

A hand holding a black pen is writing on a document. The document features a table with columns numbered 11 through 18. The background is a blurred image of a person's arm and hand holding a pen.

PM IAS initiative

ONE NOTES

PM IAS ACADEMY 
CREATIVE THOUGHT AND ACTION

GDP

As per provisional estimates released by National Statistical Office (NSO), India's gross domestic product (GDP) for the July–September quarter (Q2) of the financial year 2022–23 slowed to 6.3 per cent. The GDP saw a growth of 13.5 per cent in the preceding April–June quarter of 2022–23. It was cut down mainly by the poor performance of manufacturing and mining sectors.

LAC

The 18th edition of the India–US joint military exercise 'Yudh Abhyas' is being held in Uttarakhand. The military exercise is conducted annually between India and the US. As the exercise is held about 100 km from the Line of Actual Control (LAC), China said it was opposed to the military exercise.

MMR

As per the Special Bulletin released by the Registrar General of India, India has witnessed a significant decline in the Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) to 97 per lakh live births in 2018–20. The figure was at 130 per lakh live births in 2014–16. With this, India accomplished the National Health Policy target for MMR of less than 100 per lakh live births. The SDG target is 70 per lakh live births by 2030.

WORLD BANK

The World Bank recently released its flagship report titled 'Migration and Development Brief'. As per the report, Remittance flows to India will rise 12% to reach USD 100 billion this year. Remittances to low and middle-income countries grew by an estimated 5% to \$626 billion in 2022.

ECTA

The India–Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA) will enter into force on 29th December, 2022. The India–Australia ECTA will enhance bilateral trade in goods and services and create new employment opportunities. Under the agreement, duties on 100 percent tariff lines are to be eliminated by Australia.

E WASTE

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has recently notified e-waste (management) rules 2022. The rules will come into force from 1 April next year and apply to every manufacturer, producer, refurbisher and recycler. The rules mandate to reduce the use of lead, mercury, cadmium among others in the manufacturing of electronic equipment.

WHO

The World Health Organization (WHO) has recently released the 'Global Vaccine Market Report 2022'. As per the report, approximately 16 billion vaccine doses, worth USD 141 billion, were supplied in 2021. The increase was primarily driven by COVID–19 vaccines. It also revealed that limited vaccine supply and unequal distribution drive global disparities.

VANDE BHARAT

Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off south India's first Vande Bharat Express train, connecting Mysuru and Chennai via Bengaluru. This is the fifth Vande Bharat Express train in the country and it will enhance connectivity between Chennai, Bengaluru and Mysuru. The Prime Minister also flagged off the 'Bharat Gaurav Kashi Darshan' train, which aims to send pilgrims from Karnataka to Kashi.

ASEAN

ASEAN bloc has announced that it has agreed in principle to admit East Timor as the group's 11th member. Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Brunei Darussalam, Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar and

Cambodia are the 10 member countries of ASEAN. The half-island nation, officially called Timor Leste, was officially recognised by the United Nations in 2002, making it Asia's youngest democracy.

World Pneumonia Day

The 'World Pneumonia Day' is observed every year on November 12, to raise awareness about the disease named Pneumonia. Pneumonia is a lung-based infection caused by bacteria, viruses, and fungi. The theme for this year's World Pneumonia Day is 'Championing the fight to stop pneumonia.' The day first came into effect on November 12, 2009, under the initiative named 'Stop Pneumonia'

McKinsey

Uttarakhand has hired McKinsey, a global management consultancy, to help in achieving the target of doubling its Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) in the next five years. The State has the target of doubling GSDP from ₹2.73 lakh crore to ₹5.5 lakh crore by achieving a CAGR of 15% in the next five years. McKinsey has signed a two-year agreement with the state government under Shashakt Uttarakhand mission.

JAXA

Japan's space agency Jaxa has announced that it has successfully used steam to propel its spacecraft, which was launched as one of the payloads aboard Nasa's Orion spacecraft. As per JAXA, this is the world's first successful orbit control beyond low-Earth orbit using a water propellant propulsion system.

Hornbill Festival

Hornbill Festival of Nagaland, also known as the 'Festival of Festivals', showcases Nagaland's rich culture. India assumed the G20 presidency on 1st December 2022 and the 23rd Hornbill Festival 2022 also began on the same day in Nagaland. It is organized by the Government of Nagaland, to encourage inter-tribal interaction and to promote the cultural heritage of Nagaland. Hornbill, Nagaland's cultural icon, is found in the Indian subcontinent and Southeast Asia.

Agni Warrior

The 12th Edition of Exercise Agni Warrior, a bilateral exercise between the Singapore and Indian Army concluded at Devlali (Maharashtra). Exercise Agni Warrior, involved joint firepower planning, execution and use of New Generation Artillery Equipment. Indigenously manufactured Artillery guns and howitzers also participated in the final phase of the exercise.

IMO

India supported UAE's proposal to include the element of digitization in the International Maritime Organization's (IMO) next Strategic Plan. UAE also proposed the adoption of a maritime single window system as a part of the digitization initiative to help in resolving the regulatory bottlenecks faced in the marine industry. This was announced by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW)

AICTE

President Droupadi Murmu launched e-KUMBH (Knowledge Unleashed in Multiple Bharatiya Languages) portal. In the portal, engineering courses and books would be available in 12 scheduled Indian languages. The President also released engineering books of All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) in Odia language and glossary of technical terms in Odia language.

ASEAN

The year 2022 has been declared as the ASEAN-India Friendship year, as ASEAN and India commemorate 30 years of partnership. As a part of this programme, Indian media delegation is on a visit to Singapore and Cambodia under the ASEAN-INDIA Media exchange programme.

Natasa Pirc Musar

Liberal rights advocate Nataša Pirc Musar has been elected as Slovenia's first female head of state– President. 54-year-old Pirc Musar will be the first woman to serve as president since Slovenia became independent amid the break-up of Yugoslavia in 1991.

WHO

World Diabetes Day is observed every year on November 14 by the World Health Organisation. It aims to raise awareness of diabetes as a global public health issue and solutions for prevention, diagnosis and management of the condition. This year's theme "Access to diabetes education" follows the multi-year theme of "Access to care." As per WHO, there were about 8.4 million individuals worldwide with type-1 diabetes in 2021.

Jhula Bailey Suspension Bridge

The newly constructed Jhula Bailey Suspension Bridge at Jammu and Kashmir's Ramban, was made functional for traffic. It replaced the earlier bridge which was declared unsafe. The Bailey Suspension Bridge over Chenab River connects old town Ramban with the district administrative complex.

HAL

An Indian Coast Guard Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) Mk-III squadron- 840 Sqn (CG), was commissioned by DG VS Pathania at ICG Air Station, Chennai. The ALH Mk-III helicopters are indigenously manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL). They feature advanced RADAR, Shakti engines, advanced communication systems, search-and-rescue hoist among other equipment for reconnaissance. A total of 16 ALH Mk-III aircraft have been inducted in the Indian Coast Guard in a phased manner.

'Economic Development Cooperation Fund loan

India and South Korea signed the arrangement regarding Economic Development Cooperation Fund loan of over 245 billion Korean won. The agreement is for the establishment of Intelligent Transport System on Nagpur-Mumbai Super Communication Expressway Project in Delhi. South Korea was designated as India's Official Development Assistance partner for development cooperation in, 2016.

GST

The gross GST revenue collected in the month of November 2022 is ₹1,45,867 crore. The revenues for the month of November are 11% higher than the GST revenues in the same month last year. Out of the total revenue, CGST is ₹25,681 crore, SGST is ₹32,651 crore, IGST is ₹77,103 crore and Cess is ₹10,433 crore.

WA

India will assume chairmanship of the plenary of the Wassenaar Arrangement for a year on January 1, 2023. Five years ago, India joined the 42-member voluntary export control regime, which monitors transfers of conventional weapons and dual-use goods.

WMO

World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) released a report titled 'State of Global Water Resources 2021'. As per the report, the volume of water available in the Ganga and the groundwater in the river-basin reduced significantly between 2002 and 2021. The report has also identified several other global hot spots that show the same trend.

CCPI

As per the Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI), the current frontrunner in climate mitigation continues to be Denmark. Denmark is the only country with a 'high' national and even 'very high' rated international climate policy. No country is ranked first to third while Denmark is ranked fourth followed by Sweden. India is ranked eighth.

'Sea Vigil-22

The Indian Navy began the largest nationwide Coastal Defense Exercise Sea Vigil-22 from the Paradip port of Odisha. This is the third edition of the 'Pan-India' Coastal Defence Exercise 'Sea Vigil-22' and will be conducted over two days. This national level coastal defence exercise was conceptualized in 2018 towards enhancing maritime security. The exercise is being conducted by the Indian Navy in coordination with the Coast Guard and other related ministries.

YUDH ABHYAS 22

The 18th edition of the India-US joint training exercise "Yudh Abhyas 22" is scheduled to be conducted in Uttarakhand this month. The previous edition of the exercise was conducted in Alaska in October 2021. The annual exercise aims of exchanging best practices and tactics between the armies of the two countries. The joint exercise will also focus on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations.

National Press Day

The Press Council of India celebrated the National Press Day on November 16 on the theme 'The Media's Role in Nation Building'. The Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting released the 'Norms of Journalistic Conduct, 2022'. This was the day on which the Press Council of India started functioning as a moral watchdog to ensure the press is not affected by influence or threats.

'National Newborn Week

National Health Mission (NHM) observes the National Newborn Week, 2022 from November 15 to 21, every year. It is observed with an objective to spread awareness on child survival and care for the newborn for a healthy nation. For this year, the week is being observed on the theme 'Ensuring quality health care for every newborn'.

International Day of Persons with Disabilities

'International Day of Persons with Disabilities' is observed on 3 December every year. The annual observance of the International Day of Disabled Persons was proclaimed in 1992 by United Nations General Assembly. More than one billion people, or approximately 15 per cent of the world's population, live with some form of disability. 80 per cent of the total disabled people live in developing countries.

Indian Institute of Science

Researchers at the Centre for Nano Science and Engineering (CeNSE), IISc, have developed a highly energy-efficient computing platform that offers promise in building next-generation electronic devices. Instead of using complementary metal-oxide semiconductors (CMOS), the team used components called 'Memristors' that can both store data and perform computation.

NACO

As per recent data, National AIDS Control Organization (NACO) announced that the country's annual rate of HIV infection has declined by 46 per cent between 2010 and 2021. The decline is against the global average of 32 per cent. According to NACO, AIDS-related mortalities have also declined by 76 per cent against the global average of 52 per cent during the period.

MCA

As per the data from the corporate affairs ministry, Maharashtra has added the most number of new companies since the outbreak of COVID-19, followed by Uttar Pradesh. Uttar Pradesh added around 30,000 new companies in the last three years and it ranks third state in terms of number of active companies behind only Maharashtra and Delhi.

'International Day for Tolerance

In 1996, the UN General Assembly declared the International Day for Tolerance on 16 November, every year. International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures (2013-2022) is being led forward by UNESCO across

the world. UNESCO created a prize for the promotion of tolerance and non-violence called the UNESCO–Madanjeet Singh Prize

PSMA Agreement

Food and Agricultural Organization's (FAO) Agreement on Port State Measures (PSMA) is the first internationally binding instrument designed to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. Angola, Eritrea, Morocco and Nigeria recently signed the agreement, taking the number of signatories of the instrument to 100 countries.

IOA

Six-time World women's boxing champion and Olympic medallist Mary Kom was elected as the Chairperson of the Athletes Commission of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA). The vice Chairperson position went to Sharath Kamal, ace table tennis player. 10 Olympians, including Olympic medallists PV Sindhu, Gagan Narang, Mary Kom and Mirabai Chanu were elected unopposed as members of the Athletes Commission of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA).

NIIF

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman chaired 5th Meeting of Governing Council of National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF). NIIF's first bilateral fund – an 'India Japan Fund' with contribution from Government of India has been proposed through an MoU between National Investment and Infrastructure Fund Limited (NIIFL) and Japan Bank for International Development (JBIC).

BNBP

Semeru Volcano has started erupting in Java Island, Indonesia. The eruption caused huge volcanic ash and over 2,000 residents in East Java province were evacuated. As per the Indonesia's disaster management agency (BNPB), no injuries or deaths have so far been reported. Mount Semeru lies around 640 kilometers southeast of the capital Jakarta

G20

The Sherpa Meeting of India's G20 Presidency is being organised in the city of Udaipur, Rajasthan. It is being attended by international Sherpas, their delegations, and heads of invited International Organizations (IOs) from G20 Members, 9 Guest countries among others. Discussions of the 1st Sherpa Meeting were initiated by India's G20 Sherpa, Amitabh Kant.

NSC

Rajeeva Laxman Karandikar, professor emeritus at Chennai Mathematical Institute (CMI), has been appointed as part-time chairperson of National Statistical Commission of India (NSCI) for three years. The National Statistical Commission of India is an autonomous body which was formed in June 2005 under the recommendation of Rangarajan commission.

B21

The US Air Force has unveiled its latest nuclear stealth bomber named 'B-21', which will gradually replace aircraft first flown in the Cold War. The country's first new bomber in 30 years could cost about USD 700m each and can carry nuclear and conventional weapons.

SBI

The Government authorised sale and encashment of electoral bonds through 29 branches of State Bank of India (SBI) across the country. The electoral bonds can be purchased by a person who is a citizen of India or incorporated or established in India. A person (individual) can buy electoral bonds, either singly or jointly with other individuals.

e UNESCO's 'World Philosophy Day'

'World Philosophy Day' 2022 is celebrated on the third Thursday of November by UNESCO across the world. It highlights the value of philosophy for the development of human thought, for each culture and for each individual. To celebrate World Philosophy Day 2022, UNESCO and Le Fresnoy – National Studio of Contemporary Arts organised a symposium and exhibition on the theme 'The Human of the Future' at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris.

Kangra miniature painting

Prime Minister Narendra Modi presented US president Joe Biden with a Kangra miniature painting from Himachal Pradesh on the concluding day of the 17th G20 summit in Indonesia's Bali. The Prime Minister gave Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez a Kanak brass set from Himachal's Mandi and Kullu districts and Italy's prime minister, Giorgia Meloni – a Patan Patola dupatta – handwoven from northern Gujarat. The scarf was made with a technique called 'double ikat' technique

World Toilet Day'

World Toilet Day is observed every year on November 19 to mark the invention of toilets and raise awareness of the sanitation crisis. World Toilet Day is celebrated in partnership between the UN– Water and governments around the world. This year the theme for World Toilet Day is 'Making the Invisible Visible'

'World Children's Day 2022'

The 'World Children's Day' is celebrated on 20 November to promote international togetherness, awareness among children worldwide, and improving children's welfare. It was first established in 1954 as Universal Children's Day. It also marks the anniversary of the date that the UN General Assembly adopted both the Declaration and the Convention on children's rights. This year, the theme is 'Inclusion, For Every Child.'

SCO

India has launched the official website of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) as it will host the next SCO summit as a chairman of organisation in 2023. The theme of the SCO Summit 2023 is 'SECURE SCO'. India received the SCO rotating presidency in Samarkand, Uzbekistan. The leaders of SCO Member States signed the Samarkand Declaration in the meeting of the Council of Heads of State in the city of Samarkand, Uzbekistan.

WORLD BANK

World Bank approved USD 250 million financing to help Bangladesh strengthen environment management and promote private sector participation in green investment. The Bangladesh Environmental Sustainability and Transformation (BEST) Project will help the country tackle key pollution issues. An E-waste management facility will be set up to process 3,500 metric tons of e- waste annually.

UAE

The India-UAE trade is valued at USD 72.8 billion in 2021-22, making the UAE India's third largest trading partner after China and US. Abu Dhabi, UAE's capital city is seeking more investments from India. Abu Dhabi has identified priority sectors including agri-tech, tourism, healthcare, pharma and financial services, where Indian enterprises can invest

Guidance Patro

Iran has abolished 'morality police' known as the Gasht-e Ershad or 'Guidance Patrol'. The unit was established in 2006 and their patrols were feared among women. The custodial death of 22- year-old Mahsa Amini, who was picked up by the vice squads in Tehran and declared dead created public outcry and led to protestors.

FIFA

In the FIFA World Cup 2022, France defeats Poland and qualifies for quarter-finals of the tournament. Olivier Giroud becomes all-time top scorer of France with 52 goals. Kylian Mbappé the first player to score nine World Cup goals before 24 years.

.ILO

The 17th Asia and the Pacific Regional Meeting (APRM) of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) began in Singapore. "Integrated policy agenda for a human-centred recovery that is inclusive, sustainable and resilient" is the theme of the meeting.

ASEAN

The second edition of ASEAN India Music Festival was organised in collaboration between the Ministry of External Affairs and Seher India. It is a three-day festival held at Purana Qila, Delhi. It is aimed to celebrate the musical diversity of Southeast Asia. 10 bands from ASEAN countries and five acts from India are participating in the festival.

Women Entrepreneurship Day

The 'Women Entrepreneurship Day' is observed every year on November 19 by the Women's Entrepreneurship Day Organization. The first-ever Women Entrepreneurship Day has observed in around 144 nations in the year 2014. It commemorates women on the front lines doing their part to break the outdated stereotypes.

Elephant Death Audit Framework

Tamil Nadu has launched the 'Tamil Nadu Elephant Death Audit Framework' to document reasons for elephant deaths for better accountability. According to media reports, out of the 131 elephant deaths recorded in Tamil Nadu's Forest divisions between January 2021 and March 2022, only 13 were human-induced. The framework will improve transparency and facilitate more credible comparisons of cause of mortality

World Fisheries Day

'World Fisheries Day' is celebrated on November 21 every year to demonstrate solidarity with all fisher folk, fish farmers and stakeholders. It started in 1997 where 'World Forum of Fish Harvesters & Fish Workers' met at New Delhi leading to formation of the 'World Fisheries Forum' with representatives from 18 countries.

FIFA

Qatar is the host of the FIFA World Cup 2022. The opening ceremony of the World Cup has kicked off at the Al Bayt Stadium, Qatar. Earlier, France legend Marcel Desailly presented the World Cup trophy in front of the fans ahead of the opening ceremony. Thirty-two top countries from five regions will compete for the championship title.

WORLD BANK

World Bank raised its gross domestic product (GDP) growth forecast for India during the current financial year (FY23) to 6.9 per cent from 6.5 per cent. The report forecasts that the economy will grow at a slightly lower rate of 6.6 per cent in fiscal FY24 from the earlier projected 7 per cent.

MPPC

The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) hiked the repo rate by 35 basis points (bps) to 6.25 per cent with immediate effect. The policy rate is now at its highest level since August 2018 and this is the fifth-rate hike by the central bank in this financial year. MPC decided to remain focused on the withdrawal of accommodative stance.

SDF

Cyclone Mandous lies over southwest Bay of Bengal, about 620 km southeast of Chennai. The storm is likely to cross the coasts of north Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Andhra Pradesh between Puducherry and Sriharikota.

Under its influence, rainfall is expected over parts of coastal Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Andhra Pradesh for two days. Red alert has already been issued for Coastal Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry.

Y K Alagh,

Yoginder K Alagh, a veteran economist and former Union minister, recently passed away at the age of 83. He was the union minister of state for Planning and Programme Implementation, Science and Technology and Power during 1996–98. He also served as the Vice Chancellor at the Jawaharlal Nehru University in Delhi.

World Hindi Conferenc

The '12th World Hindi Conference' is being organized by the Ministry of External Affairs in collaboration with the Government of Fiji in February 2023 in Fiji. According to the Ministry of External Affairs, the main theme of the Conference is "Hindi: From Traditional Knowledge to Artificial Intelligence". Eleven World Hindi Conferences have been organized in various countries, so far

NCeG

The Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances (DARPG) and Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY), are set to organise the 25th National Conference on e-Governance (NCeG) in Katra, Jammu & Kashmir. The theme of this Conference is 'Bringing Citizens, Industry and Government closer'. The National Awards for e-Governance (NAeG) will be presented under 5 categories of the NAeG Scheme – 2022.

Lophopetalum tanahgambut

Lophopetalum tanahgambut is a newly identified tree species belonging to the genus Lophopetalum in the cosmopolitan family Celastraceae. It is a large top canopy tree that grows to 40 m tall, with a trunk diameter at breast height of up to 1.05 m. The new species is only known from peat swamp forests of the Indonesian island of Sumatra.

Kassym-Jomart Tokayev

Kassym-Jomart Tokayev has secured a second term in Kazakhstan presidential elections, winning 81.3 percent of the vote. Tokayev won his first election in 2019 with the backing of his predecessor, Nursultan Nazarbayev. Nazarbayev retained the title of 'Elbasy' (head of the nation) in the Kazakh language

National Swachh Vidyalaya Puraskar

The Ministry of Education announced that 39 schools from across the nation have received the Swachh Vidyalaya Puraskar for the 2021–22 academic year. Of the 8.23 lakh entries, 28 government and aided institutions and 11 private schools were chosen. Schools are evaluated for the award based on six broad criteria– Covid-19 (preparedness and response), hand-washing with soap, toilets, operation and maintenance, behavioural change, and water.

JNPA

Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA), Mumbai, in association with IIT Madras, developed a Continuous Marine Water Quality Monitoring Station (CMWQMS). The Continuous water quality system and electric monitoring vehicle will assist in managing the marine water and air quality in the port area. An Electric Environmental Monitoring Vehicle (EV) was also launched at the Port.

WORLD BANK

The World Bank recently released a report titled 'Climate Investment Opportunities in India's Cooling Sector'. The report was released during the two-day 'India Climate and Development Partners' Meet' being organised by World Bank in partnership with the Kerala government. As per the report, the country is experiencing higher temperatures that arrive earlier and stay far longer. India could become one of the first places in the world to experience heat waves that break the human survivability limit.

STREP A

At least six children have died of a common bacterial infection, Strep A, in the United Kingdom. When the bacteria enter the bloodstream, the infection can get severe and it is called invasive Group A Strep (iGAS). The symptoms of Strep A include fever, skin rashes and a sore easily treated with antibiotics. As many as 851 cases of Strep A were reported in a week of November, compared to an average of 186 for the same time in preceding years.

WHO

The World Health Organization (WHO) released a new report titled 'Preventing injuries and violence: an overview'. The report says that injuries and violence cause about 12,000 deaths around the world each day. It also highlighted the need for scaling up efforts for prevention of injury related deaths, which account for 1 in 12 deaths worldwide. Road traffic injuries, homicide and suicide were listed among the top 5 causes of death among people aged 5–29 years.

Tungareshwar Wildlife Sanctuary

Supreme Court exempted Maharashtra's Tungareshwar Wildlife Sanctuary (TWS) from its earlier order mandating the creation of a 1 km eco-sensitive zones (ESZ) around all protected areas in India. It also stated that practical difficulties and ground realities will have to be taken into account before having a uniform order for creating ESZs as mandated. The Sanctuary is located in the suburbs of Mumbai

Arton Capital Passport Index 2

Passport Index 2022, published by Arton Capital, is the ranking of the world's strongest and weakest passports. India has ranked 87 in the world's strongest passport list, while UAE ranked first, followed by Germany, Sweden, Finland, Luxembourg, Spain France. While Afghanistan stood last, Pakistan stood at 94.

Caracas

India and Venezuela held the fourth round of foreign office consultations in Caracas, the capital city of Venezuela. As per the Ministry of External Affairs, both sides reviewed their bilateral relations, covering areas such as political, trade, energy, health and pharmaceuticals, Ayurveda and Yoga, agriculture, culture and science and technology

MAARG

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)–(Ministry of Commerce and Industry) has invited applications from start-ups for registration on the MAARG portal. MAARG portal – Mentorship, Advisory, Assistance, Resilience and Growth, is a one-stop platform to facilitate mentorship for startups across various sectors, functions and stages.

C-DOT

The Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) is an Indian Government owned telecommunications technology development centre. It is headquartered in New Delhi. Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw inaugurates Entrepreneurship Cell and Centre of Innovation at the Delhi campus of the Centre for Development of Telematics, C-DOT.

ASEAN

The inaugural India–ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting is being held at Siem Reap in Cambodia to commemorate the 30th Anniversary of India–ASEAN relations. India's Defence Minister Rajnath Singh made two proposals including an initiative for women in United Nations Peace Keeping (UNPK) operations and initiative on marine plastic pollution.

MMA

The Reserve Bank of India has signed a Currency Swap Agreement with the Maldives Monetary Authority (MMA) under the SAARC Currency Swap Framework. This agreement will enable the MMA to make withdrawals in multiple tranches up to a maximum of USD 200 million from the RBI.

PPERU

Dina Boluarte was appointed as Peru's first female president amid a political crisis when her predecessor and former boss Pedro Castillo was ousted in an impeachment trial. Peru's leftist president Pedro Castillo was ousted by lawmakers and detained by police after he tried to illegally shut down Congress.

MORTH

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) will launch India's first-ever surety bonds insurance product to boost liquidity in the infrastructure sector, as per Union minister Nitin Gadkari. The surety bonds will help in boosting the liquidity in the infrastructure sector by providing relief to the contractors' working capital stuck in bank guarantees.

ADB

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved financing of USD 780 million to build new lines for Chennai's metro rail and improve the network's connectivity with bus and feeder services. The project will construct 10.1 km of an elevated section, nine metro stations, 10 km of the underground section among others. The stations will be disaster- and climate-resilient and responsive to the needs of the elderly, women, children, and the differently abled.

World Ayurveda Congress

The 9th World Ayurveda Congress (WAC) and Arogya Expo 2022 was inaugurated today at Panaji, Goa. It aims to showcase the efficacy of AYUSH systems of medicine at Global level. The third edition of the 'Ayushman' comic book series was also released on this occasion. A MoU was signed between All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) and Rosenberg's European Academy of Ayurveda, Germany for advanced studies in traditional Indian medicine systems.

AICTE

IIT Guwahati Director Professor TG Sitharam has been appointed as the new chairman of the All-India Council for Technical Education (AICTE). He will take the charge from UGC Chairman M Jagadesh Kumar and hold the position for a period of three years. Professor TG Sitharam is also a member of the Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB), and a senior professor in the civil engineering department of IISc Bangalore.

CITES

India has proposed for transferring Leith's Softshell Turtle (*Nilssononia leithi*) from Appendix II to Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of wild fauna and flora (CITES). The proposal has been adopted by the Conference of Parties (CoP) to CITES in its 19th Meeting at Panama. Leith's Softshell Turtle is a large fresh water soft-shelled turtle which is endemic to peninsular India.

ISRO

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) conducted 200th Consecutive Launch of 'RH-200' Sounding Rocket. Indian sounding rockets are used as tools for the scientific community for carrying out experiments on meteorology, astronomy and similar branches of space physics.

Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu

Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu has recently sworn in as the next Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh. He was a four-time MLA and chairman of the Congress' state election campaign committee. Mukesh Agnihotri has been selected as the deputy chief minister. The Indian National Congress party won the Himachal Pradesh state assembly elections.

Meizotropis pellita (Patwa),

Three medicinal plant species found in the Himalayas have been added to IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Meizotropis pellita, commonly known as Patwa and endemic to Uttarakhand, has been assessed as 'critically endangered', Fritillaria cirrhosa as 'vulnerable', and Dactylorhiza hatagirea as 'endangered'.

World Soil Day 2022'

World Soil Day' is being observed annually on 5 December to focus on the importance of healthy soil and to advocate for sustainable management of soil resources. The theme of this year's World Soil Day is 'Soils: Where food begins'. An international day to celebrate soil was recommended by the International Union of Soil Sciences in 2002. The Food and Agriculture Organisation FAO Conference endorsed World Soil Day in June 2013.

carbon neutral farm

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan declared a seed farm, located in Aluva in Kerala, as the first carbon neutral farm in the country. Reduction in carbon emission has helped the seed farm under the Agricultural Department achieve the carbon neutral status. The total amount of carbon emission from the farm in the last one year was 43 tons.

FSSAI

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has released a new draft of Genetically Modified (GM) Food regulations for public consultation. It proposes front-of-the pack labelling for packaged food products that contain 1 per cent or more of GM ingredients. No person shall manufacture, pack, store, sell, market or distribute or import any food or food ingredient produced from GMOs, except with the prior approval of the Food Authority.

Buddhist Heritage Theme Park

Buddhavanam, the first-of-its-kind Buddhist Heritage Theme Park project, was inaugurated in Telangana. It was developed by the Telangana State Tourism Development Corporation at Nagarjunasagar. The corporation is also exploring to set up Buddhist Monasteries of different countries and Buddhist University near Nagarjunasagar

Cruelty to Animals (Amendment) Bill

A draft Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Amendment) Bill, 2022, prepared by the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying, has been released for public comments. It has introduced 61 amendments in the law including "Bestiality" as a crime under the new category of 'Gruesome cruelty'. It proposes fines from Rs 50,000 to Rs 75,000 or cost of the animal whichever is more or with imprisonment of one year to three years or both for the offence of gruesome cruelty. For killing an animal, the draft Bill proposes a maximum punishment of five years in jail.

Yakutia

Russia recently launched the nuclear-powered icebreaker Yakutia at the Baltic Shipyard in St. Petersburg in northwest Russia. The ceremony was attended by Russian President Vladimir Putin via video link. The Yakutia belongs to a series of 'Project 22220 nuclear-powered icebreakers' that are being built for Russia's Rosatom State Atomic Energy Corporation. They are the largest and the most powerful in the world.

UNESCO-INDIA-AFRICA (UIA)

Vice President of India Jagdeep Dhankhar addressed the UNESCO-INDIA-AFRICA (UIA) Hackathon at Greater Noida. The Hackathon involving young entrepreneurs from India and 22 African countries was organized by the Innovation Cell of the Ministry of Education, the AICTE and UNESCO.

UNICEF

Every year UNICEF Day is celebrated on December 11. UNICEF was originally called the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund and now officially called as United Nations Children's Fund. After World War II, the United Nations formed the International Children's Emergency Fund to provide with humanitarian aid for the well-being of the children whose future was at risk. It also defends children's rights and helps them fulfil their potential.

CLIMATE CHANGE MISSION

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin launched the Tamil Nadu Climate Change Mission to protect the natural resources in the state as well as to restore them. The State's Climate Action Plan will be implemented by the Tamil Nadu Green Climate Company (TNGCC). Tamil Nadu has decided to stop any additions to its existing coal power capacity as the mission sought to generate half of electricity through renewable sources by 2030.

International Mountain Day 2022'

UN General Assembly declared 2002 as the UN International Year of Mountains and designated 11 December, as "International Mountain Day" from 2003 onwards. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is the coordinating agency for this celebration (IMD). 'Women Move Mountains' is the theme of this year's International Mountain Day. International Mountain Day 2022 raises awareness about the need to empower mountain women.

Universal Health Coverage

The two-day-long National conclave of Universal Health Coverage was organised in Varanasi, by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya launched operational guidelines for AB-HWCs, Tele-MANAS along with training modules for CHOs and SASHAKT portal at the inaugural ceremony. He also felicitated Best Performing States/UTs.

FCBD

Bengaluru is the host of the first G20 Finance and Central Bank Deputies (FCBD) meeting from December 13 to 15. The G20 Finance and Central Bank Deputies (FCBD) meeting is jointly hosted by the Finance Ministry and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). The meeting will mark the start of discussions on the Finance Track agenda under the Indian G20 presidency. The Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting will be held in Bengaluru during February 23-25 2023

FIRSTAP

IDFC First Bank launched FIRSTAP, the country's first sticker-based debit card, in association with National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI). The sticker-based debit card was one-third the size of a regular debit card. It can be used by tapping the sticker on a near field communication (NFC)-enabled point-of-sale terminal.

UNODC

UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) released a report titled 'Illegal Wildlife Trade and Climate Change: Joining the Dots'. The report states that efforts to reduce illegal wildlife trade (IWT) are not only a nature conservation issue, but an important part of both mitigating climate change and ensuring a more stable and resilient future climate.

eGramSwaraj and Audit Online

eGramSwaraj and Audit Online initiatives of Ministry of Panchayati Raj wins GOLD AWARD under the National Awards for e-Governance. e-Panchayat Mission Mode Project has won the under the category "Excellence in Government Process Re-engineering for Digital Transformation" of the National Awards for e-Governance.

Equatorial Guinea

Equatorial Guinea's President Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo has won the re-election bid in the central African country making this his sixth term in office. He is the world's longest-serving president for over four decades. Obiang will serve another seven years as the president, extending his 43-year rule.

Para Sports Person of Year award

Paralympic medallist Avani Lekhara received the 'Para Sports Person of Year' award at the Turf 2022 and India Sports Awards of FICCI. Former Ranji cricketer Sarkar Talwar was honoured with the Lifetime Achievement of the Year award. Shrey Kadyan was recognized as the Special Sportsperson of the Year. Odisha was recognized as the best state for promoting sports. The All-India Chess Federation won the National Sports Federation of the Year Award.

CPI

India's retail inflation, which is measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), eased to 11-month low of 5.88% on an annual basis in November. The inflation was 6.77% in October, 2022. The sharp rise is due to the dipping global commodity prices and higher borrowing costs. The inflation figure came within the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) tolerance band of 2-6% for the first time this year. The factory output, measured in terms of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), contracted 4% in October.

HURN IND

India ranks at Number 5 as 20 Indian companies feature in 500 most valuable ones in the world, as per the 2022 Hurun Global list. India rose from the 9th rank to 5th rank with 20 companies featured in the list. With USD 202 billion, Reliance Industries is the most valuable company ranked at followed by Tata Consultancy Services and HDFC Bank. Reliance Industries (34) and Tata Consultancy Services (65) are the only two Indian companies to feature in the top 100 list. US tops the list with 260 companies.

WORLD BANK

According to the International Debt Report 2022 by the World Bank, debt of low and middle-income countries in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) rose to a record high of 789 billion USD in 2021. This is the region's highest debt burden since 2010 and the region's current debt burden is beyond its repayment capacity

GWSS

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar inaugurated a scheme in Bihar, under which flood waters will be treated for supply to households in the southern part of the state. Under the Ganga Water Supply Scheme (GWSS), a total of 135 litres per person will be provided through the project. The estimated cost of the project is ₹4500 crore.

Harimau Shakti-2022

India-Malaysia joint military Exercise Harimau Shakti-2022 has recently started at Pulai Klang in Malaysia. Combat troops of the Garhwal Rifles Regiment of the Indian Army and the Royal Malay Regiment of the Malaysian Army are participating in the exercise. HARIMAU SHAKTI is an annual training event between Indian and Malaysian armies which has been organised since 2012.

BSE

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has approved the appointment of Sundararaman Ramamurthy as the Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer of Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE). Ramamurthy is currently the Chief Operating Officer-India at Bank of America. He was associated with the National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) in various roles till 2014.

NAVY

The Indian Navy launched 'Ikshak' the third of the four survey vessels (Large) project, being built by GRSE/L&T was launched at Kattupalli, Chennai. Contract for building four SVL ships was signed between Ministry of

Defence and Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata in 2018 for a total cost of Rs 2435 crore.

World Health Organisation

The World Health Organisation has renamed monkeypox as mpox. It cited concerns that the original name of the animal disease could be construed as discriminatory and racist. The UN health agency said in a statement that mpox was its new preferred name for monkeypox. Both monkeypox and mpox would be used for the next year while the old name is phased out.

Nuclear Fusion Breakthrough

US scientists announced a major scientific breakthrough in the research to harness nuclear fusion energy. Researchers at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in California for the 1st time produced more energy in a fusion reaction that was used to ignite it, which is also called net energy gain. This achievement will pave the way for developments in defence and future of clean power.

#

Jammu & Kashmir Lieutenant-Governor Manoj Sinha said the administration will launch an eight-digit unique alpha-numeric identification number for families in the Union Territory. The Unique Family ID aims for speedy and transparent implementation of social security schemes. The JK Family ID will also be used to determine eligibility of beneficiaries of various social welfare schemes

G7

The Group of Seven economies have created an open, international climate club for countries to cooperate in the fight against global warming. German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, who holds the presidency of the G-7 until the end of the year, announced the decision. Germany will pass the Presidency to Japan. The club will work to help accelerate the industrial transition to cleaner forms of energy and to further develop emission-reduction measures

CPI ,M

Kerala Assembly recently passed a Bill to remove the Governor as the ex-officio Chancellor of 14 universities in the state. The CPI(M) government introduced the University Laws (Amendments) Bill in the Assembly after repeated issues with Governor Arif Mohammed Khan on administration and appointments at these universities. The Bill will now be sent for the governor's consent before it becomes a law.

Davis Cup title

Canada wins Davis Cup title by defeating Australia 2-0 in final match. Felix Auger-Aliassime gave Canada a 2-0 lead against Australia by defeating Alex de Minaur 6-3, 6-4. The World No. 6 won both of his singles and doubles matches. Canada made its debut in the Davis Cup title game in 2019.

Indian Olympic Association

Legendary athlete PT Usha was elected as the first woman president of Indian Olympic Association (IOA). She is a multiple Asian Games gold medalist and fourth place finisher in the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics 400m hurdles final. The 58-year-old athlete was declared elected unopposed for the top post in the polls. The elections were held under the supervision of Supreme Court-appointed retired SC judge L Nageswara Rao. She became the first Olympian and first international medallist to head the IOA in its 95-year history.

Jaguar Day

International Jaguar Day is celebrated on November 29 every year. Jaguar is the third largest Cat Predator in the World and an important species of the Amazon Rainforest. International Jaguar Day was created to raise awareness about the increasing threats facing the jaguar and the critical conservation efforts for its survival.

UN pane

A UN panel recommended Australia's Great Barrier Reef should be listed as 'world heritage site in danger'. The UN panel said that the world's biggest coral reef ecosystem was significantly impacted by climate change and warming of oceans. Frequent bleaching events are threatening the reef, including four over the last seven years and the first during a La Nina phenomenon.

Stephanie Frappart

Stephanie Frappart is set to become the first woman to referee a men's World Cup match after FIFA announced that she will take charge of Group E match between Germany and Costa Rica. The 38-year-old is one of three women referees among the 36 selected for the tournament in Qatar, alongside Rwandan official Salima Mukansanga and Japan's Yoshimi Yamashita

IWIS

Union Minister for Jal Shakti Gajendra Singh Shekhawat inaugurated the 7th Edition of the India Water Impact Summit (IWIS) at New Delhi. The theme of this year's Summit is 'Restoration and Conservation of Small Rivers in a Large Basin' with focus on the select aspects of 'Mapping and Convergence of 5Ps' – People, Policy, Plan, Programme and Project.

(Krishi–DSS

The Ministry of Agriculture and Department of Space signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to develop a Krishi–Decision Support System (Krishi–DSS) using satellite data. It is a decision support system using RISAT–1A and VEDAS of Department of Space. It uses geospatial technologies and related databases for enhancing evidence–based decision making of all stakeholders in the agriculture sector.

DCDH

Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud virtually inaugurated 10 district court digitisation hubs (DCDH) in Odisha. With this, a total of 15 DCDHs have now become functional in the state covering all 30 district courts. Initially, 4 District Court Digitization Centres (DCDCs) were set up on a pilot basis in Cuttack, Ganjam, Sambalpur and Balasore.

Airbnb

Airbnb recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Goa Tourism Department, to promote inclusive tourism. The MoU was signed on the sidelines of the official launch of 'Rediscover Goa', a week-long celebration of Goa's vast cultural diversity. The MoU seeks to make Goa as one of the most sought-after tourism destinations among local and foreign tourists.

Beypore Uru

The Kozhikode District Tourism Promotion Council of Kerala has applied for a Geographical Indication (GI) tag for the famous Beypore Uru (boat). It is a wooden ship or a sailing vessel handcrafted by skilled artisans and carpenters in Beypore, Kerala. The Beypore boats are a symbol of Kerala's trade relations and friendship with the Gulf countries.

SEBI

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has set up a 16-member FPI Advisory Committee (FAC) chaired by Hasmukh Adhia, Former Finance Secretary. It will also include H R Khan, former deputy governor, RBI and R Subramanian, Executive Director, RBI. The 20-member committee on Review of Takeover Regulations will be headed by retired Justice Shiavax Jal Vazifdar. The social stock exchange (SSEs) advisory committee will be headed by R Balasubramaniam, Chairman, Grassroots Research and Advocacy Movement (Graam).

Re–Hab

Re-Hab (Reducing Human Attacks using Honey Bees) is an ambitious project of Khadi and Village Industries Commission (Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises). KVIC Chairman Manoj Kumar inaugurated the project at village Chausla in District Nainital.

Khadi & Village Industries Commission (KVIC) is running this project called Re-Hab in 7 states of the country, namely in Karnataka, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Assam and Orissa. Under this project, fencing of bee boxes is installed in such areas from where elephants move towards the human settlements.

'World Pharmacist Day

'World Pharmacist Day' is observed on September 25, every year, to highlight the role of pharmacists and pay tribute to them. This year's theme is 'Pharmacy united in action for a healthier world'. The Day is introduced in 2009 by the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) council in Istanbul. On the same day in 1912, the International Pharmaceutical Federation was established.

10000

Assam state government launched a scheme to provide stipend of Rs 10,000 per annum to female students pursuing post-graduate programmes in educational institutions of the State. This stipend would be helpful in covering their commutation and other related expenses of the students.

UNESCO

The French baguette has been recently awarded the UNESCO "intangible cultural heritage status". As per the National Federation of French Bakeries, more than six billion baguettes are baked every year in France. It is a bread with crusty exterior and soft middle and is an essential part of French life

Youth Co: Lab

The 5th edition of Youth Co: Lab, Asia Pacific's largest youth innovation movement was recently launched by Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog and UNDP India. It is an initiative launched in 2019 by UNDP India in partnership with Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog. It aims to establish a common agenda for Asia-Pacific countries to empower youth to accelerate implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals through leadership, social innovation, and entrepreneurship.

NAMAMI GANGE

The Namami Gange initiative was recognised during the 15th Conference of Parties (COP15) to the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) in Montreal, Canada on World Restoration Day. Namami Gange initiative to rejuvenate river Ganga was recognised as one of the top 10 World Restoration Flagships aimed at reviving the natural world. The initiatives were selected under the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.

PMKKK

The Minister of Minority Affairs, Smriti Zubin Irani informed that the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Ko Kaam Karyakram (PMKKK) has now been named as Pradhan Mantri Virsat Ka Samvardhan (PM VIKAS) Scheme. The integrated scheme merges five erstwhile schemes of the Ministry: 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.

TATA STEEL

Tata Steel Limited signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Hockey India to become an official partner of the FIH Odisha Hockey Men's World Cup 2023. The FIH Men's World Cup is the 15th edition of the top tournament for men, and will take place in Bhubaneswar and Rourkela during 2023

SURYA KIRAN

The 16th Edition of Indo–Nepal joint training Exercise ‘SURYA KIRAN–XVI’ between India and Nepal commenced at Nepal Army Battle School, Saljhandi. Exercise SURYA KIRAN is conducted annually between India and Nepal. Last year, the 15th India–Nepal combined ‘Surya Kiran’ military training exercise took place in Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand.

NITI Aayog

NITI Aayog released a study report, titled ‘Carbon Capture, Utilisation, and Storage Policy Framework and its Deployment Mechanism in India’. The report explores the importance of Carbon Capture, Utilisation, and Storage as an emission reduction strategy to achieve deep decarbonisation. The report outlines broad level policy interventions needed across various sectors for its application

CEPA

Patna-based research institute Centre for Policy Analysis (CPA) placed India on top of the ‘Global minority index’. It is followed by South Korea, Japan, Panama and the US, in the Global Minority Report listing 110 countries. Maldives, Afghanistan and Somalia are placed at the bottom of the list. The report was released by former vice president of India M Venkaiah Naidu.

UPSC

The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) is headed by a chairperson and can have a maximum of 10 members. Former Health Secretary Preeti Sudan has been appointed as a member of Union Public Service Commission (UPSC). She superannuated as the health secretary in July 2020. With the appointment, there is a vacancy of four members in the Commission.

Agni Warrior

The 12th Edition of Exercise Agni Warrior, a bilateral exercise between the Singapore and Indian Army concluded at Devlali (Maharashtra). Exercise Agni Warrior, involved joint firepower planning, execution and use of New Generation Artillery Equipment. Indigenously manufactured Artillery guns and howitzers also participated in the final phase of the exercise.

Centre for Energy”

The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Madras is partnering with Australian Universities to launch ‘Australia–India Centre for Energy (AICE)’. IIT Madras and Deakin University in Australia are leading the Centre, which aims to work on UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It also aims to promote collaboration among universities, research institutes and industry from both countries in energy domain.

SWOT

The US National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) launched the Earth science satellite to track nearly all the water on Earth’s surface. The Surface Water and Ocean Topography (SWOT) spacecraft was launched atop a SpaceX rocket with a mission of three years. The satellite will measure the height of water in freshwater bodies and the ocean on more than 90 per cent of Earth’s surface. This information will provide insights on how the ocean influences climate change.

ICMR NARFBR

Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Dr Mansukh Mandaviya inaugurated ICMR– NARFBR (National Animal Resource Facility for Biomedical Research) at Genome Valley in Hyderabad. NARFBR is an apex facility which will provide ethical care and use and welfare of laboratory animals during research. The Centre will create processes for pre–clinical testing of new drugs, vaccines and diagnostics along with quality assurance checks.

‘International Migrants Day’

International Migrants Day is being celebrated December 18 to focus toward the social and economic conditions of migrants all across the globe. In 2020 over 281 million people were international migrants while over 59 million people were internally displaced by the end of 2021. The estimated number of international migrants has increased over the past five decades.

'World AIDS Day' 2022

World AIDS Day is observed annually on 1 December, to create awareness among people about the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), its transmission, diagnostic testing, preventive measures, and treatment options. The theme of World AIDS Day 2022 is "Equalize", which aims to focus on the practical solutions to reduce inequality and put an end to the life-threatening disease.

DIGI YATRA

The Digi Yatra paperless airport entry facility is now functional at three airports in the country, including Delhi's Indira Gandhi International, Bengaluru and Varanasi airports. Based on the Facial Recognition Technology (FRT), Digi Yatra aims to achieve seamless and contactless processing of passengers at airports. By March 2023, four more cities will be added: Hyderabad, Kolkata, Pune, and Vijayawada.

WMO

World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) released a report titled 'State of Global Water Resources 2021'. As per the report, the volume of water available in the Ganga and the groundwater in the river-basin reduced significantly between 2002 and 2021. The report has also identified several other global hot spots that show the same trend.

'International Gita Mahotsav

Indian President Droupadi Murmu inaugurated the International Gita Mahotsav (IGM)-2022 in Kurukshetra in Haryana. This year, Nepal is the partner country, while Madhya Pradesh is the partner State of the event. The President also launched 'Nirogi Haryana', a health check-up scheme, and an e-ticketing system of public road transport facilities.

Merriam-Webster's word of 2022

'Gaslighting' has been announced as Merriam-Webster's word of the year 2022. Searches for the word on merriam-webster.com have increased over 1000 per cent in 2022 over the year before. The definition for gaslighting is the psychological manipulation of a person, which causes the victim to question the validity of their own thoughts, perception of reality, or memories and typically leads to confusion, loss of confidence and self-esteem.

COP15'

The United Nations Biodiversity Conference or COP15 was organised in Montreal, Canada. Governments from around the world are convened to agree to a new set of goals for nature over the next decade. The negotiators at a UN biodiversity conference reached an agreement, which seeks to spend USD 200 billion toward supporting biodiversity by 2030.

FIFA

Argentina became FIFA World Cup champion by beating the defending Champion France 4-2 in penalties. Argentina lifted the FIFA World Cup title for the third time. Kylian Mbappe scored a hat-trick for France, while Argentina captain Lionel Messi scored a brace and Angel di Maria netted one goal for Argentina.

. Sela Pass tunnel

The Sela Pass tunnel is being built by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO), to provide all-weather connectivity to China border in Arunachal Pradesh. The tunnel being built at a height of 13,000 feet, will give the Indian Army access to the Line of Actual Control (LAC) near Tawang.

'Rythu Bandhu'

'Rythu Bandhu' scheme is being implemented by the state of Telangana. The government offers crop investments to farmers through this programme at a rate of ₹10,000 per acre for both the Kharif and rabi seasons. The State government would deposit ₹7,600 crore in the bank accounts of farmers, by January this year before the Sankranti festival.

Urvashi Singh

Indian boxer Urvashi Singh beat Thailand's national champion Thanchanok Phanan to clinch the WBC International Super Bantamweight title. The boxer also won the WBC Asia Silver crown in Colombo. She is now the World Boxing Council Asia Continental and International Champion.

ILO

According to a new International Labour Organization (ILO) report titled 'the Global Wage Report 2022-2023', the severe inflationary crisis combined with a global slowdown in economic growth are causing a striking fall in real monthly wages in many countries. The slowdown is driven in part by the war in Ukraine and the global energy crisis. According to the report, the crisis is reducing the purchasing power of the middle classes and hitting low-income households.

'Barak MX'

The Israeli Navy conducted a successful test of a long-range interceptor missile against an advanced cruise missile. The LRAD missile, part of the Barak MX defense system, is developed by the Israeli Aerospace Industries and the Defense Ministry's research and development division. It is similar to India's Barak 8.

2013

In 2013, the Supreme Court had an all-woman bench for the first time, when Justices Gyan Sudha Misra and Ranjana Prakash Desai sat together. The second occasion came in 2018. Recently, Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud has constituted an all-women bench comprising Justices Hima Kohli and Bela M. Trivedi to hear transfer petitions involving matrimonial disputes and bail matters. This is the third occasion in the history of the apex court of an all-women bench.

SOMALIA

Two entirely new minerals have been found in a huge meteorite that fell on Somalia. The official names for the new minerals are elaliite and elkinstantonite. The name 'elaliite' marks the fact that the meteorite was unearthed in the district of El Ali in Somalia, and 'elkinstantonite' is named after the NASA expert Lindy Elkins-Tanton. A third unidentified mineral, is being analysed by the University of Alberta researchers.

Vijay Hazare' Trophy

Saurashtra team beat Maharashtra by 5 wickets in the final to win the Vijay Hazare Trophy in Ahmedabad. This is Saurashtra's second Vijay Hazare Trophy triumph. Maharashtra scored 248 runs for the loss of 9 wickets in 50 overs, while Saurashtra reached the target with 21 balls to spare losing five wickets.

GBF

The COP15 to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity adopted the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. The framework has 23 targets that the world needs to achieve by 2030. In 2020, the world had failed to meet the last set of targets, the Aichi Targets. COP15 had representatives of 188 governments on site and agreed on the framework.

IEA

International Energy Agency (IEA) released a report titled 'Coal 2022: Analysis and Forecast to 2025'. As per the report, the global coal demand is set to increase to an all-time high in 2022, mainly driven by coal power

growth in India, the European Union (EU) and to a smaller extent by China. The largest increases in coal burn are forecast for China, India and Southeast Asia. The global coal use is set to rise by 1.2% in 2022, surpassing 8 billion tonnes in a single year for the first time.

Group of Friends

India has recently launched a 'Group of Friends' to promote accountability for crimes against peacekeepers, during its current presidency of the UN Security Council. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar announced that New Delhi will soon have a database that will record all crimes against the peacekeepers. India, Bangladesh, Egypt, France, Morocco and Nepal are co-chairs of the group. India, among the largest troop-contributing countries to UN peacekeeping, has lost 177 of its peacekeepers in the line of duty.

PTC IND

Bhutan, through Druk Green Power Corporation, has entered into an agreement with PTC India, for purchase of power from Indian power market, to meet its power requirement during the dry winter season. With all approvals, Bhutan will now start procuring up to 600 MW of power, through PTC, from the Indian power market.

monthly aid

Tamil Nadu Government has raised the monthly pension amount of differently-abled persons from Rs. 1000 to Rs. 1500 from January 2023. An expert committee has been formed by the state to identify vacancies in all the departments where differently abled can be employed.

Estonia

Estonia is a country in Northern Europe, bordering the Baltic Sea and Gulf of Finland. The Union Cabinet of India approved the proposal of the Ministry of External Affairs to open three new missions. In 2021, three new missions of India were opened in Estonia (Europe), Paraguay (South America) and the Dominican Republic (North America). This move would strengthen political relations and promote growth of bilateral trade and investment.

SPORTS

Unnati Hooda becomes first Indian to enter U-17 women's singles final in Asia Junior Badminton Championships. She clinched the silver medal in the Championships held in Nonthaburi, Thailand. Men's doubles pair of Arsh Mohammad and Sanskar Saraswat and U-15 men's singles shuttler Anish Thoppani also won silver medals.

'One District One Sport

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has launched One District One Sport (ODOS) on the lines of the One District One Product (ODOP) scheme of the government. The aim of the scheme includes promoting sports culture, keeping the younger generation healthy and providing a platform for sportspersons to nurture their talents. Under ODOS, one sport will be identified in each of the 75 districts of Uttar Pradesh.

GDP

As per the Finance Ministry's latest data, India's gross domestic product growth in the first half of 2022-23 is averaged to 9.7%. This was announced in the Ministry's mid-year expenditure and revenue statement. The ministry said it could not present the medium-term expenditure framework (MTEF) as mandated by the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act, as the global macro-economic situation disrupted the government's projections.

IPEF

India will host the next special negotiation round on three of the four pillars of the United States-led Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) on February 2023. IPEF has four pillars in all namely trade, supply chain,

tax and anti-corruption and clean energy. During the first-ever in-person ministerial in September 2022, India decided to join only three pillars, and opted out of the trade pillar

PSE

The government has raised over Rs 4.04 lakh crore through disinvestment and strategic sale of public sector enterprises since 2014, the Finance Ministry said. The largest amount of over Rs 1.07 lakh crore was raised through offer for sale in 59 cases. This was followed by a stake sale through Exchange Traded Fund (ETF) in 10 tranches, amounting to Rs 98,949 crore. Strategic sales in 10 companies, including Air India, yielded Rs 69,412 crores. 17 CPSEs were listed since 2014-15, which yielded Rs 50,386 crore

PMEGP

Jammu & Kashmir has generated the most number of jobs among all the states and UTs under the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) in the current fiscal year. The scheme by the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) is implemented by Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC). Since 2008, 62,808 jobs were created by 7,851 assisted projects in Jammu & Kashmir.

WORLD BANK

The World Bank released a report titled '2022 in Nine Charts', in which it said that the world is in its steepest slowdown since 1970 and 685 million people could be living in extreme poverty by the end of 2022. This would make 2022 the second-worst year for poverty reduction in the past two decades, after 2020

Swar Dharohar festival

Ministry of Culture, Government of India in collaboration with Swar Dharohar Foundation inaugurated "Swar Dharohar Festival" under Kalanjali. It is a Music, Art and Literature Festival which was organised to showcase the iconic art and culture of India and, the rich literary Art and Heritage of Indian States

Chaityabhoomi

Bharat Ratna Dr BR Ambedkar's 67th Mahaparinirvan Diwas is observed on December 6. Lakhs of followers from all over the country gathered at Chaityabhoomi in Dadar in Mumbai to pay tribute to the great leader. Chaitya Bhoomi is a Buddhist chaitya and the cremation place of B. R. Ambedkar, the 20th-century Indian intellectual and the chief architect of the Indian Constitution

GOLD ATM

India's first gold ATM and world's first real time gold ATM has been launched in Hyderabad. The gold ATM enables customers to buy gold without going to a physical jewellery store. Goldsikka, a company that specialises in buying and selling of gold, introduced the ATM with technology support from a Hyderabad-based startup OpenCube. In the ATM, the buyer selects the price and gold worth the amount is released to the buyer.

(AI Dialogue

The National e-Governance Division (NeGD) under the Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY) organized an AI Pe Charcha (AI Dialogue). The panelists discussed the importance and approaches for enabling access to quality datasets for AI. The AI Pe Charcha series has been initiated as a part of Responsible AI for Social Empowerment (RAISE), India's first global AI summit organized by MeitY in 2020.

GEM

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal rolled out Government e-Marketplace services (GeM) through Common Service Centres (CSC) and India Post, Department of Post. The Minister also launched the Government e-Marketplace Seller Samvaad Booklet, which is a compilation of testimonials from sellers and service providers based on their experience on GeM portal.

UNESCO's

Two heritage sites from Gujarat — the Sun Temple at Modhera and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's hometown Vadnagar, a historic town were added to the tentative list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Rock-cut Sculptures and Reliefs of the Unakoti, Tripura were also added to the tentative list.

ASSAM

The Assam cabinet has approved the proposal for grant of industry status to the tourism sector in the state, to boost investments and generate employment. With this grant, restaurants, cafeterias, health clubs, spas and wellness centers, among others, in the state are eligible for incentives under the industrial policy

Hemant Gupta

Former Supreme Court judge Hemant Gupta has been appointed as the chairperson of New Delhi International Arbitration Centre (NDIAC). The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet approved the appointment of retired Justice Hemant Gupta as NDIAC chairperson and Ganesh Chandru and Anant Vijay Palli as its part-time members

. Goblin Mode

The Oxford English Dictionary recently unveiled the word of the year 2022 as 'Goblin mode', which was selected by public votes. According to Oxford University Press (OUP), it means 'a type of behaviour which is unapologetically self-indulgent, lazy, slovenly, or greedy, typically in a way that rejects social norms or expectations.' The term was first used in 2009 but went viral on social media earlier this year.

ICAO

India has jumped to the 48th position in the global aviation safety ranking by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). The Indian aviation safety has scored the highest ever score of 85.49 per cent. In 2018, India was at the 102nd rank. In the ranking, Singapore is at the top, followed by the UAE and South Korea at the second and third positions.

Manisha Ramadass

Indian shuttler Manisha Ramadass has been named the Badminton World Federation (BWF) female Para-Badminton Player of the Year. The World Champion in the SU5 section, Manisha Ramadass won 11 gold and five bronze medals overall in 2022. BWF Male Para-Badminton Player of the Year went to WH2 world champion and reigning Paralympic champion Daiki Kajiwaru. Viktor Axelsen and Zheng Si Wei / Huang Ya Qiong won the BWF Player of the Year Awards.

Veer Guardian-2023

Indian Air Force (IAF) and Japanese Air Self Defence Force (JASDF) are set to hold their maiden bilateral air exercise, Veer Guardian 23. The exercise will be held at Hyakuri air base and Iruma air base in Japan in January 2023. It aims to promote mutual understanding and strengthen defence cooperation between the Air Forces.

HPV

Most cervical cancers are associated with the Human Papilloma Virus (HPV). The HPV vaccine can prevent most cases of if the vaccine is given before girls or women are exposed to the virus. National Technical Advisory Group for Immunization (NTAGI) has recommended introduction of HPV Vaccine in the Universal Immunization Programme (UIP) with for 9-14-year-old adolescent girls. The Centre has written to all States and UTs to create awareness on prevention of cervical cancer and the importance of HPV vaccine.

NATIONAL FARMERS DAY

National Farmer's Day is being observed on December 23 to commemorate the birth anniversary of the fifth Prime Minister of India, Chaudhary Charan Singh, and his contributions towards the upliftment of farmers in the country. Various awareness campaigns and drives are organised across the country to educate people about the role of farmers and their contribution to the economy.

NSE

National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) has received in-principle approval from the Securities Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to set up a Social Stock Exchange (SSE) as a separate segment of the NSE. Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, in her Union Budget speech of 2019–20, proposed the creation of a Social Stock Exchange, under the regulatory ambit of SEBI, for listing social enterprises and voluntary organisations.

Jan Vishwas Bill

Commerce and industry Minister Piyush Goyal in Lok Sabha introduced Jan Vishwas Bill, which seeks to promote ease of business. The bill seeks to decriminalise minor offences by amending 183 provisions in 42 Acts. The Bill was later referred to a 31-member joint committee of Parliament for scrutiny. The bill will also help in reducing the burden on judiciary.

Aditya Mittal

Sixteen-year-old Aditya Mittal has recently become India's 77th chess Grandmaster. The Mumbai-based player crossed 2,500 ELO points mark during the sixth round of the ongoing Ellobregat Open tournament in Spain. Mittal is also the fifth Indian to achieve the GM title in 2022 after Bharath Subramaniam, Rahul Srivatshav, V Pranav and Pranav Anand

FAO

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) released the 'Global status of black soils' Report on the occasion of World Soil Day, December 5, 2022. As per the report, Black soils, which feed the global population, are under threat, with most losing at least half of their soil organic carbon (SOC) stocks. As per the FAO, the reasons are Land-use change, unsustainable management practices and excessive use of agrochemicals.

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations organized an opening ceremony for the International Year of Millets 2023 (IYM2023) in Rome, Italy. An Indian delegation led by Sushri Shobha Karandlaje, Minister of State, Agriculture & Farmers Welfare and other senior officials were present at the opening ceremony. Raising awareness to create 'Millet Mindfulness' is an important part of this movement.

CII

Chairperson of the Tata Group, N Chandrasekaran was appointed the chair of B20 India, to lead the business agenda during India's G20 presidency. The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) is appointed as the B20 India Secretariat by the Centre to lead the B20 India process.

ONGC

Arun Kumar Singh, former chairman of oil refining and marketing company BPCL, is appointed Chairman and Managing Director of ONGC. He will head the company for a three-year tenure with effect from the date of assumption of charge. He retired as the BPCL head 13 months later in October 2022.

Incovacc

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has approved Bharat Biotech's intranasal Covid vaccine as a booster dose for those above 18 years of age. India's first intranasal Covid vaccine iNCOVACC will be added to the CoWin app, which is a web platform for vaccination registration in the country. At present, only Bharat Biotech's Covaxin, Serum Institute's Covishield and Covovax, Russian Sputnik V and Biological E Ltd's Corbevax are listed in the CoWin portal.

DSCI AISS

The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has bagged a top data security award for best practices in the government sector. Data Security Council of India (DSCI) is a not-for-profit industry body on data protection in India, setup by NASSCOM. DSCI awarded UIDAI for its significant role in securing 'Aadhaar' infrastructure that provides digital identity-based welfare services to residents.

HDFC

The International Finance Corporation (IFC) has extended a USD 400-million loan to mortgage company HDFC for financing green affordable housing units. The loan will help close the urban housing gap and improve access to climate-smart affordable homes by boosting green housing, creating jobs and ensuring long-term business growth.

SPORTS

Harmanpreet Singh was named the captain of the 18-member Indian squad for the FIH Men's Hockey World Cup. Hockey India announced the squad for the FIH men's World Cup scheduled from January 13 to 29, 2023 in Bhubaneswar-Rourkela, Odisha. Amit Rohidas will be his deputy for the event. The Men in Blue will play its opening game against Spain at the newly built Birsa Munda Stadium in Rourkela

S-400

Russia will begin supplying India with the third squadron of the S-400 air defence missile system in January or February of next year. India has already deployed its first two missile system squadrons to patrol the Ladakh sector, West Bengal's Chicken's Neck Corridor and the entire north-eastern region. India and Russia have agreed to a three-year ₹35,000 crore deal to buy five squadrons of S-400 air defence missiles.

Anish Thoppani,

Indian shuttler Anish Thoppani clinches silver medal in U-15 category at Badminton Asia Junior Championships, in Nonthaburi, Thailand. Anish lost the men's singles final against Chinese Taipei's Chung-Hsiang Yih to settle for silver. India's under-17 men's duo Arsh Mohammad and Sanskar Sraswat secured a silver medal.

RBI

Sushmita Shukla, Indian-origin veteran of the insurance industry, has been appointed as First Vice President and Chief Operating Officer at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. The appointment was approved by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System of New York. She has been appointed as First Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, effective March 2023

WORLD BANK

A Gender Toolkit based on 'Enabling gender responsive urban mobility and public spaces' was launched by Greater Chennai Corporation. The toolkit was launched at a session conducted by the World Bank and the Chennai Urban Metropolitan Transport Authority. It aims to highlight the gender issues surrounding mobility and city design.

'International Anti-Corruption Day

International Anti-Corruption Day is observed on 9 December, with the theme of 'Uniting the World against Corruption'. The 2022 International Anti-Corruption Day (IACD) seeks to highlight the crucial link between anti-corruption and peace, security, and development. It also marks the start of twentieth anniversary of the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC).

CPN

Nepal President Bidya Devi Bhandari appointed CPN-Maoist Centre chairman Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' as the new Prime Minister of Nepal. Prachanda has been appointed as the Prime Minister of Nepal as per the Article 76 Clause 2 of the Constitution. There has been an understanding between Prachanda and Oli to lead the government on rotation basis.

ANTARTICA

As per new research, two-thirds of Antarctica's native species, including emperor penguins, are under threat of extinction or major population declines by 2100. This is due to current trajectories of global heating. The study was conducted by scientists, conservationists and policymakers from 12 countries. It has identified emperor penguins as the Antarctic species at greatest risk of extinction, followed by other seabirds and dry soil nematodes.

CEPA

India and Bangladesh agreed to start negotiations for a free trade agreement (FTA) at an early date. The decision was taken in a meeting between Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal and his Bangladeshi counterpart Tipu Munshi. A joint feasibility study on the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), has been carried out after the two countries agreed to explore the possibility of negotiating a trade pact. The bilateral trade between India and Bangladesh increased to USD 18.2 billion in 2021-22.

CBIC

The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) has constituted Customs, Central Excise and Service Tax Settlement Commission. It aims to resolve and settle the show-cause notices issued under the Customs Act, Central Excise Act and Service Tax regime. This move would ensure speedy disposal of cases under the old indirect tax regime.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin launched sanitation workers' development programme across the state and distributed safety equipment. A survey will be carried out to identify sanitation workers and details will be uploaded on a mobile application. In the first phase, the scheme will be implemented in five urban local bodies and will be extended to all other local bodies.

2026

The Union Ministry of new and renewable energy extended the rooftop solar programme till March 31, 2026. With this, subsidy under the programme will be available until the target for the scheme is achieved. All residential consumers are advised not to pay any additional charges to any vendor on account of fee for application on the National Portal or any additional charges for net-metering or testing.

MLA

Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu has recently sworn in as the next Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh. He was a four-time MLA and chairman of the Congress' state election campaign committee. Mukesh Agnihotri has been selected as the deputy chief minister. The Indian National Congress party won the Himachal Pradesh state assembly elections

30

The Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat said in Lok Sabha that 30 River-linking components have been identified. National Water Development Agency (NWDA) under the Ministry of Jal Shakti identified 16 links under peninsular rivers component and 14 links under Himalayan component of National Perspective Plan (NPP) for inter basin transfer. Ken-Betwa River link project has been approved with estimated cost of ₹44,605 crore with central support of ₹39,317 crore.

Amrit Bharat Station Scheme

The Ministry of Railways has formulated a new scheme to modernise over 1,000 small stations over the coming years. Amrit Bharat Station Scheme is a part of its station redevelopment drive. The key features of the proposed stations include provisions for roof top plazas, longer platforms, ballast-less tracks, and 5G connectivity

ZUF

The Union government and the Manipur government have signed a cessation of operations agreement with the Zeliangrong United Front (ZUF). ZUF is a Manipur-based Naga armed group, which has been demanding a separate State for the Zeliangrong Naga tribe. The agreement seeks rehabilitation and re-settlement of the armed cadres.

BHUTAN

India-assisted 720 Megawatts Mangdechhu Hydroelectric Power Project has been recently handed to Druk Green Power Corporation (DGPC) in Bhutan. With this project, India and Bhutan have successfully completed four mega hydroelectric power projects. The commissioning of the project has increased Bhutan's Electrical Power Generation Capacity by 44 per cent.

City Finance Rankings 2022'

Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs has recently released the draft guidelines for a new ranking system of cities based on their financial performance and beautification. The 'City Finance Rankings 2022' aims to evaluate and reward urban local bodies on the basis of their strength across resource mobilisation, expenditure performance and fiscal governance systems. The 'City Beauty Competition' initiative aims to recognise efforts made by the cities and wards towards creating beautiful, innovative and inclusive public spaces.

NMMS

National Mobile Monitoring Software (NMMS) App was launched by the Ministry of Rural Development in 2021. Digitally capturing the attendance of workers employed under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) has been made universal from January 1, 2023. The attendance is captured through National Mobile Monitoring Software (NMMS) mobile application.

IIT

Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) Researchers have developed an 'Ocean Wave Energy Converter' that can generate electricity from sea waves. The Device was deployed at a location about 6 KM off the coast of Tuticorin, Tamil Nadu. The device targets generating 1MW of power from ocean waves in the next three years.

Japan

A Japanese start-up ispace Inc launched the country's first-ever Moon mission with the help of SpaceX. A Japanese lunar lander carrying two rovers and payload lifted off via a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket. It also became the first commercial spacecraft to land on the moon. The launch of Hakuto-R lander was originally scheduled for late November 2022

1363

The Ministry of Tourism has set up a 24x7 Multi-Lingual Tourist Info-Helpline on the toll free number 1800111363 or on a short code 1363. The helpline has been set up in 12 Languages including 10 international languages (German, French, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, Russian, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, and Arabic), Hindi and English for domestic and foreign tourists to provide information relating to Travel in India and guidance to tourists in distress while travelling in India.

Aurobindo

Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually participated in a programme commemorating Sri Aurobindo's 150th birth anniversary, on 13th December. The programme is being held in Kamban Kalai Sangam, Puducherry, under the aegis of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. The Prime Minister also released a commemorative coin and postal stamp in honour of Sri Aurobindo. He was an Indian nationalist and editor of newspapers such as Vande Mataram. He later became a spiritual reformer and established Aurobindo Ashram in Puducherry.

UN IGF

The Minister of State for Electronics & Information Technology Rajeew Chandrasekhar announced that India is the largest connected nation in the world today with more than 800 million broadband users. The announcement was made during 'India Internet Governance Forum 2022', held on the theme 'Leveraging Techade for Empowering Bharat'. It is an initiative associated with the UN Internet Governance Forum (UN-IGF).

IISC

The Indian Institute of Science (IISc) has been named as the secretariat for science 20 (S20), one of the G20's groupings. The G20 is being presided over by India and the theme of the S20 in 2023 is 'Disruptive Science for Innovative and Sustainable Development'. Discussions will take place throughout the year in various regions of India.

ADB

The Government of India and Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a USD 125 million loan to improve urban services in Tamil Nadu. Tamil Nadu Urban Flagship Investment Program seeks to develop climate-resilient sewage collection and treatment, and drainage and water supply systems in three cities in the state. This is the third and the last tranche of the USD 500 million multi-tranche financing facility (MFF) for the Program approved by ADB in 2018.

MYAS

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has been appointed as the nodal ministry for matters relating to online gaming with monetary risks. The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS) has been tasked with regulating esports (video games not involving money). India's gaming market is currently estimated at USD 2.6 billion and expected to be worth USD 8.6 billion by 2027.

IISC

The Indian Institute of Sciences (IISc), ARTPARK (AI and Robotics Technology Park) and Google have partnered together for 'Project Vaani' Initiative. The digital project aims to map the language diversity of India by collecting speech sets of about a million people across 773 districts. The project aims to record over 150,000 hours of speech, part of which will be transcribed in local scripts. The goal is to boost development of automatic speech recognition, speech to speech translation and natural language understanding.

RBI

Daksh is the advanced supervisory management system maintained by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). RBI recently announced that it is migrating the payments fraud reporting module to Daksh on January 1, 2023. The move aims to streamline reporting, enhance efficiency and automate the payments fraud management process.

IOA

Legendary athlete PT Usha was elected as the first woman president of Indian Olympic Association (IOA). She is a multiple Asian Games gold medalist and fourth place finisher in the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics 400m hurdles final. The 58-year-old athlete was declared elected unopposed for the top post in the polls. The elections were held under the supervision of Supreme Court-appointed retired SC judge L Nageswara Rao. She became the first Olympian and first international medallist to head the IOA in its 95-year history.

Muziris Biennale'

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan inaugurated the fifth edition of Kochi Muziris Biennale. The Biennale will be hosted on the theme 'In Our Views Flow Ink and Fire'. The four-month-long celebration of art is scheduled to see several discussions, performances and film screenings. The biennale showcases more than 200 main artworks of 90 artists from about 40 different countries.

NDC

The Rajya Sabha passed the Energy Conservation (Amendment) Bill, to mandate non-fossil sources of energy and establish a domestic carbon market in India. This will help India achieve its target of reducing India's carbon intensity by 45 per cent by 2030. This goal is part of India's updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC).

SIES

Former Vice President Venkaiah Naidu has been conferred with the 25th Sri Chandrasekarendra Saraswathi National Eminence Award (SIES). Awardees in other categories include the Governor of Kerala Arif Mohammed Khan, industrialist Ratan Tata, cardiologist and Padma Vibhushan awardee Dr Marthanda Varma Sankaran Valianathan, Scientific Advisor to the Government of India Ajay Sood and famous Harikatha artiste Vishakha Hari.

DSPM – NIWAS

Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually laid foundation stone and projects worth more than ₹7,800 crore in West Bengal. He also virtually inaugurated Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee – National Institute of Water and Sanitation (DSPM – NIWAS). It will serve as an apex body in the country on water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) in the country, serving as a hub of information and knowledge for Central, State and local governments

RVM

The Election Commission of India has developed a prototype of a remote electronic voting machine (RVM) for domestic migrant workers. It has invited political parties for a demonstration. If implemented, migrant voters do not need to travel to their home district to exercise their franchise and this will be a major move to increase voter participation.

Nilgiri tahr

Tamil Nadu government has issued orders to conserve the Nilgiri tahr, the state animal, at a cost of Rs 25.14 crore. This is regarded as the first Nilgiri Tahr conservation project in the country. The project would be implemented during a 5-year period from 2022–2027, and follow a strategy including synchronised surveys to estimate numbers of the tahrs. The tahr is an endangered species and is protected under Schedule-I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act of India, 1972.

BrahMos

Indian Air Force (IAF) successfully test-fired the extended-range version of BrahMos Air-Launched missile. It was test fired against a ship target from a frontline SU-30MKI aircraft. The maiden test of the extended range of the BrahMos Air Launched missile was conducted on May 12. BrahMos missiles are designed, developed and produced by BrahMos Aerospace, a joint venture company set up by India's DRDO and Russia's Mashinostroyeniya.

MES

The Indian Army has offered the first 3D printed houses for soldiers at Ahmedabad Cantt. They are constructed by the Military Engineering Services (MES) in collaboration with MiCoB Pvt Ltd. The dwelling unit, with a ground floor plus one configuration are not only cheap but can be constructed in less time. Construction work of the dwelling unit with garage space and first floor was completed in 12 weeks.

SAARC

The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Charter Day is observed every year on 8th December. On this day in 1985, SAARC Charter was adopted in Dhaka, during the first summit of the group. This year also marks the 38th Anniversary of the regional group. SAARC has organised 18 summits since 1985.

ARABIC DAY

Arabic as the sixth official language of the United Nations by the UN General Assembly. This year, the theme of the World Arabic Language Day is “The Contribution of the Arabic Language to Human Civilization and Culture”

‘National Consumer Rights Day

December 24 is celebrated annually across India as National Consumer Rights Day. It is also called National Consumer Day. The Day commemorates December 24, 1986, the date when the Consumer Protection Act received assent of the President of India. The purpose of the day is to make consumers aware of their rights and responsibilities. World Consumer Rights Day is celebrated annually on March 15.

NTPC

NTPC has commissioned capacities of 150 MW & 90 MW Devikot Solar PV Projects at Jaisalmer in Rajasthan. They are declared on Commercial Operation. With this, standalone installed and commercial capacity of NTPC has become 58041 MW, while group installed and commercial capacity of NTPC has reached 70656 MW.

PM IAS

PM IAS