi
- The Hungarian filmmaker, Bela Tarr was bestowed with the Lifetime Achievement Award.
- Best Asian Film: Alam (Director: Firas Khoury)



Join Our Classroom Program Now



- Rajata Chakoram for Best Director: Tayfun Pirselimoglu for Kerr
  - Audience poll award: Nanpakal Nerathu Mayakkam directed by Lijo Jose Pellissery
2. Which Indian personality has won the title of Mrs World 2022, after 21 years \_\_\_\_\_ **Sargam Koushal (Mumbai)**.

**Note:**

- Mrs World 2021, Shaylyn Ford (U.S.A) has presented the crown to Mrs. Koushal at a ceremony held at Westgate Las Vegas Resort and Casino.
- Mrs Polynesia was named the first runner-up, followed by Mrs Canada as the second runner-up.
- India has won this title after 21 years.
- Dr Aditi Govitrikar had won the Mrs World title in 2001.

3. Who has won the Fan' Favorite singles title at the Association of Tennis Professionals, ATP Awards 2022 \_\_\_\_\_ **Rafael Nadal**.

**Note:**

- Carlos Alcaraz (Spain) has won the title of Most Improved Player of the Year at the ATP awards 2022.
- Fan's favourite (doubles): Nick Kyrgios and Thanasi Kokkinakis
- Newcomer of the Year: Holger Rune
- Comeback Player of the Year: Borna Coric
- Coach of the Year: Juan Carlos Ferrero
- Arthur Ashe Humanitarian Award: Andy Murray

4. Which National Mining company has won the coveted IEI (Institution of Engineers, India) Industry Excellence Award 2022 in Chennai, Tamil Nadu \_\_\_\_\_ **NMDC**.

**Note:**

- The largest producer of the iron ore in the country was felicitated at the 37th Indian Engineering Congress for its outstanding performance and high level of business excellence.
- N R K Prasad, CGM (IE & MS), NMDC has received the award from Dr. K Ponmudy, Minister for Higher Education, Government of Tamil Nadu.

5. 'Duare Sarkar' (Government at doorstep) has been selected for the Platinum Award at the Digital India Awards 2022, is a flagship scheme of which state \_\_\_\_\_ **West Bengal**.

**Note:**

- The scheme has been awarded in the 'Public Digital Platforms — Central Ministries, Departments and States' category.
- President Droupadi Murmu will give the award to the state on January 7, 2023 at a function in Vigyan Bhavan in New Delhi.
- 'Duare Sarkar' scheme was launched in December 2020.

6. Which Indian film has bagged three awards at the 2022 Philadelphia Film Critics Circle Annual Awards \_\_\_\_\_ **RRR**.

**Note:**

- Categorizes: Best Foreign Language Film, Best Cinematography, and Best Score/Soundtrack categories.
- Earlier, the film has also received nominations in two categories for 2023 Golden Globes.
- The film has been nominated in the Best Picture – Non-English Language category and "Naatu Naatu" in the Best Original Song – Motion Picture category.



7. Who has been honoured with the first Rohini Nayyar prize for outstanding contribution to rural development \_\_\_\_\_ **Sethrichem Sangtam.**

**Note:**

- Reason: To triple the incomes of 1,200 marginalised farmers in Eastern Nagaland.
- He introduced them fruit growing, prompting the farmers to change from shifting farming to permanent farming.
- He was awarded the prize by NITI Aayog Vice Chairman, Suman Bery.
- The award was instituted by the family of late Dr. Rohini Nayyar.

8. Name three sites that have been added to the tentative list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites in December 2022 \_\_\_\_ **Vadnagar town, Sun Temple at Modhera, and the rock cut sculptures of Unakoti in Tripura.**

**Note:**

- The UNESCO tentative list is an “inventory of those properties which each State Party intends to consider for nomination”.
- With the addition of these three sites, India now has 52 sites on the UNESCO tentative list.
- India has a total of 40 sites which enjoy the UNESCO World Heritage tag.

9. Sudeep Sen was honoured with the prestigious Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize 2021-22 for which book \_\_\_\_\_ **Anthropocene: Climate Change, Contagion, Consolation (Pippa Rann Books & Media, 2021).**

**Note:**

- The prestigious Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize 2021-22 has been jointly won by Sudeep Sen and Shobhana Kumar.
- Sudeep Sen has been recognised for
- While, Shobhana Kumar for her haibun collection A Sky Full of Bucket Lists (Red River, 2021).
- The winner receives \$10,000 along with a Rabindranath Tagore statuette, while the shortlisted authors each receive \$500.

10. Sahitya Akademi has announced its annual Sahitya Akademi Awards in how many languages on 22nd December 2022 \_\_\_\_\_ **23.**

**Note:**

- 7 books of poetry, 6 of novel, 2 of short stories, 3 Play/Dramas, 2 Literary Criticism, one each of Autobiographical Essays, Collection of Articles and Literary History have won the Sahitya Akademi Awards 2022.
- The awardee will receive an engraved copper-plaque, a shawl and Rs.1,00,000 in Cash.
- It also announced the ‘Sahitya Akademi Translation’ awards for 2022.

11. Name the Indian professor, who has received the VinFuture Prize 2022 instituted by the VinFuture Prize Council to honour breakthrough research projects \_\_\_\_\_ **Pradeep Thalappil.**

**Note:**

- He has been awarded the ‘Special Prize dedicated to Innovators from Developing Countries’ for his development of a low-cost filtration system to remove arsenic and other heavy metals from groundwater.
- He was also honoured with the Padma Shri (2020), Nikkei Asia Prize (2020).

12. Who is the only Indian female player, who listed in the top 25 in Forbes' annual list of the highest-paid female athletes in the world \_\_\_\_\_ **PV Sindhu.**



**Note:**

- Sindhu, the 2016 Rio Olympics silver medallist, occupies the 12th spot in the list.
- Japanese tennis star Naomi Osaka tops the list.
- The 27-year-old made 7 million US Dollars of her earnings.
- For the 3rd straight year, Osaka tops Forbes' annual list of the World's highest-paid female athletes.

**13.** Who has been awarded the 2022 BBC Sports Personality of the Year as she was the player of the tournament and top scorer at Euro 2022 \_\_\_\_\_ **English football player, Beth Mead.**

**Note:**

- Beth Mead has defeated Germany in the finals at Wembley to win England's first major women's football trophy.
- She has competed against Ben Stokes and Ronnie O'Sullivan for the BBC Sports Personality of the Year for 2022 award.
- While, Sarina Wiegman (England's manager) has won the Coach of the Year.

**14.** Which government owned organisation has won Data Security Council of India's (DSCI) award 2022 in Best Security Practices in Government Sector category \_\_\_\_\_ **Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI).**

**Note:**

- The award was given to UIDAI during DSCI's three-day Annual Information Security Summit (AISS) in New Delhi.
- Reason: For its significant role in securing national critical Aadhaar infrastructure that provides digital identity-based welfare services to residents.
- UIDAI CEO: Dr. Saurabh Garg

**15.** Which government owned organisation has been awarded the 'Best Globally Competitive Power Company of India - Hydropower and Renewable Energy Sector' award at PRAKASHmay '15th Enertia Awards 2022' \_\_\_\_\_ **NHPC Limited.**

**Note:**

- Reason: For its leadership in the hydropower sector with a gross asset class renewable energy capacity of more than 7000 MW.
- The award also recognizes that NHPC has more than 5000 MW of projects under construction and an ambitious 7000 MW plus plan for Solar capacity addition.

**16.** Dr Aleida Guevara has been selected for the first KR Gouri Amma national award 2022. She is associated with which country \_\_\_\_\_ **Cuba.**

**Note:**

- She is an active member of the Cuban Medical Mission that works to improve the health profile of children in Latin America.
- The award will be presented by Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan at Olympia Hall at Chandrasekharan Nair Stadium.
- The award consists of \$3,000, a statute and a citation

**17.** Which Indian institution programmes on BS Data Science and NPTEL in collaboration with IISc Bangalore, have won the Wharton-QS Reimagine Education Awards 2022 for the best programmes \_\_\_\_\_ **IIT Madras.**

**Note:**

- The BS in Data Science and Applications programme won Silver in the 'Best Online Program' category.



➤ The NPTEL-National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning, has won the Gold in the 'Lifelong Learning' category.

**18.** Who was honoured with the prestigious Atal Samman Award during the 9th Atal Samman Samaroh, organised in New Delhi \_\_\_\_\_ **Prabhu Chandra Mishra.**

**Note:**

- He was awarded for his excellence in field of science & research.
- He has worked in the area of StemCell & Regenerative Medicine in infertility especially when In vitro fertilization (IVF) failed.
- Under his work, diseases like premature ovarian failure, and Asherman syndrome have shown satisfactory results with body's own cells.

**19.** The anti-drug & illicit liquor campaign of which state police named 'Nijaat' has been selected for the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) 2022 award under the 'Leadership in Crime Prevention' in the institutional category \_\_\_\_\_ **Chhattisgarh.**

**Note:**

- This campaign was launched under the leadership of the IPS officer Santosh Kumar Singh.
- Under this campaign, strict action taken against illegal drug dealers, intensive public awareness and rehabilitation of the addicts.

### Sports News

**1.** Which steel production company has signed an MoU with Hockey India to become an Official Partner of the FIH Hockey Men's World Cup 2023 \_\_\_\_\_ **Tata Steel Limited.**

**Note:**

- The 15th edition of the Hockey Men's World Cup will take place in Bhubaneswar-Rourkela from January 13 to January 29, 2023.
- It will be the fourth time that India will be hosting the prestigious tournament after having played hosts in 1982 in Bombay, 2010 in New Delhi, and 2018 in Odisha.
- A total of 16 nations will take part in the tournament.

**2.** India has defeated which country by 120 runs to win their third consecutive title of the T20 World Cup 2022 for the Blind at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium, Bangalore \_\_\_\_\_ **Bangladesh.**

**Note:**

- Sunil was declared Man of the Match in the final and also received the Man of the Series in the B3 category.
- Ajay was adjudged Man of the Series in the B2 category while Bangladesh's Mohammed Mahmud Rashid was the Man of the Series in the B1 category.
- Earlier, the Indian team has won the title in 2012 and 2017.

**3.** Indian Women's Hockey team has defeated which country by 1-0 in the final to win the FIH Women's Nations Cup 2022, held in Valencia, Spain, from 11 to 17 December 2022 \_\_\_\_\_ **Spain.**

**Note:**

- Hockey India has announced Rs 2 Lakh for each player and 1 Lakh rupees for each support staff of the Indian Women's Hockey Team.
- Indian has also got promoted to the 2023-24 FIH Hockey Women's Pro League.
- Goalkeeper of the tournament: Savita Punia



Join Our Classroom Program Now



4. Which country has defeated France by 4-2 on penalties to win the 2022 FIFA World Cup, held at the Lusail Stadium in Doha, Qatar \_\_\_\_\_ **Argentina**.

**Note:**

- This is third-ever World Cup victory of Argentina and first since 1986.
- Kylian Mbappé (France) has won the 2022 FIFA World Cup Golden Boot award with 8 goals.
- Lionel Messi won Golden Ball (best player award) at the 2022 Fifa World Cup in Qatar.
- Best goalkeeper (golden glove): Emiliano Martínez (Argentina)
- Fair play award: England

5. Which team has defeated Puneri Paltan by 33-29 in the summit clash to emerge champions of the 2022 Pro Kabaddi League \_\_\_\_\_ **Jaipur Pink Panthers**.

**Note:**

- The tournament was played across Bengaluru, Pune and Hyderabad while the playoffs were played in Mumbai.
- V Ajith, Sunil Kumar and Arjun Deshwal emerged as the best players for Jaipur side with six points each.

6. Which media company has secured the exclusive media rights to broadcast the Olympic Games Paris 2024 \_\_\_\_\_ **Viacom18 Media Private Limited (Viacom18)**.

**Note:**

- It has also secured the non-exclusive rights to the Winter Youth Olympic Games Gangwon 2024, in Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.
- In 2024, Olympics will be hosted by France in Paris, beginning from July 26 to August 11.

7. India's first ever World Table Tennis (WTT) series event will be hosted by which state from February 27 to March 5 2023 \_\_\_\_\_ **Goa**.

**Note:**

- The event will be held at the Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Indoor stadium, located at the Goa University Campus.
- Stupa Analytics, a homegrown sports analytics firm, will be the tournament host with active support from the Goa government.

8. Who has emerged as the most expensive player in the IPL's history as Punjab Kings bought him for Rs 18.50 crore \_\_\_\_\_ **England all-rounder Sam Curran**.

**Note:**

- The most expensive player in IPL so far was South African all-rounder Chris Morris, who received Rs 16.25 crore at the 2021 auction.
- Australia all-rounder Cameron Green was the second-highest earner, fetching ₹17.5 crore bid from Mumbai Indians.

9. Badminton player, Geto Sora (7) has won title of 2022 Junior International Badminton Championship in the below 9 years category, organised in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. She hails from which Indian state \_\_\_\_\_ **Arunachal Pradesh**.



**Note:**

- He has defeated Jaryl Teh from Malaysia in straight sets 21-5, 21-16.
- In November 2022, he had won the U-9 boys singles title in the Yonex-Singha-BTY Championships 2022, held at the Banthongyord Badminton School in Bangkok, Thailand.

**10.** Lovlina Borgohain has defeated Arundhati Choudhary of Services in which category at Women's National Boxing Championship 2022, organised in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh \_\_\_\_\_ **75kg**.

**Note:**

- Nikhat Zareen defeated Anamika of Railways in the 50kg category.
- While, The Railways team has topped the medals tally with 10 medals – five golds, three silvers and two bronze.
- MP placed second in medal tally, followed by Haryana.

**11.** Which country has renamed the men's Test Player of the Year award to honour legendary spinner Shane Warne \_\_\_\_\_ **Australia**.

**Note:**

- The Shane Warne Men's Test Player of the Year award will be presented annually at the Australian Cricket Awards.
- Warne himself won the award once, in 2006 after an incredible year that included a record 40 wickets in the famous 2005 Ashes series in England.
- This Australian Cricket Awards will be announced on January 30, 2023.

**12.** Who has secured his fourth title of 2022 World Rapid Championship, held in Almaty, Kazakhstan \_\_\_\_\_ **GM Magnus Carlsen (Norway)**.

**Note:**

- Vincent Keymer (Germany) has settled for silver and Fabiano Caruana (America) has secured bronze.
- While, Tan Zhongyi (China) has won gold in 2022 Women's World Rapid Champion.
- Indian chess player, B Savitha Shri has won bronze medal in women's event and became third Indian after Viswanathan Anand and Humpy to win a medal at the world rapid championship.

**13.** Portugal Football team captain Cristiano Ronaldo has joined which football club on a contract until 2025 with worth over USD 75 million per year \_\_\_\_\_ **Saudi Arabian club Al Nassr**.

**Note:**

- Al Nassr have won the Saudi top-flight titles 9 times, last in 2019.
- This move inspires their league, nation, and future generations, boys, and girls to be the best version of themselves.
- Portugal captain was free after leaving Manchester United following a controversial interview in which he had criticized the club.

**14.** Name the Indian female chess player, who has won India's first-ever silver medal in FIDE World Blitz Chess Championships in Almaty, Kazakhstan after defeating China's Zhongyi Tan \_\_\_\_\_ **Koneru Humpy**.

**Note:**

- He scored an impressive 12.5 points, just half a point behind the gold medal winner Bibisara Balabayeva of Kazakhstan.
- He is the second Indian to win a medal at World Blitz, after Viswanathan Anand.



15. Which hockey women's team has won Khelo India Youth Games 2022 Women's Under 18 Qualifiers after defeating Madhya Pradesh 2-0 in the final at Bhubaneswar \_\_\_\_ **Hockey Haryana**.

**Note:**

- Pooja and Gurmail Kaur scored a goal each for Haryana to make the team the trophy winner
- Odisha stepped up to claim 3rd place after beating Hockey Jharkhand 2-1 in the 3rd and 4th place encounter.
- Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and Jharkhand have qualified for the Khelo India Youth Games to be held in MP in 2023

### Books and Authors

1. Who has launched his book 'Fit At Any Age' at India International Centre, New Delhi \_\_\_\_ **Air Marshal PV Iyer (retd.)**.

**Note:**

- He has penned his journey to fitness in the book and shared anecdotes from his life to explain how he became motivated to work out daily.
- The book, published by Bloomsbury India.

2. A book titled "Forks in the Road: My Days at RBI and Beyond" has been authored by which former governor of RBI \_\_\_\_ **C Rangarajan**.

**Note:**

- 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).
- The book is divided into 3 parts. Part 1- 'RBI and Planning Commission', Part 2- 'Governor of RBI' and Part 3- 'Beyond RBI'

### Science and Defence

1. Which edition of India-Kazakhstan joint training exercise 'KAZIND-22' has been conducted at Umroi, Meghalaya from 15 to 28 December 2022 \_\_\_\_ **6th**.

**Note:**

- The Joint annual training exercise with the Kazakhstan Army was instituted in 2016 as Exercise Prabal Dostyk.
- In 2018, this exercise was upgraded to a company level exercise and renamed as Ex Kazind.
- This joint exercise enables the two armies to train, plan and execute a series of combined tactical drills for neutralising threats.

2. The 16th edition of Indo-Nepal joint army training exercise, SURYA KIRAN has been started in which city \_\_\_\_ **Nepal Army Battle School, Saljhandi, Nepal**.

**Note:**

- This exercise will continue till 29 December 2022.
- Aim: To enhance inter-operability in jungle warfare and counter-terrorism operations in mountainous terrain and Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) under UN mandate.
- Shree Bhawani Baksh Battalion (Nepal Army) and 5 GR (Indian Army) are participating in the exercise.



Join Our Classroom Program Now



3. Name the second warship of the P15B class of stealth guided-missile destroyers, that has been commissioned at Naval Dockyard, Mumbai on December 18, 2022 \_\_\_\_\_ **INS Mormugao (D67)**.

**Note:**

- It was designed by the Indian Navy's in-house organisation Warship Design Bureau.
- It was constructed by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL), Mumbai.
- It has 70-km MRSAM system, torpedo and rocket launchers.
- The event marked the formal induction of the second of the four 'Visakhapatnam' class destroyers.

4. Which sailor boat has set sail for an expedition to Cape Town, South Africa for participating in the 50th edition of Cape to Rio Race 2023 \_\_\_\_\_ **INSV Tarini**.

**Note:**

- This ocean sailing race will be flagged off on 2nd January, 2023 from Cape Town and will culminate at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
- Aim: To train crew onboard, in essential seamanship skills including Navigation, Communication, and Planning.
- The expedition is being undertaken by an Indian Navy crew of five officers including two women officers

5. Name the fifth indigenously-built Scorpène submarine of Project 75 Kalvari Class submarines, that has been received by Indian Navy \_\_\_\_\_ **Vagir**.

**Note:**

- These submarines are being constructed at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited Mumbai, under collaboration with M/s Naval Group, France.
- The submarine would shortly be commissioned into the Navy and enhance its capability.
- Project - 75 includes the indigenous construction of six submarines of Scorpene design.

6. Name the first ship of ASW SWC Project, that has been launched by the Indian Navy at Kattupalli, Chennai \_\_\_\_\_ **Arnala**.

**Note:**

- This ship built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE).
- The contract for building eight ASW SWC ships was signed between Defence Ministry and GRSE, Kolkata in April 2019.
- Arnala class of ships will replace the Abhay class ASW Ships of the Indian Navy and are designed to undertake anti-submarine operations in coastal waters and Low Intensity Maritime Operations.

7. The Indian defence forces will induct which ballistic missiles that can hit targets from 150 to 500 km \_\_\_\_\_ **Pralay**.

**Note:**

- Pralay is a quasi-ballistic surface-to-surface missile.
- Pralay is powered with solid propellant rocket motor with the capability to destroy enemy targets within a range of 150 to 500km.
- The proposal moved by the Indian defence forces is at an advanced stage and is scheduled to be taken up for clearance during a high-level meeting.

8. India has successfully carried out the night trials of which nuclear-capable ballistic missile from Abdul Kalam Island, off the coast of Odisha on 15th December, 2022 \_\_\_\_\_ **Agni-V**.



**Note:**

- The test was conducted to check the new technologies and equipment on the missile which is now lighter than before.
- The missile has a capacity to hit targets beyond 5,000 kilometres.
- The Agni series I to IV missiles have ranges from 700 km to 3,500 km.

9. According to the Ministry for Space, how much amount has been earned by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) in the last five years from the launch of foreign satellites \_\_\_\_\_ **₹1,100 crore (approx)**.

**Note:**

- In the last five years (January 2018 - November 2022) ISRO, via its commercial arms has successfully launched 177 foreign satellites from 19 countries.
- Under commercial agreement, ISRO launched these satellites on-board PSLV and GSLV-MkIII.

10. Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai) chairman, PD Vaghela has announced that India will be the first country to auction spectrum for SatCom, and it should be designed to attract investments in the sector. What is the full form of SatCom \_\_\_\_\_ **Satellite Communication**.

**Note:**

- Satellite communication: It refers to any communication link that involves the use of an artificial satellite in its propagation path.
- They can be found in geostationary, Molniya, elliptical, and low Earth orbits.

11. National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has launched the SWOT satellite from California to survey nearly all bodies of water on Earth, offering key insights on how they influence or are impacted by climate change. What is the full form of SWOT \_\_\_\_\_ **Surface Water and Ocean Topography**.

**Note:**

- This satellite project was jointly developed by NASA and CNES (France space agency).
- It will start collecting scientific data in about six months after undergoing checks and calibrations.

12. India and which country will organise their maiden bilateral air combat exercise, Veer Guardian 2023 from January 16 to 26 at Hyakuri air base and Iruma air base \_\_\_\_\_ **Japan**.

**Note:**

- Reason: To promote the mutual understanding and strengthen defence cooperation between the Air Forces and enhance JASDF's tactical skill.
- India will deploy four Sukhoi-30MKI fighters supported by two C-17 Globemaster-III strategic lift aircraft, one IL-78 mid-air refueler and around 150 IAF personnel.

13. Which country will begin supplying India with the third squadron of the S-400 air defence missile system in January or February of next year \_\_\_\_\_ **Russia**.

**Note:**

- India has already put its first two missile system squadrons into service.
- India and Russia have agreed to a three-year, more than ₹35,000 crore deal for India to buy five squadrons of S-400 air defence missiles, and all deliveries are anticipated to be completed by the end of the following fiscal year.

14. The Indian Air Force has successfully test-fired the extended range version of BrahMos supersonic cruise missile against a ship target in Bay of Bengal from which fighter jet \_\_\_\_\_ **Sukhoi-30MKI**.



**Note:**

- Achievement: Carry out precision strikes from Sukhoi against land and sea targets over very long ranges.
- The current weight of missile is 2.65 tonnes, which will come down to 1.33 tonnes with BrahMos-NG (under development).
- BrahMos is a JV between DRDO and NPO Mashinostroyeniya of Russia

**15.** Which space agency has announced that Mars InSight lander has been retired four years after it touched down on the surface of the red planet \_\_\_\_\_ **Nasa.**

**Note:**

- It was the first robotic probe, which was specially designed to study the deep interior of a distant world.
- Mission controllers at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) concluded that the mission had ended when two consecutive attempts to re-establish radio contact with the lander failed.
- InSight landed on Mars in late November 2018.

**16.** Researchers at which institution have developed organic solar cells under the DST-RCUK APEX project \_\_\_\_\_ **IIT Kanpur.**

**Note:**

- Organic solar cell: It is a combination of an organic polymer and PCBM developed on steel substrates can potentially convert a steel roof into an energy-producing device.
- The devices consist of a blend of organic polymer PTB7 as a donor and PCBM as an acceptor.
- It is a jointly developed programme of the Department of S&T and the Research Councils United Kingdom (RCUK).

\*\*\*



**Join Our Classroom Program Now**



# Buy Test Series

---

Unlock All 650+ Mock Tests for  
SSC & Railway

- Unlimited Access
- All Exams covered
- Designed by Experts
- Performance Analysis