

# Friends!

We used **TESTZONE** and cracked Bank Exams

बैंक परीक्षाओ के लिए निश्चित रूप से  
सर्वश्रेष्ठ मॉक टेस्ट सीरीज



**Tanu Singh**  
RRB PO & Clerk 2022



**Debasish Kumar Nayak**  
RRB PO & Clerk 2022



**Kalyan Singh**  
RRB Clerk 2022



**Sakshi Kumari**  
RRB PO 2022



**Shrastha Das**  
RRB PO & Clerk 2022



**Saurav Sikdar**  
RRB PO & Clerk 2022



**Tawang Singh**  
RRB PO & Clerk 2022



**Koushik Samanta**  
RRB PO & Clerk 2022



**Sonali Thakur**  
RRB Clerk 2022



**Rajesh Khichar**  
RRB PO 2022

**It's Your Turn Now**  
**Take A FREE Mock Test**

## A Crucial Piece of Advice!

We find several students discussing the issue of lack of time and digging out content regarding how to use every second of your time efficiently. Some of you must be thinking, we have 86400 seconds each day, so why should we worry about just a single one? **Does a single second hold that much importance? YES!** When it comes to competition, each & every second is very crucial.

The first question that might come to your mind is “Is that even possible to use each second of your time effectively?” or “Do I even have that much spare time?” Let's help you by looking over the top time drainers of your daily routine:

- On an average, a person spends 67 minutes per day eating and drinking beverages while watching their favorite TV series.
- Travelling is one of the most overlooked time drainers. CNBC claims that the average commute is a little over 50 minutes per day.
- 44% of people waste tons of time just sitting in the traffic, while others keep scrolling through their feeds.
- Digital Information World suggests that people spend 2 hours and 22 minutes on social media.
- More often unproductive chats on WhatsApp are the major time drainers where you waste your time on without even knowing how much time is spent.

Adding up all these, you spend nearly **4 hours** daily or 1/6th of your day doing a whole lot of **NOTHING!** Over the course of a week that amounts to over **28 hours** of wasted time, and more than **1460 hours** or **52,560,000 seconds** annually!! Scary! Isn't it?

But what if you could effectively utilize this time to validate the knowledge you just gained during your study sessions? How about competing with your friend in a live Current Affairs battle instead of just sitting and listening to the traffic horns? How about dominating the English language leaderboard instead of searching for a filter on Snapchat?

Time and tide wait for none! Team Smartkeeda perceived the importance of time and practice in your test preparation journey. We understood how each second can make a huge difference to your career. Therefore, we were determined to build an application that has the competence to save each second of your preparation time making you 100% productive. We worked diligently for 3-4 years to build an application with the single aim of making each second of your test preparation time, efficient.

Folks! We feel thrilled to present you the **Qudoo App**, India's first Education-Gaming-Social platform (EGS) for all major competitive Exams, which has the unique capability of making your breaks extremely productive and refilling.

If you use the **Qudoo App** for 11-21 days during your preparation, in between your breaks, like while travelling, having meals, or instead of using any other social media app, within a few days, you'll feel like you've developed a mechanism inside your head that has the capability to answer the questions within a fraction of seconds. Timer-based points in Qudoo quizzes will create a cognitive reserve inside your brain that will automatically let you develop strategies to solve the questions within seconds to beat the opponent.

We, team **Smartkeeda**, promise that with the effective use of the Qudoo app, you will be able to see a drastic change in your performance at exams including your **speed, accuracy, and percentile** within a couple of weeks with minimum effort. “KYUKI MAA-BAAP KI FIKRA KO FAKRA ME BADALNA HAI”, so every second counts!!

 **DOWNLOAD QUDOO APP: [Click Here!](#)**



SCAN TO  
DOWNLOAD APP

Smartkeeda प्रस्तुत करता है

भारत का पहला

**EGS**

Education-Gaming-Social-Platform



Play Quizzes in

QUANT | REASONING | ENGLISH | GS | CURRENT AFFAIRS | LAW

Useful for Exams

- BANK & INSURANCE
- SSC & RAILWAYS
- TEACHING EXAMS
- LAW EXAMS
- UPSC
- DEFENCE EXAMS
- STATE EXAMS
- CUET

इस खेल में कोई वित्तीय जोखिम नहीं है और इसकी आदत लग जाए तो अच्छा है।

**Testzone presents**  
**Full-Length Current Affairs**  
**Mock Test Series**

**January 2023**  
**CA MockDrill**  
**Combo PDF**

(PDF in English)



**Smartkeeda**

[Click Here to Attempt Mock Tests based on this PDF!](#)

❖ **Last Six Months' Current Affairs PDFs & Mock Tests:**

December 2022	<a href="#">Download Combo PDF</a>	<a href="#">Attempt Mock Tests</a>
November 2022	<a href="#">Download Combo PDF</a>	<a href="#">Attempt Mock Tests</a>
October 2022	<a href="#">Download Combo PDF</a>	<a href="#">Attempt Mock Tests</a>
September 2022	<a href="#">Download Combo PDF</a>	<a href="#">Attempt Mock Tests</a>
August 2022	<a href="#">Download Combo PDF</a>	<a href="#">Attempt Mock Tests</a>
July 2022	<a href="#">Download Combo PDF</a>	<a href="#">Attempt Mock Tests</a>

# **INDEX**

National & States Affairs.....	6
International Affairs.....	47
Banking, Finance, Insurance & Economic Affairs.....	57
Defence Affairs.....	81
Sports & Games .....	87
Persons in News.....	98
Arts & Cultural Affairs.....	101
Science & Technology.....	103
Appointments & Resignations.....	113
Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes .....	124
Schemes & Initiatives.....	136
Obituaries.....	144
Meetings, Conferences and Summits.....	150
Ranks, Reports & Surveys.....	163
Amount & Agreements.....	176
Ordinance, Bills & Acts.....	178
Acquisitions & Mergers.....	178
MoUs, Collaborations & Parterships.....	179

---

**If you are a CA Mockdrill Series User,**

**Use coupon code - “MockDrill”**

**to get 10% discount on all plans available at [testzone.smartkeeda.com](https://testzone.smartkeeda.com)**

**Warning:** Smartkeeda possesses all copyrights on its content. This doesn't allow anyone to use its content for commercial purposes. If any infringement is found, legal action will be taken against the individual or entity. If you want to use the content for commercial purposes, kindly write to us at [admin@smartkeeda.com](mailto:admin@smartkeeda.com).

# National & States Affairs

1. Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma inaugurated the partial commissioning of JICA-Assisted Guwahati Water Supply Project at an event held on the premises of its water treatment plant at Kharghuli. The project, launched in 2009 with the aim to provide clean potable water to the residents of Guwahati, is scheduled to be ready for full commissioning by March 2024 and has the capacity to cater to 1.25 lakh households in parts of the city with 24-hours water supply. The India-Japan relationship completed 70 years recently. [{Read more}](#)



## Smart Points:

- Assam – inaugurated the partial commissioning of ‘Guwahati Water Supply Project’
- The Project is assisted by – JICA (launched in 2009)
- It is scheduled to be ready for full commissioning by March 2024 & has capacity to cater to 1.25 lakh households
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Himanta Biswa Sarma | Governor – Gulab Chand Kataria
- Japan – Tokyo – Yen | PM – Fumio Kishida

2. Minister of State for Electronics and IT Rajeev Chandrasekhar announced that government will launch a Digital India Innovation Fund that will support deep tech startups. He was addressing over 1,000 college students as part of the ‘New India for Young India: Techade of Opportunities program’ at the Catholic Bishop House Campus, Thamarassery, Kerala. [{Read more}](#)

## Smart Points:

- Government will launch a ‘Digital India Innovation Fund’ that will support deep tech startups
- Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology: Ashwini Vaishnaw | Constituency – Odisha
- MoS in Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology: Rajeev Chandrasekhar

3. On January 2, the National Commission for Indian System of Medicine (NCISM) and the Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS), the two prominent institutions under the Ministry of AYUSH for regulating medical education and conducting scientific research respectively, have launched ‘SMART’ (Scope for Mainstreaming Ayurveda Research in Teaching Professionals) program aimed to boost scientific research in priority healthcare research areas through Ayurveda colleges and hospitals. The ‘SMART’ program will motivate teachers for taking up projects in designated areas of healthcare research and create a large database. The program was launched by Vaidya Jayant Deopujari, Chairman, NCISM and Prof. Rabinarayan Acharya, Director General, CCRAS. [{Read more}](#)



## Smart Points:

- NCISM + CCRAS = launched ‘SMART’ program to boost scientific research in priority healthcare research areas
- SMART – Scope for Mainstreaming Ayurveda Research in Teaching Professionals
- HQs of NCISM – New Delhi | Chairman – Vaidya Jayant Deopujari
- HQs of CCRAS – New Delhi | DG – Prof. Rabinarayan Acharya

4. Union Minister Anurag Thakur inaugurated the Sports Science Centre at M.G. Stadium in Udupi, Karnataka. This Sports Science Centre will bring together sports scientists and athletes. He also assured to fulfill the demand of FM Station in the same financial year. [{Read more}](#)





### Smart Points:

- ECI – has developed a prototype for ‘Remote Electronic Voting Machine (RVM)’
- HQs of ECI – New Delhi | Chief Election Commissioner – Rajiv Kumar (25<sup>th</sup>) | Formed on – 25<sup>th</sup> Jan, 1950
- Election Commissioners (2) – Anup Chandra Pandey & Arun Goel

**8.** On January 3, the Odisha government has initiated ‘separate registration of vintage vehicles’ in a bid to fulfil the ambition of owners intending to keep such vehicles and enjoy exemption from scrappage policy in the state. Odisha would be the first state in the country to implement it. According to the provision, two-wheelers and four-wheelers (personal use) that are more than 50 years old from the date of their first registration (including imported vehicle) shall be defined as the Vintage Motor Vehicles and the owners of such vehicles can apply for special number plates and enjoy exemption from scrappage in Odisha. The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) has a provision under ‘CMV Rule, 1989’ for the registration process of Vintage Motor Vehicles. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- Odisha Govt – initiated ‘separate registration of vintage vehicles’ (first state to do so)
- 50-year-old vehicles shall be defined as the ‘Vintage Motor Vehicles’
- MoRTH has a provision under ‘CMV Rule, 1989’ for the registration process of Vintage Motor Vehicles
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal

**9.** Amit Shah laid the foundation stone of the Central Detective Training Institute (CDTI) at Devanahalli in Karnataka. He also inaugurated the residential and administrative complexes of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP). BPR&D strengthens the police institutions of the country and is responsible for conducting this research for the police and Central Armed Forces. Modus Operandi Bureau is also running under the aegis of BPR&D. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- Amit Shah – laid the foundation stone of the Central Detective Training Institute (CDTI) at Devanahalli in Karnataka
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – Basavaraj Bommai | Governor – Thawarchand Gehlot

**10.** On January 3, IIT-Madras created a centre of excellence named as ‘DRDO Industry Academia-Ramanujan Centre of Excellence’ (DIA-RCoE) to develop advanced technologies for national defence and security. The centre has been established to conduct direct research in advanced technologies for defence and security and to create a world-class research centre. Initially established by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), the centre has now been taken over by IIT-M and converted into a ‘Centre of Excellence’. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- IIT-Madras – created ‘DRDO Industry Academia-Ramanujan Centre of Excellence’ for Defence Research
- The centre, initially established by DRDO, has now been taken over by IIT-M & converted into a CoE
- Director of IIT Madras – V. Kamakoti
- HQs of DRDO – New Delhi | Chairman – Samir V. Kamat | Established in – 1958

**11.** On January 1, the 65<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day of DRDO was celebrated. The DRDO was formed in 1958 from the amalgamation of the then already functioning Technical Development Establishment (TDEs) of the Indian Army and the Directorate of Technical Development & Production (DTDP) with the Defence Science Organisation (DSO). DRDO was then a small organisation with 10 establishments or laboratories. A DRDO monograph 'Infrared Signatures, Sensors and Technologies' authored by Dr Kamal Nain Chopra, a former DRDO Scientist, was also released during the event. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- January 1 – 65<sup>th</sup> DRDO Day
- HQs of DRDO – New Delhi | Chairman – Samir V. Kamat | Established in – 1958

**12.** On January 3, Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has constituted a high-powered committee headed by Minister of State Nityanand Rai to “ensure protection of land and employment” for the people of Ladakh. The committee will also discuss measures for inclusive development and employment generation in the region and issues related to empowerment of Ladakh Autonomous Hill District Councils of Leh and Kargil. On August 5, 2019, the former State of Jammu and Kashmir was bifurcated into two UTs - J&K and Ladakh. After its special status was removed, the civil society and political groups in Ladakh have been demanding inclusion under the sixth schedule of the Constitution to protect land, employment and cultural identity of Ladakh. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- MHA – constituted a high-powered committee to “ensure protection of land and employment” for the people of Ladakh
- The committee is headed by – Nityanand Rai (MoS, MHA)
- J & K was bifurcated into two UTs (J&K & Ladakh) on August 5, 2019
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha

**13.** On January 4, the President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu graced the inauguration of 18<sup>th</sup> National Jamboree of the Bharat Scouts and Guides at Pali, Rajasthan. With a membership of over 63 lakh Scouts and Guides, Bharat Scouts and Guides is one of the largest Scouts and Guides organizations in the world. President Droupadi Murmu inaugurated the 'Samvidhan Udyan (Constitution Park)' at Raj Bhavan, Jaipur, Rajasthan. She also graced the launch of the National Campaign on 'RISE (Rising India through Spiritual Empowerment)', organized by Brahma Kumaris at Mount Abu, Rajasthan. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- President Droupadi Murmu inaugurated/launched:
  - 18<sup>th</sup> 'National Jamboree of the Bharat Scouts and Guides' in Pali, Rajasthan
  - 'Samvidhan Udyan (Constitution Park)' in Jaipur, Rajasthan
  - National Campaign on 'RISE (Rising India through Spiritual Empowerment)' in Mount Abu, Rajasthan
- Rajasthan: Capital – Jaipur | CM – Ashok Gehlot | Governor – Kalraj Mishra

**14.** On January 1, Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan inaugurated the “Indian Library Congress” at the Collectorate Ground in Kannur. The People’s Mission for Social Development and Library Council organized the event in association with Kannur University. The program was presided over by Dr V Shivdan, and Higher Education Minister Dr R Bindu announced 100 new libraries to be dedicated to the Kannur district. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Kerala CM – inaugurated the “Indian Library Congress” in Kannur
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan



**15.** On January 2, Ashwini Vaishnaw announced that the Sampark Kranti Express train between Ahmedabad and Delhi will be renamed as 'Akshardham Express' as a tribute to Pramukh Swami Maharaj. Pramukh Swami Maharaj, the spiritual guru of the BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha. Pramukh Swami Maharaj was born on December 7, 1921 and became chief of the BAPS Swaminarayan sect in 1950. He died on August 13, 2016. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Sampark Kranti Express Train (Runs between Ahmedabad & Delhi) – renamed as 'Akshardham Express'
- It has been renamed as a tribute to Pramukh Swami Maharaj who became chief of the BAPS Swaminarayan sect in 1950
- [Ministry of Railways: Ashwini Vaishnaw](#) | [Constituency – Odisha](#)
- [MoS in Ministry of Railways: Danve Raosaheb Dadarao & Darshana Vikram Jardosh](#)

**16.** Most Central government offices are expected to go fully digital by the end of February 2023. Several security measures have been put in place to avoid any cybersecurity incidents such as the recent cyber and ransomware attack at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Delhi. Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba has directed all Central government ministries and departments to migrate to e-office 7.0, an in-house system developed by the National Informatics Centre (NIC), by February 2023. So far, 74 ministries and departments have migrated to e-office version 7.0. The e-office application is regularly audited for known vulnerabilities by third party agencies on the panel of Computer Emergency Response System (CERT-IN). [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Rajiv Gauba – directed all Central government ministries and departments to migrate to 'e-office 7.0' by Feb 2023
- 'e-office 7.0', an in-house system is developed by – NIC
- [HQs of NIC – New Delhi](#) | [Director General – Rajesh Gera](#) | [works under – MeitY](#) | [Established in – 1976](#)

**17.** Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off the MV Ganga Vilas, the world's longest river cruise, in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh. MV Ganga Vilas is the first-ever cruise vessel to be made in India and with 32 tourists from Switzerland, it began its maiden voyage from the temple town of Varanasi and reach Dibrugarh in Assam via Bangladesh in 51 days. The cruise is expected to run on a PPP model. The Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) has signed an MoU with Antara Luxury River Cruises and JM Baxi River Cruises for this. The 'Ganga Vilas Cruise' is operated by Antara Luxury River Cruises. The voyage will cover a distance of 3,200 km and passengers will be able to visit over 50 tourist sites. The MV Ganga Vilas vessel is 62 metres in length, 12 metres in width and comfortably sails with a draft of 1.4 metres. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Narendra Modi – flagged off the world's longest river cruise 'MV Ganga Vilas' at Varanasi, UP
- MV Ganga Vilas, first-ever made in India cruise vessel is operated by – Antara Luxury River Cruises
- 1<sup>st</sup> Journey – from Varanasi (UP) to Dibrugarh (Assam) via Bangladesh (51 days)
- [HQs of IWAI – Noida, Uttar Pradesh](#) | [Chairman – Sanjay Bandopadhyay](#)

**18.** On January 3, government announced that Indian state-run companies will continue to be exempt from the minimum public shareholding (MPS) norm that requires listed companies to maintain a 25% public shareholding. The exemptions from the MPS norm will be valid for a "specified period" even if there is a change in ownership or control after the exemption is granted. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- Indian state-run companies will continue to be exempt from the MPS norm
- MPS norm requires listed companies to maintain a 25% public shareholding

**19.** On January 1, the Election Commission (EC) has launched 'Mission-929' to turnaround the relatively low voting percentage in 929 polling booths across Tripura. The Election Commission (EC) has set a target of 92% voter turnout in the assembly elections. All requisite arrangements such as ramps, wheelchairs and separate queues will be arranged at every polling station to felicitate senior citizens and persons with disability. The EC is also working on 'Mission Zero Poll Violence' to make the assembly elections peaceful. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- EC – launched 'Mission-929' to get 92% voter turnout in the assembly elections in 929 polling booths across Tripura
- The EC is also working on 'Mission Zero Poll Violence' to make the assembly elections peaceful
- Tripura: Capital – Agartala | CM – Manik Saha | Governor – Satyadev Narayan Arya

**20.** On January 2, A Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court upheld by a 4:1 majority the decision taken by the central government six years ago in 2016 to demonetise currency notes of Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 denominations. The majority held that the Centre's notification dated November 8, 2016, was valid and satisfied the test of proportionality. Justice BV Nagarathna gave the dissenting judgement and held that though demonetisation was well-intentioned and well thought of, it has to be declared unlawful on legal grounds. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- SC bench upheld the decision taken by Central Govt in 2016 related to demonetisation of Rs 500 & Rs 1,000 notes
- Justice BV Nagarathna gave the dissenting judgement
- Present Chief of Justice of the Supreme Court of India – Justice Dhananjaya Y. Chandrachud (50<sup>th</sup>)
- Retirement age: Chief Justices & Judges of HC – 62 years | Chief Justice of India & judges of the SC – 65 years

**21.** On January 3, NTPC Ltd commissioned India's first green hydrogen blending project. The green hydrogen blending has been started in the piped natural gas (PNG) network of NTPC Kawas township, Surat. The project is a joint effort of NTPC and Gujarat Gas Limited (GGL). This set-up is geared up to supply H<sub>2</sub>-NG (natural gas) to households of Kawas township at Adityanagar, Surat. This feat is achieved by only a few select countries like UK, Germany, and Australia etc. This would bring India at the centre stage of the global hydrogen economy. [{Read more}](#)

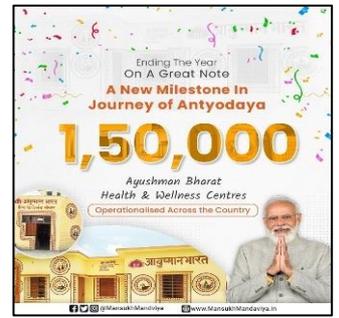


### Smart Points:

- NTPC Ltd – commissioned India's 1<sup>st</sup> Green Hydrogen Blending Project in Surat, Gujarat
- The project is a joint effort of = NTPC + GGL
- Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Bhupendra Patel | Governor – Acharya Dev Vrat
- HQs of NTPC – New Delhi | CMD – Gurdeep Singh | Founded in – 1975



**22.** According to data released by Union Health Ministry, 1,50,000 Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centres (AB-HWCs) have been operationalised before December 31. Ensuring the reach of healthcare services to the innermost regions of the nation through various initiatives, AB-HWCs have surpassed 8.5 Cr teleconsultations via e-Sanjeevni, wherein nearly 4 lakh teleconsultations take place on a daily basis. In light of expansion of AB-HWCs, the number of essential medicines has increased to 172 at the primary health centres and health wellness centres and 105 at sub health centres and health wellness centres, while essential diagnostics have been expanded to 63 at PHC-HWCs and 14 at SHC-HWCs. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Data released by Health Ministry:
  - 1,50,000 AB-HWCs have been operationalised before December 31, 2022
  - AB-HWCs have surpassed 8.5 Cr teleconsultations via e-Sanjeevni
  - Number of essential medicines has increased to 172 at the primary health centres & 105 at sub health centres
- Ministry of Health & Family Welfare: Mansukh L. Mandaviya | Constituency – Palitana, Gujarat
- MoS in Ministry of Health & Family Welfare: Bharati Pravin Pawar

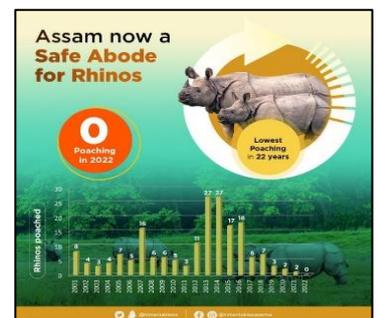
**23.** In January 2023, India took over the leadership of the Asian Pacific Postal Union (APPU). Its Headquarters is located in Bangkok, Thailand. Vinaya Prakash Singh has been elected as the Secretary General of the union for a tenure of four years. Asian Pacific Postal Union (APPU) is an intergovernmental organization of 32 member countries of the Asia-Pacific region. APPU is the only restricted union of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) in the region, which is a specialized agency of the United Nations. Secretary General leads the activities of the union and is also the Director of the Asian Pacific Postal College (APPC) which is the largest inter-governmental postal training institute in the region. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Vinaya Prakash Singh – elected as the Secretary General of APPU & Director of APPC
- India – took over the leadership of the APPU in January 2023
- HQs of APPU – Bangkok, Thailand | Secretary General – Vinaya Prakash Singh

**24.** On January 1, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma announced that no rhinos were poached in the state in 2022 and only 2 in 2021. Rhinos have been poached for their horn, which is prized in some cultures. The Indian rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros unicornis*) is found only in the Brahmaputra valley, parts of North Bengal, and parts of southern Nepal. The Indian rhino is listed as ‘vulnerable’ (better than endangered, worse than near threatened) in the IUCN Red List. In 2019, Assam constituted a Special Rhino Protection Force to keep a check on rhino poaching and related activities at Kaziranga National Park (KNP). World Rhino Day is observed on September 22. According to the WWF, there are around 3,700 Indian rhinos in the wild today. Assam’s Kaziranga National Park (KNP) alone has 2,613 animals, according to a census carried out in March 2022. There are more than 250 other rhinos in the Orang, Pobitora, and Manas parks. One-horned Rhino is the state animal of Assam. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- Himanta Biswa Sarma: No rhinos were poached in Assam in 2022 (only 2 in 2021)
- WWF: there are around 3,700 Indian rhinos in the wild | One-horned Rhino is the state animal of Assam
- Indian rhinoceros are found only in the Brahmaputra valley (North Bengal) & some parts of southern Nepal
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Himanta Biswa Sarma | Governor – Gulab Chand Kataria
- HQs of WWF International – Gland, Switzerland | Director General – Marco Lambertini | Established in – 1961

**25.** Ministry of Railways has rolled out a five-pronged Energy Efficiency Plan to become carbon-neutral by 2030. The ministry is looking to reduce overall energy use with efficient operations and increase renewable energy usage. The policy is broadly centred around 5 action points - sustainable buildings, cloud-based data monitoring & management portal, energy efficiency in equipment & appliances, power quality & restoration, and capacity building & awareness. India, in its commitment to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, has set a target to become net zero by 2070. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- Ministry of Railways – rolled out a five-pronged Energy Efficiency Plan to become carbon-neutral by 2030
- Ministry of Railways: Ashwini Vaishnav | Constituency – Odisha
- MoS in Ministry of Railways: Danve Raosaheb Dadarao & Darshana Vikram Jardosh

**26.** On January 4, Narayan Rane inaugurated 'Intelligent Tray Retrieval System (ITRS)', Manufactured by SJK Innovations Pvt. Ltd, at MOPA (GOA) International airport. The ITRS is an Artificial Intelligence (AI) based fully automatic machine that helps in providing enhanced passenger security with advanced screening technology. The machine is equipped with image analysis software with advanced tools that makes it easy for the screener to take correct decisions against every baggage. The machine also contains a dedicated module for the high threat baggage's which needs immediate attention at the airport. ITRS system installed at MOPA today is 'Made in India' by an MSME company and is also "Patented in India". [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- Narayan Rane – inaugurated 'Intelligent Tray Retrieval System (ITRS)' at MOPA (GOA) International Airport
- ITRS is manufactured by – SJK Innovations Pvt Ltd
- Goa: Capital – Panaji | CM – Pramod Sawant | Governor – P. S. Sreedharan Pillai

**27.** In January 2022, in a first of its kind initiative in the country, the Tamil Nadu government has set up a Green Climate Fund of Rs 1,000 Crore which will mobilise resources from various sources to support various climate change initiatives, mitigation and greening projects. By contributing Rs 100 crores, the state government has become the first sponsor for the Tamil Nadu Green Climate Fund (TNGCF). It has also a green shoe option for another Rs 1,000 crore. The fund will be used to invest in electric vehicles and hybrids, climate-friendly products and alternatives, pollution control technologies and products, renewable and green energy, conservation and development of forest including ecotourism, waste management, sustainable agriculture, and water resource management. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- Tamil Nadu Govt – set up India's first 'Green Climate Fund' worth Rs 1,000 Crore
- The fund aims to mobilise resources from various sources to support various climate change initiatives
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin | Governor – Ravindra Narayan Ravi

**28.** On January 4, the Union Cabinet approved the 'National Green Hydrogen Mission' with an aim to make India a global hub for manufacturing of this clean source of energy. Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) will formulate the scheme guidelines for implementation. The mission seeks to promote development of green hydrogen production capacity of at least 5 MMT (Million Metric Tonnes) per annum with an associated renewable energy capacity addition of about 125 GW in the country by 2030. The initial outlay for the mission will be Rs 19,744 Cr, including an outlay of Rs 17,490 Cr for the SIGHT programme, Rs 1,466 Cr for pilot projects, Rs 400 Cr for R&D, and Rs 388 Cr towards other mission components. Under the Strategic Interventions for Green Hydrogen Transition Programme (SIGHT), two distinct financial incentive mechanisms, targeting domestic manufacturing of electrolysers and production of green hydrogen, will be provided under the Mission. The Mission will also support pilot projects in emerging end-use sectors and production pathways. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Union Cabinet approved 'National Green Hydrogen Mission' with an outlay of Rs 19,744 Cr
- It aims to develop Green Hydrogen production capacity of at least 5 MMT per annum by 2030
- Ministry of Power and Ministry New & Renewable Energy: Raj Kumar Singh | Constituency – Arrah, Bihar
- MoS in Ministry of Power: Krishan Pal Gurjar

**29.** On January 6, Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik inaugurated India's largest hockey stadium, Birsa Munda Hockey Stadium, in Rourkela ahead of the Men's Hockey World Cup 2023. Built at an estimated cost of ₹261 Crore, the stadium is located in Sundargarh district. It has been built in 50 acres in a record 15 months-time with a seating capacity of over 20,000 (21,800). [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Naveen Patnaik – inaugurated India's largest hockey stadium, Birsa Munda Hockey Stadium, in Rourkela, Odisha
- Cost – ₹261 Cr | Capacity – 20,000 seats
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal

**30.** In January 2022, India received its first In Vitro Fertilization (IVF) mobile unit for animals in Gujarat's Amreli. The mobile IVF lab was inaugurated by union minister Purushottam Rupala. The IVF mobile van was dedicated in a joint venture of the Government of India and Amar Dairy. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- India received its first In Vitro Fertilization (IVF) mobile unit for animals in Amreli, Gujarat
- Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Bhupendra Patel | Governor – Acharya Dev Vrat
- Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying: Parshottam Rupala | Constituency – Gujarat
- MoS in Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying: Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Balyan & Dr. L. Murugan

**31.** On January 3, Indian Railways plans to roll out Hydrogen-powered trains on its narrow gauge heritage routes by December, 2023. Currently, the Railways are developing a prototype of a hydrogen fuel-based train at the Northern Railway workshop which will test-run on the Sonipat-Jind section in Haryana. The newly-built hydrogen-powered trains will be called 'Vande Metro' and will be manufactured in large numbers to replace the current set of trains that were manufactured in the 1950s and 1960s. China has also recently launched, Asia's first hydrogen-powered train. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- Indian Railways – plans to roll out Hydrogen-powered trains on its narrow gauge heritage routes by December, 2023
- Hydrogen-powered trains will be called 'Vande Metro'
- HQs of Indian Railways – New Delhi | Chairman & CEO – Anil Kumar Lahoti

**32.** On January 9, PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the 17<sup>th</sup> Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) in Indore, Madhya Pradesh. The 17<sup>th</sup> Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention was organized in partnership with the Madhya Pradesh Government from 8-10 January 2023 in Indore. The theme of this PBD Convention was "Diaspora: Reliable partners for India's progress in Amrit Kaal". Australian Member of Parliament (MP) Zaneta Mascarenhas was the Guest of Honour at the Youth Pravasi Bharatiya Divas. A Commemorative Postal Stamp 'Surakshit Jaayen, Prashikshit Jaayen' was also released to underline the importance of safe, legal, orderly and skilled migration. On 10 January 2023, President Droupadi Murmu conferred Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards 2023. Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards are conferred to select Indian diaspora members to recognize their achievements and honour their contributions to various fields, both in India and abroad. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- January 9 – 17<sup>th</sup> Pravasi Bharatiya Divas
- Narendra Modi – inaugurated the 17<sup>th</sup> Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) in Indore, Madhya Pradesh
- The theme of this PBD Convention – "Diaspora: Reliable partners for India's progress in Amrit Kaal"
- A Commemorative Postal Stamp 'Surakshit Jaayen, Prashikshit Jaayen' was also released
- President Droupadi Murmu – conferred 'Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards 2023'
- Mohamed Irfaan Ali (Guyana President) – Chief Guest at the 17<sup>th</sup> Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) Convention
- Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel

**33.** On January 6, Indian Railways' Ghaziabad-Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay section in Uttar Pradesh has become India's longest fully Automatic Block Signalling (ABS) section. The 762 km long route has been fully automated. The Automatic Block Signalling (ABS) helps to control the movement of the trains by the automatic stop signals. The Railways has planned to implement the project on existing high density train routes. The railways has adopted the 'Electronic Interlocking' to derive benefits of digital and modern technologies in train operation and to enhance safety. In the FY 2022-23, the budget allocated to the Railways was Rs 2,45,800 crores. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- Ghaziabad-Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay section – became India's longest fully Automatic Block Signalling (ABS) section
- Length of the route – 762 km | Budget allocated to the Railways – Rs 2,45,800 Cr
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

**34.** Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry, organized the "Startup India Innovation Week" from January 10 to 16, 2023 to celebrate the Indian Startup Ecosystem as well as National Startup Day on January 16. Startup India Innovation Week 2023 included Knowledge Sharing Sessions for entrepreneurs, aspiring entrepreneurs, and other enablers, involving relevant stakeholders from the startup ecosystem such as Government officials, incubators, corporates and investors. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- DPIIT – organized “Startup India Innovation Week” from January 10 to 16, 2023
- HQs of DPIIT – New Delhi | DPIIT works under – Ministry of Commerce & Industry

**35.** On January 7, Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai released the logo and mascot of the 26<sup>th</sup> National Youth Festival 2023 held in Hubballi-Dharwad twin cities from the 12<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> of January in Karnataka. The Union Sports Minister announced a cash award of Rs 50,000 for Bansilal Ketki of Orissa whose logo design was accepted by the Youth Festival Committee. The logo is inspired by Lotus, the national flower. The Minister also announced a 50,000 rupees cash award for the Champi Chikka elephant mascot designed by Inbam of Bengaluru. The theme of the 26<sup>th</sup> Youth Festival is “Vikasit Yuva-Vikasit Bharat”. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- 26<sup>th</sup> National Youth Festival 2023 – held in Hubballi-Dharwad, Karnataka
- Logo was designed by – Bansilal Ketki (Orissa) | The logo is inspired by – Lotus
- Mascot – ‘Champi Chikka’ elephant (designed by Inbam of Bengaluru)
- Theme of 26<sup>th</sup> Youth Festival – “Vikasit Yuva-Vikasit Bharat”
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – Basavaraj Bommai | Governor – Thaawarchand Gehlot

**36.** On January 7, Bihar began its the first phase of the caste-based census in the state. The exercise is being conducted in two stages. In the first phase, the number of all households in the state were counted in urban and rural areas. Following this, all information will be uploaded on portals. In the second phase, set to begin in March, data pertaining to people of all castes and religions will be collected. For the survey, an estimated population of 127 million in over 25 million households across 38 districts, which have 534 blocks and 261 urban local bodies, will be covered. The state government will spend ₹ 500 Cr from its contingency fund for the exercise. The general administration department (GAD) is the nodal authority for the survey. The exercise will provide scientific data for implementation of welfare schemes for the economically weaker sections of the society. Political observers expect the exercise to sharpen the caste polarization in the state and revive the Mandal Politics of the 1990s. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- Bihar – began its the first phase of the ‘Caste-based Census’ (2<sup>nd</sup> phase will take place in March)
- The state government will spend ₹500 Cr for this exercise
- Bihar: Capital – Patna | CM – Nitish Kumar | Governor – Rajendra Vishwanath Arleka

**37.** On January 3, Uttarakhand government abolished the revenue policing system in the state. Law and order in 1,800 revenue villages of Uttarakhand will now be handled by the state police. In the first phase, the border of 52 police stations and 19 police posts will be expanded. Under the unique revenue police system, civil officials of the revenue department had the powers and functions of the regular police. Whenever a crime took place, the revenue police of the area filed an FIR, investigated the case, arrested the accused, and also filed a chargesheet in the local court. The demand to replace the ‘Revenue Police System’ in Uttarakhand gained ground during the probe into Ankita Bhandari’s murder in September 2022. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- Uttarakhand – abolished 'Revenue Policing System' & announced to transfer areas of revenue police to regular police
- Uttarakhand: Capital – Dehradun & Gairsain | CM – Pushkar Singh Dhami | Governor – Lt. Gen. Gurmit Singh

**38.** On January 9, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) organised the “Pradhan Mantri National Apprenticeship Mela (PMNAM)” across 242 districts in 28 States and Union Territories of India, as a part of PM Narendra Modi’s vision to boost career opportunities for India’s youth under Skill India Mission. Several local businesses and organizations were invited to be a part of this apprenticeship mela to provide local youth with relevant opportunities to shape their careers through apprenticeship training. PMNAM are hosted in India on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of every month. The government is striving to train 1 million youth per annum through apprenticeship training. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- MSDE – organised the “Pradhan Mantri National Apprenticeship Mela (PMNAM)” across 242 districts in 28 States & UTs
- PMNAM are hosted in India on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of every month
- Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship: Dharmendra Pradhan | Constituency – Madhya Pradesh
- MoS in Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship: Rajeev Chandrasekhar

**39.** On January 6, Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has released the “Standards National Action Plan (SNAP) 2022-27” and set up around 4000 Standards Clubs across India. On the occasion of 76<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day of BIS on January 6, Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Piyush Goyal, applauded BIS for launching several transformational initiatives. Through Standards Clubs, BIS aims to expose science students of class 9th and above to the concepts of Quality and Standardization through student centric activities. The BIS’ target is ambitiously enhanced to creating 10,000 Standards Clubs by the end of 2022-23. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- BIS – released the “Standards National Action Plan (SNAP) 2022-27”
- So far, BIS has set up around 4000 Standards Clubs across India
- HQs of BIS – Manek Bhawan, Old Delhi | Director General – Pramod Kumar Tiwari

**40.** On January 5, Goa’s newly developed Manohar International Airport, Mopa started its commercial operations. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Manohar International Airport, Goa on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2022. The foundation stone of the airport was laid by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi in November 2016 and it has been developed at a cost of around Rs 2,870 Cr. Dabolim airport of Goa, being a Defence airport, put limitations on air traffic. The new airport would help tourism and enable Goa to become a hub for exporting perishable goods like fruits, vegetables, and fish. This would create employment opportunities, increase income for locals, and attract visitors from across India. Recently, Goa reduced VAT on aviation fuel from 18% to 8%. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- Manohar International Airport, Mopa (Goa) – started its commercial operations (development cost - Rs 2,870 Cr)
- Narendra Modi – inaugurated the airport on 11<sup>th</sup> Dec, 2022 | Goa reduced VAT on aviation fuel from 18% to 8%
- Goa: Capital – Panaji | CM – Pramod Sawant | Governor – P. S. Sreedharan Pillai

**41.** On January 10, ReNew Power installed India's first 3x platform Wind Turbine Generators (WTGs) in Gadag, Karnataka. The new WTGs will be a part of India's first 'Round the Clock' renewable energy project, combining wind, solar and a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS). This project will produce enough energy to power over 1 million households in India annually. In a first for an Indian business, the installations have been executed by a specialized Wind Engineering Procurement and Construction (EPC) team. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- ReNew Power – installed India's first 3x platform Wind Turbine Generators (WTGs) in Gadag, Karnataka
- The new WTGs will be a part of India's first 'Round the Clock' renewable energy project, combining wind, solar & BESS
- [HQs of ReNew Power – Gurugram, Haryana](#) | [MD & Chairman – Sumant Sinha](#)

**42.** On January 8, Osmanabad District Court became the first court in Maharashtra to introduce e-system of functioning. Under this system, all the court-related work including filing, payment and other court services, etc. can be done through mobile app or online modes. Besides, library of the court has also been converted into digital mode. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Osmanabad District Court – became the first court in Maharashtra to introduce e-system of functioning
- [Maharashtra: CM – Eknath Shinde](#) | [Governor – Ramesh Bais](#)

**43.** On January 9, Science and Technology Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh released the theme of National Science Day 2023 at a function in New Delhi. This year, the theme of National Science Day is "Global Science for Global Wellbeing". The theme has been chosen for the purpose of raising public appreciation of scientific issues in a global context which is having a bearing on global Well-being. National Science Day is celebrated every year on the 28<sup>th</sup> of February to commemorate the discovery of the Raman Effect by Indian Physicist Sir C. V. Raman. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Dr. Jitendra Singh – released the Theme of National Science Day 2023
- February 28 – National Science Day | 2023's Theme – "Global Science for Global Wellbeing"
- The day commemorates the discovery of the 'Raman Effect' by Indian Physicist Sir C. V. Raman

**44.** On January 8, Uttar Pradesh government launched a statewide 100-day 'UP Global City' campaign in all the 762 urban bodies ahead of the upcoming Global Investors Summit. The campaign was launched by Arvind Kumar Sharma, Minister of Urban Development, the government of UP. It aims to transform the lifestyle of urban bodies of the state on par with global standards. The campaign will focus on urban facilities, improving air quality, better cleanliness, and beautification. It also aims for proper disposal of garbage, installation of garbage etc. The three-day long 'Global Investors Summit' will begin from February 10, 2023 and will conclude on February 12, 2023 at Lucknow. Moreover, the government will introduce 'Brand UP' in G-20. Apart from 100-day 'UP Global City', other similar campaigns being run by the Uttar Pradesh government are - Swachh Dhaba campaign, Swachh Virasat Abhiyan etc. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- UP – launched 100-day 'UP Global City' campaign ahead of upcoming 'Global Investors Summit'
- The campaign will focus on urban facilities, improving air quality, better cleanliness & beautification
- 'Global Investors Summit' – to be held in Lucknow from 10 to 12 February
- [UP: Capital – Lucknow](#) | [CM – Yogi Adityanath](#) | [Governor – Anandiben Patel](#)



**45.** On January 3, International Institute of Information Technology Bangalore (IIITB) rolled out Modular Open-Source Identity Platform (MOSIP) which is a digital identity platform. Upon the request of World Bank to initiate research and development, the project provides digital identities similar to Aadhaar to underdeveloped and developing countries. So far, 16 lakh lines of codes have been developed and used by countries, free of cost. Although the project was first aimed at providing MOSIP to five countries, it has now been extended to nine countries. Philippines, Morocco, Sri Lanka, Uganda, Ethiopia, Republic of Guinea, Sierra Leone, Burkina Faso, and Togolese Republic are the countries whose citizens will enroll on the platform. The project is highly scalable and secure. The developers have also figured out a way to operate in 5,000+ habitable islands of Philippines where there is no good internet connection. The project is also being funded by Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Norad, Sir Ratan Tata Trust, Pratiksha Trust and Omidyar Network. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- IIITB – rolled out ‘MOSIP’, an Aadhar like digital identity platform for 9 countries
- 9 countries: Philippines, Morocco, Sri Lanka, Uganda, Ethiopia, Guinea, Sierra Leone, Burkina Faso & Togolese
- The project is funded by – Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Norad, Ratan Tata Trust, Pratiksha Trust & Omidyar Network

**46.** On January 8, Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel inaugurated the International Kite Festival 2023 in Ahmedabad. In 2023, The International Kite Festival was organised by Gujarat Tourism on the G20 theme of ‘One Earth, One Family, One Future’ from the January 8-14, 2023. The delegates from G20 countries have been invited to the inauguration of the international kite festival 2023 to exchange their culture. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- International Kite Festival 2023 – inaugurated in Ahmedabad, Gujarat (organised on G20 theme)
- Presidency of G20 Summit: 2023 – India (Dec 1, 2022 to Nov 30, 2023) | 2024 – Brazil
- India’s G20 motto – ‘Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam’ | Theme – ‘One Earth One Family One Future’ | Sherpa – Amitabh Kant
- Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Bhupendra Patel | Governor – Acharya Dev Vrat

**47.** On January 8, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has been granted an extension for the seventh time for 6 months till June 30, 2023, to frame rules for the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA). The citizenship amendment Bill (CAB) was passed by Parliament on December 11, 2019. It got the President’s assent the next day. The law is yet to be implemented, as rules under the CAA are yet to be framed. According to the Manual on Parliamentary Work, rules for any legislation should have been framed within six months of Presidential assent, or seek extension from the committees on subordinate legislation of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha. The MHA sought time from the Parliamentary committees on six occasions. The first extension was granted in June 2020. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- MHA – is granted an extension (7<sup>th</sup> time) till June 30, 2023 to frame rules for ‘Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA)’
- CAB – was passed by Parliament on December 11, 2019
- Ministry of Home Affairs: Amit Shah | Constituency – Gandhinagar, Gujarat
- MoS in Ministry of Home Affairs: Nityanand Rai, Ajay Kumar & Nisith Pramanik

**48.** On January 7, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya reviewed the progress of Fertilizers Corporation of India Ltd. (FCIL) Talcher unit at Angul, Odisha. Revival of FCIL Talcher unit is being undertaken by Talcher Fertilizers Ltd. (TFL). He informed that India's domestic production of urea will see a major boost with five new fertilizer plants coming up in the country. Four of these plants are already functional while Talcher is a coal gasification plant which will become functional by October 2024. Talcher unit which will be India's largest and first coal gasification urea plant. Since the project promotes coal gasification, it shall also aid in meeting the stated aim of gasifying 100 MT of coal by 2030. Start of all five plants would add 63.5 Lakh Metric Ton per annum (LMTPA) indigenous urea production capacity in the country. Out of five, four plants i.e. Ramagundam, Gorakhpur, Sindri and Barauni Fertilizer Plants have already started urea production in the country. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- 5 new fertilizer plants coming up in the country & 4 of these plants are already functional
- FCIL Talcher – is a coal gasification plant which will become functional by October 2024
- Talcher unit (in Odisha) – will be India's largest & first coal gasification urea plant
- Start of all five plants would add 63.5 LMTPA indigenous urea production capacity in India
- Other 4 Fertilizer Plants are in: Ramagundam, Gorakhpur, Sindri, Barauni
- [Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar](#) | [CM – Naveen Patnaik](#) | [Governor – Ganeshi Lal](#)

**49.** On January 10, Supreme Court effectively extended the ground for enforcement of the fundamental rights. With this, a citizen can seek enforcement of the fundamental rights to freedom of speech not just against the state but against other citizens as well. Article 19 which guarantees freedom of speech and expression, is a right invoked against the state. The court, extending free speech against private citizens, opens up a range of possibilities in Constitutional law. This interpretation could also bring an obligation on the state to ensure private entities also abide by Constitutional norms. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Supreme Court – extended the ground for enforcement of the fundamental rights from the state to citizens as well
- Article 19 – guarantees the right to freedom of speech and expression
- [Present Chief of Justice of the Supreme Court of India – Justice Dhananjaya Y. Chandrachud \(50<sup>th</sup>\)](#)
- [Retirement age: Chief Justices & Judges of HC – 62 years](#) | [Chief Justice of India & judges of the SC – 65 years](#)

**50.** On January 11, Union Cabinet, chaired by PM Narendra Modi, has approved a historic decision of setting up and promoting a National Level Cooperative Society for organic products under the “Multi State Cooperative Societies (MSCS) Act, 2002” with support from relevant Ministries through their policies, schemes & agencies following the ‘Whole of the Government Approach’. The cooperative society will manage various activities related to organic sector by providing certified and authentic organic products. The Prime Minister has observed that all efforts should be made to leverage the strengths of cooperatives and transform them into successful and vibrant business enterprises to realize the vision of “Sahakar-se-Samridhi”. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Cabinet approved setting up & promoting a ‘National Level Cooperative Society’ for Organic products
- It is approved under the “Multi State Cooperative Societies (MSCS) Act, 2002”

**51.** On January 15, Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off Vande Bharat Express train connecting Secunderabad, Telangana with Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. The train will be the 8<sup>th</sup> Vande Bharat Express to be introduced by Indian Railways and will be the first one connecting the two Telugu-speaking states of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, covering a distance of around 700 km. Duranto Express is the fastest train which is currently running between Secunderabad and Visakhapatnam reaches the destination in maximum 10 hours. Railway officials say that the Vande Bharat train will reach its destination within 8 hours and 30 minutes. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- PM Narendra Modi – flagged off 8<sup>th</sup> Vande Bharat Express train connecting Secunderabad with Visakhapatnam
- ‘Duranto Express’ is the fastest train running between Secunderabad & Visakhapatnam covering the distance in 10 hrs
- This new Vande Bharat Express will cover the distance in 8.5 hrs
- **Telangana:** Capital – Hyderabad | CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao | Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan
- **Andhra Pradesh:** Capital – Amravati | CM – YS Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – S. Abdul Nazeer

**52.** On January 8, three new species of migratory birds from Siberia and Europe were sighted at Sukhsagar lake in Tripura’s Gomati district. The birds which were sighted for the first time this year are Ruff, found in Europe, Oriental pratincole, and Common crane from Siberia in Russia. Every year more than 100 species of migratory birds visit Tripura from European, African and North American countries. The migratory birds which visit Tripura are - Large Wader, Northern Shoveler, Greater Flamingo, Black Tail Godwit, Little Cormorant, Pheasant-tailed jacana, etc. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Three new species of migratory birds from Siberia & Europe – sighted at Sukhsagar lake in Tripura’s Gomati district
- The birds’ species are – Ruff (found in Europe), Oriental pratincole & Common crane (from Siberia in Russia)
- **Tripura:** Capital – Agartala | CM – Manik Saha | Governor – Satyadev Narayan Arya

**53.** On January 11, Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways and Ayush, Sarbananda Sonowal, along with Dr Manik Saha, Chief Minister, Tripura inaugurated the School of Logistics, Waterways and Communication in Agartala. The Centre for Logistic, Communication and Waterways would facilitate in conducting studies/research, training, workshops/seminars for stakeholders like businesses, exporters/importers, Chambers of Commerce and Industries, local entrepreneurs, tourist operators etc. It has been set up under State Institute of Public Administration and Rural Development (SIPARD). SIPARD is an autonomous body funded by the Government of Tripura and partially by the Ministry of Rural Development. Under the PM Gati Shakti initiative, multi-modal connectivity, Tripura is to be connected through IBP route 9 & 10 with Kolkata/Haldia Port and then on to Chittagong Port in Bangladesh & Sittwe Port in Myanmar. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Sarbananda Sonowal – inaugurated ‘School of Logistics, Waterways & Communication’ in Agartala set up under SIPARD
- SIPARD – an autonomous body funded by the Government of Tripura + partially by Ministry of Rural Development
- **Tripura:** Capital – Agartala | CM – Manik Saha | Governor – Satyadev Narayan Arya
- **Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways:** Sarbananda Sonowal | Constituency – Majuli, Assam
- **MoS in Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways:** Shripad Yesso Naik & Shantanu Thakur



**54.** On January 4, Deepor Beel wetland, Assam's only Ramsar site recorded 30 more waterfowl species than the total counted in 2022. Altogether 26,747 birds belonging to 96 species were recorded during 2nd Bird Species Count Exercise conducted in Deepor Beel Wetland. The exercise was conducted by the Guwahati Wildlife Division of the Assam Forest Department. The Forest Department manages the 4.1 sq. km Deepor Beel Wildlife Sanctuary in the central part of the greater wetland named Deepor Beel. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Deepor Beel wetland – recorded 30 more waterfowl species than the total counted in 2022
- 26,747 birds belonging to 96 species were recorded during 2<sup>nd</sup> Bird Species Count Exercise
- The exercise was conducted by – Guwahati Wildlife Division of the Assam Forest Department
- [Assam: Capital – Dispur](#) | [CM – Himanta Biswa Sarma](#) | [Governor – Gulab Chand Kataria](#)

**55.** On January 13, Kollam was officially declared India's first Constitution literate district. Thousands of neo-literates were educated on the Indian Constitution as part of The Citizen, a Constitution literacy campaign jointly launched by the Kollam district panchayat, District Planning Committee and the Kerala Institute of Local Administration (KILA). The training involved 2,200 trainers were called 'senators.' During the seven-month campaign, the senators visited schools, offices, auto stands and tribal councils to spread awareness. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Kollam district (Kerala) – officially declared as India's first Constitution literate district
- People were educated on the Indian Constitution as part of Constitution literacy campaign "The Citizen"
- The campaign was jointly launched by = Kollam district panchayat + District Planning Committee + KILA
- [Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram](#) | [CM – Pinarayi Vijayan](#) | [Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan](#)

**56.** On January 10, Indian Skimmers were sighted in the Godavari estuary in Kakinada district during the Asian Waterbird Census-2023. The Godavari estuary in Andhra Pradesh has become a prime and safe habitat for the Indian Skimmer (*Rynchops albicollis*). The bird has been included in the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red list of endangered species. Indian Skimmer migrates to the Godavari estuary for feeding. Great Knot and Caspian Terns have been sighted in good numbers during the census. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Indian Skimmers – sighted in the Godavari estuary in Kakinada district during the 'Asian Waterbird Census-2023'
- Godavari estuary (Andhra Pradesh) – has become a prime and safe habitat for the Indian Skimmer (*Rynchops albicollis*)
- [Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Vishakhapatnam](#) | [CM – YS Jaganmohan Reddy](#) | [Governor – S. Abdul Nazeer](#)

**57.** On January 10, Amit Shah inaugurated the 'Jai Hind - The New Light and Sound Show' at Red Fort in New Delhi. The rich history and heritage of India was presented very well in this one-hour show. He called upon the people to make collective efforts to make the country number one in the world in the coming 25 years during the Amrit Kaal. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Amit Shah – inaugurated the 'Jai Hind - The New Light and Sound Show' at Red Fort in New Delhi

**58.** On January 12, for the first time in the country, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has formulated the identity standards for Basmati Rice as part of efforts to ensure fair trade practices and check adulteration. These standards will be effective from August, 2023. The FSSAI has come out with these standards through “Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) First Amendment Regulations, 2023”. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- FSSAI – formulated the identity standards for ‘Basmati Rice’ for the first time in India
- These standards will be effective from August, 2023
- [HQs of FSSAI – New Delhi](#) | [Chairperson – Rita Teotia](#) | [CEO – Arun Singhal](#)

**59.** On January 13, the government in Himachal Pradesh cleared the decision for its employees to revert to the Old Pension Scheme (OPS). Himachal becomes the third Congress-ruled state after Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh to announce such a move. Under this scheme, the pension was fixed at 50% of one’s last drawn basic pay. DA hikes are announced twice a year, generally in January and July. The main problem with the scheme was that the pension liability remained unfunded, that is, there was no corpus specifically for pension, which would grow continuously and could be dipped into for payments. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Himachal Pradesh – decided for its employees to revert to ‘Old Pension Scheme (OPS)’
- Himachal Pradesh – third Congress-ruled state after Rajasthan & Chhattisgarh to revert to OPS
- Under OPS, the pension was fixed at 50% of one’s last drawn basic pay
- [HP: Capital – Shimla & Dharamshala](#) | [CM – Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu](#) | [Governor – Shiv Pratap Shukla](#)

**60.** On January 4, Patna circle of the Archeological Survey of India (ASI) discovered two 1200-year-old miniature votive stupas near Sarai Tila mound within the premises of ‘Nalanda Mahavihara’, a world heritage site in Nalanda district in the state. The stupas, carved from stone, depict Buddha figures. The Nalanda Mahavihara site comprises the archaeological remains of a monastic and scholastic institution dating from the 3rd century BCE to the 13th century CE. It includes stupas, shrines, viharas (residential and educational buildings) and important art works in stucco, stone and metal. The Nanda dynasty ruled Magadha in northern India between 343 and 321 BCE (Before Common Era) with its capital at Pataliputra (modern-day Patna). [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- ASI – discovered two 1200-year-old miniature votive stupas within the premises of Nalanda Mahavihara, Bihar
- The stupas are carved from stone & depict Buddha figures
- Nalanda University & Mahabodhi temple – located in Bihar (UNESCO World Heritage Sites)
- [Bihar: Capital – Patna](#) | [CM – Nitish Kumar](#) | [Governor – Rajendra Vishwanath Arleka](#)

**61.** On January 13, Vidisha, an aspirational district of Madhya Pradesh became the first ever district in India for on ground deployment of innovative 5G use cases offered by startups. It is a joint initiative by Vidisha District Administration and Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT), Department of Telecommunications (DoT). DoT facilitates collaborations under 5G use case promotional pilots of startups & SMEs to accelerate Digital Transformation across socio-economic verticals. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- Vidisha district (Madhya Pradesh) – became the first ever district in India for on ground deployment of innovative 5G use cases offered by startups
- Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel

**62.** On January 14, Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology Rajeev Chandrasekhar announced that Digital India Startup Hub, through the Software Technology Parks of India (STPI), will set up India's first Centre of Excellence for Online Gaming in Shillong, Meghalaya by March 2023. It is expected to catalyse startups and entrepreneurs to build the Next Gen Online Gaming ecosystem. The Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY) recently circulated Draft amendments to the 'IT Rules, 2021' in relation to online gaming for public consultation. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- Digital India Startup Hub – will set up India's 1<sup>st</sup> Centre of Excellence for Online Gaming in Shillong by March 2023
- Meghalaya: Capital – Shillong | CM – Conrad Kongkal Sangma | Governor – Phagu Chauhan

**63.** On January 13, Commerce & Industry Minister, Piyush Goyal, launched the "MAARG" platform (Mentorship, Advisory, Assistance, Resilience, and Growth), which would facilitate mentorship between startups and entrepreneurs across sectors, stages, and functions. The matchmaking phase of the portal will allow startups to connect with mentors and discuss their mentorship needs. Goyal also announced the results of National Startup Awards 2022 which invited applications across 17 sectors which were further divided into 50 sub sectors, and 7 special categories. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- Piyush Goyal – launched the "MAARG" platform to facilitate mentorship between startups & entrepreneurs
- MAARG – **M**entorship, **A**dvisory, **A**ssistance, **R**esilience & **G**rowth
- National Startup Awards 2022 invited applications across 17 sectors (50 sub sectors & 7 special categories)

**64.** On January 14, Tamil Nadu Assembly unanimously adopted a resolution nudging the Union Government to revive the Sethusamudram Shipping Canal project that envisages connecting the Gulf of Mannar and Palk Strait to create a continuous navigable channel around the India peninsula without having to circumnavigate Sri Lanka. The project was originally conceived in the 19<sup>th</sup> century by the then British regime. The project aims at creating a shipping canal by linking the Palk Bay and the Gulf of Mannar between India and Sri Lanka. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- Tamil Nadu – adopted a resolution to revive the 'Sethusamudram Shipping Canal project'
- 'Sethusamudram Project' aims to create a shipping canal by linking Palk Bay & Gulf of Mannar between India & Sri Lanka
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin | Governor – Ravindra Narayan Ravi

**65.** On January 13, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has listed 'Neelakurinji' (*Strobilanthes kunthiana*) under Schedule III of the 'Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972', including it on the list of protected plants. Those who uproot or destroy the plant will invite a fine of ₹25,000 and 3 years' imprisonment. The cultivation of Neelakurinji and its possession is not allowed. Eravikulam National Park, in Kerala, is known for widespread blooming of the kurinji, with the next flowering season expected in 2030. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- MoEFCC listed 'Neelakurinji' (Strobilanthes kunthiana) under Schedule III of the 'Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972', including it on the list of 'Protected Plants'
- Ministry for Environment, Forest & Climate Change: Bhupender Yadav | Constituency – Rajasthan
- MoS in Ministry for Environment, Forest & Climate Change: Ashwini Kumar Choubey

**66.** On January 14, Rajasthan has become the first State to implement a policy to control blindness, with the objective of ensuring the 'right to sight'. A massive drive will be undertaken in the State to reduce the rate of blindness, and bring light into the lives of over 3 lakh people suffering from visual impairment. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Rajasthan – became the first State to implement a policy to control blindness with the objective of 'right to sight'
- Rajasthan: Capital – Jaipur | CM – Ashok Gehlot | Governor – Kalraj Mishra

**67.** On January 12, in order to minimize and control the fugitive dust in mining areas, Central Mine Planning and Design Institute Limited (CMPDIL), Ranchi (a consultancy subsidiary of Coal India Limited) has invented a "System and Method for Controlling Generation and Movement of Fugitive Dust" and obtained patent for the same. This system can be used in mines, thermal power plants, railway sidings, ports, construction sites wherein coal or other minerals/fugitive materials are stored under open sky. Apart from reducing the dust generation from open sources, it will also provide noise attenuation. Fugitive dust is a form of particulate matter that contributes to air pollution that is generated from various sources which are exposed to air and not discharged into the atmosphere through a confined flow stream. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- CMPDIL – invented a "System and Method for Controlling Generation and Movement of Fugitive Dust"
- It will minimize and control the fugitive dust in mining areas & provide noise attenuation
- CMPDIL – is a consultancy subsidiary of Coal India Limited
- HQs of CIL – Kolkata, West Bengal | CMD – Pramod Agrawal

**68.** On January 14, RailTel Corporation of India Ltd, a Mini Ratna Public Sector Unit (PSU) under the Ministry of Railways, has received a work order from the Department of Revenue and Disaster Management, Government of Puducherry, for design, develop, supply, install, test, commission and Operations & Maintenance (O & M) for 5 years of Integrated Command Control Centre (ICCC) and other associated activities for Puducherry Smart City. The estimated total value of the work order is Rs 170.11 Cr. It is the first smart city project awarded by Puducherry Government. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- RailTel – received a Rs 170.11 Cr contract from Puducherry for its Smart City Project
- Puducherry: CM – N. Rangasamy | Lt. Governor – Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan (addi. charge)
- HQs of RailTel – New Delhi | CMD – Sanjai Kumar

**69.** On January 16, Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports and Information and Broadcasting Anurag Singh Thakur attended the Bhoomi Pujan (groundbreaking ceremony) of the first National Centre of Excellence being set up with the joint partnership of the Sports Authority of India (SAI) and the Indian Railways. This NCOE is historical because this is the very first time that SAI has partnered with any other organisation to build a National Centre of Excellence. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

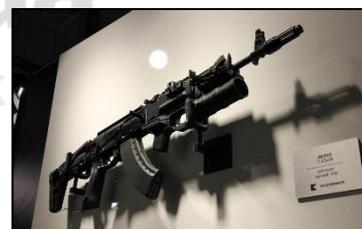
- Anurag Singh Thakur – attended the Bhoomi Pujan of the 1<sup>st</sup> National Centre of Excellence in Cooch Behar, West Bengal
- It is being set up by = SAI + Indian Railways
- HQs of SAI – New Delhi | DG – Sandip Pradhan
- HQs of Indian Railways – New Delhi | Chairman & CEO – Anil Kumar Lahoti

**70.** On January 16, The National Council for Education Research and Training (NCERT) notified India's first national assessment regulator, PARAKH, which will work on setting norms, standards and guidelines for student assessment and evaluation for all recognised school boards in the country. The regulator aims to set up assessment guidelines for all boards to help remove disparities in scores of students enrolled with different state boards. PARAKH has been launched as part of the implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP)-2020 that envisaged a standard-setting body to advise school boards regarding new assessment patterns and latest research, and promote collaborations between them. PARAKH will work on three major assessment areas: large-scale assessments, school-based assessment, and examination reforms. PARAKH will also be responsible for conducting large-scale assessments, including the National Achievement Survey (NAS). The next NAS in 2024 will be conducted by PARAKH. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- NCERT – notified 'PARAKH', India's first national assessment regulator
- PARAKH will work on 3 major assessment areas: Large-scale, School-based, & Examination reforms
- PARAKH – will also be responsible for conducting large-scale assessments, including National Achievement Survey
- HQs of NCERT – New Delhi | Director – Dinesh Prasad Saklani | Founded in – 1961

**71.** On January 17, Joint venture between India and Russia, Indo-Russian Rifles Private Limited (IRRPL), has started producing AK-203 Kalashnikov assault rifles at Korwa in Uttar Pradesh. Korwa Ordnance Factory in Amethi, Uttar Pradesh, has produced the first batch of 7.62 mm Kalashnikov AK-203 assault rifles. The contract for over six lakh AK-203 rifles would be executed by the joint venture over a period of 128 months or close to 10 years. The first batch of 5,000 rifles would be delivered to the Army by March. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- Indo-Russian Rifles Private Ltd – started producing AK-203 Kalashnikov assault rifles at Korwa in Uttar Pradesh
- The contract for over 6 lakh AK-203 rifles would be executed by the JV over a period of 128 months
- The first batch of 5,000 rifles would be delivered to the Army by March 2023
- Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble | PM – Mikhail Mishustin | President – Vladimir Putin
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

**72.** On January 17, the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) has come out with an audit standard for sustainability information, the first such effort in the world, to help its members provide 'reasonable or limited' assurance on such information by the reporting entities. Sustainability Reporting Standards Board of ICAI has released Standard on Sustainability Assurance Engagements (SSAE) 3000, "Assurance Engagements on Sustainability Information". The ICAI has now issued 16 social audit standards (SAS) that will be applicable to social enterprises that will get listed on the social stock exchange. The 16 social audit standards (SAS) will be mandatory for social auditors registered with the Institute of Social Auditors of India (ISAI) which has been established by the ICAI. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- Sustainability Reporting Standards Board of ICAI – released Standard on Sustainability Assurance Engagements (SSAE) 3000, “Assurance Engagements on Sustainability Information”
- ICAI – the first in the world to come out with an ‘Audit Standard for Sustainability Information’
- HQs of ICAI – Kolkata, West Bengal | President – Vijender Sharma | Vice-President – Rakesh Bhalla

**73.** On January 16, Jammu and Kashmir Government declared the whole Union Territory as a “Free Area” for purposes of the Prevention and Control of Infectious and Contagious Diseases in Animals Act, 2009. The declaration has been made in the exercise of powers conferred by sub-section (5) of section 6 of the Prevention and Control of Infectious and Contagious Diseases in Animals (PCICDA) Act, 2009. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- J&K – declared as a “Free Area” for purposes of ‘Prevention & Control of Infectious & Contagious Diseases in Animals Act, 2009’
- The declaration is made in exercise of powers conferred by sub-section (5) of section 6 of ‘PCICDA Act, 2009’
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha

**74.** On January 15, Union Minister of State Dr. Jitendra Singh, while addressing the occasion of 148<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day of India Meteorological Department (IMD), dedicated 4 Doppler Weather Radar Systems to the Western Himalayan States of Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, Uttarakhand, and Himachal Pradesh. He also announced that India will be covered by Doppler Weather Radar Network by 2025 to predict extreme weather events more accurately. Doppler weather radar, commonly known as Weather Surveillance Radar (WSR), is a type of radar used to find precipitation, determine its motion, and also the type of precipitation (rain, snow, hail, etc). The Minister also dedicated 200 Agro Automated Weather Stations to the Nation and informed that under Agro-Meteorological Services, it is targeted to establish 660 District Agro Meteorological Units (DAMUs) by 2025. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- Dr. Jitendra Singh – addressed the occasion of 148<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day of of IMD on January 15
- He dedicated 4 Doppler Weather Radar Systems to J & K, Ladakh, Uttarakhand, and Himachal Pradesh
- India will be covered by Doppler Weather Radar Network by 2025 to predict extreme weather events more accurately
- HQs of IMD – New Delhi | Director General – Dr. Mrutyunjay Mohapatra | Founded in – 1875

**75.** On January 13, Union health minister, Mansukh Mandaviya chaired the national symposium on India’s roadmap to eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis (LF). He informed that India is committed to eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis (LF) by 2027 three years ahead of the global target through mission mode through the five-pronged roadmap. Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Telangana, and Bihar account for about 60% Lymphedema cases in India. The elimination of the disease will be achieved via multi-drug administration (MDA) campaign twice a year synchronized with national deworming day. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- Mansukh Mandaviya – chaired the ‘National Symposium on India’s Roadmap to eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis (LF)’
- India is committed to eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis (LF) by 2027 (3 years ahead of the global target)
- Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Telangana & Bihar account for about 60% Lymphedema cases in India
- Ministry of Health & Family Welfare: Mansukh L. Mandaviya | Constituency – Palitana, Gujarat
- MoS in Ministry of Health & Family Welfare: Bharati Pravin Pawar



**76.** On January 14, Indian Railways announced to run a special train for pilgrims, connecting Ayodhya in Uttar Pradesh to Janakpur in Nepal using its Bharat Gaurav Deluxe AC Tourist Train. The route will include visits to Nandigram, Sitamarhi, Kashi and Prayagraj. The route is set to start from February 17 this year. The seven-day trip will include hotel stays at Janakpur and Varanasi (one night each) with day time halts at Ayodhya, Sitamarhi and Prayagraj. The route will include train and bus travel, with all-inclusive prices starting from Rs. 39,775/- per person. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Indian Railways – announced run a special train for pilgrims, connecting Ayodhya in UP to Janakpur in Nepal
- The route will include visits to Nandigram, Sitamarhi, Kashi and Prayagraj
- The route will include train and bus travel, with all-inclusive prices starting from Rs. 39,775/- per person
- [HQs of Indian Railways – New Delhi](#) | [Chairman & CEO – Anil Kumar Lahoti](#)

**77.** On January 16, Viacom18 secured the Women’s Indian Premier League (IPL) media rights value for the 2023-2027 cycle for a total of Rs 951 Crore. This means the per match value will be close to Rs 7.09 Crore for next 5 years. The five WIPL franchises were unveiled on January 25 by the BCCI. Viacom18 for secured both the TV and digital rights. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Viacom18 – secured the Women’s IPL (WIPL) media rights value for the 2023-2027 cycle for a total of Rs 951 Cr
- [HQs of Viacom18 – Mumbai, Maharashtra](#) | [CEO – Anil Jayaraj](#)

**78.** On January 19, Carbon Markets Association of India (CMAI) and Association of Renewable Energy Agencies of States (AREAS) have signed an MOU to provide exchange of information in carbon trading and assist in the development of Indian carbon market. Under the MOU, both the entities have joined hands to ensure regular exchange of knowledge, guidance, information, innovation, policy and regulatory developments of renewable energy projects to offset emissions with a strong focus on community development. The government has announced achieving net-zero by 2070, which requires emission control and reduction, and carbon emission trading, facilitated through a robust carbon market, provides flexibility in achieving emission reduction targets. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- CMAI + AREAS = an MOU to provide exchange of information in carbon trading & assist in development of Indian carbon market
- [HQs of CMAI – Noida, Uttar Pradesh](#)

**79.** On January 18, Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal launched an initiative called “Bharat Pravah - India along its Shores” to highlight the role of rivers-ports-shipping in the everyday life of a common man through literature, dialogue and communication. Under the Bharat Pravah initiative, events would be organised around various topics, such as ‘Rivers and Sea-Centric Development in India: Through a Historical Lens’ and ‘Sea, Rivers, Ports and Ship in Folk Culture and Literature’, among others. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Sarbananda Sonowal – launched an initiative called “Bharat Pravah - India along its Shores”
- [Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways: Sarbananda Sonowal](#) | [Constituency – Majuli, Assam](#)
- [MoS in Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways: Shripad Yesso Naik & Shantanu Thakur](#)



**80.** On January 18, Jammu & Kashmir became the first union territory (UT) in India to have entirely shifted to digital mode of administration. All governance and administrative services in the state are now 'only' available digitally. The UT administration constituted a 'coordination cell' for monitoring the progress on implementation of online services in Jammu and Kashmir. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- J & K – became the first UT in India to have entirely shifted to digital mode of administration
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha

**81.** On January 18, Metta Media announced the launch of MyndStories, India's first platform for verified, accurate mental health content exclusively for Indians. MyndStories offers comprehensive mental health content tailored to an Indian audience. As per a recent report, almost 150 million Indians require mental health services, but stigma and lack of resources form big barriers to reaching out for support, less than 30 million people seek help. MyndStories is led by Smitha Murthy and Swati Nair. They also founded India's first offbeat travel aggregator in Trippin Traveller, and run a content firm for startups in LifeWordsmith. MyndStories is based in Bangalore, India, and is owned by Metta Media Pvt. Ltd. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Metta Media – announced the launch of 'MyndStories', India's first platform for verified, accurate mental health content
- A recent report: almost 150 million Indians require mental health services but less than 30 million people seek help

**82.** The Indian Army under the aegis of HQ Army Training Command (ARTRAC) organised the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of Hackathon aptly named "SAINYA RANAKSHETRAM 2.0" from October 2022 to January 2023 with an aim to seek solutions to operational cyber challenges and to jump start and telescope the development time for innovative solutions in the field of Cyber Security. The event was aimed at providing a platform to identify indigenous talent in niche domains and enhance the standard of training in domains of Cyber Deterrence, Security Software Coding, Electro Magnetic Spectrum Operations (EMSO) and Artificial Intelligence / Machine Learning (AI/ ML). The prize winners of the event were felicitated by Gen Manoj Pande, Chief of the Army Staff during a virtual function on 17 January 2023. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Indian Army – organized 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of "SAINYA RANAKSHETRAM 2.0" – a Cyber Threat Seminar Cum Workshop
- The Workshop was held under four sub-events – Secure Software Coding, ESMO, AI / ML and Cyber Deterrence
- HQs of Indian Army – New Delhi | Chief – Lt. Gen. Manoj Pande | Vice Chief – Lt. General Baggavalli Somashekar Raju

**83.** Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri announced that the phased roll-out of E20 (20% ethanol blending in gasoline) will begin on April 1, 2023. The proposed roll-out will give further impetus to the government's plans of achieving the level of 20% ethanol blending in the overall petrol supply in the country by ethanol supply year (ESY) 2025-2026. India is on track to contribute 25% of global ethanol demand by 2040. India has increased the ethanol blending in petrol from 1.53% in 2013-14 to 10.17% in 2022. To achieve 20% blending by 2025, the country needs 10.2-11 billion litres of ethanol. This would require a production capacity of around 14.5 billion litres because some production has to be kept aside for starch and chemical industry. Moreover, the centre has increased the rate for CBG plants under the SATAT scheme from Rs 46 per kg to Rs 54 per kg. The government is also investing Rs 19,744 Cr into the National Green Hydrogen Mission for developing green hydrogen production capacity of at least 5 MMT (million metric tonnes) per annum. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- The phased roll-out of E20 (20% ethanol blending in gasoline) will begin on April 1, 2023
- Target – 20% ethanol blending in the overall petrol supply by 2025-2026
- India has increased the ethanol blending in petrol from 1.53% in 2013-14 to 10.17% in 2022
- [Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas: Hardeep Singh Puri | Constituency – Uttar Pradesh](#)
- [MoS in the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas: Rameswar Teli](#)

**84.** On January 19, Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited both Karnataka and Maharashtra to inaugurate and lay the foundation stone of various development projects. PM Modi started from Kalaburagi and Yadgir districts of Karnataka. The foundation stone of Yadgir multi-village drinking water supply scheme was laid by PM Modi under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) with an outlay of more than Rs 2050 Crore. A Water Treatment Plant of 117 MLD will be built under the scheme. Prime Minister also inaugurated 'Narayanpur Left Bank Canal - Extension Renovation and Modernisation Project (NLBC-ERM)'. In Malkhed village of Kalaburagi district, PM Modi distributed "Title deeds" (hakku patra) to the eligible beneficiaries of these newly declared revenue villages. Prime Minister also laid the foundation stone of the 71 km section of NH-150C. This six-lane Greenfield road project is also part of Surat-Chennai Expressway. While in Mumbai, PM Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of projects worth around ₹38,800 Crore. To provide seamless urban mobility, he also dedicated to the nation Mumbai Metro Rail Lines 2A and 7, worth around ₹12,600 crore. During the visit, Mr. Modi launched MUMBAI 1 Mobile App and National Common Mobility Card (Mumbai 1). The app will facilitate ease of travel, can be shown at the entry gates of metro stations and supports digital payment to buy tickets through UPI. He further laid the foundation stone of 7 sewage treatment plants, which will be built at a cost of around ₹17,200 Crore. PM also laid the foundation stone for the redevelopment of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus. PM Narendra Modi inaugurated 20 Hindufridaysamrat Balasaheb Thackeray Aapla Dawakhana in Mumbai. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- PM Narendra Modi's visit to Karnataka:
  - laid foundation stone of 'Yadgir Multi-village Drinking Water Supply Scheme' under JJM (with Rs 2050 Cr outlay)
  - A Water Treatment Plant of 117 MLD will be built under the scheme
  - inaugurated 'Narayanpur Left Bank Canal - Extension Renovation and Modernisation Project (NLBC-ERM)'
  - distributed "Title deeds" (hakku patra) to the eligible beneficiaries in Malkhed village of Kalaburagi
  - laid the foundation stone of the 71 km section of NH-150C
- PM Narendra Modi's visit to Maharashtra:
  - laid the foundation stone of projects worth around ₹38,800 Cr
  - dedicated to the nation Mumbai Metro Rail Lines 2A and 7, worth around ₹12,600 Cr
  - launched 'MUMBAI 1 Mobile App' and 'National Common Mobility Card' (Mumbai 1)
  - laid the foundation stone of 7 sewage treatment plants, worth around ₹17,200 Cr
  - laid the foundation stone for the redevelopment of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus
  - inaugurated 20 Hindufridaysamrat Balasaheb Thackeray Aapla Dawakhana in Mumbai

**85.** On January 21, Pune Metro is all set to complete work on India's deepest underground metro station, the Civil Court Interchange Station, in the city by February and make it operational by the end of March. The station is 33.1 metre (108.59 feet) deep. In the first phase, the interchange station for Vanaz to Ramwadi Line 1 and Pimpri Chinchwad to Swargate Line 2 will meet. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- India's deepest underground metro station, the Civil Court Interchange Station, is being built in Pune
- Maharashtra: CM – Eknath Shinde | Governor – Ramesh Bais

**86.** On January 20, Higher Education Minister in Kerala R. Bindu announced that girl students above the age of 18 years would get maternity leave of 60 days. The required attendance percentage for female students will be 73%, including the menstrual leave, as against 75% earlier. The state government is also considering granting menstrual leaves in all the state varsities. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- Kerala – announced maternity leave of 60 days for female students above 18 years
- The required attendance percentage for female students will be 73%
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan

**87.** On January 17, NHPC submitted the pre-feasibility report (PFR) for India's largest hydro power project, the 'Upper Siang Multipurpose Storage Project' (11 GW) in Arunachal Pradesh. The project that is central to counter China's ambitious water diversion scheme of the Siang River that feeds downstream into the Brahmaputra is expected to be constructed as a joint venture with state-run NEEPCO or the government of Arunachal Pradesh. The PFR was submitted to the government on 30 December, 2022. The storage project will be able to store 9-10 billion cubic metres (BCM) of water. China plans to construct a 60 GW Dam on the Yarlung Tsangpo river amid the push to achieve its net zero target of 2060, as also to utilize the fresh water available in Southern China. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- NHPC – submitted the PFR for 'Upper Siang Multipurpose Storage Project'
- It is India's largest hydro power project, planned to be constructed in Arunachal Pradesh with capacity of 11 GW
- This project is central to counter China's ambitious water diversion scheme of the Siang River

**88.** The India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline (IBFPL) will start supplying diesel to Bangladesh on an experimental basis from June, 2023. About 131.5 Km long pipeline has been constructed for exporting diesel from India to Bangladesh. Out of this, 126.5 Km pipeline is in Bangladesh and 5 Km is in India. The international pipeline will carry diesel from the Siliguri based marketing terminal of the Numaligarh Refinery Limited to Parbatipur depot of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC). The pipeline has a capacity of 1 million metric tonne per annum (MMTPA). [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline – to start supplying diesel to Bangladesh on an experimental basis from June, 2023
- Length of IBFPL is 131.5 Km long (126.5 Km in Bangladesh + 5 Km in India) | Pipeline's capacity – 1 MMTPA
- Bangladesh – Dhaka – Taka | PM – Sheikh Hasina | President – Abdul Hamid

**89.** On January 18, Bharti Airtel Group in association with the government of Telangana announced an investment to the tune of Rs 2,000 crore to set up a large hyperscale data center in Hyderabad. Through its Data Center arm, Nxtra Data Centers, the group will invest an amount of Rs 2000 Cr as capital investment for the infrastructure which will further attract investments from their customers. The facility will be a hyperscale data center with a capacity of 60 megawatts (MW) of IT load for the first phase. It will incorporate the latest technologies in cooling and security. The project is estimated to be established in the next 5-7 years. The announcement was made at the Telangana Lounge at Davos. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- Bharti Airtel Group + Telangana = to set up a large Hyperscale Data Center in Hyderabad at an investment of Rs 2,000 Cr
- The amount will be invested through – Nxtra Data Centers, an arm of Bharati Airtel Group
- The facility will be a hyperscale data center with a capacity of 60 megawatts (MW) of IT load for the first phase
- HQs of Bharti Airtel – New Delhi | MD & CEO – Gopal Vittal | Chairman – Sunil Bharti Mittal
- Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad | CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao | Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan

**90.** The 8<sup>th</sup> India International Science Festival-2022 (IISF) was held from January 21 to 24 at the Maulana Azad National Institute of Technology (MANIT) in Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh. It was inaugurated by Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and organised by the Union Ministry of Science and Technology, Ministry of Earth Sciences, Department of Atomic Energy, Department of Space and MP government in association with Vijnana Bharati (VIBHA). “Marching towards Amrit Kaal with Science, Technology and Innovation” was the theme of the event. As part of the event, ‘Vigyanika-Science Literature Festival’ was also organised on January 22-23 by CSIR-National Institute of Science Communication and Policy Research (CSIR-NIScPR) along with the Department of Biotechnology and VIBHA. There were 15 programmes, including a mega science and technology exhibition based on the festival theme. Over 8,000 delegates from different parts of India took part in the event. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- 8<sup>th</sup> India International Science Festival-2022 (IISF) – held at Maulana Azad National Institute of Technology, Bhopal
- Theme of IISF 2022 – “Marching towards Amrit Kaal with Science, Technology and Innovation”
- ‘Vigyanika-Science Literature Festival’ – held at Bhopal (organised by CSIR-NIScPR + DoB + VIBHA)
- Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel

**91.** On January 20, Ladakh Lieutenant Governor R K Mathur launched the Unique Land Parcel Identification Number (ULPIN) in the Union Territory. The 14-digit ULPIN would help in the digitisation of land records and also reaching a conclusive land titling. The UPLIN scheme will prove beneficial in numerous ways, including settling and expediting land-related disputes in court and addressing legacy issues such as putting a check on any unwanted change in land revenue records. Terming ULPIN as a “game changer” and the next step in ‘SVAMITVA’ for digitisation and computerisation of land revenue records, Mathur stressed the importance of 100% coverage of land revenue records in Ladakh and completion of the exercise at the earliest.

[{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- Ladakh – launched the ‘Unique Land Parcel Identification Number (ULPIN)’
- ULPIN – is a 14 digit Number and it would help in the digitisation of land records
- ‘SVAMITVA’ scheme will also be implemented for digitisation and computerisation of land revenue records
- Ladakh: Capital – Leh | Lt. Governor – B. D. Mishra

**92.** On January 20, Himachal Pradesh government announced to make the state as the first Green Energy State by the end of 2025 by harnessing hydro, hydrogen and solar energy and switching to green products. To ease the norms, the Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu directed the officers to make necessary amendments to the existing power policy and open all the solar projects up to 5 MW capacity for allotment. The state government would also invest in solar plants and will install 500 MW solar projects during the year 2023-24, out of this, 200 MW would be installed by HPPCL. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- Himachal Pradesh – targets to be the first ‘Green Energy State’ by the end of 2025
- The state would also invest in solar plants and will install 500 MW solar projects during the year 2023-24
- [HP: Capital – Shimla & Dharamshala](#) | [CM – Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu](#) | [Governor – Shiv Pratap Shukla](#)

**93.** On January 20, Wayanad became India’s first district to provide basic documents and facilities (such as Aadhaar cards, ration cards, birth/death certificates, election ID cards, bank accounts and health insurance) to all tribal people. The Wayanad district administration has attained the meritorious achievement by providing 1,42,563 services to as many as 64,670 tribal beneficiaries as part of the ‘Akshaya Big Campaign for Document Digitization (ABCD)’. The campaign is aimed at ensuring basic documents to all citizens belonging to the Scheduled Tribes communities and these documents are digitalized and saved in DigiLocker accounts opened for them. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- Wayanad (Kerala) – became India’s first district to provide & digitize basic documents of all tribal people
- 64,670 tribal people benefited as part of ‘Akshaya Big Campaign for Document Digitization (ABCD)
- [Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram](#) | [CM – Pinarayi Vijayan](#) | [Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan](#)

**94.** On January 20, the Central Government issued guidelines ‘Endorsements Know-hows!’ for social-media influencers, including celebrities and virtual avatars, for disclosing the promotional content of the products or services they endorse and their material connections with those. “Material connection” with a brand covers monetary benefits, hotel stay, awards, employment relationships, sweepstakes entries, and media barter. This is in accordance with the ‘Consumer Protection Act, 2019’. Non-compliance can lead to a jail term of up to 2 years and penalty of Rs 50 lakh. The size of the social-media influencer market in India last year was Rs 1,275 Crore and by 2025, it was likely to be Rs 2,800 Crore. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- Central Govt – issued guidelines ‘Endorsements Know-hows!’ for social-media influencers
- This is in accordance with the ‘Consumer Protection Act, 2019’
- Non-compliance can lead to a jail term of up to 2 years and penalty of Rs 50 lakh

**95.** On January 22, American India Foundation (AIF) inaugurated India’s first “STEM Innovation and Learning Center (SILC)” under the scheme of ‘Vanavil Mandram’ in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. AIF’s award-winning flagship education program, Digital Equalizer (DE), has designed the center to be a one-stop solution for STEM among students and teachers. Consisting of Innovation Corner for students, the center will introduce students to a transdisciplinary learning approach through robotics, AI, Space technology, and the STEM incubation workstation. The center also consists of a Technology Corner for teachers. The Tech Corner will facilitate teachers to conduct techno-pedagogy-enabled classes for their students as well as receive training on the Digital Equalizer Way of Teaching (DEWoT) - a unique method developed by AIF to address all types of learners in the classroom. AIF’s DE also launched ‘Drone and Satellite Launch Vehicle (DSLVL) Mission’ on the occasion. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- American India Foundation – inaugurated India’s first “STEM Innovation and Learning Center (SILC)” in Chennai
- ‘Digital Equalizer Way of Teaching (DEWoT)’ – a unique method developed by AIF
- AIF’s DE – launched ‘Drone and Satellite Launch Vehicle (DSLVL) Mission’ on the occasion
- [HQs of AIF – New York, US](#) | [Chairman – Ajay Banga](#)



**96.** On January 22, Jammu and Kashmir government launched an ambitious project, “UT Level Food Processing Programme for Development of Clusters for Specific Products of J&K”, targeted to revolutionise the food processing sector and transform the lives of farmers in the UT. The government has allocated a budget of Rs 879.75 Cr for the project including a grant-in-aid of Rs 293.25 Cr (33.33%) and a debt-equity of Rs 586.50 Cr to be raised by entrepreneurs. The project will focus on developing 17 districts in J&K with establishment of processing and marketing infrastructure, providing growth and development opportunities to stakeholders, and facilitating suitable economies of scale in production and post-harvest activities. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- J & K – launched a project to revolutionise the food processing sector & transform the lives of farmers in the UT
- Budget – Rs 879.75 Cr (Grant-in-aid of Rs 293.25 Cr + debt-equity of Rs 586.50 Cr to be raised by entrepreneurs)
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha

**97.** On January 21, Jharkhand launched a water conservation scheme with an outlay of Rs 467.32 crore to provide benefits to farmers in the state that experienced drought last year. Under the programme, 2,133 ponds will be renovated and 2,795 percolation tanks will be constructed in all the blocks of 24 districts of the state. The minister also laid the foundation for the renovation work of 71 ponds and 184 percolation tanks. The state government received 31.33 lakh applications from drought-hit farmers and 8.5 lakhs of them have so far been given financial aid. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Jharkhand – launched a water conservation scheme with an outlay of Rs 467.32 Cr
- 2,133 ponds will be renovated and 2,795 percolation tanks will be constructed in the state
- Jharkhand: Capital – Ranchi | CM – Hemant Soren | Governor – C. P. Radhakrishnan

**98.** On January 21, Delhi Lieutenant-Governor V.K. Saxena launched the ‘100 Days To Beat Plastic’ campaign. The campaign is aimed at making the civic body’s areas plastic-free through public participation. Under the campaign, the MCD will promote segregation of waste at source, doorstep pick-up of plastic, among others, in each municipal ward. Nivaran Dadi, the campaign’s mascot was unveiled on the day of launch. Dadi gives solutions for plastic substitutes. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Delhi – launched the ‘100 Days To Beat Plastic’ campaign
- Campaign Mascot – Nivaran Dadi
- Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal | Lt. Governor – Vinai Kumar Saxena | Chief Secretary – Naresh Kumar

**99.** On January 19, L&T Technology Services (LTTS) has been selected as a strategic engineering partner to Airbus for providing Advanced Engineering Capabilities and Digital Manufacturing Services under a multi-year contract. Under this agreement, LTTS will support Airbus in key verticals and technology areas for its ongoing Commercial and Innovation programs. LTTS is also a part of the industry-leading ‘Skywise Partner Program’, and earlier in 2022, was recognized as a Global Strategic Engineering Supplier under the Airbus EMES3 (Engineering, Manufacturing Engineering and Services Strategic Suppliers) program. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- L&T Technology Services – selected as a strategic engineering partner to Airbus
- LTTS is also a part of ‘Skywise Partner Program’ of Airbus
- HQs of Airbus – Leiden, Netherlands | CEO – Guillaume Faury

**100.** On January 24, the occasion of National Girl Child Day and Cervical Cancer Awareness Month (January), the Serum Institute of India (SII) launched the first indigenously developed human papillomavirus vaccine (HPV), “CERVAVAC”, against the cervical cancer in women. It was launched by the hands of Home Minister Amit Shah. The vaccine has jointly been created by the SII and the Department of Biotechnology (DBT). Cervical cancer is the fourth most common cancer in women after breast, lung, and colorectal cancer, with the country accounting for nearly one-fourth of the world’s cervical cancer deaths. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- SII – launched the first indigenously developed vaccine against the cervical cancer in women, named “CERVAVAC”
- The vaccine has jointly been created by = SII + Department of Biotechnology
- HQs of SII – Pune, Maharashtra | Chairman – Cyrus S. Poonawalla | CEO – Adar C. Poonawalla | Founded in – 1966

**101.** The cultivation of mangroves is different from agriculture and hence would not be exempted from the Goods and Services Tax (GST), according to the Appellate Authority for Advance Rulings (AAAR). It upheld the order of the West Bengal Authority of Advance Ruling (AAR) and said mangrove cultivation would attract 18% GST. The GST on various products and services are based on their classification in the Harmonised System of Nomenclature (HSN) codes. The applicant had said his activities should come under 9986 heading, which covers activities that support agriculture. The applicant had said his activities should come under 9986 heading, which covers activities that support agriculture. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- According to AAAR:
  - Cultivation of mangroves is different from agriculture & hence would not be exempted from the GST
  - Mangrove cultivation would attract 18% GST
- HSN codes – **H**armonised **S**ystem of **N**omenclature

**102.** On January 23, the Indian Government has launched “U-WIN” to digitise India’s universal immunisation programme. The U-WIN is going to be the single source of information for immunisation services, updating vaccination status, delivery outcome, planning of RI sessions and reports like antigen-wise coverage, etc. The programme to digitise India’s Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP) has been launched in a pilot mode in two districts of each state and Union Territory. The platform replicates Co-WIN which has served as the digital backbone for India’s COVID-19 vaccination programme. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Government launched “U-WIN” to digitise India’s universal immunisation programme
- The platform replicates ‘Co-WIN’

**103.** On January 24, Chandigarh Administrator and Punjab Governor Banwarilal Purohit inaugurated north India’s largest floating solar project of 2000kWp in Chandigarh. The 2000kWp floating solar power plant at Water Works in Sector 39 has been commissioned at a cost of Rs 11.70 crore. He also opened the 500kWp floating solar power plant installed over the Dhanas lake in Chandigarh. Both the projects have been designed and executed by CREST (Chandigarh Renewable Energy and Science and Technology Promotion Society) and will generate a minimum of 35 lakh units (kWh) per year with 20% module efficiency. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Banwarilal Purohit – inaugurated North India’s largest floating solar project of 2000kWp in Chandigarh
- He also opened the 500kWp floating solar power plant installed over the Dhanas lake in Chandigarh
- Chandigarh: Capital – Chandigarh | Administrator – Banwarilal Purohit



**104.** On January 21, Tamil Nadu government will set up a ₹6.30 Crore 'Turtle Conservation and Rehabilitation Centre' at the Guindy National Park in Chennai to boost its conservation efforts. Turtles are facing severe threats due to increasing biotic pressure. A rescue and treatment centre will be set up for injured turtles to rehabilitate them back to the sea after recovery. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Tamil Nadu – to set up a 'Turtle Conservation and Rehabilitation Centre' at Guindy National Park in Chennai
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin | Governor – Ravindra Narayan Ravi

**105.** On January 26, as part of its promotion strategy for agri exports, the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) proposed to use River names as tag line and branding for Indian agri products. APEDA is identifying agri products that can be sourced from the Gangetic, Brahmaputra, Cauvery and Godavari River basins, among others, across India. India, which is currently the 8<sup>th</sup> largest exporter of agri products, aims to be among the top five by 2030. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- APEDA – proposed to use River names as tag line & branding for Indian agri products
- India aims to be among the top 5 largest exporter of agri products by 2030 | Currently – 8<sup>th</sup>
- HQs of APEDA – New Delhi | Chairman – M. Angamuthu | Established in – 1986 (functions under Ministry of C&I)

**106.** On January 24, Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas and Housing and Urban Affairs, Hardeep Singh Puri, inaugurated the demo-run of Inland Water Vessel named "SB Gangadhar" powered by Methanol blended Diesel (MD15) in the Brahmaputra in Guwahati, in a run-up to India Energy Week 2023 (IEW 2023) to be held in Bengaluru from February 6 to 8, 2023. The marine vessel is equipped with two Ruston make diesel engines. The work is in progress to set up Coal-to-Methanol plants in India using indigenous technology, which is being developed by BHEL (Hyderabad and Trichy), Thermax, and IIT Delhi. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Hardeep Singh Puri – inaugurated the demo-run of Inland Water Vessel named "SB Gangadhar" in Guwahati, Assam
- It is powered by Methanol blended Diesel (MD15)
- India Energy Week 2023 – to be held in Bengaluru (in Feb)
- An indigenous technology to set up 'Coal-to-Methanol Plants' in India – is being developed by BHEL + IIT Delhi
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Himanta Biswa Sarma | Governor – Gulab Chand Kataria

**107.** On January 25, NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) and Intel India have collaborated to bring a change in the Education Sector by embedding future skills, such as artificial intelligence (AI), by launching AIoT Integration in School Curriculum. The main aim is to align the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020's guidance to increase the pace of tech integration for youth, the need to bridge the future skills gap in the country, and optimise the current infrastructure towards making India AI-ready. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- AIM + CBSE + Intel India = collaboration to launch AIoT Integration in School Curriculum
- HQs of AIM – New Delhi | Director – Chintan Vaishnav | Launched in – 2016 (a flagship initiative of NITI Aayog)
- HQs of CBSE – New Delhi | Chairperson – Nidhi Chibber | Formed in – 1962

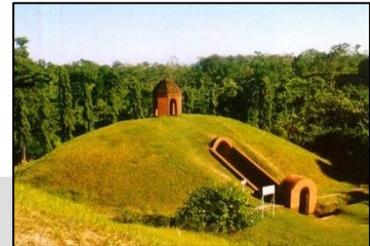


**108.** On January 26, the Assam Cabinet has decided to book/prosecute men who marry minor girls under stringent laws prescribing imprisonment from two years to life. Men marrying girls between the age of 14 and 18 will be booked under the 'Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006' with a minimum sentence period of two years. While the men marrying girls below 14 years of age will be booked under the 'Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012', entailing life punishment. As per the National Family Health Survey-5 report, an average of 31.8% of girls in Assam get married at the prohibited age and 11.7% of them become mothers before adulthood compared to the national average of 23.3% and 6.8%, respectively. The legal age for marriage is 18 years for women and 21 for men. Dhubri in Western Assam tops the list of districts with 50% of girls getting married and 22% of them becoming mothers before they turn 18. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Assam Cabinet – to prosecute men who marry minor girls under stringent laws prescribing imprisonment
  - Men marrying girls aged 14-18 will be booked under 'Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006' with jail of 2 years
  - Men marrying girls aged below 14 will be booked under 'POCSO Act, 2012' with life-time punishment
- National Family Health Survey-5 report: Average of 31.8% of girls in Assam get married at the prohibited age
- The legal age for marriage is 18 years for women & 21 for men
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Himanta Biswa Sarma | Governor – Gulab Chand Kataria

**109.** Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma announced that the central government has decided to put forth the name of Assam's Charaideo moidams (pyramids) burial sites for addition to United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's (UNESCO) World Heritage Sites list. If selected, 90 royal burials at Charaideo will be the only cultural heritage site in the North East to get the coveted status. The Charaideo moidams are royal burial sites of the Ahom dynasty, which ruled over much of Assam and the North East from 1228 to 1826 AD. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Govt decided to put forth Assam's 'Charaideo moidams' (pyramids) burial sites for UNESCO World Heritage Sites list
- The Charaideo moidams are royal burial sites of the 'Ahom dynasty'
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Himanta Biswa Sarma | Governor – Gulab Chand Kataria

**110.** On January 24, Mahanadi Coalfield Limited (MCL), a subsidiary of Coal India, announced to invest Rs 12,000 Crore in Odisha to set up a coal-based power plant; and will set up Greenfield aluminum. Moreover, the company is in the process of mining aluminum ore, bauxite, and then converting it to alumina and then into aluminum. The tentative size of the mine would be 3 million tonnes (MT) per annum. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Mahanadi Coalfield Ltd – to invest Rs 12,000 Cr in Odisha to set up a Coal-based Power Plant & Greenfield aluminum
- HQs of MCL – Sambalpur, Odisha | CMD – O. P. Singh

**111.** Prime Minister Narendra Modi named 21 largest unnamed islands in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands after Param Vir Chakra awardees. The largest unnamed island was named after the first Param Vir Chakra awardee, Major Somnath Sharma. The second largest unnamed island was named after the second Param Vir Chakra awardee, and so on. At an online event on the occasion of Subhas Chandra Bose's birth anniversary, Modi also unveiled the model of a proposed memorial dedicated to Bose, to be set up in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The proposed memorial will be set up on Ross Island, which was renamed as Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Dweep in 2018. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Narendra Modi – named 21 largest unnamed islands in Andaman & Nicobar Islands after Param Vir Chakra awardees
- The largest unnamed island was named after – Major Somnath Sharma (The 1<sup>st</sup> Param Vir Chakra awardee)
- Ross Island – was renamed as Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Dweep (in 2018)
- PM Modi – unveiled the model of a proposed memorial to be set up in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands
- [Andaman & Nicobar Islands: Capital – Port Blair | Lt. Governor – Admiral Devendra Kumar Joshi](#)

**112.** On January 23, Kerala health department confirmed two cases of Norovirus, a highly-contagious gastrointestinal illness, in the Ernakulam district. Norovirus is a virus that leads to gastroenteritis or stomach flu. According to the health department, two Class 1 students have tested positive for norovirus. Norovirus is a zoonotic disease, which is mainly transmitted through close contact with people who have been infected, or by touching contaminated surfaces. It can also spread by eating food that has been prepared or handled by someone with a stomach bug. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Kerala – confirmed two cases of Norovirus, a highly-contagious gastrointestinal illness
- Norovirus – a virus that leads to gastroenteritis or stomach flu (similar to the diarrhea-inducing ‘Rotavirus’)
- [Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan](#)

**113.** On January 25, Jal Shakti Ministry announced that the government has provided 11 Crore rural households with a tap water connection under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM). Data from the Ministry’s dashboard suggest that 56% (10.2 Crore) of the targeted 19.3 Crore households had been covered by September 2022. The Jal Jeevan Mission aims to provide safe and adequate drinking water through individual household tap connections by 2024 to all households in rural India. The scheme has a financial outlay of ₹3.60 lakh crore, with the Centre funding 50% of the cost with States and Union Territories. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- 11 Crore rural households have been provided with a tap water connection under the Jal Jeevan Mission (as of Jan 2023)
- JJM aims to provide safe & adequate drinking water through individual household tap connections by 2024
- The scheme has a financial outlay of ₹3.60 Lakh Crore (with Centre funding 50% of the cost)

**114.** The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government in Punjab launched its first major education project, ‘Schools of Eminence’. Under the project, the AAP government will upgrade existing government schools into ‘Schools of Eminence’ for classes 9 to 12. The government plans to upgrade nearly 110 government schools as ‘Schools of Eminence’ in Phase 1. The AAP government in its first budget in June 2022 had set aside a fund of Rs 200 Cr for ‘Schools of Eminence’ and said that these schools will be equipped with superlative infrastructure and will be at par with international standards. The project is inspired by Delhi’s ‘Schools of Specialized Excellence’, which also conduct admissions at the Class 9 level. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Punjab (AAP Govt) – launched ‘Schools of Eminence’, its first major education project
- 110 existing government schools will be upgraded into ‘Schools of Eminence’ for classes 9 to 12 in Phase 1
- The project is inspired by Delhi’s ‘Schools of Specialized Excellence’, which also conduct admissions at the Class 9 level
- [Punjab: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Bhagwant Mann | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit](#)

**115.** On January 25, the Government has approved a proposal for the sale of 30 Lakh Metric Tonnes of wheat under the 'Open Market Sale Scheme - Domestic (OMSS-D)' to control prices of wheat. Wheat will be offered to the flour millers, and bulk buyers through e-auction for a maximum quantity of 3,000 Metric Tonnes per buyer, per auction, from an FCI Region under e-auction. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Govt approved a proposal for the sale of 30 Lakh Metric Tonnes of wheat under 'Open Market Sale Scheme - Domestic'
- Wheat will be offered through e-auction for a maximum quantity of 3,000 Metric Tonnes per buyer per auction

**116.** On January 20, the National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) in Odisha's Bhubaneswar formed the largest Human Red Ribbon Chain in the Kalinga stadium to raise awareness regarding the disease. The awareness programme was organised by the Odisha State AIDS Control Society, Health & Family Welfare Department of the Odisha government under the leadership of NACO in coordination with the Department of Sports & Youth Services & Hockey India. Besides the formation of 'largest human red ribbon chain' in the gallery, Audio Visual (AV) materials were scrolled to disseminate the messages related to HIV/AIDS and the National AIDS Toll-Free helpline - 1097. This event created a massive impact among 25,000 plus spectators inside the stadium and millions of virtual audiences around the globe through television and Over The Top (OTT) platforms. In order to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 3.3 of ending AIDS as a public health threat by 2030, awareness generation activities are being strengthened among the general public as well as the High-Risk Groups in Odisha about the services offered under the umbrella of the National AIDS Control Programme. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- NACO – formed the largest Human Red Ribbon Chain to raise awareness regarding AIDS in the Kalinga Stadium, Odisha
- AV materials were scrolled to disseminate the messages related to HIV/AIDS & National AIDS Toll-Free helpline – 1097
- Sustainable Development Goal 3.3 – ending AIDS as a public health threat by 2030
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal
- HQs of NACO – New Delhi | Director General – V Hekali Zhimomi

**117.** On January 27, the Secretary of Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Alkesh Kumar Sharma, inaugurated 1Ton/day PCB Recycling facility at the Centre for Materials for Electronics Technology (C-MET), in Hyderabad. C-MET is an autonomous scientific society under MeitY. The MeitY has also introduced "Scheme for Promotion of Manufacturing of Electronic Components and Semiconductors (SPECES)" for helping e-waste recycling industries to set up their plant in India instead of sending the e-waste materials outside for recycling. C-MET has established Center of Excellence (CoE) on E-waste Management first of its kind in the country under PPP model. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Alkesh Kumar Sharma – inaugurated '1Ton/day PCB Recycling Facility' at C-MET, Hyderabad
- MeitY – also introduced "Scheme for Promotion of Manufacturing of Electronic Components & Semiconductors (SPECES)"
- Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology: Ashwini Vaishnaw | Constituency – Odisha
- MoS in Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology: Rajeev Chandrasekhar

**118.** On January 26, Chief Justice of India D. Y. Chandrachud announced that the Supreme Court will release 1,268 judgments in 13 Indian languages in a bid to make justice administration more accessible to the common man. The judgments would be made available in the court's e-SCR portal (electronic version of Supreme Court Reports). [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- Supreme Court released 1,268 judgments in 13 Indian languages
- Present Chief of Justice of the Supreme Court of India – Justice Dhananjaya Y. Chandrachud (50<sup>th</sup>)

**119.** On January 27, Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways launched the national logistics portal–marine (NLP-M), which is a single-window platform aimed at bringing all trade stakeholders together and reducing the cost of logistics through real-time mapping and provisioning. The platform aims to minimise regulatory complexities by centralising all necessary documentation, compliance certifications, and formal procedures necessary for the EXIM trade. The NLP-M is based on four core tenets - carrier, cargo, banking and finance, and regulatory bodies and Participating Government Agencies (PGAs). The portal will now replace the port community system (PCS) being used by ports for logistics mapping. NLP-M has been developed by Portall Infosystems, with Ernst & Young as the project management consulting firm.



[{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways – launched the “National Logistics Portal - Marine (NLP-M)”
- The platform aims to minimise regulatory complexities for EXIM Trade
- The portal will replace the Port Community System (PCS) which is used by ports for logistics mapping
- The NLP-M is developed by – Portall Infosystems | Project management consulting firm – Ernst & Young
- Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways: Sarbananda Sonowal | Constituency – Majuli, Assam
- MoS in Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways: Shripad Yesso Naik & Shantanu Thakur

**120.** On January 28, Suzuki Motor Corporation announced its growth strategy for FY2030. As part of the strategy, Maruti Suzuki will use cow dung to produce biogas that will be utilised to power its CNG cars in the future. Maruti Suzuki signed an MoU with the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) in 2022 to start a biogas demonstration project. The company also signed MoUs with SMC and Banas Dairy to produce biogas commercially by mid-2024. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- Suzuki Motor Corporation – will use cow dung to produce biogas that will be utilised to power its CNG cars
- Maruti Suzuki – signed an MoU with NDDB, SMC & Banas Dairy to produce biogas commercially by mid-2024
- HQs of Suzuki Motor Corporation – Hamamatsu, Shizuoka, Japan | CEO – Osamu Suzuki

**121.** Asia’s second and country’s first cable suspension bridge “Bajrang Setu” is being constructed at Rishikesh, Uttarakhand. This bridge is coming up next to the famous 90-year-old Laxman Jhula. Laxman Jhula is closed since 2022 when it was found that it wasn’t safe for pedestrians anymore. However, it will not be removed and will be preserved as a heritage. The new bridge would cost Rs 67 Cr and will be completed by July 2023. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- Bajrang Setu – India’s first & Asia’s 2<sup>nd</sup> cable suspension bridge will be built in Rishikesh, Uttarakhand
- It will be built next to the famous 90-year-old Laxman Jhula
- Uttarakhand: Capital – Dehradun & Gairsain | CM – Pushkar Singh Dhami | Governor – Lt. Gen. Gurmit Singh

**122.** On January 29, the Union government formed 3 Grievance Appellate Committees (GACs) that will address user complaints against social media and other internet-based platforms. These panels will also be empowered to oversee and revoke content moderation-related decisions taken by these platforms. Each GAC will have a Chairperson and 2 whole time members. The first panel will be chaired by the CEO of the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre, under the Ministry of Home Affairs. The second panel will be chaired by the Joint Secretary in charge of the Policy and Administration Division, in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. The third panel will be chaired by Kavita Bhatia, a Senior Scientist at the Ministry of Electronics and IT. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Government formed 3 Grievance Appellate Committees (GACs) to address user complaints against social media
- Each GAC will have a Chairperson & 2 Whole-time members

**123.** On January 29, Hardeep Singh Puri rededicated Oil and Natural Gas Corporation's (ONGC) iconic drilling rig Sagar Samrat as a mobile offshore production unit (MOPU). The Sagar Samrat is located 140-145 km west of Mumbai. India's energy demand is expected to grow at about 3% per annum by 2040, compared to the global rate of 1%. Further, 25% of the global energy growth between 2020 and 2040 is going to come from India due to our fast-growing economy and demographic dividend. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Hardeep Singh Puri – rededicated ONGC's iconic drilling rig Sagar Samrat as a mobile offshore production unit (MOPU)
- India's energy demand is expected to grow at about 3% per annum by 2040 | Global rate of 1%
- HQs of ONGC – New Delhi | CMD – Rajesh Kumar Srivastava (interim)

**124.** On January 26, Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel announced a monthly allowance for unemployed youth from the next financial year (FY24). He also announced setting up of an aerocity near the Swami Vivekananda Airport, Raipur, housing assistance scheme for labourers and a scheme to promote women entrepreneurship. Moreover, Construction workers registered with the Chhattisgarh Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board for a period of three years will be given a grant of Rs 50,000 for building houses. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Chhattisgarh – announced a monthly allowance for unemployed youth from FY24
- He also announced:
  - Setting up of an aerocity near the Swami Vivekananda Airport, Raipur
  - Housing assistance scheme for labourers
  - Construction workers will be given a grant of Rs 50,000 for building houses
  - A scheme to promote women entrepreneurship
- Chhattisgarh: Capital – Raipur | CM – Bhupesh Baghel | Governor – Biswa Bhusan Harichandan

**125.** On January 31, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal inaugurated the "Realtime Source Apportionment Supersite" along with an "Air Quality Monitoring Van" to gather realtime information on sources of pollution and help the government launch a targeted response. The real-time source apportionment study is a joint venture between Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC), IIT Delhi, IIT Kanpur and The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI). [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Delhi – inaugurated the "Realtime Source Apportionment Supersite" & "Air Quality Monitoring Van"
- "Realtime Source Apportionment Supersite" is a JV among = DPCC + IIT Delhi + IIT Kanpur + TERI
- Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal | Lt. Governor – Vinai Kumar Saxena | Chief Secretary – Naresh Kumar



**126.** On January 28, MeitY Startup Hub (MSH), an initiative of the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY), and Meta announced the list of 120 startups and innovators for the 'XR Startup Program'. As announced in September 2022, XR Startup Program is a collaboration between MSH and Meta to discover, nurture, and accelerate Extended Reality (XR) technology startups and innovators across India. More than 30% Startups in the Accelerator are from Tier II & III cities across India. Women led/co-led Startups and Innovators form over 20% of the cohort. The XR Startup Program includes an Accelerator and a Grand Challenge, aimed towards boosting the emerging tech ecosystem in the country. The Accelerator Program is supporting 40 early-stage start-ups working in XR technologies with a grant of Rs 20 lakhs each. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- MeitY Startup Hub + Meta = announced the list of 120 startups and innovators for the 'XR Startup Program'
- Accelerator Program is supporting 40 early-stage start-ups working in XR technologies with a grant of Rs 20 lakhs each
- [HQs of Meta – California, US](#) | [CEO – Mark Zuckerberg](#) | [Founded in – 2004](#)

**127.** On January 27, Woxsen University, located in Hyderabad, has launched "Project Aspiration" to empower marginalised adolescent girls in Telangana. Woxsen's Centre of Excellence - Diversity, Equity & Inclusion has conceptualized this project for the ambitious girls of Classes IX-XII, Telangana Model School & Junior College. Under Project Aspiration, few meritorious students are selected by the school principal to take part in 'Train the Trainer' workshop. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Woxsen University (Hyderabad) – launched "Project Aspiration" to empower marginalised adolescent girls in Telangana
- [Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad](#) | [CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao](#) | [Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan](#)

**128.** From April 2023, all government vehicles that have completed 15 years will automatically lose their right to ply on roads as their certificate of registration will expire, according to a new rule of the central government. Nitin Gadkari-led Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has already rolled out the vehicle scrapping policy in an effort to weed out old, polluting and potentially less-safe vehicles from Indian roads. For commercial vehicles and private vehicles, the policy will be applicable from June 2024. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- All government vehicles older than 15 years will be scrapped from April, 2023
- For commercial vehicles and private vehicles, the policy will be applicable from June, 2024

**129.** On January 26, Govind Mohan, the Secretary of the Ministry of Culture, announced to hand over around 1,000 monuments under the control of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to the private sector for their upkeep under the 'Monument Mitra Scheme'. Corporate entities will take over these monuments as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). The government has set the target to hand over 500 sites under the revamped 'Monument Mitra Scheme' by the end of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav on 15 August, 2023. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Ministry of Culture – announced to hand over around 1,000 monuments under the control of the ASI to the private sector for their upkeep under the 'Monument Mitra Scheme'
- Government targets to hand over 500 sites under the revamped 'Monument Mitra Scheme' by 15 August, 2023
- [Minister of Culture: G. Kishan Reddy](#) | [Constituency – Secunderabad, Telangana](#)
- [MoS in Minister of Culture: Arjun Ram Meghwal & Meenakshi Lekhi](#)



**130.** On January 27, Luminous Power Technologies announced its plan to build India's first Green Energy-based Solar Panel Manufacturing Facility in Uttarakhand. The new state-of-the-art facility located in Rudrapur is expected to be fully operational by the end of this year. The facility will help enable a solar production capacity of 500 MW per annum, expandable up to 1 GW. This solar panel facility is fully robotic and will use 100% energy from solar power. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Luminous Power Tech – to build India's first Green Energy-based Solar Panel Manufacturing Facility in Uttarakhand
- [HQs of Luminous Power Tech – Gurgaon, Haryana](#) | [MD & CEO – Preeti Bajaj](#)

**131.** In January 2023, the Indian Railways introduced "Ideal Train Profile" to maximise the capacity utilisation and revenue generation in reserved mail express trains by regularly analysing the demand pattern of every single train. Ideal Train Profile, a seat capacity optimisation decision support, is done due to the fact that the number of ticket-class combinations on a single train journey date can exceed 5,000. The pilot project was started on seven zonal railways - Eastern, Central, Northern, Southern, South Central, Western, and West Central Railway. The modules have been developed by an in-house team, led by R Gopalakrishnan of the Centre of Railway Information Systems. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Indian Railways – introduced "Ideal Train Profile" to maximise capacity utilisation & revenue generation in reserved mail express trains
- The modules have been developed by – Centre of Railway Information Systems
- [HQs of Indian Railways – New Delhi](#) | [Chairman & CEO – Anil Kumar Lahoti](#)
- [Ministry of Railways: Ashwini Vaishnaw](#) | [Constituency – Odisha](#)
- [MoS in Ministry of Railways: Danve Raosaheb Dadarao & Darshana Vikram Jardosh](#)

**132.** On January 26, PepsiCo Foundation, the philanthropic arm of PepsiCo and CARE, launched "She Feeds the World" program in India to strengthen the role of small-scale women producers through sustainable training and economic support. The program, which will be implemented in the Alipurduar and Cooch Behar districts of West Bengal, aims to reach out to more than 48,000 women, men and children and indirectly benefit 1,50,000 individuals. 'She Feeds the World' will drive impact for women farmers and their families across the three dimensions of a sustainable food system - Economic, Social and Environmental. [{Read more}](#)

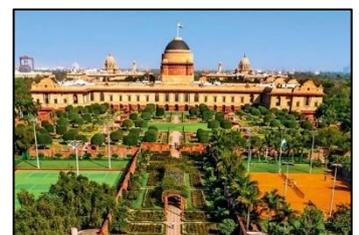
**Smart Points:**

- PepsiCo Foundation – launched "She Feeds the World" program in India
- The program will be implemented in Alipurduar & Cooch Behar districts of West Bengal
- [West Bengal: Capital – Kolkata](#) | [CM – Mamta Banerjee](#) | [Governor – CV Ananda Bose](#)

**133.** On January 30, the iconic Mughal Gardens at the Rashtrapati Bhavan (President's House) in Delhi have been renamed as 'Amrit Udyan'. The gardens opened to the public on January 31, 2023. Defined by its rectilinear layouts, divided in four equal sections, these gardens can be found across lands previously ruled by the Mughals. This style was influenced by the Persian gardens particularly the Charbagh structure. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- 'Mughal Gardens' in Delhi – renamed as 'Amrit Udyan'
- [Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal](#) | [Lt. Governor – Vinai Kumar Saxena](#) | [Chief Secretary – Naresh Kumar](#)



**134.** Visakhapatnam will be declared the new capital of Andhra Pradesh in the coming days, announced by Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy at the 'International Diplomatic Alliance Meeting' in New Delhi. He also announced that state government is organizing the 'Global Investors Summit' in Visakhapatnam on March 3 and 4, 2023. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- International Diplomatic Alliance Meeting – held in New Delhi
- Visakhapatnam – will be declared the new capital of Andhra Pradesh
- Global Investors Summit – to be organised in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh
- [Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Vishakhapatnam | CM – YS Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – S. Abdul Nazeer](#)

**135.** Broadcasters in India will have to set aside at least 30 minutes of air time daily for public service programming (PSB) of national importance and social relevance from March 1, 2023, according to the "Guidelines for Uplinking and Downlinking of Television Channels in India, 2022" released by the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting. All broadcasters will have to submit a report on the government's Broadcast Seva Portal by the 7<sup>th</sup> of the following month. The broadcaster shall keep the record of the content telecast for a period of 90 days. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- The Centre issued Public Service Broadcast (PSB) guidelines, effective from March 1, 2023:
  - Broadcasters will have to show PSB of national importance & social relevance for at least 30 minutes in a day
  - Broadcaster will have to submit a report on the government's Broadcast Seva Portal by the 7<sup>th</sup> of the next month
  - Broadcaster shall keep the record of the content telecast for a period of 90 days

**136.** On January 31, Maharashtra government officially adopted 'Jai Jai Maharashtra Majha' as the State song. The decision to adopt the song was taken at a Cabinet meeting chaired by CM Eknath Shinde. The song was set to be adopted on February 19, the birth anniversary of the 17<sup>th</sup> century Maratha warrior-king Chhatrapati Shivaji. The song, translated into English as 'Glory to Maharashtra', was composed/written by Marathi poet Raja Badhe and sung by renowned folk artiste Krishnarao Ganpatrao Sable, affectionately known as 'Shahir' Sable. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Maharashtra Govt – officially adopted 'Jai Jai Maharashtra Majha' (Glory to Maharashtra) as the State song
- Composed by – Raja Badhe | Sung by – shnarao Ganpatrao Sable ('Shahir')
- [Maharashtra: CM – Eknath Shinde | Governor – Ramesh Bais](#)

**137.** On January 31, Ministry of Law and Justice constituted a working committee for the drafting of rules and standards for mediation in India under the chairmanship of former Law Secretary P. K. Malhotra. The committee would also provide a method for the active dissemination of the benefits of the provisions of the Mediation Bill/Act and give wide publicity to the said provisions amongst the stakeholders and the citizens. The Bill also provides for the establishment of the Mediation Council of India. The Mediation Bill, 2021 was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on December 20, 2022. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Ministry of Law & Justice – constituted a working committee for the drafting of rules & standards for mediation in India
- It is headed by – P. K. Malhotra (Former Law Secretary)
- [Ministry for Law & Justice: Kiren Rijju | Constituency – Arunachal West](#)
- [MoS in Ministry of Law & Justice – S. P. Singh Baghel](#)



**138.** On January 29, Delhi State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT) organised a 5-day 'Jeevan Vidya Shivir' for the teachers of Delhi government schools at Thyagaraja stadium. Nearly 4,000 teachers from Delhi government schools were expected to participate in this workshop between January 28 to February 1. Jeevan Vidya Shivir is a co-existence workshop based on the Coexistential philosophy of A Nagraj. This Shivir was held to help teachers in building their capacity to find those gaps present in the education system and fill them. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- SCERT (Delhi) – organised a 5-day 'Jeevan Vidya Shivir' for the teachers of Delhi Govt schools at Thyagaraja stadium
- Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal | Lt. Governor – Vinai Kumar Saxena | Chief Secretary – Naresh Kumar

**139.** On January 28, PM Narendra Modi inspected the Guard of Honour and reviewed the march-past by National Cadet Corps (NCC) contingents, demonstrating their skills, microlight flying, parasailing. Cultural programmes were also held. The rally is the culmination of NCC Republic Day Camp (RDC) and is held on January 28 every year at Delhi's Cariappa Parade Ground. A total of 196 officers and cadets from 19 foreign countries were invited to be a part of the celebrations. During the event, PM Modi also released a special day cover and a commemorative and specially minted coin of ₹75 denomination, marking the 75 successful years of the NCC. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- PM Modi released a specially minted coin of Rs 75 denomination commemorating 75 successful years of the NCC
- HQs of NCC – New Delhi | DG – Lt. Gen. Gurbirpal Singh | Founded on – 16 April, 1948 | Motto – 'Unity & Discipline'

**140.** Ministry of Science and Technology published the 'National Geospatial Policy, 2022'. The policy seeks to establish a high-resolution topographical survey and mapping and a high-accuracy digital elevation model for the entire country by 2030, in addition to developing geospatial infrastructures, skills and knowledge, standards, and enterprises. The policy describes the creation of 14 National Fundamental Sectoral Geospatial Data Themes. India's geospatial economy is expected to surpass Rs. 63,000 crores by 2025, with the growth of 12.8%. The initiative would create a 'National Geospatial Data Framework' and make data affordably available to enterprises and the general public. By 2025, the government plans to implement a legal framework that supports geospatial sector liberalisation and data democratisation for improved commercialisation with value-added services. The government intends to create an Integrated Data and Information Framework (IDIF) through which a Geospatial Knowledge Infrastructure (GKI) will be built by 2030. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Ministry of Science & Technology – published the 'National Geospatial Policy, 2022'
- The policy seeks to establish a high-resolution topographical survey & mapping and a high-accuracy digital elevation model for the entire country by 2030
- Geospatial Knowledge Infrastructure (GKI) will be built by 2030 through an Integrated Data and Information Framework
- India's geospatial economy is expected to surpass Rs. 63,000 Cr by 2025, with the growth of 12.8%
- Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology: Ashwini Vaishnaw | Constituency – Odisha
- MoS in Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology: Rajeev Chandrasekhar

**141.** On January 27, during the US-India Alliance Shatter Summit, Mukesh Aghi, President & CEO of the US-India Strategic and Partnership Forum (USISPF), announced the launch of the "US-India Alliance for Women's Economic Empowerment (STEM Collaborative)". Under this Alliance, one of the key priorities has been to accelerate women in STEM education and the workforce. This alliance is a public-private partnership between the State Department, USAID, USISPF, and George Washington University. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- “US-India Alliance for Women’s Economic Empowerment (STEM Collaborative)” – is launched to increase number of women in STEM Education & Workforce in India
- The alliance is a public-private partnership between = USAID + USISPF + George Washington University
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46<sup>th</sup> President – Joe Biden | 49<sup>th</sup> VP – Kamala Harris

**142.** On January 28, Union Home Minister Amit Shah laid the foundation stone for a campus of the National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU) at Dharwad in Karnataka. The University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad, has agreed to hand over 50 acres to set up the new campus. Courses will be offered here in forensic sciences to boost capability in gathering scientific evidence from crime scenes in Karnataka. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- Amit Shah – laid foundation stone for a campus of National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU) at Dharwad, Karnataka
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – Basavaraj Bommai | Governor – Thaawarchand Gehlot

**143.** The Justice G. Rohini-led commission for the sub-categorisation of Other Backward Classes (OBCs) has been given 6-month another extension in its tenure by the President, according to a gazette notification issued by the Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment on January 29, 2023. This is the 14<sup>th</sup> extension in tenure. The commission, formed in October 2017, was initially given 12 weeks to finish the task of sub-categorizing the nearly 3,000 castes within the OBC umbrella and recommend division of the 27% OBC quota among them equitably. The commission decided to divide all OBC communities into 4 broad categories. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- Commission for the sub-categorisation of OBC is given 6-month another (14<sup>th</sup>) extension in its tenure by the President
- The commission is led by – Justice G. Rohini | The commission was formed in – October, 2017



# International Affairs

1. Taiwan announced to extend its compulsory military service from four months to a year starting in 2024. The longer military service applies to men born after 2005, and will start Jan. 1, 2024. Those born before 2005 will continue to serve four months. Of Taiwan's 188,000-person military, 90% are volunteers and 10% are men doing their required four months of service. Taiwan, which split from the mainland in 1949 during a civil war, is claimed by China. [{Read more}](#)



## Smart Points:

- Taiwan – to extend its compulsory military service from 4 months to 1 year starting in 2024
- Taiwan – Taipei – New Taiwan dollar | President – Tsai Ing-wen

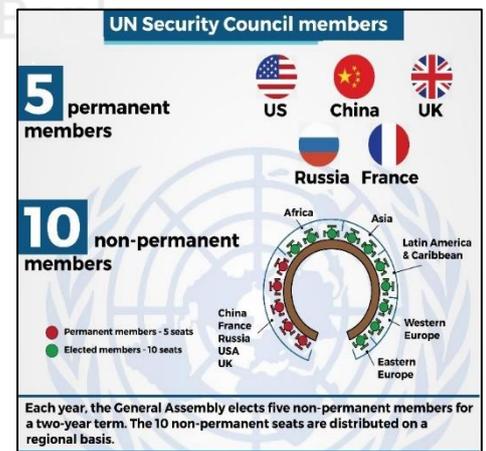
2. On January 1, Croatia became the 20<sup>th</sup> member of the eurozone, making euro its official currency, and removed dozens of border checkpoints to join the world's largest passport-free travel area. Adopting the euro will likewise offer Croatia the benefits stemming from deeper financial ties with the currency's 19 other users and with the European Central Bank. It will also make traveling and doing business easier, removing the hassle of currency exchange for Croats. Croatia joined the EU in 2013, but to adopt the euro the country had to fulfil a set of strict economic conditions, including having a stable exchange rate, controlled inflation and sound public spending. Kuna is the official currency of Croatia. [{Read more}](#)



## Smart Points:

- Croatia – switched to the shared European currency "Euro"
- Croatia – Zagreb – Euro | PM – Andrej Plenkovic | President – Zoran Milanovic

3. On January 4, Five newly elected Non-permanent members - Ecuador, Japan, Malta, Mozambique and Switzerland - began their journey to serve on the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) for the term 2023-2024. In a tradition that Kazakhstan started in 2018, the five countries' ambassadors installed their national flags alongside those of other members outside the council chambers. China, France, Russia, the UK and the US are permanent, veto-wielding members of the group. The UNSC's 10 other Non-permanent members are elected by the 193-nation General Assembly (UNGA) for staggered, two-year terms. The five latest Non-permanent members replaced India, Ireland, Kenya, Mexico and Norway. Their terms ended on December 31. The other current two-year members are Albania, Brazil, Gabon, Ghana and United Arab Emirates. Moreover, Japan assumed the presidency of the UNSC for the month January 2023. [{Read more}](#)



## Smart Points:

- 5 newly elected Non-permanent members of UNSC – Ecuador, Japan, Malta, Mozambique, Switzerland
- They replaced India, Ireland, Kenya, Mexico, Norway | Existing 5 members – Albania, Brazil, Gabon, Ghana, UAE
- The UNSC has 10 Non-permanent members & 5 permanent members (China, France, Russia, UK, US)
- Japan – assumed the UNSC Presidency for the month January 2023
- HQs of UNSC – New York, US | Presidency in January – Japan (December - India | February - Malta)



4. On January 1, Sweden took over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union for 6 months. The presidency of the Council of the European Union is responsible for the functioning of the Council of the European Union, which is the co-legislator of the EU legislature alongside the European Parliament. Before this, the presidency was held by Czech Republic. The Czech Republic's second Presidency of the Council of the European Union was held between 1 July and 31 December 2022. Czech Republic previously held the presidency from 1 January until 30 June 2009. Three successive presidencies are known as presidency trios. The current trio (2022-2023) is made up of France (January-June 2022), Czech Republic (July-December 2022) and Sweden (January-June 2023). [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Sweden – took over Presidency of Council of the European Union on January 1 for 6 months (from – Czech Republic)
- [Sweden – Stockholm – Krona](#) | [PM – Ulf Kristersson](#)

5. On January 1, China rolled off the first semi high speed, hydrogen-powered train in the Asian Region with its own independent intellectual property rights. It has been developed in collaboration with the Chengdu Railway Group and CRRC Changchun. The hydrogen-powered train uses the key core technology from the “Fuxing” high-speed train. It also has a built-in “hydrogen-power” system that gives the vehicle’s battery life a powerful and long-lasting power source, enabling it to go 600 kilometres on a single charge. World’s first Hydrogen-powered train had begun its passenger services in Germany since August 2022. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- China – rolled off the first semi high speed, hydrogen-powered train in the Asian Region
- Germany – launched world’s first Hydrogen-powered train in August 2022
- [China – Beijing – Renminbi](#) | [President – Xi Jinping](#)

6. On January 5, Cape Verde became the first country to name a stadium (Estadio Nacional de Cabo Verde) after Pele and will be called will be called ‘Pele Stadium’ in honour of the former New York player. Following Pele’s death in December, FIFA chief Gianni Infantino paid tribute to the three-time World Cup winner at his memorial service in Brazil and proposed at the memorial service that each nation should name one stadium after Pele. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Cape Verde – became first country to name a stadium after ‘Pele’ on recommendation of Gianni Infantino (FIFA Chief)
- [Cape Verde – Praia – Cape Verdean escudo](#) | [PM – Ulisses Correia e Silva](#) | [President – Jose Maria Neves](#)

7. On January 3, External Affairs Minister Dr. S Jaishankar concluded his two-nation visit to Cyprus and Austria. During his Cyprus visit, agreements in various areas including on Defence and Military Cooperation were signed between the two countries. India and Cyprus also signed a Letter of Intent (LoI) on Migration and Mobility Partnership. Cyprus became the 111th nation to sign the Framework Agreement of the India-led International Solar Alliance (ISA) and also the 92<sup>nd</sup> full-member country to have joined the ISA. Also, this was the first External Affairs Minister-level visit from India to Austria in the last 27 years. India signed an agreement related to issues with Migration and Mobility with Austria as well. A ‘Working Holiday Programme agreement’ that got signed between the two countries will assist Indian on holiday in Austria to find employment and work without a work permit for up to six months there. Other agreements that inked include the areas of culture and visa-free entry of diplomatic passport holders. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- S. Jaishankar – concluded his two-nation visit to Cyprus & Austria
- India + Cyprus – signed agreements in various areas including on Defence & Military Cooperation
- Cyprus – became 111<sup>th</sup> nation to sign the Framework Agreement of ISA
- Cyprus – became 92<sup>nd</sup> full-member country to have joined the ISA
- India – signed an Lol with Cyprus & Austria on Migration & Mobility Partnership
- India + Austria = signed a 'Working Holiday Programme agreement'
- Austria – Vienna – Euro | President – Alexander Van der Bellen | Chancellor – Karl Nehammer
- Cyprus – Nicosia – Euro | President – Nicos Anastasiades
- HQs of ISA – Gurugram, Haryana | DG – Ajay Mathur | Signatory Countries – 111 | Member countries – 92

**8.** On January 5, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has granted a conditional license for a vaccine for honeybees to curb American foulbrood (AFB), a fatal bacterial disease for the insect. AFB is caused by the spore-forming bacterium *Paenibacillus larvae*. It is world's first vaccine for honeybees. The vaccine is developed by biotechnology company Dalan Animal Health. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- US – approved the world's first vaccine for Honeybees
- USDA granted a conditional license for a vaccine for honeybees to curb 'American foulbrood', a fatal bacterial disease
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46<sup>th</sup> President – Joe Biden | 49<sup>th</sup> VP – Kamala Harris

**9.** On January 6, India deployed a platoon of Women Peacekeepers in Abyei on the border of Sudan and South Sudan as part of the Indian Battalion in the United Nations Interim Security Force, Abyei (UNISFA). This will be India's largest single unit of women peacekeepers in a UN Mission since it deployed the first-ever all women's contingent in Liberia in 2007. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- India deployed 'India's largest single unit of women peacekeepers in a UN Mission' – in Sudan
- It is deployed as part of the Indian Battalion in the United Nations Interim Security Force, Abyei (UNISFA)
- Sudan – Khartoum – Sudanese Pound | South Sudan – Juba – South Sudanese Pound

**10.** On January 8, India handed 75 passenger buses to Sri Lanka as part of its assistance towards strengthening public transport infrastructure. As part of its 'Neighbourhood First' policy, India has extended multi-pronged assistance to Sri Lanka to help the country tide over its worst economic and humanitarian crisis since its independence from Great Britain in 1948. India handed 125 SUVs to the Sri Lanka Police under a line of credit in December to support the island nation and help it address the serious mobility restriction issues faced by the police, due to the non-availability of vehicles. The Sri Lankan government in May last year declared a debt default on over \$51 billion in the foreign loan – a first in the country's history. The Indian credit lines since early 2022 have been in use to import essentials and fuel after street protests erupted due to severe shortages of essentials. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- India – handed 75 passenger buses to Sri Lanka as part of its 'Neighbourhood First' policy
- Sri Lanka – Colombo/Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte – Sri Lankan Rupee
- PM – Dinesh Gunawardena | President – Ranil Wickremesinghe



**11.** On January 9, the governments of India and the UK marked Pravasi Bharatiya Divas by launching the “Young Professionals Scheme”, which will permit up to 3,000 of their degree-holding citizens aged between 18 and 30 to live and work in each other’s countries for a period of two years. The launch of the scheme, which was conceived as part of an India-U.K. Migration and Mobility MoU signed in May 2021, was announced in November at the G20 summit in Bali. The letters were signed and exchanged between the two countries at the High Commission of India in London. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- India + UK = launched the “Young Professionals Scheme”
- It will permit up to 3,000 of their degree-holding citizens aged 18-30 to live & work in each other’s countries for 2 years
- UK – London – Pound Sterling | PM – Rishi Sunak (57<sup>th</sup>) | New King – King Charles III

**12.** On January 5, the United States announced to extend COVID-19 pandemic-era restrictions, known as Title 42, to expel migrants from Nicaragua, Cuba and Haiti caught crossing the U.S.-Mexico border back to Mexico. This move would block more nationalities from seeking asylum in the United States. At the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020, U.S. health authorities issued Title 42 to allow border agents to rapidly send migrants crossing the U.S.-Mexico border back to Mexico or other countries. The order was implemented under Republican former President Donald Trump. U.S. President Joe Biden, a Democrat who took office in January 2021, when he moved to end some Trump restrictions, he also left Title 42 in place. [{Read more}](#)

**6 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT TITLE 42**

- 1** It is a public health law that states that any single adult or family coming into the U.S. from Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador must be sent back to Mexico
- 2** It was created by Stephen Miller and the Trump Administration as a way to prohibit families from seeking asylum in the U.S.
- 3** It was implemented in April 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic
- 4** Unaccompanied children and individuals from other countries were taken into custody held for days or weeks, and then deported back to their home countries by plane
- 5** Since November 2020, unaccompanied children were exempt from Title 42 after a federal judge ruled that deporting them was in violation of the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act
- 6** Black migrants are disproportionately affected by the rule and have a higher chance of facing deportation

MERCYS VOICE

**Smart Points:**

- United States – announced to extend ‘Title 42’ which are COVID-19 pandemic-era restrictions
- It is extended to expel migrants from Nicaragua, Cuba & Haiti caught crossing the U.S. Mexico border back to Mexico
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46<sup>th</sup> President – Joe Biden | 49<sup>th</sup> VP – Kamala Harris

**13.** On January 12, Indian High Commission signed an MoU to establish a Hindi Chair at the Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka to establish the Hindi Chair as part of India’s cultural connect through the Indian Council for Cultural Relations. High Commissioner Gopal Baglay and Vice Chancellor of Sabaragamuwa University Prof. Udaya Rathnayake signed the MoU. The Hindi chair will help in familiarizing students with India, its history, and culture as well as pave way for popularising Hindi by deputing Indian faculties. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Indian High Commission – signed an MoU to establish a Hindi Chair at Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka
- Sri Lanka – Colombo/Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte – Sri Lankan Rupee
- PM – Dinesh Gunawardena | President – Ranil Wickremesinghe

**14.** Australia announced to teach Punjabi Language in its public schools. The move comes after a 2021 census showed that Punjabi was the fastest growing language in Australia with more than 2,39,000 people using it at home, an increase of over 80% from 2016. The syllabus for pre-primary to year 12 will be developed this year. Earlier, Australian Sikh history was included in the Humanities and Social Sciences subjects in WA schools for years 5, 6 and 9. The decision to teach the Punjabi language follows an announcement in 2021 of the development of syllabuses for Hindi, Korean and Tamil. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- Australia – announced to teach Punjabi Language in its public schools
- [Australia – Canberra – Australian Dollar](#) | [PM – Anthony Albanese](#)

**15.** On January 12, Swedish state-owned mining company, LKAB, announced that it has discovered more than one million tonnes of rare earth oxides at Kiruna mine in Sweden. This is the largest known deposit in Europe. Currently, no rare earths are mined in Europe and it mostly imports them from other regions. According to a report in the BBC, 98% of rare earths used by the European Union were sent by China. Rare earth elements or rare earth metals are a set of 17 chemical elements in the periodic table. In recent years, rare earths have become even more important because there has been an increase in demand for green energy. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- LKAB (Swedish company) – discovered more than one million tonnes of rare earth oxides at Kiruna mine, Sweden
- It is largest known deposit in Europe | 98% of rare earths used by the European Union were sent by China
- [Sweden – Stockholm – Krona](#) | [PM – Ulf Kristersson](#)

**16.** On January 12, India and the United States have established a new working group to build Sustainable Supply Chains and boost Bilateral Trade. The working group will initially focus on trade facilitation, digitization of customs procedures, issues related to mobilization of sustainable finance and scaling up of innovative clean technologies. The Trade Policy Forum, revived in 2021 after a gap for 4 years, will reconvene on a ministerial level before end of 2023. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- India + US = established a new working group to build Sustainable Supply Chains & boost Bilateral Trade
- [US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar](#) | [46<sup>th</sup> President – Joe Biden](#) | [49<sup>th</sup> VP – Kamala Harris](#)

**17.** On January 11, Uganda declared an end to an Ebola virus outbreak that emerged in September 2022. Uganda's outbreak was caused by the Sudan Ebola virus, one of six species of the Ebola virus and for which there is currently no confirmed vaccine. Three candidate vaccines, one developed by Oxford University and the Jenner Institute in Britain, another from the Sabin Vaccine Institute in the United States, and a third from the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI), are being trialled in Uganda. Under the WHO's criteria, an outbreak of the disease officially ends when there are no new cases for 42 consecutive days, twice the virus's incubation period. Two districts at the epicentre of the epidemic, Mubende and Kassanda, were placed under lockdown for two months until mid-December. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- Uganda – declared an end to an Ebola virus outbreak
- Uganda's outbreak was caused by – Sudan Ebola virus
- [Uganda – Kampala – Ugandan shilling](#) | [President – Yoweri Museveni](#)

**18.** On January 13, European Union officials and Swedish King Carl XVI Gustaf inaugurated the EU's first mainland orbital launch complex, during a visit to Sweden by members of the European Commission. The new facility is located at Esrange Space Center near Kiruna city in Sweden. The first satellite launch is expected in 2024. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- European Union's first mainland orbital launch complex – inaugurated near Kiruna city in Sweden
- Sweden – Stockholm – Krona | PM – Ulf Kristersson
- HQs of EU – Brussels, Belgium | Member Countries – 27
- President of European Parliament – Roberta Metsola
- President of European Council – Charles Michel
- President of European Commission – Ursula von der Leyen

**19.** On January 14, amid criticism that military expenditure was more than the allocation for health care and education in the 2023 budget, Sri Lanka announced plans to reduce the current strength of its military to half by 2030 to build a technically and tactically sound and well-balanced defence force. The Army's strength is to be reduced to 1,00,000 by the year 2030, down from the current figure of 2,00,783. The defence allocation of Rs 539 billion in the budget 2023 drew criticism as the island nation faced its worst economic crisis since 1948. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- Sri Lanka – announced plans to reduce the current strength of its military (2,00,783) to half by 2030
- Sri Lanka allocated Rs 539 billion to defence sector in its 2023 Budget
- Sri Lanka – Colombo/Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte – Sri Lankan Rupee
- PM – Dinesh Gunawardena | President – Ranil Wickremesinghe

**20.** On January 12, El Salvador, which became the first country in the world to recognize bitcoin as a legal tender two years ago, approved a law that would regulate the issuance of other digital assets by both the state and private entities. The law provides for legal framework for Bitcoin-backed bonds, "Volcano Bonds". The law also establishes the creation of the National Commission for Digital Assets and the Bitcoin Funds Administration Agency. The bill aims to attract national and foreign investors while creating new financing opportunities for citizens, companies and the government. The purpose of this law is to establish the legal framework that grants legal certainty to transfer operations to any title of digital assets used in public issuance offers. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- El Salvador – approved a law to provide for legal framework for Bitcoin-backed bonds, "Volcano Bonds"
- El Salvador – San Salvador – USD | President – Nayib Bukele

**21.** India has announced a donation of 12,500 doses of pentavalent vaccines to Cuba. The decision was announced during Union Minister of State for External Affairs Meenakshi Lekhi's visit to Cuba from January 12-14. Pentavalent vaccine provides protection to a child from 5 life-threatening diseases - Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus, Hepatitis B and Hib. During her visit, Lekhi visited Fidel Castro Centre in Havana and the 'panchakarma centre' in International Health Centre (La Pradera) that was set up in association with AYUSH Ministry. Furthermore, Lekhi paid floral tribute at Mahatma Gandhi's bust in Havana. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- Meenakshi Lekhi (MoS for External Affairs) – visited Cuba from January 12-14
- India – announced a donation of 12,500 doses of pentavalent vaccines to Cuba
- Cuba – Havana – Peso | President – Miguel Díaz-Canel Bermudez | PM – Manuel Marrero Cruz
- Ministry of External Affairs: S. Jaishankar | Constituency – Gujarat
- MoS in Ministry of External Affairs: Rajkumar Ranjan Singh, V. Muraleedharan & Meenakshi Lekhi



**22.** According to a release issued by the President's Media Division of Sri Lanka, as part of its 75<sup>th</sup> Independence Day celebrations, Sri Lanka has decided to release a commemorative stamp with the portrait of India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru. It will celebrate its 75<sup>th</sup> Independence Day on February 4. The theme of this year's celebration is "Namo Namo Matha - A Step towards a Century". [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Sri Lanka – decided to release a commemorative stamp with the portrait of India's first PM Jawaharlal Nehru
- Theme of this year's celebration – "Namo Namo Matha - A Step towards a Century"
- February 4 – 75<sup>th</sup> Independence Day of Sri Lanka
- Sri Lanka – Colombo/Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte – Sri Lankan Rupee
- PM – Dinesh Gunawardena | President – Ranil Wickremesinghe

**23.** On January 10, Janani Ramachandran, a 30-year-old Indian-American attorney, has emerged as the youngest and the first queer woman of colour to take oath as the Oakland City Council member in the U.S. state of California. Ms. Ramachandran took the ceremonial oath as the Oakland City Council member for District 4. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Janani Ramachandran – became youngest & 1<sup>st</sup> queer woman of colour to take oath as Oakland City Council member in U.S. state of California
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46<sup>th</sup> President – Joe Biden | 49<sup>th</sup> VP – Kamala Harris

**24.** On January 17, the World Economic Forum launched the "Giving to Amplify Earth Action" (GAEA) to help unlock the USD 3 trillion of financing needed each year to reach net-zero, reverse nature loss and restore biodiversity by 2050. According to WEF, Current funding is slow and inadequate, and a new approach is needed to get capital flowing. Philanthropic giving can address this, with unique qualities not found in other financing. The global initiative to fund and grow new and existing public, private and philanthropic partnerships (PPPPs) is supported by more than 45 partners, including HCL Technologies through its chairperson Roshni Nadar Malhotra. GAEA's growing body of philanthropic partners includes Active Philanthropy, the African Climate Foundation, Andre Hoffmann Family Office, the Arab Foundations Forum, Bezos Earth Fund, BMW Foundation and Children's Investment Fund Foundation. Philanthropic financing for climate mitigation has risen in recent years, but still represents less than 2% of total philanthropic giving, estimated at \$810 billion in 2021. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- WEF – launched "GAEA" to help unlock the \$3 trillion of financing needed each year to reach net-zero, reverse nature loss and restore biodiversity by 2050
- GAEA – Giving to Amplify Earth Action | PPPs – Public, Private and Philanthropic Partnerships
- Philanthropic financing for climate mitigation represents less than 2% of total philanthropic giving, estimated at \$810 billion in 2021
- HQs of WEF – Cologny, Switzerland | Exe Chairman – Klaus Schwab | President – Borge Brende | Founded in – 1971

**25.** On January 17, Afghanistan unveiled its first indigenously made supercar, 'Mada 9'. It is developed by Entop, a Kabul-based manufacturer and Afghanistan Technical Vocational Institute. The prototype is based on a modified engine from a 2000 Toyota Corolla and took 30 Afghani engineers and over 5 years to build. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- Afghanistan – unveiled its first indigenously made supercar, 'Mada 9'
- It is manufactured by – Entop (Kabul, Afghanistan)
- Afghanistan – Kabul – Afghani | Care taker President – Amrullah Saleh | Interim PM – Mullah Hasan Akhund

**26.** On January 18, India-supported resolution 'Education for Democracy' was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). This resolution reaffirms the right of everyone to education & recognizes that 'Education For All' contributes to the strengthening of democracy. The Assembly adopted the resolution by unanimous consent and without a vote. The resolution strongly encouraged Member States and other stakeholders to integrate education for democracy into their education standards. Further, the resolution also highlighted that states should work with relevant stakeholders to close digital divides. In addition, the resolution also calls on member states to work on the challenges associated with access, affordability, digital literacy, and digital skills. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- UNGA – adopted the India-supported resolution 'Education for Democracy'
- The resolution recognizes that 'Education For All' contributes to the strengthening of democracy
- HQs of UNGA – New York, US | President – Csaba Korosi (Hungary) | Member Countries – 193

**27.** On January 19, the US plans to launch the program called "Welcome Corps" to allow its citizens to sponsor refugees. The agency aims to line up 10,000 Americans who can help 5,000 refugees during the first year of the program. Under the first phase, private sponsors will be matched with refugees already approved for resettlement under the US Refugee Assistance Program. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- The US – plans to launch the program called "Welcome Corps" to allow its citizens to sponsor refugees
- It aims to line up 10,000 Americans who can help 5,000 refugees during the first year
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46<sup>th</sup> President – Joe Biden | 49<sup>th</sup> VP – Kamala Harris

**28.** On January 20, External Affairs Minister Dr. S Jaishankar, during his official visit to Sri Lanka, said India will stand by Sri Lanka in its hour of need to overcome the challenges it currently faces. India has extended financing assurances to Sri Lanka for getting a \$2.9 billion loan from the International Monetary Fund (IMF). With this announcement, India has become the first creditor nation to extend assurance towards restructuring the debt of Sri Lanka. Moreover, Sri Lanka thanked India for the generous support of a USD 3.9 billion credit line in 2022. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- India – extended financing assurances to Sri Lanka for getting a \$2.9 billion loan from the IMF
- India – became the first creditor nation to extend assurance towards restructuring the debt of Sri Lanka
- Sri Lanka – Colombo/Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte – Sri Lankan Rupee
- PM – Dinesh Gunawardena | President – Ranil Wickremesinghe

**29.** On January 25, Germany agreed to provide Ukraine with 'Leopard 2' battle tanks. The Leopard 2 is a 3<sup>rd</sup>-generation German main battle tank. Developed by Krauss-Maffei in the 1970s, the tank entered service in 1979 and replaced the earlier Leopard 1 as the main battle tank of the West German army. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Germany – agreed to provide Ukraine with ‘Leopard 2’ battle tanks
- Germany – Berlin – Euro | President – Frank-Walter Steinmeier
- Ukraine – Kyiv – Ukrainian Hryvnia | President – Volodymyr Zelensky

**30.** The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) announced to dedicate the “International Day of Education 2023” to Afghan girls and women. International Day of Education is observed on January 24. According to UNESCO, currently, around 80% of school-aged Afghan girls and young women are out of school under the Taliban rule, as they denied them access to secondary schools and universities. According to a UNICEF report released in August, the fact that girls in Afghanistan are deprived of secondary education has cost the country’s economy at least \$500 million over the past 12 months, which amounts to 2.5% of GDP. The fifth International Day of Education was celebrated on 24 January 2023 under the theme “To Invest in People, Prioritize Education”. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- January 24 – 5<sup>th</sup> International Day of Education
- Theme – “To Invest in People, Prioritize Education”
- UNESCO – dedicated the “International Day of Education 2023” to Afghan girls and women
- Around 80% of school-aged Afghan girls and young women are out of school under the Taliban rule
- Afghanistan – Kabul – Afghani | Care taker President – Amrullah Saleh | Interim PM – Mullah Hasan Akhund

**31.** On January 24, the UNESCO and Solvay, Belgium-based chemicals company, launched a “STEM Education Program”. Developed by two leading science-based organizations, this three-year partnership aims at engaging high schoolers and graduate students from India, Indonesia and South Korea to find solutions to national and regional environmental issues through science. Focused on the theme “Sustainable Living for One Planet”, the program will explore our mutual impact on the environment and the environment on us through mentorship activities with university students and teachers from those countries. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- UNESCO + Solvay (Belgium) = launched a “STEM Education Program”
- The program will engage high schoolers & graduate students from India, Indonesia & South Korea to find solutions
- Theme of the program – “Sustainable Living for One Planet”
- HQs of UNESCO – Paris, France | Director-General – Audrey Azoulay | Founded in – 1945 | Members – 193 Countries

**32.** On January 24, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced a new federal investment to build and commercialise the world’s first photonic-based, fault-tolerant quantum computer. The investment of 40 million Canadian dollars (\$32 million) will enable Xanadu Quantum Technologies Inc., a Toronto-based Canadian quantum computing company, to develop the quantum computer which will have the potential to provide world leading capabilities to help solve complex data problems and could be used in a variety of sectors such as finance, transportation, environmental modelling, and health. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Canada – announced investment to build & commercialise world’s 1<sup>st</sup> photonic-based, fault-tolerant quantum computer
- Xanadu Quantum Technologies Inc (Toronto) – will develop this Quantum Computer
- Canada – Ottawa – Canadian Dollar | PM – Justin Trudeau



**33.** On January 26, the UNESCO designated the historic “Odesa”, a strategic port city on Ukraine’s Black Sea coast, as a World Heritage in Danger site. The status, awarded by a UNESCO panel meeting in Paris, is designed to help protect Odesa’s cultural heritage, which has been under threat since Russia's invasion, and enable access to financial and technical international aid. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- UNESCO designated the historic “Odesa” (a strategic port city in Ukraine) – as a World Heritage in Danger site
- HQs of UNESCO – Paris, France | Director-General – Audrey Azoulay | Founded in – 1945 | Members – 193 Countries
- Ukraine – Kyiv – Ukrainian Hryvnia | President – Volodymyr Zelensky

**34.** On January 25, Swedish government announced an “International Information Campaign” to discourage refugees entering country. The main objective is to inform about the Swedish migration policy. Among other things, this includes distributing an information package to foreign authorities and other authorities with contact points abroad. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Sweden – announced an “International Information Campaign” to discourage refugees entering country
- Sweden – Stockholm – Krona | PM – Ulf Kristersson

**35.** On January 26, the United States formally designated Russian private military company the Wagner Group as a transnational criminal organization. In December 2022, the Wagner Group had taken delivery of an arms shipment from North Korea to help bolster Russian forces in Ukraine, in a sign of the group's expanding role in that conflict. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- US – formally designated Russian private military company ‘Wagner Group’ as a Transnational Criminal Organization
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46<sup>th</sup> President – Joe Biden | 49<sup>th</sup> VP – Kamala Harris



# Banking, Finance, Insurance & Economic Affairs

1. On January 1, Ajay Kumar Srivastava was appointed as the managing director (MD) and chief executive officer (CEO) of Indian Overseas Bank (IOB). Partha Pratim Sengupta has demitted office as MD & CEO of the bank on 31 December 2022 being the date of his superannuation. Government of India has appointed Sanjay Vinayak Mudaliyar, chief general manager at Bank of Baroda as executive director in IOB for a period of three years. [{Read more}](#)



## Smart Points:

- Ajay Kumar Srivastava – appointed as the MD & CEO of Indian Overseas Bank (replacing - Partha Pratim Sengupta)
- Sanjay Vinayak Mudaliyar – appointed as Executive Director in IOB for 3 years
- HQs of IOB – Chennai, TN | MD & CEO – Ajay Kumar Srivastava | Tagline – “Good people to grow with”

2. On January 3, India Accelerator, a seed-stage accelerator program, launched the ‘i3 Launchpad’, a program created to nurture and co-innovate with the startup ecosystem in India. This has been developed in collaboration with ICICI Bank and Infosys Finacle, part of EdgeVerve Systems. The objective of the i3 Launchpad is to support a community of entrepreneurs who are on a mission to create brands that can have a global impact. The program is open to startups across all industries and will onboard two cohorts a year, with a target of 12-18 startups in each cohort. Sectors in focus for the first cohort include fintech, enterprise tech & SaaS, proptech, wealthtech, sustainability & greentech, and insurtech. [{Read more}](#)

## Smart Points:

- India Accelerator + ICICI Bank + Infosys Finacle = launched ‘i3 Launchpad program’
- The program is launched to nurture and co-innovate with the startup ecosystem in India
- HQs of ICICI Bank – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Sandeep Bakhshi | Taglines – “Hum Hain Na!” & “Khayal Apka”

3. On January 1, Indian Bank unveiled QR code bill payment system for Chamundeshwari Electricity Supply Corporation Ltd (CESC) making it as the first power distribution company to offer such an initiative to customers in Mysuru. By using the dynamic QR code linked to the unified payments interface (UPI) on printed electricity bill, customers would be able to make their payments without visiting any online portal or physically going to any payment centre. [{Read more}](#)

## Smart Points:

- Indian Bank – unveiled QR code bill payment system for Chamundeshwari Electricity Supply Corporation Ltd
- CESC – became the first power distribution company to offer QR code bill payment system to customers
- HQs of Indian Bank – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | MD & CEO – Shanti Lal Jain | Tagline – “Your Own Bank”

4. On January 3, Niva Bupa Health Insurance Company Limited (formerly Max Bupa Health Insurance Company) signed a corporate agency agreement with Sundaram Finance Limited. Through this tie-up, Niva Bupa’s select range of indemnity plans would be offered to Sundaram Finance’s growing customers. Sundaram Finance will use its network of over 640 branches across the country to reach out to customers as part of this partnership. [{Read more}](#)

## Smart Points:

- Niva Bupa Health Insurance + Sundaram Finance Ltd = signed a corporate agency agreement
- HQs of Niva Bupa Health Insurance – New Delhi | CEO – Krishnan Ramachandran



5. On January 3, HDFC Bank partnered with Microsoft in the next phase of its digital transformation journey and aims to unlock business value by transforming the application portfolio, modernising the data landscape, and securing the enterprise with Microsoft Cloud. The bank, as a part of its 'future ready' strategy, is developing in-house intellectual properties (IP) as well as partnering with several companies, including fintechs, to co-create technology IPs. The bank will leverage Microsoft Azure to consolidate and modernise its enterprise data landscape through a 'Federated Data Lake'. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- HDFC Bank + Microsoft = partnership for digital transformation through 'Microsoft Cloud' & Microsoft Azure'
- HQs of HDFC Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Sashidhar Jagdishan | Tagline – “We understand your World”
- HQs of Microsoft – Washington, US | Chairman & CEO – Satya Nadella | Founded in – 1975

6. On January 3, Bandhan Bank launched its 'Jahaan Bandhan, Wahaan Trust' campaign featuring cricketer Sourav Ganguly as its brand ambassador. According to the company, this is the first time that Bandhan Bank has appointed a pan-India brand ambassador. The campaign uses the analogy of Ganguly's career, who became the Bank's customer soon after the Bank was launched seven years ago. It attempts to draw a parallel between the growth of Ganguly as a cricketer and the NGO-turned-bank. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Bandhan Bank – launched its 'Jahaan Bandhan, Wahaan Trust' campaign
- Sourav Ganguly – appointed as the brand ambassador of the campaign
- HQs of Bandhan Bank – Kolkata, WB | MD & CEO – Chandra Shekhar Ghosh | Tagline – “Aapka Bhalai, Sabki Bhalai”

7. According to data released by Finance Ministry, at end September, India's external debt stood at \$610.5 billion in the second quarter of 2022-23, down by \$2.3 billion from end-June 2022. The external debt to GDP ratio stood at 19.2% as at end-September 2022 as compared to 19.3% at end-June. Excluding the valuation effect, the increase in external debt would have been \$8.3 billion instead of a decrease of \$2.3 billion at end-September 2022 over end- June 2022. US dollar denominated debt remained the largest component of India's external debt, with a share of 55.5% at end-September 2022, followed by the Indian rupee (30.2%), Special Drawing Rights (SDR) (6.1%), yen (4.9%), and the euro (2.6%). [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- India's external debt – stood at \$610.5 billion in Q2 of FY23 (by September's end)
- External debt to GDP ratio stood at 19.2%
- US dollar denominated debt is largest component of India's external debt (55.5% at end-September, 2022)
- Ministry of Finance: Nirmala Sitharaman | Constituency – Karnataka
- MoS in Ministry of Finance: Pankaj Chowdhary & Bhagwat Kishanrao Karad

8. On January 2, Lingam Venkat Prabhakar, the Managing Director and CEO of Canara Bank has retired from his services. Prior to joining Canara Bank, L V Prabhakar worked as the Executive Director of Punjab National Bank. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Lingam Venkat Prabhakar – MD & CEO of Canara Bank – has retired
- HQs of Canara Bank – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Non-Executive Chairman – Vijay Srirangam



9. On January 5, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) launched its Medium-term Strategy Framework for 2023-2025 titled 'Utkarsh 2.0'. It was built in line with the central banks globally to strengthen the supervisory and regulatory mechanism. Utkarsh 2.0 would allow the central bank to both act and react proactively to confront socioeconomic challenges and take steps as soon as possible. The agenda is in line with the Prime Minister's 'minimum government, maximum governance'. In July 2015, the RBI launched a strategic management program to provide a framework for all its future policies and frameworks. Under this framework, the first strategy framework titled Utkarsh 2022 was launched, covering the period from 2019-2022. It was a three-year medium-term roadmap to improve regulation and supervision by the central bank. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- RBI – launched its Medium-term Strategy Framework for 2023-2025 titled 'Utkarsh 2.0'
- It is launched in line with the Prime Minister's 'Minimum Government, Maximum Governance'
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established on – 1st April, 1935
- Total Deputy Governors (4) – Mahesh Kumar Jain | T. Rabi Sankar | Michael D. Patra | M. Rajeshwar Rao

10. On January 3, Yes Bank announced its partnership with Microsoft to introduce a next generation mobile application with a view to provide customers with a personalised banking experience. Yes bank will leverage Microsoft's Azure platform to create the app which will offer customers a host of services such as online payments, shopping, rewards, offers, as well as customized dashboards. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Yes Bank + Microsoft = partnership to introduce a next generation mobile application
- HQs of Yes Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Prashant Kumar | Tagline – "Experience our Expertise"
- HQs of Microsoft – Washington, US | Chairman & CEO – Satya Nadella | Founded in – 1975

11. In January 2023, Suhail Sameer stepped down from his role as the CEO of BharatPe. BharatPe's chief financial officer (CFO) Nalin Negi has been made the interim CEO. Prior to joining BharatPe, he had served as CFO of SBI Cards for over 10 years, leading the credit card giant towards its IPO in March 2020. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Suhail Sameer – stepped down from his role as the CEO of BharatPe
- Nalin Negi – has been appointed as the Interim CEO of BharatPe
- HQs of BharatPe – New Delhi | CEO – Nalin Negi (Interim)

12. On January 3, the Reserve Bank of India has approved a proposal of SBI Funds Management to acquire 9.99% equity shares in Equitas Small Finance Bank through various schemes managed by it. The approval by RBI is subject to compliance with the relevant regulations issued by RBI and SEBI and is valid for one year till January 2, 2024. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- RBI – approved a proposal of SBI Funds Management to acquire 9.99% equity shares in Equitas SFB
- HQs of Equitas SFB – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | MD & CEO – Vasudevan Pathangi Narasimhan
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established on – 1st April, 1935
- Total Deputy Governors (4) – Mahesh Kumar Jain | T. Rabi Sankar | Michael D. Patra | M. Rajeshwar Rao



**13.** On January 4, Dhanlaxmi Bank launched all new retail internet banking, 'DhanDelight', and retail mobile banking app, 'DhanSmart'. The new services are built on omni channel platform having various features covering different banking needs of customers. The products will enhance customer convenience and is a landmark in the digital landscape of the bank. DhanDelight and DhanSmart have the latest information system security features to provide secure banking. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Dhanlaxmi Bank – launched all new retail internet banking, 'DhanDelight' & retail mobile banking app, 'DhanSmart'
- HQs of Dhanlaxmi Bank – Thrissur, Kerala | MD & CEO – J. K. Shivan

**14.** On January 5, IndusInd Bank, British Airways Executive Club and Qatar Airways Privilege Club announced a partnership to introduce a multi-branded credit card, powered by Visa. The multi-branded credit card is slated to be launched in the first quarter of the financial year 2023-24. This credit card will be available in the Infinite variant of Visa, and will offer best-in-class rewards and benefits to elevate international travel experience of customers. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- IndusInd Bank + British Airways Executive Club + Qatar Airways Privilege Club = partnership to introduce Credit Card
- The multi-branded credit card will be powered by Visa
- HQs of IndusInd Bank – Pune, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Sumant Kathpalia | Tagline – “We Make You Feel Richer”

**15.** On January 4, Aegon Life Insurance has launched iTerm Prime Insurance plan catering to the need of self-employed individuals with a special 10% discount on first-year premium. iTerm Prime offers a minimum sum assured of ₹25 lakhs, with no upper limit on a consumer's requirement, making it accessible to a large swathe of the population with different insurance needs. The product can be purchased on Aegon Life's website and through its partners. The product also offers a 'Special Exit Value' option that allows the policyholder to get all premiums back when they turn 55 years old. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Aegon Life Insurance – launched 'iTerm Prime' insurance plan for self-employed individuals
- iTerm Prime – offers a minimum sum assured of ₹25 lakhs with no upper limit
- HQs of Aegon Life – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Satishwar Balakrishnan

**16.** On January 4, ICICI Bank introduced digital solutions for exporters, a comprehensive set of banking and value-added services on a single platform. The set of solutions offer facilities such as instant disbursal of Export Packing Credit (Insta EPC) and Trade APIs. Insta EPC provides export finance instantly, while Trade APIs enable smooth handling of export transactions directly from exporters' ERP systems, thereby providing greater convenience. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

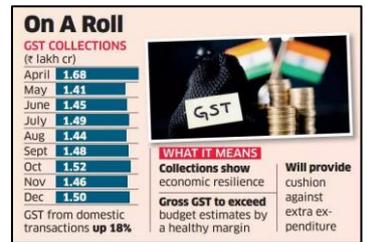
- ICICI Bank – introduced digital solutions such as 'Insta EPC' & 'Trade APIs' for exporters on a single platform
- HQs of ICICI Bank – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Sandeep Bakhshi | Taglines – “Hum Hain Na!” & “Khayal Apka”

**17.** On January 5, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) received an application from Bhubaneswar-based Annapurna Finance Pvt Ltd for an 'on-tap' license to start Universal Banks in the private sector. The application was received in the quarter ended December 2022. Besides, 7 entities had applied under the guidelines for 'on tap' licensing for setting up small finance banks. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- RBI received an application from Annapurna Finance (Bhubaneswar) for 'on-tap' license to start Universal Banks
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established on – 1st April, 1935
- Total Deputy Governors (4) – Mahesh Kumar Jain | T. Rabi Sankar | Michael D. Patra | M. Rajeshwar Rao

**18.** India's goods and services tax (GST) receipts in December 2022 rose 15% year-on-year to Rs 1.49 Lakh Crore (\$18.07 billion). The gross GST revenue collected during December 2022 is Rs 1,49,507 crore, of which CGST is Rs 26,711 crore, SGST is Rs 33,357 crore, IGST is Rs 78,434 crore and Cess is Rs 11,005 crore. During December 2022, revenues from import of goods was 8% higher and the revenues from domestic transaction were 18% higher than the revenues from these sources during December, 2021. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- India's GST receipts in Dec 2022 rose 15% year-on-year to Rs 1.49 Lakh Crore (\$18.07 billion)
- During Dec 2022, revenues from import of goods was 8% higher & revenues from domestic transaction were 18% higher

**19.** On January 5, Six entities have been selected for the Test Phase as part of the 4<sup>th</sup> cohort under the RBI's Regulatory Sandbox (RS) scheme with the theme 'Prevention and Mitigation of Financial Frauds'. Regulatory sandbox refers to the live testing of new products or services in a controlled/test regulatory environment for which the regulators may permit certain relaxations. The six entities are - Bahwan Cybertek, Crediwatch Information Analytics, enStage Software (Wibmo), HSBC in collaboration with Wibmo, napID Cybersec and Trusting Social. The objective of the regulatory sandbox is to foster responsible innovation in financial services, promote efficiency and bring benefits to consumers. Moreover, the first, second & third cohorts under RS were 'Retail Payments', 'Cross Border Payments' & 'MSME Lending' respectively. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- 6 entities (out of 9) – selected for the Test Phase as part of the 4<sup>th</sup> cohort under the RBI's Regulatory Sandbox (RS)
- Theme of 4<sup>th</sup> cohort – 'Prevention and Mitigation of Financial Frauds'
- First 3 cohorts under RS: 'Retail Payments', 'Cross Border Payments' & 'MSME Lending' (respectively)
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established on – 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1935
- Total Deputy Governors (4) – Mahesh Kumar Jain | T. Rabi Sankar | Michael D. Patra | M. Rajeshwar Rao

**20.** On January 6, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) raised close to Rs 5,000 Cr via three-year bonds. The coupon for the three-year bond was 7.63%. Bonds by corporates and financial sector players carry a spread over government paper. NABARD was able to get fine rates as supply of paper in the market is low. The issue by NABARD had a base size of Rs 2,000 Cr plus a green-shoe option of Rs 3,000 Cr. Meanwhile, Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) is likely to raise up to Rs 3,000 Cr through a 10-year paper (maturing in January 2033). The base size is Rs 500 Cr with a green-shoe option of Rs 2,500 Cr. REC is also looking at issuing medium-term paper (about 41-42 months) to raise up to Rs 3,000 Cr from the market. The actual issuance would depend on market conditions. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- NABARD – raised approx Rs 5,000 Cr via 3-year bonds at 7.63% (Rs 2,000 Cr base size + Rs 3,000 Cr green-shoe option)
- REC – is likely to raise up to Rs 3,000 Cr through a 10-year paper with maturity in 2033
- HQs of NABARD – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Shaji K V | Founded in – 1982
- HQs of REC Ltd – New Delhi | Chairman & MD – Vivek Kumar Dewangen | Founded in – 1969

**21.** On January 8, One97 Communications-owned Paytm Payments Bank Limited (PPBL) has appointed Surinder Chawla as its new Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer. This appointment has been approved by RBI. Surinder replaces Satish Kumar Gupta who retired in October 2022. Since then Deependra Singh Rathore has been serving as the interim CEO of PPBL. Surinder was previously the Head of Branch Banking at RBL Bank. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Surinder Chawla – appointed as MD & CEO of Paytm Payments Bank (replacing - Satish Kumar Gupta)
- Deependra Singh Rathore has been serving as the interim CEO of PPBL after Gupta's retirement in Oct 2022
- [HQs of PPBL – Noida, Uttar Pradesh](#) | [MD & CEO – Surinder Chawla](#)

**22.** On January 6, the RBI announced to issue its maiden Sovereign Green Bonds (SGBs) in two tranches for an aggregate amount of Rs 16,000 Crore, and proceeds will be utilised for funding public sector projects seeking to reduce carbon emissions. The first auction would be done on January 25 while the second on February 9, 2023. These green bonds would be available in 5-year and 10-year tenure. These bonds will be eligible for trading in the secondary market. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- RBI – to issue its maiden Sovereign Green Bonds (SGBs) in two tranches for an aggregate amount of Rs 16,000 Cr
- These green bonds would be available in 5-year and 10-year tenure
- [HQs of RBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra](#) | [Governor – Shaktikanta Das \(25<sup>th</sup>\)](#) | [Established on – 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1935](#)
- [Total Deputy Governors \(4\) – Mahesh Kumar Jain](#) | [T. Rabi Sankar](#) | [Michael D. Patra](#) | [M. Rajeshwar Rao](#)

**23.** On January 5, Axis Bank partnered with Open Financial Technologies (OPEN), a digital banking fintech company, to launch a fully native digital Current Account for its customers including SMEs, freelancers, homepreneurs, influencers and others. The current account holders will get access to Axis bank's over 250 banking services along with OPEN's financial automation tools for business management including payments, accounting, payroll, compliance, expense management and other such services. Open is the 100<sup>th</sup> Unicorn from India. Founded in 2017, Open Financial Technologies operates SME neo-banking platform Open Money, embedded finance platform, Zwitch and enterprise digital banking platform for banks, BankingStack. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Axis Bank + Open Financial Technologies = partnered to launch a fully native digital Current Account for its customers
- Open – is the 100<sup>th</sup> Unicorn from India
- [HQs of Open Financial Technologies – Bengaluru, Karnataka](#) | [Co-founder & CEO – Anish Achuthan](#)
- [HQs of Axis Bank – Mumbai](#) | [MD & CEO – Amitabh Chaudhry](#) | [Tagline – “Badhti ka Naam Zindagi”](#)

**24.** On January 9, Kotak Mahindra General Insurance partnered with Clootrack, an AI-powered Kochi-based start-up, for customer experience analytics. Clootrack's AI-driven comprehensive intelligent customer experience analytics platform offers a fully SAAS model, gathers and analyses billions of customer reviews to help enterprises understand why customer experience drops. This tie-up will empower Kotak Mahindra General Insurance with actionable insights into its non-life insurance products. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Kotak Mahindra General Insurance + Clootrack = partnership for customer experience analytics
- [HQs of Kotak Mahindra General Insurance – Mumbai, Maharashtra](#) | [MD & CEO – Suresh Agarwal](#)
- [HQs of Clootrack in India – Bengaluru & Kochi](#) | [CEO – Shameel Abdulla](#)



**25.** On January 5, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) issued a debt broker license to Bengaluru-based fintech firm GoldenPi Technologies. GoldenPi became the first online bond platform (OBP) provider to receive a debt brokerage license from SEBI, under the SEBI Regulations, 2021. Incorporated in 2017, the Zerodha-backed company currently offers more than 100+ bonds and debentures on its online platform in the form of daily listings. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- GoldenPi – became the first online ‘Bond Platform Provider’ to receive a debt brokerage license from SEBI
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Madhabi Puri Buch | Established in – 1992
- HQs of GoldenPi Technologies – Bengaluru | CEO & Co-founder – Abhijit Roy

**26.** On January 7, Kerala has become the first state in the country to go fully digital in its banking service. This achievement was possible due to social interventions through local self-government institutions along with infrastructure development and technological advances in the banking sector. Also, Kerala has received three ‘Digital India’ awards for the advancement in the digital sector. These medals are: silver medal for Ksheerashree portal, platinum award for Digital Workforce Management System and gold medal for District Administration of Kottayam. Kerala Fibre Optic Network (K-FON) project of the state government, which is almost 90% completed, will reduce the digital divide. The K-FON will ensure internet facility to everyone in the state and 17,155 km-long optic fibre cable network has been laid. Once the project gets completed, internet will be available to everyone in the state either for a cheaper price or for free-of-cost. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Kerala – became the first state in India to go fully digital in its banking service
- Kerala – received three ‘Digital India’ awards for the advancement in the digital sector
- K-FON project – started by Kerala to ensure internet facility to everyone for a cheaper price or free-of-cost
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan

**27.** On January 9, the RBI notified the revised list of accredited Credit Rating Agencies (CRAs) for the purpose of assigning risk weight to assets for capital adequacy purposes by the banks. On a review, banks are advised to use the ratings of these six domestic credit rating agencies - Acuite Ratings & Research Limited (Acuite), Credit Analysis and Research Limited (CARE), CRISIL Ratings Limited, ICRA Limited, India Ratings and Research Private Limited (India Ratings), and INFOMERICS Valuation and Rating Pvt Ltd. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- RBI notified the revised list of accredited Credit Rating Agencies (CRAs) for the purpose of assigning risk weight to assets for capital adequacy purposes by the banks
- Six suggested CRAs by RBI: Acuite, CARE, CRISIL, ICRA, India Ratings & INFOMERICS
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established on – 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1935
- Total Deputy Governors (4) – Mahesh Kumar Jain | T. Rabi Sankar | Michael D. Patra | M. Rajeshwar Rao

**28.** On January 9, Axis Bank signed an MoU with the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru to establish a Centre for Mathematics and Computing at the Institute. The centre spread over 1.6 lakh square feet will have labs and programmes benefitting faculty and students. Additionally, it will host the new IISc BTech programme in Mathematics and Computing and the ongoing Interdisciplinary PhD programme in Mathematical Sciences. Over 500 engineers and scientists are estimated to be benefited annually. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- Axis Bank + IISc, Bengaluru = an MoU to establish a Centre for Mathematics and Computing at the Institute
- HQs of Axis Bank – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Amitabh Chaudhry | Tagline – “Badhti ka Naam Zindagi”

**29.** On January 9, HDFC Capital, the real estate private equity arm of HDFC Group, achieved the initial close for second scheme of its third fund, by raising USD 376 million. The latest fund raising is the third by HDFC Capital’s affordable real estate (H-Care 3) fund and the primary investor in the H-Care schemes is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA). The fund will provide long-term, flexible funding across the life cycle of affordable and mid-income housing projects including early-stage funding. Since the launch in 2016, the fund, across its schemes, has created a USD 3.1 billion funding platform, making it one of the largest private finance platforms in the world focused on development of affordable housing. HDFC Capital targets to finance 10 lakh affordable homes. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- HDFC Capital – raised \$376 million for affordable housing fund ‘HDFC Capital’s affordable real estate (H-Care 3)’
- The latest fund raising is 3<sup>rd</sup> by HDFC Capital | Primary investor in ‘H-Care’ schemes is ADIA | Fund is launched in 2016
- HQs of HDFC Capital – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Vipul Roongta

**30.** According to credit rating agency ICRA Limited, Indian banks have issued a record quantum of bonds, with gross issuances hitting an all-time high of Rs 91,500 Crore in first 9 months (April-Dec) of FY 2022-23, and are likely to close the financial year with around Rs 1.4 lakh Crore. The previous high was Rs 80,000 Crore in FY17, while in FY22 it was Rs 70,000 Crore. Within overall bond issuances of Rs 91,500 Cr in the first 3 quarters of FY23, tier-II issuance reached an all-time high of Rs 47,200 Crore. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- ICRA: Indian banks’ gross issuances reached an all-time high of Rs 91,500 Cr in first 9 months (April-Dec) of FY 2022-23
- It was Rs 70,000 Cr in FY22 & Rs 80,000 Cr in FY17 (previous high)
- HQs of ICRA – Gurgaon, Haryana | MD & Group CEO of ICRA – Ramnath Krishnan

**31.** On January 9, South Indian Bank launched an MSME Online Portal providing instant online ‘In Principle’ approval of up to Rs 1 Crore. This initiative will help thousands of micro and small businesses avail loans quickly. This development is at the backdrop of central government considering to make India a \$5 trillion economy. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- South Indian Bank – launched an MSME Online Portal providing instant online ‘In Principle’ approval of up to ₹1 Cr
- HQs of South Indian Bank – Thrissur, Kerala | MD & CEO – Murali Ramakrishnan

**32.** On January 9, PayRup, India’s fastest payment app, was launched by Mahadevappa Halagatti. PayRup is built by cutting-edge technology of web 3.0. It provides advanced digital payment experience with outstanding user experience. PayRup users can pay utility bills & landline bills, recharge their mobile, broadband, DTH, and purchase Gift Cards. PayRup gives 5% cashback for all the payments through the app as a New Year offer. The Launching event was hosted in Lulu Mall, Bangalore. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- PayRup (Bengaluru) – launched by Mahadevappa Halagatti recently
- PayRup is built by cutting-edge technology of web 3.0

**33.** On January 9, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) came out with guidelines for stock exchanges to handle outages and extend trading hours to mitigate the impact of disruptions. The regulator said market participants should be intimated immediately but not later than 15 minutes from occurrence of outage through broadcast message and by publishing on its website. The affected exchange should update about outage in intervals of 45 minutes from the initial intimation, until normalcy to operations is restored. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- SEBI came out with guidelines for stock exchanges to handle outages & extend trading hours
- Market participants should be intimated immediately but not later than 15 minutes from occurrence of outage
- The affected exchange should update about outage in intervals of 45 minutes from the initial intimation
- [HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra](#) | [Chairman – Madhabi Puri Buch](#) | [Established in – 1992](#)

**34.** On January 8, India's GDP (gross domestic product) may grow 7% in financial year 2022-23, according to the First Advance Estimates released by the National Statistical Office (NSO), Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI). India's nominal GDP growth for FY23 is estimated at 15.4%. Meanwhile, the growth in gross value added (GVA) at basic prices is estimated at 6.7% this fiscal. Real GDP or GDP at Constant (2011-12) Prices in the year 2022-23 is estimated at ₹157.60 lakh crore. The growth in real GDP during 2022-23 is estimated at 7.0%. The RBI had projected the real GDP growth for 2022-23 at 6.8%, with the third quarter at 4.4% and the fourth at 4.2%. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- According to the 'First Advance Estimates' released by NSO, MoSPI: India's GDP may grow 7% in FY23
- India's nominal GDP growth for FY23 is estimated at 15.4%
- GVA at Basic Price during FY23 is estimated at 6.7%
- Growth in real GDP or GDP at Constant Prices during FY23 is estimated at 7.0%

**35.** On January 17, Export-Import Bank of India (India Exim Bank) raised \$1 billion via a 10-year Sustainability Bond issue in the 144A/Reg-S format under its Environmental Social Governance (ESG) Framework. This issuance at a coupon rate of CT10 (US 10-year Treasury Bond) +190 basis points makes India Exim Bank the first Indian issuer to open the markets for dollar and sustainability bond issuances in 2023. This issuance makes India Exim Bank the largest ever single tranche IG ESG issuer out of India. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Exim Bank – raised \$1 billion via a 10-year Sustainability Bond issue in the 144A/Reg-S format under its ESG Framework
- This issuance makes India Exim Bank the largest ever single tranche IG ESG issuer in India
- [HQs of EXIM Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra](#) | [MD – Harsha Bangari](#) | [Founded in – 1982](#)

**36.** On January 11, Fintech startup EnKash has got in-principle approval from RBI for Payment Aggregator's licence. The licence will enable EnKash to broaden its product offerings to millions of businesses for digital transactions. Founded in 2018, EnKash claims to have assisted 1 lakh businesses to digitise and decentralise their corporate payments. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- EnKash – received in-principle approval from RBI for Payment Aggregator's licence
- [HQs of EnKash – Mumbai, Maharashtra](#) | [Founder – Naveen Bindal](#)

**37.** On January 11, Hitachi Payment Services received the in-principle authorization from Reserve Bank of India to act as a payment aggregator. Payment Aggregators (PAs) are entities that facilitate e-commerce sites and merchants to accept various payment instruments from customer for completion of their payment obligations. Hitachi Payments is a digital payment solutions provider and the payment aggregator licence will further augment its digital solutions stack with various online payment solutions such as UPI, netbanking, cards and wallets. RBI also awarded its in-principle approval to Resilient Payments Private Ltd to operate as a payment aggregator. Payment Aggregators were incorporated in India in the year 2013 under the Companies Act, 1956. Payment Aggregators can be a bank or Non Banking Entity and it requires license from the RBI. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Hitachi Payment Services – received in-principle authorization from RBI to act as a Payment Aggregator
- Resilient Payments Private Ltd – also received in-principle authorization from RBI to act as a Payment Aggregator
- [HQs of Hitachi Payment Services – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Rustom Irani](#)

**38.** On January 12, Public sector lender Punjab & Sind Bank and Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance entered into corporate agency partnership, under which bank customers can avail insurance products of the life insurer. Punjab & Sind Bank is the 25<sup>th</sup> scheduled commercial bank that partnered with Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance for distributing its life goals-based product suite. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Punjab & Sind Bank + Bajaj Allianz Life Ins. = entered into corporate agency partnership
- [HQs of Punjab & Sind Bank – New Delhi | MD & CEO – Swarup Kumar Saha](#)
- [HQs of Bajaj Allianz Gen Ins – Pune, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Tapan Singhel](#)

**39.** On January 11, Clayfin Technologies and Bandhan Bank have been awarded ‘Best Digital Channel/Platform Implementation: Best Project Implementation’ at IBSi Global FinTech Innovation Awards 2022. Clayfin Technologies is a leading provider of Digital Customer Experience solutions for Banks and Financial institutions. The recognition was basis the implementation of Corporate Internet Banking (version 5.x) by Clayfin as part of Bandhan Bank’s vision to enhance their digital services to the SME sector. IBS Intelligence (IBSi) is the world’s only pure-play Financial Technology focused research, advisory, and news analysis firm, with a 30-year track record and clients globally. The 4<sup>th</sup> edition IBSi Global FinTech Innovation Awards received over 151 nominations across 94 banks from 47 countries across the globe. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Clayfin Tech. + Bandhan Bank = awarded ‘Best Digital Channel/Platform Implementation: Best Project Implementation’
- The award was given at – 4<sup>th</sup> edition of “IBSi Global FinTech Innovation Awards 2022”
- [HQs of Bandhan Bank – Kolkata, WB | MD & CEO – Chandra Shekhar Ghosh | Tagline – “Aapka Bhala, Sabki Bhalai”](#)

**40.** Non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) working as Micro Finance Institutions (NBFC-MFIs) overtook Commercial Banks in terms of market share in micro loans in the second quarter of financial year 2022-23 (Q2FY23). According to Sa-Dhan, an association of MFIs, the NBFC-MFI market share has dominated the sector for the first time in years with a share of 37.53%, while banks have slipped to second position with a share of 36.18%.

**Smart Points:**

- According to Sa-Dhan: NBFC-MFIs overtook Commercial Banks in terms of market share in micro loans in Q2 FY23
- NBFC-MFI market share has dominated the sector for the first time in years with a share of 37.53%

**41.** On January 12, State Bank of India (SBI) launched e-Bank Guarantee (e-BG) facility in partnership with National e-Governance Services Limited (NeSL). The e-Bank Guarantee procedure will be made easier by NeSL's Digital Document Execution (DDE) technology, which offers e-Stamp and e-Sign features. Canara Bank was the first public sector bank to issue an e-BG in partnership with NeSL. While HDFC Bank the first bank in India to issue an e-BG in partnership with NeSL. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- SBI – launched e-Bank Guarantee (e-BG) facility in partnership with NeSL
- Canara Bank – first PSB to issue an e-BG | HDFC Bank – first bank in India to issue an e-BG
- HQs of SBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Dinesh Kumar Khara
- MDs – Challa Sreenivasulu Setty | Alok Kumar Choudhary | Ashwini Kumar Tewari | Swaminathan Janakiraman

**42.** On January 13, Retail inflation, measured by consumer price index (CPI), fell to a one-year low of 5.72% in December 2022, according to official data released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI). The decline was caused primarily due to a sharp deflation (-15.08%) in vegetables prices and easing of price pressures in the broader 'food and beverages' category. With this, the headline inflation number remained below the upper limit of the RBI's medium-term target of 2-6% for the second straight month. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- MoSPI: Retail inflation, measured by CPI, fell to a one-year low of 5.72% in December 2022
- Main cause of decline – sharp deflation (-15.08%) in Vegetables prices & easing of price pressures in food & beverages
- MoS I/C of Ministry of Statistics & Program Implementation: Rao Inderjit Singh | Constituency – Gurgaon, Haryana

**43.** On January 17, Garuda Aerospace has partnered with the Union Bank of India for a loan under the Kisan Pushpak Scheme to 150 Garuda Agri Kisan drones. The drone loan will help farmers to digitise land record operations for crop production, and spraying of fertilisers, chemicals and pesticides, with the help of drones. The Agri Infrastructure Fund Scheme will finance 150 drone applications that will benefit the farmer community and create 150 skilled pilots who will engage to become entrepreneurs and improve farmers income. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Garuda Aerospace + UBI = partnered for a loan under "Kisan Pushpak Scheme" to 150 Garuda Agri Kisan drones
- HQs of UBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – A. Manimekhalai | Tagline – "Good People to Bank With"
- HQs of Garuda Aerospace – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | CEO – Agnishwar Jayaprakash

**44.** On January 12, the SEBI allowed Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs) to participate in the Credit Default Swaps (CDS) market as protection buyers and sellers in a bid to facilitate deepening of the domestic corporate bond segment. The new norms allow business entities to hedge risks associated with the bonds market. CDS is a specific kind of counter-party agreement which allows the transfer of third-party credit risk from one party to another. Under the new norm, Category-I and Category-II AIFs can buy CDS on underlying investment in debt securities only for the purpose of hedging, while Category-III AIFs can purchase CDS for hedging or otherwise. Besides, the SEBI also allowed Mutual Funds (MFs) with active Equity-Linked Savings Schemes (ELSS) to launch passively managed open-ended ELSS schemes. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- SEBI – allowed AIFs to participate in the Credit Default Swaps (CDS) market as protection buyers & sellers
- SEBI – allowed MFs with active Equity-Linked Savings Schemes to launch passively managed open-ended ELSS schemes
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Madhabi Puri Buch | Established in – 1992



**45.** On January 13, VTB bank, Russia's second largest bank, launched direct payments in rupees, which would boost bilateral trade and investments. Russian SME clients can now make transfers without double conversion, which simplifies the work on foreign trade contracts with India. Nine Russian banks, including VTB, opened special vostro accounts in India to facilitate Russian-Indian trade in November 2022. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- VTB bank (Russia's second largest bank) – launched direct payments in rupees to boost bilateral trade & investments
- [Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble](#) | [PM – Mikhail Mishustin](#) | [President – Vladimir Putin](#)

**46.** On January 8, Indian Bank received the regulatory approval to hold special rupee vostro accounts of three banks from Sri Lanka which is struggling to tide over a serious foreign exchange crunch. A vostro account in local currency would enable Lanka to import from India without dipping into its dwindling dollar supply. The INR vostro facility is part of a special trade settlement mechanism which was finalized by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in July 2022. The arrangement allows Indian importers to deposit rupees in vostro accounts that overseas banks open with banks in India and clearing of dues to Indian exporters from the surplus balances in the vostro accounts. India's annual exports to Lanka is about \$5 bn with oil, pharmaceutical products, sugar, ships, iron and steel, cotton and machinery being the main cargoes. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Indian Bank – received the regulatory approval to hold 'Special Rupee Vostro Accounts' of 3 banks from Sri Lanka
- INR vostro facility is part of a special trade settlement mechanism finalized by the RBI in July 2022
- [Sri Lanka – Colombo/Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte – Sri Lankan Rupee](#)
- [PM – Dinesh Gunawardena](#) | [President – Ranil Wickremesinghe](#)
- [HQs of Indian Bank – Chennai, Tamil Nadu](#) | [MD & CEO – Shanti Lal Jain](#) | [Tagline – “Your Own Bank”](#)

**47.** On January 15, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) approved the proposal of Department of Financial Services for extending the term of Sanjiv Chadha as MD & CEO of Bank of Baroda for about 5 months till June 30, 2023, when he attains 60 years, the retirement age. His three-year tenure ends on January 19, 2023. Meanwhile, the Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB), recommended elevation of Executive Director (ED) Debadatta Chand as managing director of Bank of Baroda. Besides, the FSIB also recommended Union Bank of India ED Rajneesh Karnatak for the position of MD & CEO in Bank of India. The final decision on the FSIB recommendation would be taken by the ACC. FSIB is headed by former secretary, Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), Bhanu Pratap Sharma. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Sanjiv Chadha – tenure extended as MD & CEO of Bank of Baroda for about 5 months till June 30, 2023
- FSIB recommended:
  - Debadatta Chand as MD of Bank of Baroda
  - Rajneesh Karnatak as MD & CEO in Bank of India
- FSIB is headed by – Bhanu Pratap Sharma
- [HQs of BOB – Vadodara, Gujarat](#) | [MD & CEO – Sanjiv Chadha](#) | [Tagline – “India's International Bank”](#)

**48.** On January 17, South Indian Bank (SIB) and Steel Authority of India Ltd (SAIL) signed an MoU to provide financial assistance to the dealers of SAIL across India. The tie-up will offer SAIL's dealers with financial assistance for working capital, especially steel procurement. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- SIB + SAIL = an MoU to provide financial assistance to the dealers of SAIL across India
- HQs of South Indian Bank – Thrissur, Kerala | MD & CEO – Murali Ramakrishnan
- HQs of SAIL – New Delhi | CEO – Soma Mondal | Founded on – January 24, 1973

**49.** On January 16, Paytm Payments Bank Ltd (PPBL) has received final approval from the Reserve Bank of India to operate as a Bharat Bill Payment Operating Unit (BBPOU). Under Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS), a BBPOU is allowed to facilitate bill payment services of electricity, phone, DTH, water, gas insurance, loan repayments, FASTag recharge, education fees, credit card bill and municipal taxes. BBPS is owned by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI). PPBL has got this final approval from RBI under the 'Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007'. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- Paytm Payments Bank – received final approval from the RBI to operate as a Bharat Bill Payment Operating Unit
- HQs of Paytm – Noida, Uttar Pradesh | MD & CEO – Vijay Sekhar Sharma | Founded in – 2010

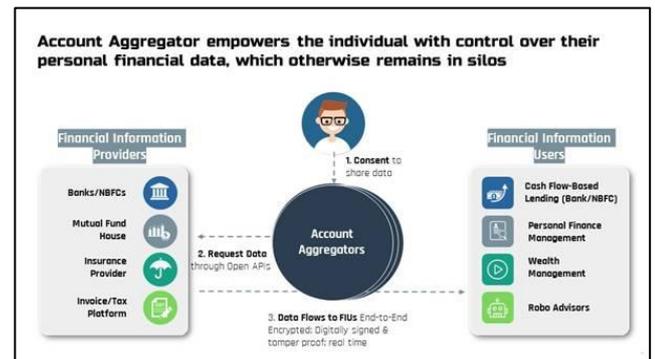
**50.** Trade between India and China touched an all-time high of \$136 billion in 2022, overtaking the \$125-billion mark of 2021. With this, India's trade deficit with China has crossed \$100 billion for the first time in 2022. China's exports to India climbed to \$119 billion, a year-on-year increase of 22%. During 2022, China's imports from India dwindled to \$17.5 billion, a year-on-year decline of 38%. The trade deficit for India stood at \$101 billion, crossing the 2021 figure of \$69.4 billion. In 2021, India's overall trade with China totalled \$126 billion. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- Bilateral Trade between India & China touched an all-time high of \$136 billion in 2022
- China's exports to India – \$119 billion | India's exports to China – \$17.5 billion (Trade deficit for India – \$101 billion)
- With this, India's trade deficit with China has crossed \$100 billion for the first time in 2022
- China – Beijing – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping

**51.** On January 16, Protean eGov Technologies Limited (formerly NSDL e-Governance Infrastructure Limited) received approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for its wholly owned subsidiary to operate as an Account Aggregator (with an NBFC-AA certificate). An Account Aggregator (AA) is a type of RBI regulated entity (with an NBFC-AA license) that helps an individual securely and digitally access and share information from one financial institution they have an account with to any other regulated financial institution in the AA network. Data cannot be shared without the consent of the individual in this network. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- Protean eGov – received approval from RBI for its wholly owned subsidiary to operate as Account Aggregator
- HQs of Protean eGov Technologies – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Suresh Sethi
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established on – 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1935
- Total Deputy Governors (4) – Mahesh Kumar Jain | T. Rabi Sankar | Michael D. Patra | M. Rajeshwar Rao

**52.** On January 16, The Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) entered into a partnership with VFS Capital to extend MSME loans upto Rs 5 lakh at 13% interest rate per annum. VFS Capital expects to disburse Rs 30-40 Cr under the scheme this fiscal. The company is planning to expand its footprint in the north-western part by launching operations in Rajasthan by the end of January. At present, it operates in 13 states including West Bengal, Assam and Tripura. VFS Capital also plans to add 35 branches within this fiscal, taking the number to 270 across the country and to raise Rs 100 Cr in 2023-24. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- SIDBI + VFS Capital = partnership to extend MSME loans upto Rs 5 lakh at 13% interest rate per annum
- VFS Capital expects to disburse Rs 30-40 Cr under the scheme this fiscal
- HQs of SIDBI – Lucknow, UP | MD & Chairman – Sivasubramanian Ramann | Established in – 1990
- HQs of VFS Capital – Kolkata | MD & CEO Kuldip Maity

**53.** On January 16, the RBI has defined “major shareholding” as “aggregate holding” of 5% or more of the paid-up share capital or voting rights in a banking company by a person. So now, any person looking to acquire more than 5% stake in a bank will need prior approval from the RBI. After an acquisition, if the shareholding falls below 5%, the person will be required to seek fresh approval from the RBI. Any person from the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) non-compliant jurisdiction will not be allowed to acquire a major shareholding in a bank. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- RBI – defined “major shareholding” as “aggregate holding” of 5% or more of the paid-up share capital in any bank
- Any person looking to acquire more than 5% stake in a bank will need prior approval from the RBI
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established on – 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1935
- Total Deputy Governors (4) – Mahesh Kumar Jain | T. Rabi Sankar | Michael D. Patra | M. Rajeshwar Rao

**54.** On January 16, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released a report titled “State Finances: A Study of Budgets of 2022-23”. The fiscal health of the states has improved from a sharp pandemic-induced deterioration in 2020-21, as per the report. The improved fiscal health of states also stepped up revenue collections and the States’ gross fiscal deficit (GFD) is now budgeted to decline from 4.1% of gross domestic product (GDP) in 2020-21 to 3.4% in 2022-23 within the indicative target of 4% set by the centre. While States’ debt is budgeted to ease to 29.5% of GDP in 2022-23 as against 31.1% in 2020-21. The States’ capital outlay-GDP (Gross Domestic Product) ratio is budgeted to increase to 2.9% in FY 2022-23 from 2.3% in FY22. The theme of this year’s Report is also “Capital Formation in India - The Role of States”. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- “State Finances: A Study of Budgets of 2022-23” report – released by RBI
- Theme of the report – “Capital Formation in India - The Role of States”
- States’ gross fiscal deficit (GFD) is now budgeted to decline to 3.4% of GDP in FY23 (from 4.1% in FY21)
- States’ capital outlay-GDP ratio is budgeted to increase to 2.9% in FY23 (from 2.3% in FY22)

**55.** On January 17, State Bank of India (SBI), in its Ecowrap report, estimated India’s fiscal deficit at around Rs 17.95 lakh crore or 6% of GDP for FY 2023-24 and Rs 17.50 lakh crore for FY 2022-23 . According to Dr. Soumya Kanti Ghosh, Group Chief Economic Adviser of SBI, for FY23, total receipts of the Government would be higher than the budget estimates (BE) by around Rs 2.3 lakh crore. Net market borrowing of the Centre in FY24 will be around Rs 11.7 lakh crore and with repayments of Rs 4.4 lakh crore, gross borrowing is expected at Rs 16.1 lakh crore. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- SBI's Ecowrap report estimated India's fiscal deficit at Rs 17.95 lakh Cr or 6% of GDP for FY24 (Rs 17.50 lakh for FY23)
- Net market borrowing of the Centre in FY24 is estimated at around Rs 11.7 lakh Cr
- HQs of SBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Dinesh Kumar Khara
- MDs – Challa Sreenivasulu Setty | Alok Kumar Choudhary | Ashwini Kumar Tewari | Swaminathan Janakiraman

**56.** On January 18, Tamilnad Mercantile Bank (TMB) has bagged 'Best Small Bank Award' in the 'Best Banks Survey for the Year 2022' done by Business Today-KPMG (BT-KPMG Best banks survey). The bank has won this award under the category of banks with the book size of less than Rs 1 lakh Crore. The BT-KPMG is conducting this survey and awarding the best banks for the past 27 years with 37 parameters for declaring a bank as an awardee. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- 'Best Banks Survey for the Year 2022' – by Business Today-KPMG
- Tamilnad Mercantile Bank – won the 'Best Small Bank Award' in this survey
- HQs of TMB – Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu | CEO – Krishnan Sankarasubramaniam

**57.** On January 19, ESAF Small Finance Bank has bagged the prestigious "Inclusive Finance India Award 2022" for its contributions in advancing the goal of financial inclusion and supporting inclusive growth. K. Paul Thomas, MD and CEO, ESAF Bank, received the award from Anantha Nageshwaran, Chief Economic Advisor at the 19<sup>th</sup> Inclusive Finance India Summit held in New Delhi. The Inclusive Finance India Awards is an initiative of ACCESS Development Services constituted in 2009 in partnership with HSBC India. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- 19<sup>th</sup> Inclusive Finance India Summit – held in New Delhi
- ESAF SFB – received the prestigious "Inclusive Finance India Award 2022"
- HQs of ESAF SFB – Thrissur, Kerala | MD & CEO – K. Paul Thomas | Chairman – P. R. Ravi Mohan

**58.** On January 19, Punjab National Bank (PNB) announced to offer credit cards against Fixed Deposit to customers who don't meet the eligibility criteria for regular credit cards. PNB becomes the first public sector bank to launch credit card against fixed deposits digitally. It is offering RuPay or VISA credit card digitally against single or multiple FDs with 80% credit limit. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- PNB – became the first public sector bank to launch credit card against fixed deposits digitally (limit – 80%)
- HQs of PNB – New Delhi | MD & CEO – Atul Kumar Goel | Tagline – "The Name You Can Bank Upon"

**59.** On January 19, Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) introduced "Jeevan Azad", a non-participating, individual, savings life insurance plan. It is a combination of protection and savings. Besides financial support for the family in the event of death of life assured during the policy term, the plan takes care of liquidity needs through loan facility. The minimum basic sum assured is ₹2 lakh and the maximum is ₹5 lakh. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- LIC – introduced "Jeevan Azad", a non-participating, individual, savings life insurance plan
- HQs of LIC Mutual Fund – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – T S Ramakrishnan



**60.** On January 18, State Bank of India (SBI) raised Rs 9,718 Cr through the issuance of 15-year infrastructure debt with the bonds bearing a coupon of 7.70%. The coupon is the rate of interest that is periodically paid out to investors. The investors included mutual funds, provident and pension funds and insurance companies. The fund proceeds will be utilized in enhancing long-term resources for funding infrastructure and the affordable housing segment. Prior to the latest bond sale, SBI had issued 10-year infrastructure bonds worth Rs 10,000 Cr at a coupon of 7.51% on December 6, 2022. Infrastructure bonds are securities that are exempt from the computation of net demand and time liabilities (NDTL) - a proxy for deposits. Hence, they are not subject to cash reserve ratio (CRR) and statutory liquidity ratio (SLR) requirements. In December 2022, ICICI Bank also raised Rs 5,000 Cr through infrastructure bonds for 7 years for funding projects in segments like power and roads, etc. The coupon for ICICI Bank's bonds was set at 7.63%. The latest RBI data showed that as on December 30, 2022 bank credit growth was at 14.9% year-on-year. Deposit growth was at 9.2% over the same period. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- SBI – raised Rs 9,718 Cr through the issuance of 15-year infrastructure debt with the bonds bearing a coupon of 7.70%
- The fund proceeds will be utilized for funding infrastructure and the affordable housing segment
- Infrastructure bonds are securities that are exempt from the computation of NDTL
- Infrastructure bonds are not subject to cash reserve ratio (CRR) and statutory liquidity ratio (SLR) requirements
- HQs of SBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Dinesh Kumar Khara
- MDs – Challa Sreenivasulu Setty | Alok Kumar Choudhary | Ashwini Kumar Tewari | Swaminathan Janakiraman

**61.** On January 19, Canara Bank entered into a share sale agreement in relation to sale of equity shares held by it in Commercial Indo Bank LLC (CIBL), Moscow, Russia with State Bank of India (SBI). The transaction is expected to be completed on or before 31 March 2023. The consideration of the stake sale is USD 14.67 million (Rs 114 Crore). CIBL, incorporated in the year 2003, is a Joint Venture in Russia between SBI (60%) and Canara Bank (40%). [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Canara Bank – to sell its entire stake in joint venture Commercial Indo Bank LLC, Moscow – to SBI
- CIBL in Russia is a JV between = SBI (60%) + Canara Bank (40%)
- HQs of Canara Bank – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Non-Executive Chairman – Vijay Srirangam
- HQs of SBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Dinesh Kumar Khara
- MDs – Challa Sreenivasulu Setty | Alok Kumar Choudhary | Ashwini Kumar Tewari | Swaminathan Janakiraman

**62.** Indians remitted \$1.99 billion in November 2022 under the Reserve Bank of India's Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS), according to the RBI's bulletin on "Outward Remittances Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS) for Resident Individuals" released in January 2023. It is a jump of 29% compared to \$1.54 billion in the year-ago month. Sequentially, outward remittances under the scheme were up about 3.5%. International travel continued to remain over 50% of the entire outward remittance by Indians under the scheme. According to the scheme introduced in 2004, all resident individuals, including minors, are allowed to freely remit up to \$250,000 per financial year for any permissible current or capital account transaction or a combination of both. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- RBI's bulletin on "Outward Remittances Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS) for Resident Individuals"
- Indians remitted \$1.99 billion in November 2022 (latest data) | LRS was introduced in 2004
- International travel continued to remain over 50% of the entire outward remittance by Indians under the scheme
- Under LRS, all resident individuals are allowed to freely remit up to \$250,000 per financial year
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established on – 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1935
- Total Deputy Governors (4) – Mahesh Kumar Jain | T. Rabi Sankar | Michael D. Patra | M. Rajeshwar Rao



**63.** On January 19, the Reserve Bank of India's 2023 Monetary Policy objective is to hold inflation within the mandated tolerance band (2%-6%) and guide it towards the medium-term target of 4% by 2024. The first milestone of monetary policy (bringing inflation into the tolerance band) is achieved. Annual retail inflation slowed to 5.72% in December 2022, from 5.88% in November 2022, dipping below 6% for a second straight month. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- RBI's 2023 Monetary Policy objective: To hold inflation within the mandated tolerance band (2%-6%)
- It also aims to guide it towards the medium-term target of 4% by 2024
- Annual retail inflation slowed to 5.72% in December 2022
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established on – 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1935
- Total Deputy Governors (4) – Mahesh Kumar Jain | T. Rabi Sankar | Michael D. Patra | M. Rajeshwar Rao

**64.** On January 24, JPMorgan Chase & Co. has received approval from the RBI to appoint Prabdev D. Singh as the CEO of JP Morgan Chase Bank India for a period of 3 years. Singh had been JPMorgan's interim CEO since November 2022, replacing Madhav Kalyan. JPMorgan, which started commercial banking operations in India about 15 years ago, has 4 commercial bank branches in the country. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Prabdev D. Singh – appointed as the CEO of JP Morgan Chase Bank India for a period of 3 years
- HQs of JP Morgan Chase Bank India – Mumbai | CEO – Prabdev D. Singh
- HQs of JPMorgan Chase & Co. – New York, US | President – Daniel E. Pinto

**65.** On January 23, as part of an initiative to develop bond markets, the SEBI organised an outreach programme on municipal bonds and municipal finance. The two-day event saw participants representing all stakeholders including the ministry of housing and urban affairs, municipal corporations, stock exchanges, credit rating agencies, merchant bankers, debenture trustees, lawyers, NGOs and institutional investors. To assist municipal debt issuers and other stakeholders in the municipal debt market, SEBI Whole-Time Member Ashwani Bhatia launched an 'Information Database' including a repository of information pertaining to municipal bonds on its website. The information database can also be accessed by way of a QR Code. SEBI, in 2015, introduced a regulatory framework for the issue, listing and trading of municipal debt securities; the same was further reviewed by SEBI in 2019. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- SEBI – organised an outreach programme on municipal bonds and municipal finance
- SEBI Whole-Time Member Ashwani Bhatia – launched an 'Information Database' for municipal bonds
- SEBI introduced a regulatory framework for the issue, listing and trading of municipal debt securities in 2015
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Madhabi Puri Buch | Established in – 1992

**66.** On January 23, Tata Motors partnered with ICICI Bank to offer financing solutions to its authorised passenger electric vehicle dealers. Under the partnership, ICICI Bank will provide inventory funding to the authorised passenger EV dealers in addition to the bank's funding to dealers for diesel and petrol models. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Tata Motors + ICICI Bank = partnership to offer financing solutions to its authorised passenger electric vehicle dealers
- HQs of Tata Motors – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Non-Executive Director & Chairman – Natarajan Chandrasekaran
- HQs of ICICI Bank – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Sandeep Bakhshi | Taglines – "Hum Hain Na!" & "Khayal Apka"



**67.** On January 26, National Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd (NARCL) has acquired its first stressed asset, Jaypee Infratech, from lenders. It acquired their exposure aggregating about Rs 9,200 Crore at a 55% haircut. IDBI Bank, with an exposure of ₹3,750 crore, received ₹253 crore in cash and ₹1,434.5 crore in the form of security receipts. NARCL, which was set up by banks last year, is aggregating and consolidating select stressed assets (above ₹500 crore each) in the financial system for their subsequent resolution. Along with NARCL, India Debt Resolution Company Ltd (IDRCL), has been floated for resolving these stressed assets. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- NARCL acquired its first stressed asset 'Jaypee Infratech' from IDBI Bank
- Total exposure of all the banks to Jaypee Infratech – Rs 9,000 Cr | IDBI Bank's exposure – Rs 3,750 Cr
- MD & CEO of NARCL – Natarajan Sundar | Lead Sponsor – Canara Bank (12% equity)
- HQs of IDBI Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Rakesh Sharma | Established in – 1964

**68.** On January 23, Housing Development Finance Corporation (HDFC) Ltd plans to raise at least Rs 30 billion (\$370.5 million) through the sale of bonds maturing in 10 years. The housing finance company has invited coupon and commitment bids from bankers and investors. The issue will also have a greenshoe option to retain an additional Rs 20 billion. The bonds are rated AAA by CRISIL and will have a put option at the end of the third year. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- HDFC Ltd – plans to raise at least Rs 30 billion (\$370.5 million) through the sale of bonds maturing in 10 years
- The bonds are rated 'AAA' by CRISIL
- HQs of HDFC Ltd – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Deepak Parekh | VC & CEO – Keki Mistry

**69.** On January 24, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has extended the deadline for banks to finish the process of renewing agreements for existing Safe Deposit Locker holders (customers) in a phased manner by December 31, 2023 (from January 1, 2023 earlier). By April 30, 2023, banks are advised to inform all their clients of the amended requirements. By June 30 and September 30, 2023, banks should make sure that at least 50% and 75% of their current customers have signed the revised agreements. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- RBI – extended the deadline for banks to finish the process of renewing agreements for existing Safe Deposit Locker holders by Dec 31, 2023
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established on – 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1935
- Total Deputy Governors (4) – Mahesh Kumar Jain | T. Rabi Sankar | Michael D. Patra | M. Rajeshwar Rao

**70.** On January 23, AU Small Finance Bank launched a first-of-its-kind 'SwipeUp' platform that will allow credit cardholders of any bank to get an upgraded card instantly. SwipeUp platform will allow other bank credit cardholders to compare existing credit cards within 2-3 seconds. Thereafter, they can upgrade to a new card with an enhanced credit limit, cashback and reward points matching their lifestyles within minutes. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- AU Small Finance Bank – launched a first-of-its-kind 'SwipeUp' platform that will allow credit cardholders of any bank to get an upgraded card instantly
- HQs of AU SFB – Jaipur, Rajasthan | MD & CEO – Sanjay Agarwal



**71.** On January 24, in exercise of its powers under sections 35A and 36(1)(a) of the 'Banking Regulation Act, 1949', the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) directed SBM Bank (India) Ltd to stop all transactions under Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS). Under the Liberalised Remittance Scheme, Indian residents, including minors, are allowed to freely remit up to USD 2,50,000 per financial year (April-March) for any permissible current or capital account transaction or a combination of both. The scheme was introduced in 2004. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- RBI – directed SBM Bank (India) Ltd to stop all transactions under Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS)
- Under the LRS, Indian residents are allowed to freely remit up to USD 2,50,000 per financial year
- The LRS was introduced in 2004
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established on – 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1935
- Total Deputy Governors (4) – Mahesh Kumar Jain | T. Rabi Sankar | Michael D. Patra | M. Rajeshwar Rao

**72.** As of January 2023, Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF), which was launched in July 2020, has mobilised over Rs 30,000 Crore for taking up projects related to creation of post-harvest management facilities. The AIF is a financing facility for creation of post-harvest management infrastructure and community farm assets. Under this scheme, Rs 1 Lakh Crore is to be disbursed by financial year 2025-26 and the interest subvention and credit guarantee assistance will be given till the year 2032-33. Within two-and-a-half years of the implementation of the AIF, the scheme has mobilised more than Rs 30,000 crore with a sanctioned amount of Rs 15,000 Crore under AIF. The AIF is providing financial support to the farmers, agri-entrepreneurs, farmer groups like Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs), Self Help Groups (SHGs) and Joint Liability Groups. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- AIF mobilised over Rs 30,000 Cr for taking up projects related to creation of post-harvest management facilities
- AIF was launched in July 2020 | Under this scheme, Rs 1 Lakh Cr is to be disbursed by financial year 2025-26

**73.** On January 26, Punjab National Bank (PNB) and Aadhar Housing Finance Ltd (AHFL) have entered into a co-lending agreement to offer home loans at competitive interest rates. Through this partnership, the aim is to reach out to a large section of society viz. economically weaker, lower, and middle-income groups for providing easy, convenient, and efficient home finance solutions to customers. The co-lending framework of the Reserve Bank of India provides a tool for the Banks and NBFCs/HFCs to collaborate, leverage on their respective strengths to provide affordable solution to the unserved and underserved sections of the society. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- PNB + AHFL = a co-lending agreement to offer home loans at competitive interest rates
- HQs of PNB – New Delhi | MD & CEO – Atul Kumar Goel | Tagline – “The Name You Can Bank Upon”

**74.** On January 27, after China, India will become the second country in the world to start the 'trade-plus-one' (T+1) settlement cycle in top listed securities in the stock markets. It will bring operational efficiency, faster fund remittances, share delivery, and ease for stock market participants. The T+1 settlement cycle means that trade-related settlements must be done within a day, or 24 hours, of the completion of a transaction. Until 2001, stock markets had a weekly settlement system. The markets then moved to a rolling settlement system of T+3, and then to T+2 in 2003. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- India – to become the second country in the world to start the 'T+1' settlement cycle in stock markets (after China)
- Currently, 'T+2' settlement cycle is being used in India since 2003



**75.** On January 23, BOB Financial Solutions Limited (BFSL), a wholly owned subsidiary of Bank of Baroda, launched 'Vikram Credit Card' dedicated to the Indian defence, paramilitary, and police personnel. The Vikram Credit Card reinforces its commitment to address the credit needs of personnel who are selflessly guarding us and serving our country. BFSL already has exclusive cobranded credit cards with the Indian Army (Yoddha), Indian Navy (Varunah), Indian Coast Guard (Rakshamah) and Assam Rifles (The Sentinel). [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- BFSL – launched 'Vikram Credit Card' dedicated to the Indian defence, paramilitary & police personnel
- Other cards by BFSL for – Indian Army (Yoddha), Indian Navy (Varunah), ICG (Rakshamah) & Assam Rifles (Sentinel)
- HQs of BOB Financial Solutions – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Shailendra Singh

**76.** On January 25, HDFC Life and National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) have collaborated to offer a first - UPI 123PAY. This is a unique voice-based premium payment service that further simplifies the premium payment process for HDFC Life policyholders. UPI 123PAY is a payment facility through a pre-defined IVR (Interactive Voice Response). This platform will enable customers to make financial transactions with or without an internet connection. Customers can avail this service in various regional languages such as Hindi, Marathi, Gujarati, Punjabi, Kannada, Tamil, etc. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- HDFC Life + NPCI = collaborated to enable HDFC Life policyholders pay premiums offline via NPCI's 'UPI 123PAY'
- HQs of HDFC Life Insurance – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Vibha Padalkar
- HQs of NPCI – Mumbai | Chairman – Biswamohan Mahapatra | MD & CEO – Dilip Asbe | Established in – 2008

**77.** In January 2023, the National Statistical Office (NSO), under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, released the First Advance Estimates (FAE) of National Income at both Constant (2011-12) and Current Prices, for the financial year 2022-23. The First Advance Estimates of GDP, introduced in 2016-17 to serve as essential inputs to the Budget exercise, is based on limited data and compiled using the Benchmark-Indicator Method. Real GDP or GDP at Constant (2011-12) Prices in the year 2022-23 is estimated at ₹157.60 lakh crore. The growth in real GDP during 2022-23 is estimated at 7%. Nominal GDP or GDP at Current Prices in the year 2022-23 is estimated at ₹273.08 lakh crore. The growth in nominal GDP during 2022-23 is estimated at 15.4%. The Gross/Net National Income (NNI) of India is estimated to rise by 6.6 % in FY23. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- NSO (MoSPI) – released the First Advance Estimates (FAE) of National Income at Constant (2011-12) & Current Prices
- Estimations:
  - Real GDP or GDP at Constant (2011-12) Prices in FY23 – Rs 157.60 Lakh Cr
  - Growth in real GDP during 2022-23 is estimated – at 7%
  - Nominal GDP or GDP at Current Prices in FY23 – Rs 273.08 Lakh Cr
  - Growth in nominal GDP during 2022-23 is estimated – at 15.4%
  - Gross/Net National Income (NNI) of India in FY23 is estimated to rise – by 6.6 %
- HQs of NSO – New Delhi | Chairperson – Bimal Kumar Roy

**78.** In January 2023, Aviva Life Insurance launched “Aviva Signature Investment Plan”. It is a Unit Linked Non-Participating Individual Life Insurance Plan addressing the needs of Millennial and GenX customers. Signature Millennial comes with an inbuilt premium waiver to create a guaranteed corpus for a dependent parent, spouse, or child, even after the death of the Life Insured. Signature GenX will allow customers to grow their wealth through disciplined monthly savings for up to 60 years and build generational wealth. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Aviva Life Insurance – launched “Aviva Signature Investment Plan”
- HQs of Aviva Life Insurance – Gurugram, Haryana | MD & CEO – Asit Rath

**79.** On January 25, RBI sold its first sovereign green bonds worth a total of 80 billion rupees (\$979.61 million) at yields below comparable government bonds. The RBI auctioned 40 billion rupees of five-year bonds at a coupon rate of 7.10%, five basis points below the five-year sovereign yield. Another 40 billion rupees in 10-year bonds were sold at a 7.29%, six basis points below comparable government securities. The five-year 7.38% 2027 bond yield was at 7.15%, while the benchmark 7.26% 2032 bond yield was at 7.35% during the time of bidding. The proceeds would be used for ‘green’ projects such as solar power, wind and small hydro projects and other public sector projects that help reduce the economy’s carbon footprint. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- RBI – sold its first sovereign green bonds worth a total of Rs 80 billion (\$979.61 million)
- Rs 40 billion of 5-year bonds at 7.10% & another Rs 40 billion in 10-year bonds at 7.29%
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established on – 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1935
- Total Deputy Governors (4) – Mahesh Kumar Jain | T. Rabi Sankar | Michael D. Patra | M. Rajeshwar Rao

**80.** On January 27, Network People Services Technologies Ltd (NPST), a leading fintech solution provider, unveiled “Timepay Evok”, a UPI (Unified Payments Interface) API (Application Programming Interface) engine for PAPGs (Payment Aggregators & Payment Gateways), to articulate its mission and relationship in digital payment landscape. With unique API services, UPI as a payment gateway can be integrated for both websites and App driven solutions for large-scale merchants. UPI, launched in 2016, has been identified as a revolutionary product in the payment ecosystem. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Network People Services Technologies Ltd (NPST) – unveiled “Timepay Evok”, a UPI API engine for PAPGs
- HQs of NPST – Thane, Maharashtra

**81.** On January 30, Infibeam Avenues Ltd’s flagship brand, CCAvenue, became India’s First payment gateway player to process Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) or Digital Rupee transactions for online retail merchants. It is an industry first where CCAvenue has facilitated CBDC online transactions with an aim to strengthen India’s digital payments ecosystem further. The aim of the Indian government and the RBI in launching the Digital Rupee is to reduce the ₹32 Lakh Crore of cash in circulation. The RBI has identified 8 banks for phase-wised participation in the retail pilot project for CBDC. The first phase includes 4 banks, namely the SBI, ICICI Bank, Yes Bank and IDFC First Bank. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- CCAvenue – became India’s 1<sup>st</sup> payment gateway to process ‘CBDC or Digital Rs’ transactions for online retail merchants
- The first phase of the retail pilot project for CBDC includes 4 banks: SBI, ICICI Bank, Yes Bank, IDFC First Bank
- HQs of Infibeam Avenues – Gandhinagar, Gujarat | CEO – Vishal Mehta (Infibeam Avenues owns CCAvenue)



**82.** On January 27, Star Health and Allied Insurance renewed its corporate agency tie-up with Punjab National Bank (PNB) for a long-term period. Under this agreement, Star Health's health insurance products will be available through the bank's extensive distribution network of about 10,000 branches across India. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Star Health & Allied + PNB = renewed its corporate agency tie-up for a long-term period
- HQs of Star Health Insurance – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | Chairman & CEO – Venkatasamy Jagannathan
- HQs of PNB – New Delhi | MD & CEO – Atul Kumar Goel | Tagline – “The Name You Can Bank Upon”

**83.** On January 27, Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) governor Godwin Emefiele launched a domestic card scheme, “AfriGo”, to rival foreign cards like Mastercard and Visa, hoping to enhance its drive to make Africa's biggest economy a cashless society and save the country foreign transaction fees. AfriGo is owned by CBN and Nigerian banks. Nigeria is Africa's most populous nation. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) – launched a domestic card scheme, “AfriGo” to rival foreign cards like Mastercard & Visa
- Nigeria – Abuja – Naira | President – Muhammadu Buhari

**84.** On January 31, IDFC FIRST Bank has partnered with ToneTag, a global proximity and voice tech solution provider, to enable acceptance of digital rupee at merchant outlets. This follows a pilot launch of Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) for retail users by the RBI. In December 2022, the RBI launched a pilot for retail digital rupee (e₹-R) with 4 banks in 4 cities, including IDFC FIRST Bank, a month after testing the wholesale CBDC. The CBDC will be mainly used for retail payments just like “cash”. It will be a digital rupee (e₹-R) signifying legal tender in the form of digital token and issued in the same denominations as paper currency and coins and will be distributed through intermediaries, i.e., banks. As per RBI, users will be able to transact with e ₹-R through a digital wallet offered by the participating banks and stored on mobile phones or hardware wallets to facilitate person-to-person (P2P) and person-to-merchant (P2M) transactions. As in the case of cash, it will not earn any interest and can be converted to other forms of money, like deposits with banks. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- IDFC FIRST Bank + ToneTag = partnered to enable acceptance of digital rupee (e₹-R) at merchant outlets
- In Dec, RBI launched a pilot for retail digital rupee with 4 banks in 4 cities
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established on – 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1935
- Total Deputy Governors (4) – Mahesh Kumar Jain | T. Rabi Sankar | Michael D. Patra | M. Rajeshwar Rao
- HQs of IDFC First Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – V. Vaidyanathan | Established in – 2018

**85.** On January 31, Reserve Bank of India appointed V. Ramachandra as a member of the Advisory Committee of the two Srei Group companies undergoing insolvency proceedings - Srei Infrastructure Finance and Srei Equipment Finance. The appointment followed the resignation of Farokh N. Subedar from the Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee now comprises Venkat Nageshwar Chalasani, former deputy MD at State Bank of India, TT Srinivasaraghavan, former MD of Sundaram Finance, and V Ramachandra, former Chief General Manager at Canara Bank. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- RBI – appointed V. Ramachandra as a member of the Advisory Committee of two Srei NBFCs
- Other two members: Venkat Nageshwar Chalasani, TT Srinivasaraghavan
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established on – 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1935
- Total Deputy Governors (4) – Mahesh Kumar Jain | T. Rabi Sankar | Michael D. Patra | M. Rajeshwar Rao



**86.** On January 27, Edelweiss Asset Management (EAM) Limited launched 'Edelweiss CRISIL IBX 50:50 Gilt Plus SDL Short Duration Index Fund', India's first passive short-duration index fund. The new fund offer was open for subscription from January 27 to February 10. Edelweiss CRISIL IBX 50:50 Gilt Plus SDL Short Duration Index Fund will replicate CRISIL IBX 50:50 Gilt Plus SDL Short Duration Index by investing in a diversified portfolio of Indian Government Bonds and SDLs, subject to tracking errors. Edelweiss CRISIL IBX 50:50 Gilt Plus SDL Short Duration Index Fund will invest in 50% Indian Government Bonds (IGBs) and 50% State Development Loans (SDLs). The G-Sec portion will be constructed by selecting most liquid Government Bonds with a minimum outstanding of Rs 10,000 Cr falling in duration buckets starting from 1 year to 5 years. The lower cost will add up in the returns. This cost-effective index fund can be an ideal option for investors looking to include fixed income in their portfolio as a component of their asset allocation strategy. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- EAM Ltd – launched "Edelweiss CRISIL IBX 50:50 Gilt Plus SDL Short Duration Index Fund", India's 1<sup>st</sup> passive short-duration index fund (It will invest in 50% IGBs & 50% SDLs)
- The Fund will replicate 'CRISIL IBX 50:50 Gilt Plus SDL Short Duration Index'
- HQs of Edelweiss Asset Management – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Radhika Gupta

**87.** In January 2023, Department of Economic Affairs, under Ministry of Finance, hiked the interest rate on various Small Savings Schemes for Q4 of the current FY 2022-23 (January 1, 2023 - March 31, 2023). The interest rate of 5-year National Saving Certificate (NSC) has been increased to 7% from 6.8%. The interest rate on the Senior Citizen Saving Scheme (SCSS) increased to 8% from 7.6%. The Monthly Income Account Saving has also been increased to 7.1% from 6.7%. The interest rate on Kisan Vikas Patra (KVP) will now be 7.2% and will mature in 120 months. The interest rate of a Small Savings Deposit of 1-year time period has been increased to 6.6% from 5.5%. The Interest Rate of 2-year time deposit has changed to 6.8% from 5.7%. However, the interest rate on the Public Provident Fund (PPF) scheme, Sukanya Samridhi Account Scheme (SSAS) and Saving Deposit have been kept unchanged. The Shyamala Gopinath Committee provided the formula to calculate the interest rates for the small savings scheme. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Ministry of Finance – hiked the interest rate on various 'Small Savings Schemes (SSS)' for the Q4 of FY 2022-23
- Public Provident Fund (PPF) – 7.1% | National Savings Certificate (NSC) – 7%
- Senior Citizens Savings Scheme – 8% | Sukanya Samridhi Yojana – 7.6%
- Kisan Vikas Patra – 7.2% (maturity - 120 months) | Post Office Monthly Income Scheme – 7.1%
- Small Savings Deposit of 1-year – 6.6% | Savings Deposit of 2-year – 6.8%
- The Small Savings Schemes include – 12 Schemes
- Shyamala Gopinath Committee provided the formula to calculate the interest rates for the SSS

**88.** In January 2023, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued its list of Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs) of 2021 based on the data from March 31, 2022. In line with the 2020 list of D-SIBs, SBI, ICICI Bank, and HDFC Bank are still categorized as Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs). The additional Common Equity Tier 1 (CET1) requirement for DSIBs was phased in from April 1, 2016 and became fully effective from April 1, 2019. On July 22, 2014, the Reserve Bank published the Framework for handling D-SIBs. D-SIBs are also known as 'too-big-to fail' banks. They are interconnected entities, whose failure can impact the whole of the financial system and create instability. ICICI Bank & HDFC Bank will be in the 1<sup>st</sup> bucket with an Additional CET-1 requirement as a percentage of RWAs of 0.20%. While SBI will be in the 3<sup>rd</sup> bucket with an Additional Common Equity Tier (CET)- 1 requirement as a percentage of Risk Weighted Assets (RWAs) of 0.60%. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- RBI – issued its list of Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs) for 2021 (based on data from March 31, 2022)
- At present, D-SIBs include 3 banks: SBI, ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank (aka 'too-big-to fail' banks)
- ICICI Bank & HDFC Bank will be in the 1<sup>st</sup> bucket, while SBI will be in the 3<sup>rd</sup> bucket
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established on – 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1935
- Total Deputy Governors (4) – Mahesh Kumar Jain | T. Rabi Sankar | Michael D. Patra | M. Rajeshwar Rao

**89.** The gross non-performing asset (GNPA) ratio of Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) fell to a 7-year low of 5% in September 2022 (Q2 FY23), as per the 26<sup>th</sup> Financial Stability Report (FSR) released by the RBI in January 2023. The net non-performing assets (NNPA) dropped to 10-year low of 1.3% in September 2022. India's Current Account Deficit (CAD) widened to 4.4% of GDP in Q2 FY23, the highest since the June quarter of 2013. India's foreign exchange reserves on BoP basis recorded a deficit of USD 30.4 billion in Q2 FY23, compared to a USD 31.2 billion surplus in the Q2 FY22. The system-level Capital to Risk Weighted Assets Ratio (CRAR) in September 2023, under baseline, medium and severe stress scenarios, is projected at 14.9%, 14% and 13.1%, respectively. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- RBI released the 26<sup>th</sup> Financial Stability (FSR) in January 2023
- GNPA ratio of SCBs fell to a 7-year low of 5% in Sep 2022 (Q2 FY23)
- NNPA ratio of SCBs fell to a 10-year low of 1.3% in Sep 2022 (Q2 FY23)
- India's Current Account Deficit (CAD) widened to 4.4% of GDP in Q2 FY23 (highest since June 2023)
- India's Foreign Exchange Reserves on BoP basis recorded a deficit of \$30.4 billion in Q2 FY23
- CRAR in Q2 FY23 under scenarios - Baseline, Medium & Severe Stress – 14.9%, 14% and 13.1% (respectively)

**90.** On January 24, SBM Bank (India) raised ₹99 Cr from Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) through the issue of tier-II bonds. This is the second tranche of tier-II bond issues by the bank, which had earlier raised ₹125 Cr in its maiden such issue in April 2022 at a rate of 9.75%. With this fresh round, SBM Bank India has now cumulatively raised ₹224 Cr via tier-II bonds. SBM Bank India is the wholly-owned subsidiary of Mauritius-based SBM Group. The bank has a network of 12 branches across the country, including the recently opened branch in Kolkata. [{Read more}](#)

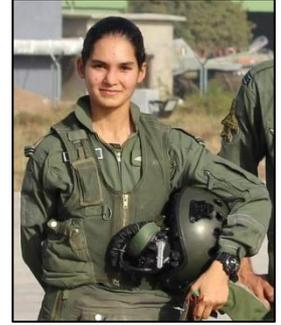
### Smart Points:

- SBM Bank (India) – raised ₹99 Cr through the issue of tier-II bonds from LIC (2<sup>nd</sup> tranche by the bank)
- SBM Bank India is the wholly-owned subsidiary of Mauritius-based SBM Group
- HQs of SBM Bank India – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Sidharth Rath
- SBM Bank India – the 1<sup>st</sup> foreign bank in India to obtain a banking license from the RBI
- HQs of LIC – Mumbai | Chairman – M. R. Kumar | Founded in – 1956 | Tagline – “Yogakshemam Vahamyaham”



# Defence Affairs

1. India and Japan conducted their first-ever bilateral combat air exercise named 'Veer Guardian 23' exercise from January 12 to 26 at the Hyakuri Air Base in Omitama, and the Iruma Air Base in Sayama in Japan. Sukhoi-30MKI Squadron Leader Avni Chaturvedi, India's first woman fighter pilot, was also a part of the Indian contingent that will feature in aerial wargames with Japan. This was the first instance of a woman air warrior leading an Indian fighter squadron on foreign soil. IAF participated with four Su-30 MKI, two C-17 Globemasters and an IL-78 tanker. Squadron leader Chaturvedi was inducted into the Indian Air Force fighter squadron in June 2016 alongside Mohana Jitarwal and Bhawana Kanth. In 2018, she became the first Indian woman pilot to take a solo flight in a MiG-21 aircraft. In March 2020, she was awarded the Nari Shakti Purashkar by President Ram Nath Kovind. [{Read more}](#)



## Smart Points:

- India + Japan = conducted first-ever bilateral combat air exercise named 'Veer Guardian 23'
- Squadron Leader Avni Chaturvedi – became the 1<sup>st</sup> woman fighter pilot to lead an Indian fighter squadron on foreign soil
- Avni Chaturvedi – received 'Nari Shakti Purashkar' in March 2020
- HQs of IAF – New Delhi | Chief – Air Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari | Vice Chief – Air Marshal Sandeep Singh
- Japan – Tokyo – Yen | PM – Fumio Kishida

2. On January 7, Indian Navy signed an agreement with Sagar Defence Engineering Pvt Ltd for armed autonomous boat swarms under 'SPRINT', an initiative to promote development of niche defence technologies by domestic companies. This is the 50<sup>th</sup> contract under 'SPRINT', which aims at the development of 75 indigenous technologies by the industry for the Navy. The target of Indian Navy is to sign the 100<sup>th</sup> contract by January end and to induct 75 new technologies by August 15, 2023 as part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav. The platform will be able to conduct a range of navy and security tasks including high-speed interdiction; surveillance; constabulary operations; Command, Control, Communications, Computers (C4) Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (C4ISR); and low-intensity maritime operations. 'SPRINT' stands for Supporting Pole-vaulting In R&D through Innovations for Defence Excellence (IdeX), Naval Innovation and Indigenisation Organisation (NIIO) and Technology Development Acceleration Cell (TDAC). It was launched by PM Narendra Modi in July 2022. [{Read more}](#)

## Smart Points:

- Indian Navy + Sagar Defence Engineering Pvt Ltd = agreement for armed autonomous boat swarms under 'SPRINT'
- HQs of Indian Navy – Delhi | Chief – Admiral R. Hari Kumar | VC – S. N. Ghormade | Founded in – 26<sup>th</sup> Jan, 1950

3. On January 16, the 21<sup>st</sup> edition of the Bilateral Naval Exercise between India and France, "Exercise Varuna", commenced on the Western Seaboard. While the bilateral exercise between the two navies were initiated in 1993, it was christened as 'VARUNA' in 2001 and has become a hallmark of India-France strategic bilateral relationship. This edition will witness participation of indigenous guided missile stealth destroyer INS Chennai, guided missile frigate INS Teg, maritime patrol aircraft P-8I and Dornier, integral helicopters and MiG29K fighter aircraft. [{Read more}](#)

## Smart Points:

- 21<sup>st</sup> edition of "Exercise Varuna" between India & France – commenced on the Western Seaboard
- INS Chennai + INS Teg + P-8I + MiG29K = participated in the exercise
- France – Paris – Euro | President – Emmanuel Macron | PM – Elisabeth Borne

4. On January 6, Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) developed an untethered multi-copter payload, an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV), capable of flying with a five-kilo payload. It was unveiled at the 108<sup>th</sup> Indian Science Congress in Maharashtra's Nagpur. It has been developed with the aim to improve logistics for operations in the Himalayas. It is capable of dropping bombs in enemy territories and can be helpful to drop medicines for soldiers deployed at high altitude or war zones. The trials of the multi-copter were conducted at Sikkim at an altitude of 14,000 ft, with the product set to undergo two more trials before it is ready for induction in the Armed Forces. The multi-copter can carry out autonomous missions with waypoint navigation up to 5 km radius. Beacon-based landing accuracy of 100 mm, ground vehicle follow mode and modular design for ease of operation are some of the other features of the multi-copter payload.

[{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- DRDO – developed an untethered multi-copter payload, a UAV to improve logistics for operations in the Himalayas
- 108<sup>th</sup> Indian Science Congress – held in Nagpur, Maharashtra
- Waypoint Navigation up to 5 km radius | Landing Accuracy – 100 mm
- HQs of DRDO – New Delhi | Chairman – Samir V. Kamat | Established in – 1958

5. On January 12, GRSE-made passenger-cum-cargo ocean-going ferry 'MV MA Lisha', the first such ship built for exports to a Latin American country by any Indian Defence PSU, was flagged off by Commodore (retired) P. R. Hari, the CMD of GRSE, on the banks of the Hooghly River. The ship, designed and built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) Ltd, will go to Chennai where she will be loaded onto a semi-submersible vessel 'MV Sun Rise', for her long voyage to Guyana. The ship was launched on June 15, 2022. The 70-metre-long vessel with a displacement of 1,700 tonnes is propelled by two diesel engines and can achieve a maximum speed of 15 knots. Moreover, Indian Coast Guard (ICG) ship 'Kamla Devi', the fifth and last vessel of the series of Fast Patrol Vessel (FPV), was commissioned at Kolkata, West Bengal. It is designed, built and delivered by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) Ltd to the Indian Coast Guard (ICG). [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- P. R. Hari – flagged off GRSE-made passenger-cum-cargo ocean-going ferry, 'MV MA Lisha'
- This is the first such ship built for exports to a Latin American country (Guyana) by any Indian Defence PSU
- ICG ship 'Kamla Devi', 5<sup>th</sup> & last vessel of the FPV series – commissioned at Kolkata, West Bengal (built by GRSE)
- HQs of GRSE – Kolkata, India | Chairman & MD – P. R. Hari | Founded in – 1884

6. In January 2023, the first ever joint exercise between the special forces of the Indian Army and the Egyptian Army named "Exercise Cyclone-I" was conducted at Jaisalmer in Rajasthan. The 14-day exercise aimed to bolster defence co-operation between the two nations and focused on sharing professional skills and interoperability of Special Forces in desert terrain while undertaking counter terrorism, reconnaissance, raids and other special operations. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Indian Army + Egyptian Army = conducted the first ever joint exercise, "Exercise Cyclone-I", in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan
- Rajasthan: Capital – Jaipur | CM – Ashok Gehlot | Governor – Kalraj Mishra
- HQs of Indian Army – New Delhi | Chief – Lt. Gen. Manoj Pande | Vice Chief – Lt. General Baggavalli Somashekar Raju
- Egypt – Cairo – Egyptian Pound | President – Abdel Fattah el-Sisi

**7.** On January 10, Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) accorded Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) for three capital acquisition proposals, amounting to Rs 4,276 Cr. All the three proposals are under the Buy (Indian-IDDMM) category. The DAC accorded AoN for procurement of HELINA Anti-Tank Guided Missiles which will be integrated to the Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH). This missile is an essential part of weaponisation of ALH for countering enemy threat. The DAC also accorded AoN for procurement of VSHORAD (IR Homing) missile system under design and development by DRDO. Procurement of VSHORAD, as a robust and quickly deployable system, will strengthen the Air Defence capabilities. Further, the DAC granted approval for procurement of Brahmos Launcher and Fire Control System (FCS) for the Shivalik class of ships & Next Generation Missile Vessels (NGMVs) for Indian Navy. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- DAC – accorded AoN for following three capital acquisition proposals, amounting to Rs 4,276 Cr
  - ‘HELINA Anti-Tank Guided Missiles’ which will be integrated to ALH
  - ‘VSHORAD (IR Homing) missile system’ under design and development by DRDO
  - ‘Brahmos Launcher and FCS’ for the Shivalik class of ships & NGMVs for Indian Navy
- DAC – chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh
- HQs of DRDO – New Delhi | Chairman – Samir V. Kamat | Established in – 1958

**8.** On January 16, India and Egypt are set to hold the first-ever military exercises involving the special forces in Rajasthan’s Udaipur, Jaipur and Jodhpur. Wael Hamed is Egypt’s Ambassador to India. The security of the Indian Ocean starts from the security of the Red Sea in the West and for Egypt on the Suez Canal. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- India + Egypt = to hold 1<sup>st</sup> ever military exercises involving the special forces in Rajasthan’s Udaipur, Jaipur & Jodhpur
- Rajasthan: Capital – Jaipur | CM – Ashok Gehlot | Governor – Kalraj Mishra
- Egypt – Cairo – Egyptian Pound | President – Abdel Fattah el-Sisi

**9.** On January 20, Tata Boeing Aerospace Limited (joint venture between Boeing & Tata Advanced Systems Limited) delivered the first fuselage for six AH-64 Apache attack helicopters ordered by the Indian Army from its facility in Hyderabad. Boeing had completed the deliveries of all 22 AH-64E Apache helicopters to the Indian Air Force in 2020. Salil Gupte is the President of Boeing India. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Tata Boeing Aerospace Ltd (Hyderabad) – delivered the first fuselage for six ‘AH-64 Apache’ attack helicopters to Army
- President of Boeing India – Salil Gupte

**10.** On January 23, Indian Navy commissioned the fifth diesel-electric Scorpene named INS Vagir. Four of the Kalvari class of submarines have already been commissioned as INS Kalvari, INS Karanj and INS Vela. It is built in India by the Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL), Mumbai in collaboration with France-based M/s Naval Group. Vagir will boost the Indian Navy’s capability to further India’s maritime interests by undertaking diverse missions including anti-surface warfare, anti-submarine warfare, intelligence gathering, mine laying and surveillance missions. The sixth and the last Scorpene, Vagsheer, will be delivered by the end of 2023 under over Rs 23,000 crore project inked with French companies way back in 2005. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- Indian Navy – commissioned the 5<sup>th</sup> Scorpene class submarine named ‘INS Vagir’
- It is built in India by the Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders + Naval Group (France)
- The 6 submarines being commissioned under the Indian Navy’s Project-75 are:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> – Kalvari | 2<sup>nd</sup> – Khanderi | 3<sup>rd</sup> – Karanj | 4<sup>th</sup> – Vela | 5<sup>th</sup> – Vagir | 6<sup>th</sup> – Vagsheer
- HQs of Indian Navy – Delhi | Chief – Admiral R. Hari Kumar | VC – S. N. Ghormade | Founded in – 26<sup>th</sup> Jan, 1950

**11.** On January 20, Indian Coast Guard Ships ICGS Shaurya and ICGS Rajveer were on a six-day visit to Chattogram, Bangladesh from 13 to 19 January, 2023 to enhance the cooperative engagements and interoperability under the provisions of the MoU signed between Indian Coast Guard (ICG) and Bangladesh Coast Guard (BCG). During the visit, Pollution Response Team of Indian Coast Guard conducted a five-day “International Maritime Organisation Level I course on Pollution Response” for the first time in Bangladesh for 20 BCG personnel. ICGS Shaurya is an Advanced Offshore Patrol Vessel (AOPV) which is designed and built by Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL). While ICGS Rajveer is an Inshore Patrol Vessel (IPV) which is designed and built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata, West Bengal. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- ICGS Shaurya + ICGS Rajveer = were on a six-day visit to Chattogram, Bangladesh (in January, 2023)
- ICG conducted “International Maritime Organisation Level I course on Pollution Response” for the 1<sup>st</sup> time in Bangladesh
- ICGS Shaurya, an Advanced Offshore Patrol Vessel – designed & built by Goa Shipyard Ltd
- ICGS Rajveer, an Inshore Patrol Vessel – designed & built by GRSE (Kolkata)

**12.** In January 2023, the Indian Army and Air Force together participated in the Indian Navy’s major maritime exercise “Tropex-23”, conducted in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR). The exercise was conducted in different phases, both in harbour and at sea. Moreover, it coincided with another biennial “AMPHEX 2023”, the tri-service amphibious exercise between Indian Army, Indian Air Force (IAF), and Indian Navy. It was conducted at Kakinada in Andhra Pradesh from January 17. Aimed at increasing synergy, AMPHEX 23 was the largest ever exercise and held for the first time at Kakinada. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- Indian Army + IAF = participated in the major maritime exercise “Tropex-23” of Indian Navy
- Indian Army + IAF + Indian Navy = conducted a tri-service exercise “AMPHEX 2023” in Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh
- HQs of Indian Army – New Delhi | Chief – Lt. Gen. Manoj Pande | Vice Chief – Lt. General Baggavalli Somashekar Raju
- HQs of IAF – New Delhi | Chief – Air Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari | Vice Chief – Air Marshal Sandeep Singh
- HQs of Indian Navy – Delhi | Chief – Admiral R. Hari Kumar | Vice Chief – S. N. Ghormade

**13.** On January 21, as tensions between India and China along the Line of Actual Control in Arunachal Pradesh have recently risen, the Indian Air Force (IAF) will conduct a massive exercise named “Poorvi Aakash” covering the Northeastern region in February to assess its combat readiness. The annual Command-level exercise will be conducted by Eastern Air Command. The exercise is expected to involve every frontline air base in the Northeast as well as some significant Advanced Landing Grounds (ALGs). [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- Eastern Air Command of IAF – to conduct annual Command-level exercise named “Poorvi Aakash” in NE region (in Feb)
- HQs of Eastern Air Command – Shillong, Meghalaya | AOC-in-Chief – Air Marshal Sujeet Pushpakar Dharkar

**14.** In January 2023, the Indian Air Force (IAF) carried out “Exercise Pralay” involving all its major air bases in the northeast amid the ongoing standoff with China. According to officials, the exercise saw major combat assets of the Air Force including the Rafale and Su-30 fighter jets activated along with the transport and other aircraft. This was the second such command-level exercise carried out by the IAF in recent months. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- IAF – carried out “Exercise Pralay” involving all its major air bases in the Northeast
- HQs of IAF – New Delhi | Chief – Air Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari | Vice Chief – Air Marshal Sandeep Singh

**15.** From January 21 to 28, the Border Security Force (BSF) conducted an “Ops Alert” exercise to enhance security along the India-Pakistan border in Kutch district of Gujarat and Barmer in Rajasthan in view of the Republic Day celebrations. It was carried out to thwart any ill designs of anti-national elements during the Republic Day celebrations. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- BSF – conducted “Ops Alert” exercise along the India-Pakistan border in Kutch (Gujarat) & Barmer (Rajasthan)
- It was carried to enhance security during the Republic Day celebrations
- HQs of BSF – New Delhi | DG – Sujoy Lal Thaisen (addi.) | Established on – Dec 1, 1965 | Motto – “Duty Unto Death”

**16.** On January 21, in an important step that will significantly enhance the endurance of the Scorpene-class conventional submarines of the Indian Navy, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Naval Group of France have signed an agreement to fit the indigenous fuel cell-based Air Independent Propulsion (AIP) system on INS Kalvari. The AIP has been developed by DRDO’s Naval Materials Research Laboratory (NMRL). Six Scorpene submarines are being built under Project-75 by the Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) under technology transfer from Naval Group of France under a \$3.75 billion deal signed in October 2005. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- DRDO + Naval Group of France = an agreement to fit the indigenous fuel cell-based Air Independent Propulsion (AIP) system on INS Kalvari
- INS Kalvari – built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders + Naval Group (France)
- The 6 submarines being commissioned under the Indian Navy’s Project-75 are:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> – Kalvari | 2<sup>nd</sup> – Khanderi | 3<sup>rd</sup> – Karanj | 4<sup>th</sup> – Vela | 5<sup>th</sup> – Vagir | 6<sup>th</sup> – Vagsheer
- HQs of DRDO – New Delhi | Chairman – Samir V. Kamat | Established in – 1958

**17.** Under the Reserve Bank of India’s Banking Ombudsman Scheme (BOS), about 2,09,196 complaints were received between April 1 and November 11, 2022. The complaints related to ATM/Debit Cards were the highest at 14.65%, followed by complaints related to Mobile/Electronic Banking at 13.64%. Under NBFC Ombudsman Scheme (OSNBFC), about 20,439 complaints were received, of which the highest 61.89% of complaints were relating to ‘Non-adherence of Fair Practices Code (FPC)’ were the highest, followed by complaints regarding ‘Non-observance of RBI directions’ and ‘Levy of Charges without prior notice’. Under Ombudsman Scheme for Digital Transactions, of the total 2,281 complaints received between April 1 and November 11, a majority of 44.76% were related to fund transfers/UPI/BBPS/Bharat QR Code. The volume of complaints received under the Ombudsman Schemes/Consumer Education and Protection Cells during FY 2021-22 increased by 9.39% at 4,18,184 as compared to FY 2020-21. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- About 2,09,196 complaints were received between April-Nov'22 – under RBI's the Banking Ombudsman Scheme (BOS)
- Under BOS, maximum complaints were related to ATM/Debit Cards (14.65%)
- About 20,439 complaints were received between April-Nov'22 – under RBI's NBFC Ombudsman Scheme (OSNBFC)
- Under OSNBFC, maximum complaints were related to Non-adherence of Fair Practices Code (61.89%)
- About 2,281 complaints were received between April-Nov'22 – under RBI's Ombudsman Scheme for Digital Transactions
- Under OSDT, maximum complaints were related to fund transfers/UPI/BBPS/Bharat QR Code (44.76%)
- Volume of complaints received under the Ombudsman Schemes during FY 2021-22 increased by 9.39% at 4,18,184
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established on – 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1935
- Total Deputy Governors (4) – Mahesh Kumar Jain | T. Rabi Sankar | Michael D. Patra | M. Rajeshwar Rao

**18.** Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) Ltd has signed an MoU with Rolls Royce Solutions of Germany for manufacturing high-quality marine diesel engines. Under the agreement, GRSE and Rolls Royce Solutions will cooperate in the licence production and localisation of the technologically advanced MTU S4000 governmental marine engines. So far, these engines are imported, bringing down the indigenous content of these classes of vessels built at Indian shipyards. The move would help bolster the 'Make in India' initiative. This partnership between GRSE & Rolls Royce Solutions is a step towards indigenisation of marine engines. This alliance will create a robust ecosystem of self-reliance in the naval shipbuilding domain and is a fillip for AatmaNirbhar Bharat. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- GRSE + Rolls Royce Solutions (Germany) = an MoU for manufacturing high-quality marine diesel engines
- They will cooperate in production & localisation of technologically advanced MTU S4000 governmental marine engines
- HQs of GRSE – Kolkata, India | Chairman & MD – P. R. Hari | Founded in – 1884

**19.** On January 29, the annual firepower demonstration and training exercise, "TOPCHI", was conducted by the School of Artillery in Devlali Field Firing Ranges in Nashik, Maharashtra. The event was conducted under the stewardship of Lieutenant General S. Harimohan Iyer, AVSM, Commandant School of Artillery and Colonel Commandant Regiment of Artillery. This year's exercise showcased the integrated employment of firepower and surveillance assets to include guns, mortars, rockets, drones and aviation assets. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- "TOPCHI", annual firepower demonstration & training exercise – conducted by the School of Artillery in Devlali, MH
- Maharashtra: CM – Eknath Shinde | Governor – Ramesh Bais

**20.** In January 2023, Indian military concluded exercise 'Trishakti Prahar', a joint training exercise, in North Bengal. The aim of the exercise was to practice battle preparedness of the security forces, using latest weapons and equipment in a networked, integrated environment, involving the Army, the Indian Air Force and CAPFs. The exercise concluded with an Integrated Fire Power Exercise at the Teesta Field Firing Ranges. The exercise also witnessed participation of newly-inducted weapons and equipment made in India as a part of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan'. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- 'Trishakti Prahar', a joint training exercise, in North Bengal – conducted by Indian Army, IAF & CAPF
- HQs of Indian Army – New Delhi | Chief – Lt. Gen. Manoj Pande | Vice Chief – Lt. General Baggavalli Somashekar Raju
- HQs of IAF – New Delhi | Chief – Air Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari | Vice Chief – Air Marshal Amar Preet Singh



# Sports & Games

1. Geto Sora of Arunachal Pradesh won the Junior International Badminton Championship title in the below 9 years category, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. He won the championship title after beating Malaysia's Jaryl Teh. In November, he had won the BTY-Yonex-Singha Championship, which was held at the Banthongyord Badminton School in Bangkok, Thailand. [{Read more}](#)



## Smart Points:

- Geto Sora (Arunachal Pradesh) – won “Junior International Badminton Championship” in below 9 years category
- He defeated – Jaryl Teh (Malaysia) | The Championship was held in – Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- He had also won – “BTY-Yonex-Singha Championship” held in Bangkok, Thailand
- Arunachal Pradesh: Capital – Itanagar | CM – Pema Khandu | Governor – Lt. Gen. Kaiwalya Trivikram Parnaik
- Malaysia – Kuala Lumpur – Ringgit | PM – Anwar Ibrahim | King – Al-Sultan Abdullah

2. The World Boxing Council (WBC) announced to introduce a transgender category from 2023. The WBC is going to create a league and a tournament but title belts may not be on the line. WBC wants to eliminate a scenario where a ‘man fights a woman’. The WBC president said the process of identifying those who can compete in the transgender category will begin soon. A ‘at birth rule’ will be used, which means a transgender boxer who is registered as male at birth will be allowed to fight others who have also been registered as male. [{Read more}](#)

## Smart Points:

- World Boxing Council – to introduce a ‘transgender category’ from 2023
- HQs of WBC – Mexico City | President –Mauricio Sulaiman

3. On January 1, Koustav Chatterjee became India's 78<sup>th</sup> Grandmaster in MPL 59<sup>th</sup> National Senior Chess Championship in New Delhi. He drew his game against GM Mitrabha Guha. Koustav hailing from Kolkata becomes West Bengal's tenth Grandmaster. [{Read more}](#)



## Smart Points:

- Koustav Chatterjee (Kolkata) – became India's 78<sup>th</sup> Grandmaster (10<sup>th</sup> GM from West Bengal)
- He drew his game against GM Mitrabha Guha in MPL 59<sup>th</sup> National Senior Chess Championship in New Delhi
- West Bengal: Capital – Kolkata | CM – Mamta Banerjee | Governor – CV Ananda Bose

4. The first-ever “ABB FIA Formula E World Championship Race” (2023 Hyderabad E-Prix) in India is set to be held in Hyderabad on February 11, 2023. Hyderabad race on February 11 will be the fourth race of the season. The event is climate-friendly as it is a net zero carbon sport. A total of 11 teams with 22 cars would be racing in the event. The world's fastest, lightest, most powerful and efficient electric race car, ‘Gen3’, will be coming to Hyderabad on February 11. Private firm Ace Nxt Gen is the official promoter of the Formula E Race in India in partnership with Formula E and the Telangana government. [{Read more}](#)



## Smart Points:

- The first-ever ABB FIA Formula E World Championship Race in India – to be held in Hyderabad (in Feb 2023)
- Total 11 teams with 22 cars would be racing in the event | Official promoter of the event – Ace Nxt Gen
- The world's fastest, lightest, most powerful and efficient electric race car – ‘Gen3’
- Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad | CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao | Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan

5. On January 5, Australia's legendary woman cricketer Belinda Clark became the first female cricketer to be immortalised with a sculpture in the Sydney Cricket Ground (SCG) precinct. Clark's bronze statue has been installed at the entrance to the SCG's Walk of Honour. She was Australia's captain for 12 years and in 101 games and also led Australia to triumph in the 1997 and 2005 World Cups. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Belinda Clark (Australia) – became the first female cricketer to get bronze statue at Sydney Cricket Ground (SCG)

6. On January 6, 16-year-old M. Pranesh clinched the title in the Rilton Cup, the first tournament of the FIDE Circuit, and became India's 79<sup>th</sup> Chess Grandmaster. To become a GM, a player has to secure three GM norms and cross the live rating of 2,500 Elo points. Tamil Nadu player Pranesh topped the charts in the tournament, which brought together 136 players representing 29 national federations. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- M. Pranesh (Tamil Nadu) – became India's 79<sup>th</sup> Chess Grandmaster
- He won the 'Rilton Cup' title in Stockholm, Sweden

7. On January 5, Bhupinder Singh Gill made history as the Premier League's first Sikh-Punjabi assistant referee. The 37-year-old comes from a soccer family, with father Jarnail Singh the first referee to wear a turban in the English league and officiating in more than 150 Football League (EFL) games between 2004-10. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Bhupinder Singh Gill – made history as the Premier League's (Football) first Sikh-Punjabi assistant referee

8. On January 7, Mumbai-born Sania Mirza confirmed her retirement from professional Tennis. The former doubles World No. 1 champion will retire at the WTA 1000 event in Dubai in February, 2023. Mirza became the first Indian to win a WTA singles title, when she won her hometown Hyderabad event in 2005. The maiden triumph came in 2009, as she partnered with Mahesh Bhupathi to clinch the Australian Open mixed doubles title. Mirza has won 6 Grand Slam doubles titles and will compete in her final major Grand Slam in January at the Australian Open. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Sania Mirza – confirmed her retirement from professional Tennis
- She became the first Indian to win a WTA singles title in 2005 | She is the winner of 6 Grand Slam doubles titles

9. On January 7, the mascots of 'Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG)-2022', Asha and Mowgli, and its smart torch 'Amarkantak' were released along with the theme song. Torch Amarkantak is named after the place where the Narmada River originates. This is the first smart torch in any game in the country. The torch is adorned with carvings of the renowned Mahakaleshwar temple, running cheetah and a lotus on top. The theme song has been rendered by well-known artiste Shaan. The 5<sup>th</sup> edition of KIYG will take place from January 30 to February 11 in Bhopal, Indore, Ujjain, Gwalior, Jabalpur, Mandla, Balaghat and Khargone (Maheshwar). For the first time water sports namely kayaking and canoeing, canoe slalom and rowing, as well as fencing will be part of these games. A total of 27 games will be played across 23 game venues. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- 5<sup>th</sup> Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG):
  - Location – Madhya Pradesh
  - Mascots – Asha & Mowgli
  - Theme song written by – Shaan
  - Smart Torch – Torch ‘Amarkantak’ & it is first smart torch in any game in India
  - The torch has carvings of the renowned Mahakaleshwar temple, running cheetah and a lotus on top
  - Sports added for the first time – kayaking & canoeing, canoe slalom & rowing (water sports), fencing
  - Total Games – 27
- Madhya Pradesh – made the sport of ‘Mallakhamb’ as state sport
- Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel

**10.** On January 9, Indian squash prodigy Anahat Singh clinched the girls Under-15 squash title at the most prestigious “British Junior Open” tournament in Birmingham. The 14-year-old defeated Sohaila Hazem of Egypt, 3-1 in the final. The British Junior Open is held in January every year in the UK. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- Anahat Singh – won the girls Under-15 squash title at the “British Junior Open” tournament in Birmingham, UK
- She defeated Sohaila Hazem (Egypt)

**11.** Gulmarg in Jammu and Kashmir’s Baramulla district will host the third edition of ‘Khelo India National Winter Games’. The third edition of the games will start from February 10 and culminate on February 14. 2000 athletes from different parts of the country will converge in Gulmarg to compete in different sports. Main attractions will be snow shoe race, ice skating, ice hockey, skiing, nordic ski, snowboarding, ski mountaineering and ice stock. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- Gulmarg (J & K) – to host the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of ‘Khelo India National Winter Games’ (in Feb’23)
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha

**12.** On January 6, Divya Deshmukh defeated IM Bhakti Kulkarni in the final round to become a clear champion at MPL 48<sup>th</sup> National Women Chess Championship 2022. This is her second consecutive National Women title where she remained undefeated and finished a full point ahead at 9.5/11. The tournament organized by Chess Association Kolhapur at Sanjay Ghodawat University, Kolhapur, Maharashtra. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- Divya Deshmukh – won MPL 48<sup>th</sup> ‘National Women Chess Championship 2022’ (defeating - IM Bhakti Kulkarni)
- The tournament was organized by – Chess Association Kolhapur at Sanjay Ghodawat University, Kolhapur, Maharashtra
- Maharashtra: CM – Eknath Shinde | Governor – Ramesh Bais

**13.** On January 4, Lionel Messi has been named the 'Best Player of the Year 2022' by the International Football Federation History and Statistics (IFFHS). He won the crown by a whopping 275 points. Second in the tally is France's Kylian Mbappe, who became only the first man to score a hat-trick in the World Cup final after Geoff Hurst in 1966. The Frenchman secured 35 points in the tally. Swiftly behind him are Karim Benzema (30). [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Lionel Messi (Argentina) – named the 'Best Player of the Year 2022' by IFFHS
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Kylian Mbappe (France) | 3<sup>rd</sup> – Karim Benzema (France)

**14.** On January 8, Serbian Player Novak Djokovic clinched the 'Adelaide International 1' men's singles title defeating American Sebastian Korda in the finals. This is Djokovic's 92<sup>nd</sup> tour-level title from his 131<sup>st</sup> final. He is now tied with Rafael Nadal at the fourth position in the list of most men's singles titles in the Open Era, trailing only Jimmy Connors (109), Roger Federer (103) and Ivan Lendl (94). Belarusian player Aryna Sabalenka claimed her 11<sup>th</sup> career singles title with victory over Czech player Linda Noskova in the Women's singles. Men's Doubles title was won by Lloyd Glasspool (UK) & Harri Heliövaara (Finland). Women's Doubles title was clinched by US players Asia Muhammad & Taylor Townsend. It is a combined ATP Tour 250 and WTA 500 tournament played on outdoor hard courts in Adelaide, Australia. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- 'Adelaide International 1' tournament (Australia) winners
  - Men's singles: Novak Djokovic (Serbia) | He defeated – Sebastian Korda (USA)
  - Women's singles: Aryna Sabalenka (Belarus) | She defeated – Linda Noskova (Czech Republic)
  - Men's Doubles: Lloyd Glasspool (UK) & Harri Heliövaara (Finland)
  - Women's Doubles: Asia Muhammad & Taylor Townsend (USA)

**15.** On January 9, Hockey India became the first National Sports Federation to enter the world of metaverse. A few days before the FIH Odisha Hockey Men's World Cup 2023 in Bhubaneswar-Rourkela, Hockey India launched the 'Hockeyverse' on their social media platforms. 'Hockeyverse' will provide a new virtual experience where global hockey fans can visit and experience their favourite sport from the comfort of their home, on their personal computer. [{Read smore}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Hockey India – launched the 'Hockeyverse' on their social media platforms
- Hockey India – became the first National Sports Federation to enter the world of metaverse
- HQs of Hockey India – New Delhi | President – Dilip Tirkey | Secretary General – Bhola Nath

**16.** On January 7, 5<sup>th</sup> edition of the Tata Open Maharashtra was concluded at Balewadi Stadium in Pune. The tournament is sponsored by Tata Motors. South Asia's only ATP 250 was conducted by the Maharashtra State Lawn Tennis Association (MSLTA) in association with the Government of Maharashtra. The Dutch tennis star Tallon Griekspoor won the men's single title against French player Benjamin Bonzi as his maiden ATP Tour title. Moreover, the Indian pair of N Sriram Balaji and Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan finished as runners-up finish in the doubles against the duo of Sander Gille and Joran Vliegen in the final. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- 5<sup>th</sup> edition of the Tata Open Maharashtra – held at Balewadi Stadium in Pune
- The tournament was conducted by – MSLTA in association with Govt of Maharashtra | Sponsored by – Tata Motors
- Men singles won by – Tallon Griekspoor (Dutch) (defeating - France’s Benjamin Bonzi)
- Men doubles won by – Sander Gille and Joran Vliegen (defeating - India’s N Sriram Balaji & Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan)

**17.** WTA 250 competition, 2023 Auckland Open tennis tournaments were held from the 2<sup>nd</sup> to the 14<sup>th</sup> of January 2023. It is also known as ASB Classic. In the Men’s singles, French player Richard Gasquet clinched the title defeating Cameron Norrie of England. American Duo of Nathaniel Lammons & Jackson Withrow won the title in Men’s Doubles category. The winner of the women’s singles competition was Coco Gauff of USA who defeated Spanish–Swiss tennis player Rebeka Masarova. Japanese Players Miyu Kato & Aldila Sutjiadi won the women’s Doubles title. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- 2023 Auckland Open/ ASB Classic tennis tournaments winners:
  - Men’s singles: Richard Gasquet (France) | He defeated – Cameron Norrie (England)
  - Women’s singles: Coco Gauff (USA) | She defeated – Rebeka Masarova (Spanish-Swiss)
  - Men’s Doubles: Nathaniel Lammons & Jackson Withrow (USA)
  - Women’s Doubles: Miyu Kato & Aldila Sutjiadi (Japan)

**18.** In January 2023, Olympic champion and No. 1 seed Viktor Axelsen claimed badminton’s Malaysia Open men’s singles title by beating Kodai Naraoka of Japan. It was Axelsen’s ninth consecutive final in BWF Super 1000 level tournaments, a new record. Japan’s Akane Yamaguchi beat An Se-Young of Korea for the women’s crown in the opening World Tour event of 2023. Moreover, other winners of men’s doubles, women’s doubles, and mixed doubles are mentioned below. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- Malaysia Open 2023 (aka PETRONAS Malaysia Open) – held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- Men’s Singles title – Viktor Axelsen (Denmark)
- Women’s Singles title – Akane Yamaguchi (Japan)
- Men’s Doubles title – Fajar Alfian & Muhammad Rian Ardianto (Indonesia)
- Women’s Doubles title – Chen Qing Chen & Jia Yi Fan (China)
- Mixed Doubles title – Zheng Si Wei & Huang Ya Qiong (China)

**19.** On January 13, the Hockey World Cup 2023 started in Odisha’s Cuttack’s Barabati Stadium in Odisha with a breathtaking and scintillating extravaganza. Over 50, 000 people and several ministers were present along with Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik. The CM visited the Olly Land, which is the official mascot of the FIH Men’s Hockey World Cup to be held at Kalinga stadium. The Olly Land has been set up at Kalinga stadium, Birsa Munda stadium at Rourkela and Puri beach to take the hockey World Cup fervour across the state. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- 'Hockey World Cup 2023' started in Barabati Stadium, Cuttack, Odisha
- Olly – the official mascot of the 'FIH Men's Hockey World Cup 2023'
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal
- HQs of FIH – Lausanne, Switzerland | President – Mohammad Tayyab Ikram | CEO – Thierry Weil | Founded in – 1924

**20.** On January 14, Indian team of Yuki Bhambri and Saketh Myneni won the Bangkok Open title, their sixth together on the ATP Challenger Tour beating Christopher Rungkat and Akira Santillan. They will next compete in the Australian Open, the season's first Grand Slam, where they have been given a wild card entry. The men's singles title was won by France's Arthur Cazaux. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- Bangkok Open winners:
- Men's Singles – Arthur Cazaux (France)
- Men's Doubles – Yuki Bhambri & Saketh Myneni (India)
- Thailand – Bangkok – Thai Baht | PM – Prayut Chan-o-cha

**21.** In January 2023, the International Cricket Council (ICC) announced the winners of the ICC Player of the Month awards for December 2022. England's Harry Brook won 'ICC Men's Player of the Month' award for December 2022, following impressive performances in the ICC World Test Championship series in Pakistan. Also, Australia's Ashleigh Gardner won the 'ICC Women's Player of the Month' award for December 2022. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- Harry Brook (England) – ICC Men's Player of the Month for December 2022
- Ashleigh Gardner (Australia) – ICC Women's Player of the Month for December 2022
- HQs of ICC – Dubai, UAE | Chairman – Greg Barclay | CEO – Geoff Allardice | Members – 108 countries

**22.** On January 10, Kerala kicked itself into the Guinness Book of World Records by taking 4,500 penalty kicks in 12 hours. The Department of Sports and Youth Affairs made it possible for the football-crazy State to set the Guinness record at a Dream Goal penalty shootout organised at Payyanad Football Stadium at Manjeri. Hundreds of footballers, students, teachers and football lovers queued up to take the penalty kicks. Former Indian player U. Sharafali took the inaugural kick and netted the ball. Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs V. Abdurahiman took the last penalty kick. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- Kerala – was named in Guinness Book of World Records by taking 4,500 penalty kicks in 12 hours
- Former Indian player U. Sharafali – took the inaugural kick
- Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs V. Abdurahiman – took the last penalty kick
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan

**23.** On January 15, Team India broke the record for largest victory (by runs) in ODIs as they defeated Sri Lanka by 317 runs in the third and final match of the series in Thiruvananthapuram. India broke New Zealand's record (by 290 runs) at the Greenfield Stadium. With the huge win over Sri Lanka, India clinched the three-match series 3-0. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- India – defeated Sri Lanka by 317 runs and broke the record for largest victory (by runs) in ODIs
- India broke New Zealand's record of 290 runs
- Sri Lanka – Colombo/Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte – Sri Lankan Rupee
- PM – Dinesh Gunawardena | President – Ranil Wickremesinghe
- New Zealand – Wellington – Dollar (NZD) | PM – Jacinda Ardern

**24.** The FIDE World Championship 2023 will take place in Astana, Kazakhstan, from April 7 to May 1, 2023. At Astana, the prize fund will be 2 million, with 60% going to the winner and 40% to the runner-up. A new World Champion will be crowned, as Ian Nepomniachtchi and Ding Liren will battle to seize the throne left vacant by Magnus Carlsen's withdrawal. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- FIDE World Championship 2023 – to take place in Astana, Kazakhstan (from April 7 to May 1, 2023)
- Kazakhstan – Astana – Tenge | President – Kassym-Jomart Tokayev | PM – Alikhan Smailov
- HQs of FIDE – Lausanne, Switzerland | President – Arkady Dvorkovich | Founded on – July 20, 1924

**25.** In January 2023, Thailand's Kunlavut Vitidsarn and Korea's An Se-young emerged champions at the 'India Open Badminton Championship 2023' or 'Yonex-Sunrise India Open 2023' held at KD Jadhav Indoor Stadium in New Delhi. They defeated Denmark's Viktor Axelsen & Japan's Akane Yamaguchi, respectively. Liang Wei Keng and Wang Chang came out as the winners in men's doubles. Japan's Yuta Watanabe and Arisa Higashino won the mixed doubles title, while Nami Matsuyama and Chiharu Shida, also from Japan, claimed the women's doubles crown. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- "India Open Badminton Championships 2023" or "Yonex-Sunrise India Open 2023" – held in New Delhi
- Kunlavut Vitidsarn (Thailand) – won Men's Singles title
- An Se-young (South Korea) – won Women's Singles title
- Liang Wei Keng & Wang Chang (China) – won Men's Doubles title
- Nami Matsuyama & Chiharu Shida (Japan) – won Women's Doubles title
- Yuta Watanabe & Arisa Higashino (Japan) – won Mixed Doubles title

**26.** On January 23, 'Ironman of India' Sabir Ali, who won the decathlon gold at the '1981 Asian Athletics Championships' in Tokyo, passed away in New Delhi following a cardiac arrest. He was 67. Ali, who retired from Railways, won the title in the Japanese capital with a tally of 7,253 points beating Japan's Nobuya Saito (7,078) and China's Zu Qilin (7,074). He also won two silver medals at the South Asian Federation Games held in Kathmandu and Dhaka. Ali won 8 consecutive Open National titles in the gruelling event between 1979 and 1985. The decathlon is a combined event in athletics consisting of ten track and field events. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- Sabir Ali ('Ironman of India') – a decathlon Player – passed away
- He won the decathlon gold at the '1981 Asian Athletics Championships' in Tokyo, Japan

**27.** On January 20, Delhi High Court has appointed retired Supreme Court judge Arjan Kumar Sikri (A. K. Sikri) as Administrator to oversee the utilisation of funds for the ISSF World Cup to be held in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh in March 2023. The court also allowed release of money by the Centre to the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) to be used for the event. The Administrator can also take the assistance of any sportsperson of his choice, who has been a national or international shooter, to assist him in the matter. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- A. K. Sikri – appointed as Administrator to oversee the utilisation of funds for the 'ISSF World Cup 2023'
- India will host the 'ISSF World Cup 2023' in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh (in March)
- [Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal](#) | [CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan](#) | [Governor – Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel](#)

**28.** On January 25, the International Cricket Council (ICC) revealed its first individual award winners in the "ICC Awards 2022", naming the stars honoured in the Associate, Emerging and T20I categories. Winners in the 13 individual categories were based on overall performances and achievements throughout the calendar year. India's Suryakumar Yadav claimed the ICC Men's T20I Cricketer of the Year award, and Australia's Tahlia McGrath named the ICC Women's T20I Cricketer of the Year. India's Renuka Singh claimed the ICC Women's Emerging Cricketer of the Year and South Africa's Marco Jansen won the ICC Men's Emerging Cricketer of the Year award. Namibia's Gerhard Erasmus claimed the ICC Men's Associate Cricketer of the Year award, and the UAE's Esha Oza secured the ICC Women's Associate Cricketer of the Year award. Moreover, other awards are mentioned below. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- "ICC Awards 2022":
- Cricketers of the Year: Men's – Babar Azam (Pakistan) | Women's – Nat Sciver (England)
- T20I Cricketers of the Year: Men's – Suryakumar Yadav (India) | Women's – Tahlia McGrath (Australia)
- ODI Cricketers of the Year: Men's – Babar Azam (Pakistan) | Women's – Nat Sciver (England)
- Emerging Cricketers of the Year: Men's – Marco Jansen (South Africa) | Women's – Renuka Singh (India)
- Associate Cricketers of the Year: Men's – Gerhard Erasmus (Namibia) | Women's – Esha Oza (UAE)
- Umpire of the Year: Richard Illingworth (England)
- Spirit of Cricket: Aasif Sheikh (Nepal)

**29.** On January 24, Indian skipper Harmanpreet Kaur has been named the captain of the 'ICC Women's ODI Team of the Year 2022' that also includes her teammates, opener Smriti Mandhana and fast bowler Renuka Singh. Other players in the ICC Women's T20I team of the year 2022 are - Alyssa Healy (Australia), Laura Wolvaardt (South Africa), Nat Sciver (England), Beth Mooney (Australia), Amelia Kerr (New Zealand), Sophie Ecclestone (England), Ayabonga Khaka (South Africa), Shabnim Ismail (South Africa). [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- Harmanpreet Kaur – named the captain of the 'ICC Women's ODI Team of the Year 2022'
- The team also included her teammates Smriti Mandhana & Renuka Singh
- [HQs of ICC – Dubai, UAE](#) | [Chairman – Greg Barclay](#) | [CEO – Geoff Allardice](#) | [Members – 108 countries](#)



**30.** On January 26, for the first time a white card was shown in a football match in Portugal. Most football fans must be aware of the red and yellow cards in football. But history was scripted in Portugal on a white card was shown for the first time in a women's cup quarter-final match between Benfica and Sporting Lisbon. The card was initiated by Portugal to try and improve ethical value in the sport. It is in contrast with yellow and red cards which are used to discipline players for misconduct. The exact purpose and consequence of the card are yet to be announced. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- For the first time a 'White Card' was shown in a football match in Portugal
- Yellow & red cards are already being used to discipline players for misconduct
- [Portugal – Lisbon – Euro](#) | [President – Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa](#)

**31.** On January 24, the International Cricket Council (ICC) announced the Test team, where star batsman Rishabh Pant is the only Indian player to appear on the list of "ICC's Men's Test Team of the Year 2022". Among batsmen, those who have also been included are Pakistan skipper Babar Azam, Australian batsmen Usman Khawaja, Marnus Labuschagne, England's Jonny Bairstow, Ben Stokes and West Indies' Kraigg Brathwaite. Former India captain Virat Kohli, all-rounder Hardik Pandya and shortest format's number one batter Suryakumar Yadav were picked in the "ICC's Men's T20I Team of the Year 2022". While India's Shreyas Iyer & Mohammed Siraj were picked in the "ICC's Men's ODI Team of the Year 2022". [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Indian players included in the Test, ODI & T20I teams of the year 2022 by the ICC:
  - ICC's Men's Test Team of the Year 2022: Rishabh Pant
  - ICC's Men's T20I Team of the Year 2022: Virat Kohli, Hardik Pandya & Suryakumar Yadav
  - ICC's Men's ODI Team of the Year 2022: Shreyas Iyer & Mohammed Siraj
- [HQs of ICC – Dubai, UAE](#) | [Chairman – Greg Barclay](#) | [CEO – Geoff Allardice](#) | [Members – 108 countries](#)

**32.** On January 26, New Zealand announced to honour the country's outstanding female cricketer with the inaugural Debbie Hockley Medal at the 2023 Annual Cricket Awards Ceremony. It will be afforded equal status to the Sir Richard Hadlee Medal which is given to the outstanding male cricketers of the year. Debbie Hockley, the former cricketer, is the only woman to have won the supreme New Zealand Cricketer of the Year Award. She was the first woman to become President of New Zealand Cricket. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- New Zealand – to honour the country's outstanding female cricketer with the inaugural "Debbie Hockley Medal"
- Debbie Hockley – Former Cricketer & the first woman President of New Zealand Cricket
- [New Zealand – Wellington – Dollar \(NZD\)](#) | [PM – Chris Hipkins](#)

**33.** In January 2023, World Cup winner and Captain of France national football team, Hugo Lloris retired after a record 145 appearances. Lloris won the 2018 World Cup and was captain of the squad that lost to Argentina in the final in Qatar in December 2022. He will focus on his Tottenham club career in the English Premier League. Lloris made his national debut in 2008 in a friendly against Uruguay. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Hugo Lloris – Captain of France national football team – retired after a record 145 appearances
- [France – Paris – Euro](#) | [President – Emmanuel Macron](#) | [PM – Elisabeth Borne](#)

**34.** On January 29, India won the inaugural U-19 World Cup with an emphatic seven-wicket victory over England. The world cup was hosted in South Africa. India first bundled out England for 68 in 17.1 overs and then returned to knock off the paltry target in 14 overs to lift the coveted trophy. The win on Sunday also reaffirms India's dominance at the U-19 level with the boys winning the world title in the Caribbean last year. The team was led by Shafali Verma. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- India – won the inaugural U-19 World Cup with a victory over England | Host – South Africa
- South Africa – Cape Town – South African Rand | President – Cyril Ramaphosa

**35.** On January 27, Formula E and Ace Nxt Gen, the promoter of the first ABB FIA Formula E World Championship race in India, announced that Greenko will be the title partner of the '2023 Greenko Hyderabad E-Prix'. Greenko Group, founded in 2006, is one of the world's leading energy transition and decarbonization companies. Greenko will fully power the event with renewable energy, in line with Formula E's net zero carbon strategy. The 11 teams and 22 drivers will be competing in the all-new GEN3 race car. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> 'ABB FIA Formula E World Championship Race' – to be held in Hyderabad, Telangana
- Title Partner – Greenko | Promoter of '2023 Greenko Hyderabad E-Prix' – Formula E and Ace Nxt Gen

**36.** On January 30, Tamil Nadu batter Murali Vijay announced his retirement from all forms of international cricket. Vijay represented India in 61 Tests, 16 ODIs and 9 T20Is, scoring over 4,000 runs across formats. His most successful stint was with the Indian red ball team as he notched 3982 runs that included 12 centuries and 15 half-centuries. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Murali Vijay (Tamil Nadu) – announced his retirement from all forms of International Cricket

**37.** On January 28, National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with World Boxing Champion and gold medal winner of Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games, Nikhat Zareen, to represent NMDC as its brand ambassador. Nikhat Zareen represents the strength, courage, agility and national pride that goes with the brand of the NMDC. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Nikhat Zareen (Indian Boxer) – appointed as brand ambassador of NMDC Ltd
- HQs of NMDC – Hyderabad, Telangana | CMD – Sumit Deb | Founded on – November 15, 1958

**38.** On January 30, Dutch player Anish Giri, five times the runner-up in Wijk aan Zee, has won the 85<sup>th</sup> edition of Tata Steel Chess that took place from January 14-29, 2023 in Wijk aan Zee, the Netherlands. Nodirbek Abdusattorov took second place, followed by Magnus Carlsen. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Anish Giri (Russian-born Dutch Chess GM) – won the 85<sup>th</sup> edition of "Tata Steel Chess Tournament" in Netherlands
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Nodirbek Abdusattorov (Uzbekistan) | 3<sup>rd</sup> – Magnus Carlsen (Norway)

**39.** On January 29, Novak Djokovic won the Australian Open for the 10<sup>th</sup> time to equal Rafael Nadal's record of 22 men's Grand Slams singles titles. Novak defeated Stefanos Tsitsipas of Greece. Aryna Sabalenka won the Women's Singles title by defeating Elena Rybakina of Kazakhstan. Australia's Rinky Hijikata & Jason Kubler won the Men's Doubles title. While Czech's Barbora Krejčíková & Katerina Siniakova won the Women's Doubles title. Brazil's Luisa Stefani & Rafael Matos won the Mixed Doubles title. The Australian Open is a tennis tournament played on cushion acrylic hard courts prepared by Greenset Worldwide. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Australian Open 2023:
- Men's Singles title – Novak Djokovic (Serbia) | Total Men's Grand Slams Singles titles won by him – 22
- Women's Singles title – Aryna Sabalenka (Belarus)
- Men's Doubles title – Rinky Hijikata & Jason Kubler (Australia)
- Women's Doubles title – Barbora Krejčíková & Katerina Siniakova (Czech Republic)
- Mixed Doubles title – Luisa Stefani & Rafael Matos (Brazil)

**40.** On January 30, Germany beat Belgium to win the FIH Men's Hockey World Cup 2023 at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. India finished on 9<sup>th</sup> position. "Olly" was the mascot of the World Cup. Niklas Wellen, a German field hockey player, was named Best Player. While Vincent Vanasch of Belgium was named Best Goalkeeper. Germany's Christopher Ruhr won the Fan's Choice Award. Belgium won the Fair Play Award. Total 16 teams participated in the World Cup. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Germany – beat Belgium to win the FIH Men's Hockey World Cup 2023 in Bhubaneswar, Odisha
- Total 16 teams participated in the World Cup | Mascot – "Olly"
- Awards:
  - Best Player – Niklas Wellen (Germany)
  - Best Goalkeeper – Vincent Vanasch (Belgium)
  - Fan's Choice Award – Christopher Ruhr (Germany)
  - Fair Play Award – Belgium

**41.** On January 30, Sports For All, a competition organiser, has been signed by Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG) as one of its sponsors for the next 5 years. Through this strategic partnership, SFA will invest ₹12.5 Crore over the next 5 years to contribute to developing India's sporting DNA. The firm provides statistics and data to players in competitions for coaches to understand their strengths and weaknesses. It was also a partner of the Indian Olympic Association for the Tokyo Olympics 2020, Commonwealth Games 2022 & Asian Games 2022. Moreover, Star Sports has bagged the broadcast rights of the Sports Ministry's flagship Khelo India School Games (KISG) for a period of five years from 2018 to 2022. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Sports For All – signed by Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG) as one of its Sponsors for the next 5 years
- Star Sports – bagged the broadcast rights of the Sports Ministry's 'Khelo India School Games' for 5 years

# Persons in News

1. On January 2, Captain Shiva Chouhan became the first woman officer to be operationally deployed at Kumar Post in the Siachen Glacier. Siachen Glacier is located at an altitude of 15,632 feet. She was born in Udaipur, Rajasthan. Kumar Post is named after late Colonel Narinder 'Bull' Kumar (retd.), who was instrumental in the Indian Army launching 'Operation Meghdoot' and securing the dominating heights of Siachen Glacier in 1984. On April 13, 1984, India launched 'Operation Meghdoot' to capture the 76.4 km-long glacier on the Saltoro ridge. [{Read more}](#)



## Smart Points:

- Captain Shiva Chouhan (Rajasthan) – 1<sup>st</sup> woman officer to be operationally deployed at Kumar Post in Siachen Glacier
- Siachen Glacier – located at an altitude of 15,632 feet
- Rajasthan: Capital – Jaipur | CM – Ashok Gehlot | Governor – Kalraj Mishra

2. On January 7, Neeru Yadav, fondly known as 'Hockey Wali Sarpanch', has taken a new initiative to strengthen farmers of Lambi Ahir Village. Yadav has signed a pact with NABARD to start the Farmers Producers Organisation (FPO) with the assistance of SIIRD (Society of Indian Institute of Rural Development). FPO is a legal entity formed by primary producers such as farmers, milk producers, fishermen, weavers, rural artisans, craftsmen etc. 'Sachhi Saheli Mahila Agro Producer Company Limited' is the 15th such FPO launched by NABARD in Rajasthan where Yadav has taken the responsibility as Board of Directors of this company. [{Read more}](#)

## Smart Points:

- Neeru Yadav ('Hockey Wali Sarpanch') – has taken a new initiative to strengthen farmers of Lambi Ahir Village, Rajasthan
- She signed a pact with NABARD to start the FPO with the assistance of SIIRD
- Rajasthan: Capital – Jaipur | CM – Ashok Gehlot | Governor – Kalraj Mishra
- HQs of NABARD – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Shaji K V | Founded in – 1982

3. On January 6, Indian-origin Manpreet Monica Singh has been sworn in as a Harris County judge, becoming the first female Sikh judge in the US. Singh was born and raised in Houston and now lives in Bellaire with her husband and two children. She was sworn in as a judge of the Harris County Civil Court at Law No. 4 in Texas. [{Read more}](#)



## Smart Points:

- Manpreet Monica Singh – becoming the first female Sikh judge in the US
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46<sup>th</sup> President – Joe Biden | 49<sup>th</sup> VP – Kamala Harris

4. January 15 marked the 97<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Khashaba Dadasaheb Jadhav, the first individual athlete to win an Olympic medal for independent India. The Google Doodle honored the wrestler, who is fondly known as the 'Pocket Dynamo'. At the 1952 Helsinki Olympics, Jadhav earned a bronze medal. The Maharashtra government posthumously awarded the Chhatrapati Puraskar after his death in 1984. The wrestling venue for the Delhi Commonwealth Games in 2010 was also named in his honour. [{Read more}](#)



## Smart Points:

- Google Doodle – honored Khashaba Dadasaheb Jadhav (KD Jadhav) on his 97<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary on January 15, 2023
- KD Jadhav (a wrestler aka 'Pocket Dynamo') – the 1<sup>st</sup> individual athlete to win an Olympic medal for independent India

5. On January 12, Captain Surbhi Jakhmola of the Indian Army's '117 Engineer Regiment' has become the first woman officer to be posted on a foreign assignment at the Border Roads Organisation (BRO). The officer will be sent to Bhutan as part of 'Project Dantak'. The Indian Air Force has the highest proportion of women officers, accounting for 13.69%, followed by the Indian Navy at 6% and the Indian Army at 3.97%.

[{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Captain Surbhi Jakhmola – became the first woman officer to be posted on a foreign assignment at the BRO
- She will be sent to Bhutan as part of 'Project Dantak'
- IAF (13.69%) – has the highest proportion of women officers | Indian Navy – 6%, Indian Army – 3.97%

6. On January 13, 1,171 Indian peacekeepers serving with the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) have been honoured with the prestigious UN medals at an award ceremony where the parade was led for the first time by a woman officer of the Indian Army, Major Jasmine Chattha. India is among the largest troop-contributing countries to UN peacekeeping missions and its peacekeepers are lauded for their outstanding work and for going above & beyond their duties while serving in the missions. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- 1,171 Indian peacekeepers serving with the UN Mission in South Sudan – honoured with the prestigious UN medals
- The parade of Indian Peacekeepers was led (for the first time) by woman officer of Indian Army, Major Jasmine Chattha
- [South Sudan – Juba – South Sudanese Pound](#)

7. In January 2023, Brazil's President-elect Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva announced that Sonia Guajajara will head up a new Ministry of Indigenous Peoples, with a mandate to oversee policies ranging from land demarcation to health care. She is widely known as the leader of the main umbrella group for Brazil's many Indigenous tribes and is a member of the Amazon Guajajara. According to local Indigenous organizations, some 20,000 illegal gold miners now operate illegally in Yanomami tribal territory alone. Guajajara fiercely opposed attempts to legalise these policies, and that opposition was largely successful. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Sonia Guajajara – will head up a new Ministry of Indigenous Peoples in Brazil
- The ministry mandates to oversee policies ranging from land demarcation to health care
- [Brazil – Brasilia – Brazilian Real | President – Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva](#)

8. Pakistan-based terrorist Abdul Rehman Makki has been listed as a global terrorist by the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) under its ISIL (Da'esh) and Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee. Abdul Rehman Makki has been alleged to be involved in several major attacks against India including the 2008 Mumbai attacks. He is brother-in-law of 26/11 attacks mastermind and Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) chief Hafiz Saeed. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Abdul Rehman Makki (Pakistan) – listed as global terrorist by UNSC under ISIL (Da'esh) & Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee
- [HQs of UNSC – New York, US | Presidency in January – Japan \(December - India | February - Malta\)](#)



**9.** On January 22, Maria Branyas Morera (USA/Spain) was confirmed to be the world's oldest woman living and oldest person living, according to Guinness World Records, following the death of 118-year-old Lucile Randon from France. Morera, born March 4, 1907 in San Francisco, California, returned to Spain and settled in Catalonia. Morera has survived both World Wars, the Spanish Civil War, and the Spanish Flu pandemic, also fought off Covid-19 in 2020. [{Read More}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Maria Branyas Morera (USA/Spain) – confirmed as the world's oldest woman living & oldest person living (age - 115)
- 118-year-old Lucile Randon (France) who passed away in January 2023, was the oldest living person earlier
- [US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46<sup>th</sup> President – Joe Biden | 49<sup>th</sup> VP – Kamala Harris](#)
- [Spain – Madrid – Euro | PM – Pedro Sanchez](#)

**10.** On January 23, Union Sports Minister Anurag Thakur announced that six-time World champion and Olympic medallist boxer M.C. Mary Kom will head a government-appointed 5-member Oversight Committee to investigate the sexual harassment charges levelled by some prominent wrestlers against Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh. The panel will probe the allegations of sexual misconduct, harassment and intimidation, financial irregularities and administrative lapses. Mary Kom and Yogeshwar Dutt are also part of a seven-member committee formed by the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) to look into the wrestlers' allegations. Mary Kom heads the IOA panel as well. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Government formed a 5-member Oversight Committee to investigate the charges against Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh
- The committee will be headed by – M.C. Mary Kom
- [HQs of WFI – New Delhi](#)

**11.** On January 24, President of Egypt Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, who was the Chief Guest for the 74<sup>th</sup> Republic Day parade, arrived in New Delhi. On January 25, El-Sisi was accorded a ceremonial reception at the Rashtrapati Bhawan. This is for the first time that the President of the Arab Republic of Egypt has been invited as Chief Guest on our Republic Day. In the fiscal year 2021-22, the bilateral trade between India and Egypt reached \$7.26 billion, with almost equal imports and exports. During his visit, India and Egypt signed an MoU to facilitate content exchange, capacity building, and co-productions between Prasar Bharati and National Media Authority of Egypt. The agreement was signed by Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Singh Thakur. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Chief Guest for the 74<sup>th</sup> Republic Day parade (on January 26, 2023) – Abdel Fattah El-Sisi (President of Egypt)
- Prasar Bharati (India) + Egypt = an MoU to facilitate content exchange, capacity building & co-productions
- [Egypt – Cairo – Egyptian Pound | President – Abdel Fattah el-Sisi](#)

**12.** On January 26, Lieutenant Chetana Sharma led the 'Made in India' Akash surface-to-air missile system at the 74<sup>th</sup> Republic Day parade 2023. Lieutenant Chetana is from an Army Air Defence regiment unit, which protects the air space from enemy aircraft and drones. She belongs to Rajasthan's Khatu Shyam village. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Lt. Chetana Sharma – led the 'Made in India' Akash surface-to-air missile system at the 74<sup>th</sup> Republic Day parade
- Lt. Chetana Sharma (Rajasthan's) – is from an Army Air Defence regiment unit

# Arts & Cultural Affairs

1. Ministry of Textiles organised the second phase of the Sari Festival, "VIRAASAT - Celebrating 75 handwoven Saris of India", from January 3 to 17, 2023 at Handloom Haat, Janpath, New Delhi. The first phase of the festival was organised from December 16-30, 2022. The event was inaugurated by Hon'ble Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman. A social media campaign was launched under a common hashtag #MySariMyPride to support our handloom weavers. The first phase had 75 participants. While the second phase has 90 participants from different parts of India. [{Read more}](#)



## Smart Points:

- Ministry of Textiles – organised the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of the Sari Festival, "VIRAASAT" in New Delhi
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> phase has 90 participants from different parts of India
- Ministry of Textiles: Piyush Goyal | Constituency – Maharashtra
- MoS in Ministry of Textiles: Darshana Vikram Jardosh

2. On January 6, Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment, Dr. Virendra Kumar inaugurated, India's first-of-its-kind inclusivity festival for PwDs, "Purple Fest: Celebrating Diversity", in Goa. The festival aims to showcase how we can come together to create a welcoming and inclusive world for everyone. The objective of the workshop was to sensitize the Government, Non-Govt, Corporate Sector about their role to create an inclusive society and also to have a co-ordinated approach towards the empowerment of Divyangjan. 'Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act' was introduced in 2016 to ensure that persons with disabilities are empowered. [{Read more}](#)



## Smart Points:

- Virendra Kumar – inaugurated, India's first inclusivity festival for PwDs, "Purple Fest: Celebrating Diversity", in Goa
- Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act' was introduced in 2016
- Department of Empowerment of PwDs – functions under Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment.
- Goa: Capital – Panaji | CM – Pramod Sawant | Governor – P. S. Sreedharan Pillai

3. Jammu & Kashmir will host its 1<sup>st</sup> SARAS Fair 2023 from February 4 to 14 wherein artisans and women self-help groups from across the country will showcase their crafts, handcrafts, handloom and foods. The fair would be organised at Bagh-e-Bahu, Jammu. The eleven-day exhibition is going to witness several cultural events, aids and plays on several government schemes and campaigns. [{Read more}](#)

## Smart Points:

- Jammu & Kashmir – will host its 1<sup>st</sup> SARAS Fair 2023 for Artisans & Women SHGs at Bagh-e-Bahu, Jammu (in Feb 2023)
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha

4. On January 3, Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi inaugurated Octave 2023 festival which was organised by the South Zone Cultural Centre, Thanjavur, in Chennai. It is a festival celebrating the culture of northeastern India. This family of eight northeastern States makes up for 4% of our population and 8% of geography. [{Read more}](#)

## Smart Points:

- R.N. Ravi – inaugurated northeastern cultural festival, 'Octave 2023', in Chennai
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin | Governor – Ravindra Narayan Ravi

5. On January 6, National Council of Science Museums (NCSM) in association with Nehru Memorial Museum and Library (NMML) organised “Astro Tourism” - a Sky Gazing event at Delhi’s India Gate. The event was inaugurated by Minister of State for Culture, Arjun Ram Meghwal. The programme helped in developing scientific temper among the people. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Arjun Ram Meghwal – inaugurated “Astro Tourism”, a Sky Gazing event in Delhi
- It was organised by = National Council of Science Museums + Nehru Memorial Museum and Library
- Minister of Culture: G. Kishan Reddy | Constituency – Secunderabad, Telangana
- MoS in Minister of Culture: Arjun Ram Meghwal & Meenakshi Lekhi

6. On January 26, Union Minister for Culture, Tourism and DoNER, G. K. Reddy, inaugurated a mega event “Bharat Parv” at Red Fort in New Delhi. Reddy unveiled the ‘Incredible India Digital Calendar’ of the Ministry of Tourism at the event. The theme of the Calendar for 2023 is “The Incredible Festivals of India”. Government of India organized the six-day mega event from January 26-31, 2023, as part of the Republic Day celebrations. Ministry of Tourism was designated as the nodal ministry for the event. Bharat Parv fulfils the spirit of Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat as artists, handicrafts, food stalls from all over India remain present there. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- G. K. Reddy – inaugurated a mega event “Bharat Parv” at Red Fort in New Delhi
- G. K. Reddy – unveiled the ‘Incredible India Digital Calendar’ of the Ministry of Tourism
- Theme of the Calendar for 2023 – “The Incredible Festivals of India”
- Ministry of Tourism: G. Kishan Reddy | Constituency – Secunderabad, Telangana
- MoS in Ministry of Tourism: Shripad Yesso Naik & Ajay Bhatt

7. On January 30, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee inaugurated the 46<sup>th</sup> International Kolkata Book Fair at Salt Lake. The book fair, one of the biggest in eastern India, was held from January 31 to February 12 at the Central Park Mela ground. Spain was the theme country at the fair. 6 books of Shri Mamata Banerjee were launched at the fair. There were around 700 stalls and 200 Little Magazine stalls at the fair. Moreover, Jose Maria Ridaó, the Ambassador of Spain, announced that India will be invited as the Theme Country at the Madrid International Book Fair in 2025. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Mamata Banerjee – inaugurated the 46<sup>th</sup> International Kolkata Book Fair at Salt Lake | Theme Country – Spain
- India – will be invited as the Theme Country at ‘Madrid International Book Fair’ in 2025
- West Bengal: Capital – Kolkata | CM – Mamta Banerjee | Governor – CV Ananda Bose



# Science & Technology

1. On January 2, the Supreme Court launched 'e-SCR' project which will provide free access to official law reports of its verdicts to law students, lawyers and the general public. The Electronic Supreme Court Reports (e-SCR) project is unveiled on the direction of Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud as an initiative to provide the digital version of the apex court's judgments in the manner as they are reported in the official law report. The project will be rolled out on the Supreme Court's website and will also be made available on the mobile application of the Supreme Court of India and also on the Judgment portal of the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG). The meta data extracted by the machine learning tool has been developed by National Informatics Centre (NIC), Pune. [{Read more}](#)

## Smart Points:

- Supreme Court – launched e-SCR project to provide free access to official law reports of its verdicts
- NIC, Pune – developed the machine learning tool with which the data has been extracted for the project
- HQs of NIC (main) – New Delhi | Director General – Rajesh Gera | Works under – MeitY
- Present Chief of Justice of the Supreme Court of India – Justice Dhananjaya Y. Chandrachud (50<sup>th</sup>)
- Retirement age: Chief Justices & Judges of HC – 62 years | Chief Justice of India & judges of the SC – 65 years

2. On January 1, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is ready to launch India's first Atmanirbhar human flight 'Gaganyaan' by the year 2024. In 2024, there will be two preliminary launchings. When both the experiments assure that we are completely ready, then in the third one humans will be sent into space. [{Read more}](#)

## Smart Points:

- 'Gaganyaan', India's first Atmanirbhar human flight – to be launched by ISRO by 2024
- HQs of ISRO – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Director – S. Somanath | Formed on – August 15, 1969

3. On January 3, Scientists from South Korea have developed a new water purification system that can quickly and efficiently filter out microplastics. The polymer used is relatively inexpensive with excellent adsorption performance and good photothermal properties. In an experiment, over 99.9% of contaminants were taken out of the water in just 10 seconds. Microplastics have inundated the world, finding their way into the human food chain. While some traditional carbon-based filters can filter out microplastics, they have limitations, the adsorption rate is slow and they are not energy-efficient. The Korean team's breakthrough system requires lower levels of energy, making it ideal for solar-based use. This is particularly useful for developing countries where power supply is inconsistent. [{Read more}](#)



## Smart Points:

- South Korea – developed a new water purification system that can efficiently filter out microplastics in 10 seconds
- South Korea – Seoul – Korean Republic won | President – Yoon Suk-yeol

4. On January 5, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology, Dr. Jitendra Singh, inaugurated "National Genome Editing & Training Centre" at National Agri-food Biotechnology Institute (NABI) in Mohali, Punjab. The Minister also inaugurated a 4-day "International Conference on Food and Nutritional Security (iFANS - 2023)". NGETC is a one-roof state-of-the-art facility that will serve as a national platform to cater to the regional needs to adapt different genome editing methods, including CRISPR-Cas mediated genome modification. iFANS-2023 was jointly organized by the National Agri-Food Biotechnology Institute (NABI), Centre for Innovative and Applied Bioprocessing (CIAB), National Institute of Plant Biotechnology (NIPB), and International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB) at NABI, Mohali. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- Jitendra Singh – inaugurated “National Genome Editing & Training Centre” at NABI in Mohali, Punjab
- “International Conference on Food and Nutritional Security (iFANS - 2023)” organised by = NABI + CIAB + NIPB + ICGEB
- Punjab: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Bhagwant Mann | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit

5. On January 3, Bengaluru-based Space sector start-up Digantara launched its second satellite namely ‘Pushan-Alpha’ as a rideshare onboard SpaceX’s ‘Transporter-6’ mission. The Pushan-Alpha observations will help complement Digantara’s ‘ROBI’ (ROBust Integrating proton fluence meter) mission, the world’s first commercial space-based space weather monitoring system onboard ISRO’s PSLV-C53 launched on June 30, 2022. The Pushan-Alpha mission has a three-fold objective - to extend radiation measurements to the sun synchronous orbit; to assess mid to high energy particle radiation from the South Atlantic Anomaly; and to investigate any co-relation of atmospheric drag and particle environment for enhanced orbit and debris modelling. Digantara is an Indian Space Technology Company incubated at Indian Institute of Science (IISc). The Pushan-Alpha mission is named after the Hindu solar deity considered as the god of journeys and protector of travellers. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- Digantara (Bengaluru) – launched its 2<sup>nd</sup> satellite ‘Pushan-Alpha’ as a rideshare onboard SpaceX’s ‘Transporter-6’ mission
- ‘Pushan-Alpha’ observations will help complement Digantara’s ‘ROBI’ mission
- ROBI mission – world’s first commercial space-based space weather monitoring system
- HQs of Digantara – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO – Anirudh Sharma
- HQs of SpaceX – California, U.S. | Founder & CEO – Elon Musk | Founded in – 2002

6. In January 2023, the United Kingdom’s attempt to launch the first satellite into orbit from Western Europe ended up in a failure. The Richard Branson-founded company, Virgin Orbit, was flying the satellites on a repurposed Boeing 747 in a bid to attempt its first international launch using a modified jumbo jet dubbed ‘Cosmic Girl’. The mission was dubbed “Start Me Up” and the aircraft took off from Spaceport Cornwall, UK before dropping the Virgin Orbit’s 70-foot-long ‘LauncherOne’ rocket that was carrying the satellites. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- UK’s attempt to launch the first satellite into orbit failed | The mission was dubbed “Start Me Up”
- Virgin Orbit launched the satellites using a modified jumbo jet dubbed ‘Cosmic Girl’
- Virgin Orbit’s 70-foot-long ‘LauncherOne’ rocket was carrying the satellites
- UK – London – Pound Sterling | PM – Rishi Sunak (57<sup>th</sup>) | New King – King Charles III

7. On January 8, Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), Pune developed a custom-designed unique molecular sponge-like material, “iVOFm” (viologen-unit grafted organic-framework), which can swiftly clean polluted water by soaking up sinister contaminants. When tested for a wide array of water pollutants, it showed ultrafast capture of all the pollutants, both organic and inorganic, with over 93% removal in just 30 seconds. Systematic studies have identified various organic as well as inorganic toxic pollutants that are carcinogenic in fresh water sources and can pose direct threat to humanity and living organisms. The results were published recently in the journal, Angewandte Chemie. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- IISER, Pune – developed a custom-designed unique molecular sponge-like material, “iVOFm”, to clean polluted water
- It removes 93% pollutants in just 30 seconds



8. On January 10, the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe) signed an MoU with Nascent Info Technologies Pvt. Ltd. for technical collaboration for development of various Geographic Information System (GIS) applications. Under the MoU, Nascent Info Technologies will use its knowledge and resources to study the functional requirements of various stakeholders in a domain of limestone, bauxite, clay, coal etc., and develop various algorithms and applications. IN-SPACe will extend support to Nascent in terms of facilitating access to Earth Observation data and development of algorithm for identification of minerals like Limestone, Bauxite, Clay, Magnesite, Coal, etc. and other expertise available with the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- IN-SPACe + Nascent Info Technologies = an MoU for technical collaboration for development of various GIS applications
- HQs of IN-SPACe – Ahmedabad | Chairman – Dr. Pawan Goenka | Works under – Department of Space

9. North Eastern-Space Applications Centre (NE-SAC), located at Meghalaya’s Shillong, was recently in news. It is a joint initiative of Department of Space (DOS) and North Eastern Council (NEC) to provide developmental support to the North Eastern Region (NER) using space science and technology. The centre has the mandate to develop high technology infrastructure support to play the catalytic role in holistic development of NER of India by providing space science and technology support.



**Smart Points:**

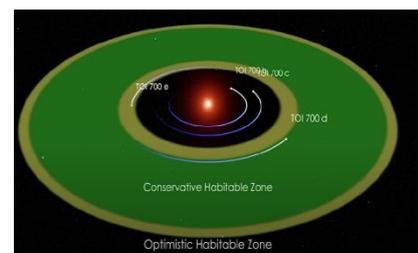
- North Eastern-Space Applications Centre (NE-SAC) – located at Meghalaya’s Shillong
- It is a joint initiative of = Department of Space (DOS) + North Eastern Council (NEC)
- Meghalaya: Capital – Shillong | CM – Conrad Kongkal Sangma | Governor – Phagu Chauhan

10. On January 10, India carried out a successful test launch of tactical ballistic missile Prithvi-II from a test range off the Odisha coast. The missile, which is powered by light propulsion twin engines, has a range of around 350 km and can carry 500-1,000 kg of warheads. It uses an advanced inertial navigation system to strike the set target. The Prithvi-II was earlier successfully test-fired during night hours in 2018 and in 2019. Prithvi was developed by the DRDO under the Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- India – carried out a successful test launch of tactical ballistic missile “Prithvi-II”
- Missile is powered by light propulsion twin engines, has a range of around 350 km & can carry 500-1,000 kg of warheads
- Prithvi-II missile – developed by DRDO under ‘Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme’
- HQs of DRDO – New Delhi | Chairman – Samir V. Kamat | Established in – 1958

11. On January 11, NASA’s Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS) mission has identified a second Earth-sized, rocky planet within the habitable zone of a star. The habitable zone refers to the range of distances from a star where liquid surface water could be present at some point in a planet’s history. The newly discovered planet is called TOI 700 e. It is one of only a few systems with multiple, small, habitable-zone planets that is currently known to exist. The TOI 700 system, located around 100 light-years away in the southern constellation Dorado, was first discovered by the TESS mission in 2020.



[{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- TESS mission (NASA) – discovered a second Earth-sized planet named “TOI 700 e” within the habitable zone of a star
- The TOI 700 system – located around 100 light-years away in the southern constellation Dorado
- The TOI 700 system – first discovered by the TESS mission in 2020 | TESS – Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite
- HQs of NASA – Washington D.C., US | Administrator – Bill Nelson | Founded in – 1958

**12.** On January 16, the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) approved market authorisation for the Covid-19 vaccine “Covovax” as a heterologous booster dose for adults who have been administered two doses of Covishield or Covaxin. The DCGI’s approval came following recommendations by the Subject Expert Committee of the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO). This vaccine has been developed by Serum Institute of India (SII). Covovax is manufactured through technology transfer from Novavax. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- DCGI approved market authorisation for the Covid-19 vaccine “Covovax” as a heterologous booster dose for adults
- This vaccine has been developed by – Serum Institute of India
- HQs of SII – Pune, Maharashtra | Chairman – Cyrus S. Poonawalla | CEO – Adar C. Poonawalla | Founded in – 1966
- The Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) – V. G. Somani

**13.** On January 12, Mahendra Singh Dhoni and drone market Garuda Aerospace have launched a surveillance drone named ‘Droni’. Dhoni is an ambassador-cum-investor in the Garuda Aerospace. Dhoni had unveiled the camera drone called ‘Droni’ at the Global Drone Expo in Chennai in 2022. Droni is a battery-operated quadcopter surveillance drone. Garuda Aerospace recently became the first-ever drone company in India to get dual DGCA approvals for both drone manufacturing type certificate and RTPO. MS Dhoni and Garuda had also launched a short film ‘Kheton Ke Kaptan’, aimed at encouraging youth and farmers to lead in their respective farms. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- M. S. Dhoni + Garuda Aerospace = launched a surveillance drone named ‘Droni’
- Mahendra Singh Dhoni – ambassador-cum-investor in the Garuda Aerospace
- M. S. Dhoni + Garuda Aerospace = also launched a short film ‘Kheton Ke Kaptan’
- Garuda Aerospace – 1<sup>st</sup> ever drone company in India to get dual DGCA approvals for both drone manufacturing type certificate and RTPO
- HQs of Garuda Aerospace – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | CEO – Agnishwar Jayaprakash

**14.** On January 16, Russia’s space agency Roscosmos announced to launch a new spacecraft, “Soyuz MS-23”, to bring back cosmonauts Sergey Prokopyev and Dmitry Petelin and U.S. astronaut Frank Rubio. The Soyuz MS is a revision of the Russian spacecraft series Soyuz first launched in 2016. It is an evolution of the Soyuz TMA-M spacecraft. It is used by Roscosmos for human spaceflight. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- Roscosmos – announced to launch a new spacecraft, “Soyuz MS-23”
- Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble | PM – Mikhail Mishustin | President – Vladimir Putin



**15.** On January 11, Startup firm IG Drones has developed a 5G-enabled drone named 'Skyhawk' that is capable of VTOL (Vertical Take-off and Landing). This drone can be used in defence and medical applications, among other sectors. The drone can carry a 10 kg payload and has an endurance of around 5 hours. IG Drones was born out of Veer Surendra Sai University of Technology (VSSUT) campus in Odisha's Sambalpur. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- IG Drones – developed a 5G-enabled drone named 'Skyhawk' that is capable of VTOL (Vertical Take-off and Landing)
- Veer Surendra Sai University of Technology – Sambalpur, Odisha
- [HQs of IG Drones – New Delhi](#) | [CEO – Bodhisattwa Sanghapriya](#)

**16.** On January 15, South Africa launched the world's first agri-focused satellite named "AgriSAT-1 (ZA 008)". The satellite was launched by Dragonfly Aerospace on a 'Space X Falcon 9' rocket. This satellite is expected to generate over USD 100 million in revenue. The satellite is the first of a seven-satellite constellation in low Earth orbit for customer EOSDA (EOS Data Analytics). The remaining six satellites of the constellation will be deployed over the next three years. It is the world's first agriculture-focused satellite constellation providing the agriculture and forestry industry with high-quality data to support efficient and sustainable practices. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- South Africa – launched the world's first agri-focused satellite named "AgriSAT-1 (ZA 008)"
- The satellite was launched by Dragonfly Aerospace on a 'Space X Falcon 9' rocket
- [South Africa – Cape Town – South African Rand](#) | [President – Cyril Ramaphosa](#)

**17.** On January 17, Mastercard announced the new phase of its flagship 'Girls4Tech' programme in India, which will benefit over 10,800 girls from 30 government schools in Tamil Nadu. Supported by the Mastercard Impact Fund and in partnership with the American India Foundation (AIF), the expansion of the programme aims to reach an additional 1 lakh female students across India by 2024 to encourage them to take up Science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education. STEM courses will be offered to girls aged 8 to 14. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Mastercard – announced the new phase of its flagship 'Girls4Tech' programme in India
- The expansion of the programme aims to reach an additional 1 lakh female students across India by 2024
- [HQs of Mastercard – New York, US](#) | [CEO – Michael Miebach](#) | [Founded in – 1966](#)

**18.** In January 2023, P. Sreekumar, the Satish Dhawan Professor at the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and advisor to its space science programme, announced that the ISRO has not yet received approval from the Indian government for the Venus mission, 'Shukrayaan I'. As a result, the mission may be delayed until 2031. Shukrayaan I, the ISRO Venus mission, was scheduled to be launched in December 2024. The concept was conceived in 2012. Sreekumar also claimed that the VERITAS and EnVision missions of the NASA and European Space Agency (ESA), respectively, both have Venus missions scheduled for 2031. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- ISRO's Venus mission 'Shukrayaan I' (scheduled to be launched in Dec 2024) – may be delayed until 2031
- 'VERITAS' – NASA's Venus mission | 'EnVision' – ESA's Venus mission
- [HQs of ISRO – Bengaluru, Karnataka](#) | [Director – S. Somanath](#) | [Formed on – August 15, 1969](#)
- [HQs of NASA – Washington D.C., US](#) | [Administrator – Bill Nelson](#) | [Founded in – 1958](#)
- [HQs of ESA – Paris, France](#) | [DG – Josef Aschbacher](#)



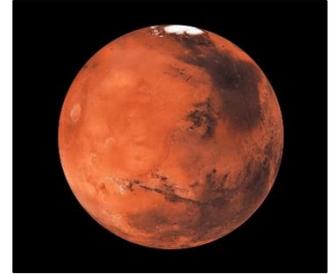
**19.** On January 17, Archaeologists in Norway have found the world's oldest runestone. The inscriptions are up to 2,000 years old and date back to the earliest days of the enigmatic history of runic writing. The flat, square block of brownish sandstone has carved scribbles, which may be the earliest example of words recorded in writing in Scandinavia. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Archaeologists in Norway found the world's oldest runestone
- [Norway – Oslo – Krone](#) | [PM – Jonas Gahr Store](#)

**20.** A team of Indian scientists have found the first evidence of the presence of solitary waves around Mars. These solitary waves are distinct electric field fluctuations in the Martian magnetosphere that control particle energization, plasma loss, and transport through wave-particle interactions. Researchers from the Indian Institute of Geomagnetism (IIG) identified and reported the solitary waves in the Martian magnetosphere with the help of high-resolution electric field data recorded by Langmuir Probe and Waves instrument on NASA's Mars Atmosphere and Volatile Evolution (MAVEN) spacecraft. The findings have been published in The Astrophysical Journal. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Researchers from IIG (India) – discovered the first evidence of the presence of solitary waves around Mars
- The data was recorded by – “Mars Atmosphere and Volatile Evolution (MAVEN)” spacecraft of NASA
- [HQs of NASA – Washington D.C., US](#) | [Administrator – Bill Nelson](#) | [Founded in – 1958](#)

**21.** On January 19, a rare low-altitude basalt plateau, housing 76 species of plants and shrubs from 24 different families, has been discovered in Manjare village, Thane district in the Western Ghats, Maharashtra. This is the fourth type of plateau to be identified in the region. The Western Ghats is one of the four global biodiversity hotspots in India. This new plateau type could prove to be a repository of information to study climate change effects on species survival. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- A rare low-altitude basalt plateau – discovered in Manjare village, Thane district, Maharashtra (Western Ghats region)
- This is the 4<sup>th</sup> type of plateau to be identified in the region (with 76 species of plants & 24 different families of shrubs)
- [Maharashtra: CM – Eknath Shinde](#) | [Governor – Ramesh Bais](#)

**22.** On January 20, IIT Madras-incubated firm, JandK Operations Private Limited (JandKops), has developed an indigenous mobile operating system called 'BharOS' that can benefit India's 100 Crore mobile phone users. This software can be installed on commercial off-the-shelf handsets and provides a secure environment for users. JandKops has been incubated by IIT Madras and Pravartak Technologies Foundation. BharOS Services are currently being provided to organisations that have stringent privacy and security requirements. BharOS offers 'Native Over The Air' (NOTA) updates that can help to keep the devices secure. BharOS provides access to trusted apps from organisation-specific Private App Store Services (PASS). [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- JandK Operations (IIT Madras) – developed an indigenous mobile operating system called 'BharOS'
- BharOS offers 'Native Over The Air' (NOTA) updates | BharOS provides access to trusted apps from 'PASS'
- [Director of IIT Madras – V. Kamakoti](#)

**23.** On January 19, a rare orange-coloured bat, also known as 'Painted Bat', was spotted at in Parali Bodal village of Chhattisgarh's Kanger Valley National Park. Its scientific name is 'Kerivoula Picta'. The national park is famous for its limestone caves, which also provide a suitable habitat for the bats. There are about 131 species of bats in the country, of which 31 are found in central India. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- 'Kerivoula Picta', a rare orange-coloured bat ('Painted Bat') – spotted in Kanger Valley National Park, Chhattisgarh
- Chhattisgarh: Capital – Raipur | CM – Bhupesh Baghel | Governor – Biswa Bhusan Harichandan

**24.** On January 19, Geotail, the first joint mission between NASA and Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA), retired after the failure of the spacecraft's remaining data recorder. Launched in 1992, the spacecraft spent 30 years in orbit studying the dynamics of the Earth's magnetotail over a wide range of distances. Geotail was initially planned to last four years, yet it was extended several times because of the vast amount of valuable data it provided, which contributed to over a thousand scientific publications. The mission achieved a number of scientific advances, such as determining the speed at which material from the Sun enters the magnetosphere, exploring the physical processes occurring at the magnetosphere's edge, and detecting oxygen, silicon, sodium, and aluminum in the lunar atmosphere. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- NASA – retired a 30-year-old Geotail spacecraft after data recorder's failure (Launched in - 1992)
- It was the first joint mission between NASA & JAXA
- HQs of NASA – Washington D.C., US | Administrator – Bill Nelson | Founded in – 1958
- HQs of JAXA – Tokyo, Japan | President – Yamakawa Hiroshi

**25.** On January 21, to explore the moons of Jupiter, European Union announced to launch its "JUICE" (Jupiter Icy Moons Explorer) Spacecraft in April 2023. The spacecraft is developed by the European Space Agency with Airbus Defence and Space as the main contractor. The final testing of Juice satellite will take place in Toulouse in France. Subsequently, the satellite will be shipped to South America. The spacecraft will make a series of flybys of Jupiter's planet-sized moons - Callisto, Ganymede and Europa. The objective is to ascertain whether Callisto, Ganymede and Europa are habitable or not. Juice satellite will undertake a journey of 6.6 billion kilometre that will last 8.5 years. It will reach Jupiter in July, 2031. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- EU – to launch its "JUICE" (Jupiter Icy Moons Explorer) Spacecraft in April 2023 to explore the moons of Jupiter
- The objective is to ascertain whether Jupiter's moon - Callisto, Ganymede and Europa are habitable or not
- The spacecraft is developed by = European Space Agency + Airbus Defence & Space
- HQs of EU – Brussels, Belgium | Member Countries – 27
- President of European Parliament – Roberta Metsola
- President of European Council – Charles Michel
- President of European Commission – Ursula von der Leyen

**26.** On January 22, the United States and Israel signed an agreement that would see NASA contributing to an upcoming Israeli astrophysics mission called "ULTRASAT". The Ultrasat is under development by Israel's Weizmann Institute of Science with support from the Israel Space Agency and German research center DESY. Ultrasat has a three-year prime mission. The spacecraft is scheduled for a launch in the first quarter of 2026. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- US + Israel = an agreement for the upcoming Israeli astrophysics mission called “ULTRASAT” (to be launched in 2026)
- ‘ULTRASAT’ is being built by = Weizmann Institute of Science (Israel) + DESY (Germany)
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46<sup>th</sup> President – Joe Biden | 49<sup>th</sup> VP – Kamala Harris
- Israel – Jerusalem – Israeli Shekel | President – Isaac Herzog | PM – Benjamin Netanyahu

**27.** On January 26, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare, unveiled the ‘iNNOVACC’, the world’s first intranasal COVID19 vaccine. It is developed by Bharat Biotech International Limited (BBIL) in collaboration with Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance (BIRAC), a PSU under the Dept of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology. Over 65% of vaccines supplied in the world are from India. ZyCoV-D, the world’s first and India’s indigenously developed DNA based vaccine for Covid-19 to be administered in humans including children and adults 12 years and above, was also developed in partnership with the Department of Biotechnology under ‘Mission Covid Suraksha’ through BIRAC. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- Mansukh Mandaviya – unveiled the ‘iNNOVACC’, the world’s first intranasal COVID19 vaccine
- It is developed by = Bharat Biotech + BIRAC
- ‘ZyCoV-D’ – the world’s first and India’s indigenously developed DNA based vaccine for Covid-19
- ‘ZyCoV-D’ is developed by = Zydus Lifesciences Ltd + DBT-BIRAC

**28.** On January 28, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) announced its plan to launch the ‘Aditya-L1’ mission by June or July this year. Aditya-L1 is the first Indian space mission to observe the Sun and the solar corona. Aditya-L1 mission will be launched by ISRO to the L1 orbit (the first Lagrangian point of the Sun-Earth system). In total Aditya-L1 has 7 payloads, of which the primary payload is the Visible Emission Line Coronagraph (VELC), designed & fabricated by the Indian Institute of Astrophysics, Bengaluru. The other 6 payloads are being developed by ISRO and other scientific institutions. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- ISRO – to launch the ‘Aditya-L1’ mission by June or July, 2023
- Aditya-L1 is the first Indian space mission to observe the Sun and the solar corona (Aditya-L1 has total 7 payloads)
- HQs of ISRO – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Director – S. Somanath | Formed on – August 15, 1969

**29.** On January 25, NASA and the United States Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) announced a collaboration for the “DRACO (Demonstration Rocket for Agile Cislunar Operations) Project”. They aim to develop and demonstrate a working thermonuclear rocket engine by 2027. With the help of this new technology, astronauts could journey to and from deep space faster than ever. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- NASA + DARPA = collaboration for the “DRACO (Demonstration Rocket for Agile Cislunar Operations) Project”
- HQs of NASA – Washington D.C., US | Administrator – Bill Nelson | Founded in – 1958

**30.** On January 24, Microsoft announced to invest \$10 billion in OpenAI, a San Francisco-based artificial intelligence lab behind an AI-powered chatbot, ChatGPT. ChatGPT (Chat Generative Pre-trained Transformer) is a chatbot developed by OpenAI and launched in November 2022. Microsoft had already invested more than \$3 billion in OpenAI. OpenAI was created in 2015. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Microsoft – announced to invest \$10 billion in OpenAI
- ChatGPT (Chat **G**enerative **P**re-trained **T**ransformer) – developed by OpenAI
- HQs of OpenAI – San Francisco, US | CEO – Sam Altman | Created in – 2015

**31.** On January 26, a first-of-its kind unique 13<sup>th</sup>-century unpublished hero stone inscription and sculpture of the Hoysala period was discovered in Mysuru, Karnataka by a team from the Centre of Excellence for Studies in Classical Kannada (CESCK) of Central Institute of Indian Languages. The hero stone, said to be of the time of Veeraballala II of the Hoysalas, has sculptural panels in three tiers and two panels in the middle containing inscriptional texts. The hero stone's estampages were taken and after studying, it was found that Daasara Shettihalli (current day Chakashettyhalli) was an important administrative centre during the Hoysala period. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- A first-of-its kind unique 13<sup>th</sup>-century unpublished hero stone inscription & sculpture of the Hoysala period – discovered in Mysuru, Karnataka
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – Basavaraj Bommai | Governor – Thawarchand Gehlot

**32.** On January 25, a swallowtail butterfly, 'Noble's Helen' (Papilio noblei), disappearing from its previously known ranges from Myanmar and southern China to Vietnam, has been recorded for the first time in India. Three butterfly enthusiasts - Atanu Bose, Loren Sonowal and Monsoon Jyoti Gogoi, recorded this rare butterfly from 3 locations in the Namdapha National Park of Arunachal Pradesh. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- 'Noble's Helen' (Papilio noblei), a rare swallowtail butterfly – recorded in Namdapha National Park, Arunachal Pradesh
- Arunachal Pradesh: Capital – Itanagar | CM – Pema Khandu | Governor – Lt. Gen. Kaiwalya Trivikram Parnaik

**33.** On January 30, Society for Applied Microwave Electronics Engineering & Research (SAMEER), India's premier R&D Institute of Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY), signed an MoU with Siemens Healthineers to contribute towards the development of new, improved and innovative technologies for advancing healthcare and diagnostic access in India. It will make available low-cost Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) Technology as part of the Prime Minister's vision of providing quality, and affordable healthcare and diagnostic access for every Indian. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- SAMEER + Siemens Healthineers = an MoU for advancing healthcare & diagnostic access and to develop low-cost MRIs
- HQs of SAMEER – Mumbai, Maharashtra | DG – P. Hanumantha Rao (India's R&D Institute of MeitY)
- HQs of Siemens Healthineers – Erlangen, Germany | CEO – Bernd Montag

**34.** On January 31, Electronics and Radar Development Establishment (LRDE), a Bengaluru-based lab of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), developed an Unfurlable Reflector Antenna (UFRA), a major subsystem for a space radar. UFRA system consists of a rim truss-based deployable mechanism, primary arm, reflector mesh, tension ties, nets, and motor. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- LRDE-DRDO (Bengaluru) – developed an ‘UnFurlable Reflector Antenna (UFRA)’, a major subsystem for a space radar
- HQs of DRDO – New Delhi | Chairman – Samir V. Kamat | Established in – 1958

**35.** On January 30, Eminent Air, a drone start-up, showcased its first-ever, one-of-its-kind drone, a parachute integrated system as part of an event to mark its inaugural flight. It can cover a maximum distance of over 60 kms in about 60 mins in a single mission. It provides environmentally friendly transportation options with no carbon footprint. The payload compartment of the drone is equipped with an ‘Insulated Vaccine Carrier’ that keeps temperature-sensitive items like vaccines and medicines, safe. Eminent Air specializes in providing safe and reliable transportation solutions for making the fastest, most efficient contact-free deliveries. Eminent Air was founded with the vision to leverage and operate Drone Technology in accordance with Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s vision of Gati Shakti and Atmanirbhar Bharat leaving zero carbon footprint. Eminent Air specialises in ‘On Demand Logistics’ through the medium of Drones. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Eminent Air – showcased its first-ever, one-of-its-kind drone, a parachute integrated system
- It provides environmentally friendly transportation options with no carbon footprint
- HQs of Eminent Air – New Delhi | Founder & CEO – Priyank Varshney



# Appointments & Resignations

1. Mikey Hothi of Indian origin unanimously elected as the mayor of Lodi city in northern California, becoming the first Sikh to hold the top position in the city's history. He represents the council's fifth district and served as vice mayor this past year. He sworn in as the 117<sup>th</sup> Mayor of the City of Lodi. [{Read more}](#)



## Smart Points:

- Mikey Hothi (Indian Origin) – first Sikh elected as the mayor of Lodi city in northern California, US
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46<sup>th</sup> President – Joe Biden | 49<sup>th</sup> VP – Kamala Harris

2. On January 1, CRPF Director General (DG) Sujoy Lal Thaosen has been given the additional charge as Border Security Force (BSF) Director General following the retirement of incumbent Pankaj Kumar Singh on December 31. Pankaj Kumar Singh's BSF appointment last year had created a history where a son and father held the top post of a paramilitary force in the country. His father, Prakash Singh, also headed the BSF as its DG from June, 1993 to January, 1994. Prakash Singh is considered an architect of police reforms in the country. [{Read more}](#)



## Smart Points:

- Sujoy Lal Thaosen (DG of CRPF) – is given the additional charge of DG of BSF (succeeding - Pankaj Kumar Singh)
- HQs of BSF – New Delhi | DG – Sujoy Lal Thaosen (addi.) | Established on – Dec 1, 1965 | Motto – “Duty Unto Death”

3. On January 2, Folk singer Maithili Thakur was appointed the state icon for Bihar by the Election Commission. She was recently selected for the Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar of the Sangeet Natak Akademi for her contribution to the folk music of Bihar for 2021. She has rendered traditional folk songs of Bihar in Maithili, Bhojpuri and Hindi. [{Read more}](#)



## Smart Points:

- Maithili Thakur – appointed as the state icon for Bihar by the Election Commission
- Bihar: Capital – Patna | CM – Nitish Kumar | Governor – Rajendra Vishwanath Arleka

4. On January 3, Mexico's Supreme Court elected Norma Pina Hernandez as the first female chief justice in its history. With 34 years of experience in the Federal Judiciary, Pina Hernandez was nominated to the Court at the end of 2015 by then President Enrique Pena Nieto. [{Read more}](#)



## Smart Points:

- Norma Pina Hernandez – elected as the first female chief justice of Mexico
- Mexico – Mexico City – Peso | President – Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador

5. On January 1, Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva took office for a third term as Brazil's President. He previously led Brazil from 2003 to 2010. He replaced Jair Bolsonaro. It was the first time since the end of Brazil's 1965-1985 military dictatorship that an incoming President does not receive the yellow-and-green sash from his predecessor. [{Read more}](#)



## Smart Points:

- Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva – elected as Brazil's President for the 3<sup>rd</sup> term (succeeding - Jair Bolsonaro)
- Brazil – Brasilia – Brazilian Real | President – Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva

6. On January 3, Telecom infrastructure company Indus Towers appointed Prachur Sah as managing director and chief executive officer of the company. The position had been vacant since the resignation of Bimal Dayal in July 2022. Prior to his appointment as MD and CEO of Indus Towers, Sah led the oil and gas vertical of Vedanta, Cairn. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Prachur Sah – appointed as MD & CEO of Indus Towers (succeeding - Bimal Dayal)
- HQs of Indus Towers – Gurgaon, Haryana | MD & CEO – Prachur Sah

7. On January 5, Prasanna Kumar Motupalli was appointed as Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of the state-run NLC India Ltd (NLCIL). The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved Motupalli's appointment till the date of his superannuation that is June 30, 2026. Motupalli, Executive Director of NTPC Ltd, is presently working as Managing Director in Gujarat State Electricity Corporation Limited on deputation basis. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Prasanna Kumar Motupalli – appointed as CMD of NLC India Ltd (NLCIL)
- HQs of NLC India Ltd – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | CMD – Prasanna Kumar Motupalli

8. On January 6, South Korean consumer electronics major LG electronics appointed Hong Ju Jeon as the Managing Director of its India business. Former MD of LG Electronics India Young Lak Kim has been promoted to the position of Executive Vice President and will be joining as Korea Sales & Marketing Head. Before this, Jeon was in charge of the Gulf region as subsidiary President of LG. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Hong Ju Jeon – appointed as MD of India business of South Korea-based LG electronics (succeeding - Lak Kim)
- South Korea – Seoul – Korean Republic won | President – Yoon Suk-yeol

9. On January 7, the BCCI announced the reappointment of Chetan Sharma as the chairman of five-member panel of senior men's selection committee. Shiv Sunder Das, Salil Ankola, Subroto Banerjee and S Sharath are the other members of the committee. The Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC) has 3 members which are Sulakshana Naik, Ashok Malhotra, and Jatin Paranjape. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Chetan Sharma – appointed as Chairman of BCCI's five-member panel of senior men's selection committee
- CAC comprises 3 members – Sulakshana Naik, Ashok Malhotra, & Jatin Paranjape
- HQs of BCCI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | President – Roger Binny | Secretary – Jay Shah | Founded in – 1928

10. On January 10, Justice Nongmeikapam Kotiswar Singh has been appointed as the acting Chief Justice of the Gauhati High Court, Assam. Justice Singh took over from January 12 after incumbent Chief Justice Rashmin Manharbhai Chhaya demitted office on January 11. In exercise of the power conferred by Article 223 of the Constitution of India, the President appointed Justice Nongmeikapam Kotiswar Singh. Judges of High Courts retire at the age of 62 while Supreme Court judges retire at the age of 65 years. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Justice Nongmeikapam Kotiswar Singh – appointed as the acting Chief Justice of the Gauhati High Court
- He took over from incumbent Chief Justice Rashmin Manharbhai Chhaya
- Retirement age: Chief Justices & Judges of HC – 62 years | Chief Justice of India & judges of the SC – 65 years



**11.** On January 9, Nutrition company Herbalife Nutrition India Private Limited partnered with international women's cricketer, Smriti Mandhana as a 'Nutrition Sponsor'. She is the fifth Indian athlete and the second cricketer to join the company including Virat Kohli, Mary Kom, Lakshya Sen, and Manika Batra. The size of the Indian sports industry was estimated to have surpassed ₹9,500 crore in 2021, according to a report. Currently, she is the vice-captain of the Indian women's national cricket team. Mandhana's performance on the field made her the first Indian women cricketer to be recognized as the ICC Women's ODI Cricketer of the Year in 2018. She also won the Rachael Heyhoe Flint Award in 2018, a feat she repeated in 2021. She was also the only Indian player to be named in the ICC Women's Team of the Year 2016. She was also honoured with the Arjuna Award in 2019. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Smriti Mandhana – signed as 'Nutrition Sponsor' of Herbalife Nutrition India Private Limited
- She is 5<sup>th</sup> Indian athlete & 2<sup>nd</sup> cricketer to join the company after – Virat Kohli, Mary Kom, Lakshya Sen & Manika Batra

**12.** On January 9, Gabon's President Ali Bongo appointed the country's first female Prime Minister Rose Christiane Ossouka Raponda to the role of Vice-President. Former Minister Alain-Claude Bilie By Nze replaced Ossouka Raponda and has been appointed as the Prime Minister of the country. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Rose Christiane Ossouka Raponda – appointed as Vice-President of Gabon
- Alain-Claude Bilie By Nze – appointed as Prime Minister of Gabon
- [Gabon – Libreville – CFA franc](#) | [President – Ali Bongo Ondimba](#) | [PM – Alain-Claude Bilie By Nze](#)



**13.** On January 10, Rupinder Singh Sodhi, managing director of Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF), the owner of India's biggest dairy brand Amul, has stepped down with immediate effect. Chief operating officer Jayen Mehta has been named interim managing director. Under his leadership, GCMMF's turnover surged from Rs 9,774.2 Cr in 2010-11 to Rs 46,481 crore in 2021-22. For more than three decades, Sodhi worked under the direct guidance of Verghese Kurien, the father of the White Revolution. So far, Amul has launched more than 100 products across dairy and non-dairy categories since Covid. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Rupinder Singh Sodhi – stepped down as MD of Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF)
- Jayen Mehta – named as interim MD of GCMMF (GCMMF is owner of India's biggest dairy brand 'Amul')
- [HQs of AMUL/GCMMF – Anand, Gujarat](#) | [MD – Jayen Mehta \(interim\)](#) | [Established in – 1946](#)



**14.** On January 9, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet, headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved Michael Debabrata Patra's re-appointment as the RBI's deputy governor for a further period of one year with effect from January 15. Patra's three-year tenure was coming to an end on January 14. Patra looks after the monetary policy department as the deputy governor of the central bank and also as a member of the rate-setting Monetary Policy Committee. The six-member Monetary Policy Committee is headed by RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das. Besides the governor, the RBI has four deputy governors. The three other deputy governors of the bank are M K Jain, M Rajeshwar Rao and T Rabi Sankar. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- Michael D Patra – re-appointment as the RBI’s deputy governor for a further period of one year
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established on – 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1935
- Total Deputy Governors (4) – Mahesh Kumar Jain | T. Rabi Sankar | Michael D. Patra | M. Rajeshwar Rao

**15.** On January 9, Anurag Kumar was appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director of Electronics Corporation of India Limited (ECIL). Kumar is at present ECIL’s Executive Director. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved Kumar’s appointment to the post till the date of his superannuation in January, 2026. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- Anurag Kumar – appointed as Chairman & MD of Electronics Corporation of India Limited (ECIL)
- HQs of ECIL – Hyderabad, Telangana | Chairman & MD – Anurag Kumar

**16.** On January 12, A. Santhi Kumari took charge as the new Chief Secretary of Telangana. Santhi Kumari is the first woman Chief Secretary of Telangana. She has held several important posts, including Special Chief Secretary in forest department. She replaced Somesh Kumar. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- A. Santhi Kumari – became the 1<sup>st</sup> woman to be appointed as Chief Secretary of Telangana (replacing - Somesh Kumar)
- Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad | CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao | Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan

**17.** On January 13, IT giant Cognizant has announced Ravi Kumar, former President of Infosys, as its new Chief Executive Officer, replacing the outgoing Brian Humphries, effective immediately. Mr. Kumar was the president and COO of Infosys until October 2022. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- Ravi Kumar – appointed as new CEO of Cognizant (replacing - Brian Humphries)
- HQs of Cognizant – New Jersey, US | CEO – Ravi Kumar

**18.** On January 3, Indian-American, AC Charania, an aerospace industry expert has been appointed as NASA’s new chief technologist to serve as principal advisor to Administrator Bill Nelson on technology policy and programmes at the space agency’s headquarters. He replaced another Indian-American scientist Bhavya Lal. His previous experience also includes working at Blue Origin to mature its lunar permanence strategy, Blue Moon lunar lander program, and multiple technology initiatives with NASA. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- AC Charania (Indian-American) – appointed as NASA’s new chief technologist (replaced - Bhavya Lal)
- HQs of NASA – Washington D.C., US | Administrator – Bill Nelson | Founded in – 1958

**19.** On January 17, Nilakshi Sinha has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Armenia. She is presently Joint Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs. M. Sridharan, presently Joint Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Azerbaijan. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- Nilakshi Sinha – appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Armenia
- M. Sridharan – appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Azerbaijan
- Armenia – Yerevan – Dram | PM – Nikol Pashinyan | President – Vahagn Khachaturyan
- Azerbaijan – Baku – Manat | PM – Ali Asadov | President – Ilham Aliyev

**20.** On January 18, Retired Director General of the Border Security Force (BSF) Pankaj Kumar Singh has been appointed as the Deputy National Security Adviser in National Security Council (NSC) Secretariat for a period of two years. Singh retired as the BSF chief on December 31, 2022. Singh, a 1988-batch Indian Police Service officer of the Rajasthan cadre, has been appointed on a re-employment contract. The NSC is headed by the Prime Minister and the NSA is its Secretary. The headquarters of NSC is in New Delhi and the current NSA is Ajit Doval. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- Pankaj Kumar Singh – appointed as the Deputy National Security Adviser in NSC Secretariat for 2 years
- HQs of NSC – New Delhi | NSA – Ajit Doval | Deputy NSA – Pankaj Kumar Singh

**21.** On January 17, India has taken over the Presidency of the 13<sup>th</sup> assembly of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), an intergovernmental organisation mandated to facilitate cooperation, advance knowledge, and promote the adoption and sustainable use of renewable energy. A 14-member delegation from the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) participated in the 13<sup>th</sup> session of the IRENA Assembly from January 13 to 15 in Abu Dhabi, UAE. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- India – took over the Presidency of the 13<sup>th</sup> assembly of the IRENA
- A 14-member delegation from the CII participated in the 13<sup>th</sup> session of the IRENA Assembly – in Abu Dhabi, UAE
- HQs of IRENA – Abu Dhabi, UAE | DG – Francesco La Camera | Members – 168 countries

**22.** On January 14, Rakesh Kumar Jain has taken over as the chairman of Indraprastha Gas Ltd, the firm that retails CNG to automobiles and piped natural gas to household kitchens in the national capital region and neighbouring towns. IGL is a joint venture of GAIL and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL), and they hold 22.5% stake each. The two firms appoint directors on the board and rotate chairmanship among themselves. Rakesh Kumar Jain is Director (Finance) at state gas utility GAIL (India) Ltd. Jain replaced Sukhmal Kumar Jain, Director (Marketing) of BPCL. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- Rakesh Kumar Jain – took over as the chairman of Indraprastha Gas Ltd (succeeding - Sukhmal Kumar Jain)
- IGL is a JV between = GAIL + BPCL (hold 22.5% stake each)
- HQs of IGL – New Delhi | Chairman – Rakesh Kumar Jain | Founded – 1998

**23.** On January 13, Indian American Democratic Party politician Usha Reddi was sworn in as State Senator for District 22 in Kansas state of the US. She replaced longtime Manhattan Senator Tom Hawk who last month announced retirement from the Legislature. Reddi has served on the Manhattan City Commission since 2013 & served twice as mayor. Reddi will complete the remainder of Senator Hawk's term, which expires in 2025. Reddi's family immigrated from India to the US in 1973. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- Usha Reddi (Indian American) – sworn in as State Senator for District 22 in Kansas state of US (succeeding - Tom Hawk)
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46<sup>th</sup> President – Joe Biden | 49<sup>th</sup> VP – Kamala Harris

**24.** On January 19, the UN General Assembly (UNGA) elected Inger Andersen of Denmark to a second four-year term as Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) until June 14, 2027. The assembly defeated the Russian proposal by a vote of 13-77 with 62 abstentions. Before taking the helm of UNEP in June 2019, Andersen was director general of the International Union for Conservation of Nature for 4 years. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- Inger Andersen (Denmark) – re-elected as Executive Director of UNEP (2<sup>nd</sup> term of 4 years)
- HQs of UNEP – Nairobi, Kenya | Executive Director – Inger Andersen | Founded in – 1972

**25.** On January 19, Energy Efficiency Services Ltd's (EESL) CEO Vishal Kapoor has taken over the additional charge as the CEO of Convergence Energy Services Limited (CESL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of EESL. CESL MD & CEO Mahua Acharya resigned from the top post on 1 December 2022. National Electric Bus Program (NEBP) has a target to deploy 50,000 e-buses across the country. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- Vishal Kapoor – took over the additional charge as the CEO of Convergence Energy Services Limited (CESL)
- HQs of CESL – New Delhi | CEO – Vishal Kapoor (addi. charge) | CESL – a subsidiary of EESL

**26.** On January 18, Vietnam's President Nguyen Xuan Phuc announced his resignation amid the ongoing anti-corruption drive. Phuc, a former prime minister, held the post of president since 2021. The anti-corruption drive has led to several ministers being fired in Vietnam. Earlier, two deputy prime ministers who served under President Phuc had quit. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- Nguyen Xuan Phuc – announced his resignation from the post of President of Vietnam
- Vietnam – Hanoi – Vietnamese dong | PM – Pham Minh Chinh

**27.** On January 20, New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern announced to step down from her position. Her decision was taken on completing two terms as prime minister. She joined the New Zealand Labour Party at the age of 18 and entered Parliament in 2008. One of the youngest world leaders, Jacinda Ardern was often seen as a star proponent of the centre-left ideology. The country is set to go to polls on October 14, 2023. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- Jacinda Ardern – Prime Minister of New Zealand – resigned from her post
- New Zealand – Wellington – Dollar (NZD)

**28.** On January 19, the Union government approved the appointment of Praveen Sharma, a 2005 batch officer from Indian Defence Service of Engineers (IDSE), as Director in the National Health Authority (Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission). The government has cleared the appointment of Sharma under the 'Central Staffing Scheme' for a period of 5 years. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- Praveen Sharma – appointed as Director in the National Health Authority (Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission)

**29.** On January 16, Ministry of External Affairs announced that Sibi George has been named as the next Indian ambassador to the Republic of Marshall Islands, with residence in Tokyo, on a concurrent basis. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- Sibi George – named as the next Indian ambassador to the Republic of Marshall Islands
- Marshall Islands – Majuro, Delap-Uliga-Djarrit – US Dollar | President – David Kabua

**30.** On January 25, after the unexpected resignation of ex-PM, Jacinda Ardern, Education Minister Chris Hipkins of Labour Party was officially appointed as the 41<sup>st</sup> Prime Minister of New Zealand. Chris Hipkins was sworn in by New Zealand's Governor-General, Cindy Kiro. New Zealand's head-of-state is Britain's King Charles III. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- Chris Hipkins – appointed as the 41<sup>st</sup> Prime Minister of New Zealand
- New Zealand – Wellington – Dollar (NZD) | PM – Chris Hipkins

**31.** On January 21, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) approved the appointment of Vikram Dev Dutt as the next Director General of the Directorate of General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). He will take over as the head of the aviation regulator on February 28, 2023. He will be succeeding the incumbent DGCA chief Arun Kumar. Kumar, a 1989-batch IAS officer, was leading the DGCA as its director general since July 2019. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- Vikram Dev Dutt – appointed as the next Director General of the Directorate of General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)
- HQs of DGCA – New Delhi | Director General – Arun Kumar (From Feb 28 - Vikram Dev Dutt)

**32.** On January 24, the government has extended the tenure of Sangeeta Verma as the acting Chairperson of the Competition Commission of India (CCI). Ms. Verma has been the acting Chairperson of the anti-trust regulator since October 2022 after Ashok Kumar Gupta demitted office as the full-time Chairperson. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- Sangeeta Verma – tenure extended as the acting Chairperson of the Competition Commission of India
- HQs of CCI – New Delhi | Chairperson – Sangeeta Verma | Established in – 2003

**33.** On January 21, Justice Sabina, the senior-most judge of the Himachal Pradesh High Court, was appointed its acting Chief Justice. She assumed charge on January 21 following the retirement of Justice Amjad Ahtesham Sayed, Chief Justice of the Himachal Pradesh High Court. Justice Sayed demits office on attaining the age of 62 years. In exercise of the power conferred by 'Article 223' of the Constitution of India, the President appoints the Chief Justice of any High Court. This is Justice Sabina's second term as an acting Chief Justice of the Himachal Pradesh HC. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- Justice Sabina – appointed as acting Chief Justice of Himachal Pradesh High Court (succeeding - Amjad Ahtesham Sayed)
- Retirement age: Chief Justices & Judges of HC – 62 years | Chief Justice of India & judges of the SC – 65 years



**34.** On January 25, Professor Bharat Bhasker was appointed as the Director of the Indian Institute of Ahmedabad (IIMA). Professor Bhasker, who currently holds the position of Professor of Information Technology and Systems at IIM Lucknow, will take charge as IIMA director on March 1, 2023. In the interim, the Board of Governors has appointed Prof Arindam Banerjee as the director-in-charge from February 1 to 28, 2023. The term of the incumbent director, Prof Errol D'Souza, ends on January 31, 2023. Professor Bhasker had served as the Director of IIM Raipur from March 2017 to March 2022. Pankaj R Patel is the Chairperson of IIM Ahmedabad Board of Governors. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Professor Bharat Bhasker – appointed as the Director of IIM Ahmedabad (effective from March 1, 2023)
- Mr. Bhasker replaces incumbent director – Prof Errol D'Souza
- [Director of IIM Ahmedabad – Professor Bharat Bhasker](#)

**35.** On January 26, Naresh Lalwani has taken over as the new General Manager of Central Railway. He is a senior officer of the Indian Railway Engineering Service of 1985 batch. Before taking over as General Manager, Central Railway, he was working as Senior Deputy General Manager and Chief Vigilance Officer of Western Railway. He succeeds Ashok Kumar Misra. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Naresh Lalwani – took over as the new General Manager of Central Railway
- [HQs of Central Railway – Mumbai, Maharashtra | GM – Naresh Lalwani](#)

**36.** On January 24, Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF) that markets milk and dairy products under the Amul brand announced the appointment of Shamalbhai B Patel as its chairman and Valamjibhai Humbal as vice chairman. GCMMF is made up of 18 member unions covering 33 districts. GCMMF is India's largest food products organization with annual sales turnover of ₹46,481 crores during last financial year. It markets a wide range of milk and milk products under the brand name Amul. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Shamalbhai B. Patel – appointed as the Chairman of GCMMF (Amul)
- Valamjibhai Humbal – appointed as Vice Chairman of GCMMF (Amul)
- GCMMF is India's largest food products organization with annual sales turnover of ₹46,481 Cr in FY22
- [HQs of AMUL/GCMMF – Anand, Gujarat | MD – Jayen Mehta \(interim\) | Chairman – Shamalbhai B. Patel](#)

**37.** On January 24, American Express Banking Corp (AEBC) announced the appointment of Anurag Gupta as the Vice President (VP) and Head of Global Merchant & Network Services in India, bringing both the acquiring and the network cards issuance teams under one leader. In his new role, Anurag will be responsible for expanding the Amex merchant coverage and the network that issues American Express Cards via bank partnerships in India. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Anurag Gupta – appointed as Vice President (VP) & India Head of American Express Banking Corp (AEBC)
- [HQs of American Express – New York, US | CEO – Stephen Squeri](#)



**38.** On January 20, India was elected as Vice-Chair in the 12<sup>th</sup> Session of the FAO's Intergovernmental Technical Working Group (ITWG) on Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, held at FAO headquarters in Rome during 18-20 January 2023. Dr B. N. Tripathi, the National Coordinator from India, was elected as Vice-Chair and also as Rapporteur of the 12<sup>th</sup> Session of ITWG and represented Asia & Pacific region. The US was the Chair of the 12<sup>th</sup> session. ITWG of Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has been established by the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA) at its 7<sup>th</sup> Session in May 1997. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

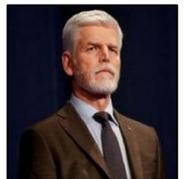
- India – elected as Vice-Chair in the 12<sup>th</sup> Session of the FAO's Intergovernmental Technical Working Group (ITWG) on Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture – held in Rome, Italy
- Dr B. N. Tripathi, the National Coordinator from India – was elected as Vice-Chair | Chair – USA
- HQs of FAO – Rome, Italy | DG – QU Dongyu | Formation – 16<sup>th</sup> October, 1945

**39.** On January 24, Tata Trusts, one of the country's oldest public charitable foundations, appointed Siddharth Sharma as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Trusts and Aparna Uppaluri as the Chief Operating Officer (COO). Their appointment will come into effect from 1 April, 2023. Tata Trusts, which holds 66% stake in Tata Sons. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Siddharth Sharma – appointed as the CEO of Tata Trusts (effective from 1 April, 2023)

**40.** On January 26, Petr Pavel, a former Chairman of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) military committee, has become the new President of the Czech Republic. Pavel, 61, defeated billionaire Andrej Babis in a run-off vote to replace controversial President Milos Zeman. A former military general, Pavel got more than 58% of the vote, according to the Czech Statistics Office. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Petr Pavel – elected as the new President of the Czech Republic
- Czech Republic – Prague – Koruna | President – Petr Pavel

**41.** On January 27, Indian-American astronaut Raja J. Chari has been nominated by President Joe Biden for the appointment to the grade of Air Force brigadier general. Mr. Chari is currently serving as the Crew-3 commander and astronaut, the NASA, Johnson Space Center, Texas. In 2020, Mr. Chari was selected as the Commander of the SpaceX Crew-3 mission to the International Space Station (ISS) by NASA and the ESA. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Raja J. Chari (Indian-American) – nominated by US President for the appointment as Air Force Brigadier General, US
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46<sup>th</sup> President – Joe Biden | 49<sup>th</sup> VP – Kamala Harris

**42.** On January 26, the Academy of Letters of Brazil (ALB) in a Plenary Session held on January 19, 2023, ratified the election of poet-diplomat Abhay Kumar as a foreign corresponding member of the Academy. During his diplomatic mission in Brazil as India's Deputy Ambassador (2016-2019), he organized the monthly literary event Chai com Letras (Tea with Letters). Abhay K also edited and translated "New Brazilian poems - A bilingual anthology after Elizabeth Bishop" (Ibis Libris 2019), which presents the work of 60 Brazilian poets in English translation. His edited volume 100 Great Indian Poems was translated into Portuguese and was published by the University of Sao Paulo as 100 Grandes Poemas da India. Abhay K received SAARC Literary Award in 2013 for his contributions to South Asian Poetry. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- Abhay Kumar (Indian Poet Diplomat) – elected as corresponding member of Academy of Letters of Brazil
- Brazil – Brasilia – Brazilian Real | President – Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva

**43.** On January 31, Air Marshal Amar Preet Singh is appointed as the new Vice Chief of the Indian Air Force (IAF), succeeding incumbent Air Marshal Sandeep Singh. AP Singh was awarded the 'Ati Vishisht Seva Medal' by the President of India on Republic Day in 2019 for his 'distinguished' services. Before taking charge of the prestigious Central Air Command (CAC), he was a Senior Air Staff Officer at the Eastern Air Command. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- Air Marshal Amar Preet Singh – appointed as the new Vice Chief of the IAF (succeeding - Air Marshal Sandeep Singh)
- HQs of IAF – New Delhi | Chief – Air Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari | Vice Chief – Air Marshal Amar Preet Singh

**44.** On January 30, Puma announced Indian women's cricket team captain Harmanpreet Kaur as its latest brand ambassador in a commitment to back women in the sports ecosystem. As part of the partnership terms, Kaur will endorse the brand's footwear, apparel and accessories through multiple activities and campaigns throughout the year. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- Harmanpreet Kaur – appointed as the brand ambassador of Puma
- HQs of Puma – Herzogenaurach, Germany | CEO – Arne Freundt

**45.** On January 28, IPS officer Gyanendra Pratap Singh, a 1991-batch Assam-Meghalaya cadre officer, is appointed as the next Director General of Police (DGP) of Assam. Mr. Singh, currently a special DGP in the State Police Force, took over from Bhaskar Jyoti Mahanta. He was serving as the NIA's IGP in New Delhi before being rushed back to the State. He was also a part of the Special Protection Group (SPG) earlier. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- Gyanendra Pratap Singh – appointed as the next DGP of Assam
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Himanta Biswa Sarma | Governor – Gulab Chand Kataria

**46.** On January 31, Unilever announced the appointment of Hein Schumacher as its new Chief Executive Officer (CEO), following an extensive, global search process. Hein will replace Alan Jope. Hein is currently CEO of the global dairy and nutrition business Royal FrieslandCampina and became a Non-Executive Director of Unilever in October last year. He will begin as Unilever CEO on 1 July 2023. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- Hein Schumacher – appointed as CEO of Unilever (replacing - Alan Jope)
- HQs of Unilever Plc – London, UK | CEO – Alan Jope (From July'23 – Hein Schumacher)

**47.** On January 30, Morgan Stanley named Arun Kohli as the new India head to replace Sanjay Shah, a veteran of 26 years at the firm. Kohli, currently the chief operating officer for EMEA, will head the US bank's business in the country. The Wall Street bank had been operating in India for 29 years and provides a variety of services from investment banking, fixed income, commodities and derivative products. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Arun Kohli – named as India Head of Morgan Stanley (replacing - Sanjay Shah)
- HQs of Morgan Stanley – New York, US | CEO – James P. Gorman

**48.** On January 30, Gujarat Ports Infrastructure Company Limited appointed Madhvendra Singh as the first Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Gujarat Maritime Cluster. The Gujarat Maritime Cluster (GMC) is the first of its kind Commercial Maritime Cluster in the country aimed at creating a hub for maritime services of international standards. The GMC intends to host a wide array of maritime, shipping and logistics services providers in GIFT City at Gandhinagar. Gujarat Maritime Board established GMC through its subsidiary, Gujarat Ports Infrastructure Company Limited. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Madhvendra Singh – appointed as the first CEO of Gujarat Maritime Cluster
- GMC – established by Gujarat Ports Infrastructure Company Limited (subsidiary of Gujarat Maritime Board)
- Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Bhupendra Patel | Governor – Acharya Dev Vrat



# Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

1. The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) released the names of the players who have been Team India's best performers in all three formats of the game. In Tests, BCCI acknowledged Rishabh Pant as top batter and Jasprit Bumrah as top bowler. In the One Day International (ODI) format, Shreyas Iyer was adjudged the best batter while Mohammed Siraj was the best bowler. Suryakumar Yadav was adjudged the best batter in T20 format, and Bhuvneshwar Kumar was the best bowler. [{Read more}](#)



## Smart Points:

- 'Team India: 2022 Best Performers' in all 3 formats of Cricket:
  - Tests: Batter – Rishabh Pant | Bowler – Jasprit Bumrah
  - ODI: Batter – Shreyas Iyer | Bowler – Mohammed Siraj
  - T20: Batter – Suryakumar Yadav | Bowler – Bhuvneshwar Kumar
- HQs of BCCI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | President – Roger Binny | Secretary – Jay Shah | Founded in – 1928

2. On January 1, Guyana's President Mohamed Irfaan Ali is among 21 recipients of the 17<sup>th</sup> Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award (PBSA). Other recipients include US-based businessman Darshan Singh Dhaliwal, and DBS Bank CEO Piyush Gupta. Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award is the highest honour conferred on overseas Indians during the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention, which was held between January 8-10, 2022 in Indore. Irfaan Ali was also be the chief guest at the convention. [{Read more}](#)



## Smart Points:

- Irfaan Ali (Guyana's President) – is among 21 recipients of the 17<sup>th</sup> Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award (PBSA)
- 17<sup>th</sup> Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention – held in Indore, Madhya Pradesh
- Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel

3. On January 4, the Assam government announced to confer the highest state civilian award 'Assam Baibhav' on Mumbai-based medical practitioner Dr Tapan Saikia for his contribution towards cancer treatment. Krishna Roy for art and culture, Gilbert Sangma and Nayanmoni Saikia for sports, Dr Binoy Kumar Saikia for science and Dr Sashidhar Phukan for healthcare and public service will receive the 'Assam Saurav' award. A total of 15 eminent personalities have been selected for conferring the 'Assam Gaurav' award this year. Moreover, the Assam Cabinet also approved the 'Assam City Gas Distribution Policy 2022' for promotion of city gas distribution network. [{Read more}](#)

## Smart Points:

- Assam government announced to confer the State Civilian Awards:
  - 'Assam Baibhav' award – to Dr Tapan Saikia
  - 'Assam Saurav' award – to Krishna Roy, Gilbert Sangma, Nayanmoni Saikia, Binoy Kumar Saikia, Sashidhar Phukan
  - 'Assam Gaurav' award – to 15 eminent personalities
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Himanta Biswa Sarma | Governor – Gulab Chand Kataria

4. On January 4, Odisha won the UN-Habitat's "World Habitat Awards 2023" for Jaga Mission, a 5T initiative of the state. Jaga mission is the world's largest land titling and slum upgrading program which aims at empowering the lives of slum dwellers. In the last five years of the initiative, 1,75,000 families have been granted land tenure security. Odisha's Jaga mission had also received World Habitat Awards in 2019. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- Odisha – won the UN-Habitat’s “World Habitat Awards 2023” for ‘Jaga Mission’, a 5T initiative of the state
- ‘Jaga Mission’ – world’s largest land titling and slum upgrading program
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal

5. NMDC Ltd bagged the ‘Champion of Champions Award’ at the 16<sup>th</sup> PRCI Global Communication Conclave 2022, to bring home 14 Corporate Communication Excellence Awards. The awards were presented at the Global Communication Conclave organised by Public Relations Council of India (PRCI) in Kolkata, West Bengal. NMDC won Gold awards for Most Resilient Company of the Year; Internal Communication Campaign, Corporate Brochure; Best PSE Implementing CSR. It won Silver Awards in the categories of Best Use of CSR for Childcare; Corporate Community Impact; Best Corporate Event; Unique HR Initiatives; Annual Report; Arts, Culture & Sports Campaign and Bronze Awards for Visionary Leadership; Website of the Year; Innovative Environmental Program and Consolation Award for Best Use of Social Media. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- 16<sup>th</sup> “Global Communication Conclave 2022” in Kolkata – organised by Public Relations Council of India (PRCI)
- NMDC Ltd – won ‘Champion of Champions Award’, bringing home 14 Corporate Communication Excellence Awards
- HQs of NMDC – Hyderabad, Telangana | CMD – Sumit Deb | Founded on – November 15, 1958

6. On January 5, Indian Railways’ Varanasi Cantt Railway Station has been awarded a 5-star ‘Eat Right Station’ certification for providing high-quality, nutritious food to passengers. This certification is granted by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) to railway stations adhering to standard food storage and hygiene practices, and that set benchmarks in providing safe and wholesome food to passengers. The certification is part of the ‘Eat Right India’ movement - a large-scale effort by FSSAI to transform the country’s food system to ensure safe, healthy and sustainable food for all Indians. The other railway stations with Star certification include Kanpur central (UP), Prayagraj (UP), Gwalior (MP), Dabra (MP), Dabhaura (MP), Anand Vihar Terminal (Delhi), Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus (Mumbai); Mumbai Central (Mumbai), Vadodara, Chandigarh and Bhopal railway station. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- Varanasi Cantt Railway Station – awarded with 5-star ‘Eat Right Station’ certification by FSSAI
- The certification is part of the ‘Eat Right India’ movement
- HQs of FSSAI – New Delhi | Chairperson – Rita Teotia | CEO – Arun Singhal
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

7. On January 8, Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis conferred the first Dr Patangrao Kadam Memorial Award to CEO of Serum Institute of India, Adar Poonawalla for the contribution to fight against COVID. Patangrao Kadam was a leader who created 190 institutes to provide quality education and created quality human resource. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- Adar Poonawalla – conferred with the 1<sup>st</sup> “Dr Patangrao Kadam Memorial Award”
- Patangrao Kadam – a leader who created 190 institutes to provide quality education
- HQs of SII – Pune, Maharashtra | Chairman – Cyrus S. Poonawalla | CEO – Adar C. Poonawalla | Founded in – 1966



8. On January 8, Veteran actor-director Aparna Sen was honoured with the Lifetime Achievement Award at the opening ceremony of the 15<sup>th</sup> edition of the Jaipur International Film Festival. She has won total 9 National Film Awards. She received Padma Shri for Arts in 1987. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Aparna Sen – honoured with the Lifetime Achievement Award at the 15<sup>th</sup> Jaipur International Film Festival

9. On January 11, Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud was awarded the “Award for Global Leadership” by the Harvard Law School Center in recognition of his lifetime service to the legal profession in the country and around the world. Chandrachud obtained an LLM degree and a Doctorate in Juridical Sciences (SJD) from the Harvard Law School in the United States. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- CJI D. Y. Chandrachud – awarded with the “Award for Global Leadership” by Harvard Law School Center
- UK – London – Pound Sterling | PM – Rishi Sunak (57<sup>th</sup>) | New King – King Charles III

10. On January 11, Kerala government got recognition from the centre for its “Year of Enterprises” project which was selected as one of the best practices in the ‘Thrust on MSMEs’ category, as per a report by the Press Trust of India (PTI). Under this project, more than 1 lakh enterprises were set up in 8 months in Kerala. The “Year of Enterprises” project has been regarded as the Best Practice model at the 2<sup>nd</sup> National Conference of Chief Secretaries held in New Delhi from January 5-7. As many as 1,01,353 enterprises were set up under the project and the total investment stood at around Rs 6,282 Crore by November, 2022. The state government has set up a target to scale up 1,000 MSMEs and turn them into Rs 100 Crore turnover companies in the next 3 years. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- “Year of Enterprises” project of Kerala – regarded as Best Practice model at 2<sup>nd</sup> National Conference of Chief Secretaries
- It targets to scale up 1,000 MSMEs and turn them into Rs 100 Crore turnover companies in the next 3 years
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan

11. On January 11, SS Rajamouli’s RRR has created history becoming the first Indian film to win a Golden Globe. RRR won for Best Original song for Naatu Naatu. The song is composed by music director MM Keeravaani, and sung by Kala Bhairava and Rahul Sipligunj, with lyrics by Chandrabose. The original song nominees were “Carolina,” from “Where the Crawdads Sing,” music by Taylor Swift; “Ciao Papa,” from “Guillermo del Toro’s Pinocchio,” music by Alexandre Desplat; “Hold My Hand,” from “Top Gun: Maverick,” music by Lady Gaga, BloodPop, Benjamin Rice” and “Lift Me Up,” from “Black Panther: Wakanda Forever,” music by Tems, Rihanna, Ryan Coogler, Ludwig Göransson. RRR was also nominated for Best Picture non-English language category. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- RRR – became the first Indian film to win a ‘Golden Globe Award’
- Category – ‘Best Original Song’ for “Naatu Naatu” song
- The song is composed by – MM Keeravaani | Singer – Kala Bhairava & Rahul Sipligunj | Lyricist – Chandrabose

12. On January 15, R’Bonney Gabriel from the USA was crowned “Miss Universe 2022” at the grand finale of the 71<sup>st</sup> Miss Universe contest. Miss Universe 2021 Harnaaz Sandhu crowned the diva. In the 71<sup>st</sup> edition of the competition, Venezuela’s Amanda Dudamel took second place (first runner-up), followed by Dominican Republic’s Andreina Martinez as the second runner-up. Divita Rai of India reached the top 16, but she was unable to advance further. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- R'Bonney Gabriel (US) – crowned “Miss Universe 2022” at the 71<sup>st</sup> Miss Universe contest
- First runner-up – Amanda Dudamel (Venezuela) | Second runner-up – Andreina Martinez (Dominican Republic)

**13.** The government of India presented the National Awards to 82 best Agripreneurs on January 12, the occasion of National Youth Day. 8 Nodal Training Institutes (NTIs) who imparted Agri-Clinics and Agri-Business (AC & ABC) training also received Awards for their best training, handholding and facilitation activities. AC & ABC is a Central Sector Scheme and has significantly contributed to farmers through agri-clinic and agribusiness services. 173 women led startups have been supported under the “Innovation and AgriEntrepreneurship Development” programme. 24 RKVY-RAFTAAR Agribusiness Incubators (R-ABIs) from across the country have also been appointed. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- On National Youth Day, Government of India presented the National Awards to 82 best Agripreneurs
- 8 Nodal Training Institutes (NTIs) also received Awards for their best training, handholding & facilitation activities
- 24 RKVY-RAFTAAR Agribusiness Incubators (R-ABIs) have been appointed from across India

**14.** On January 16, Bhavin Rabari, the lead child star of India’s official entry for the Oscars, Chhello Show, and global blockbuster RRR have been honoured by the International Press Academy (IPA). The IPA announced the winners of the Special Achievements Awards recipients for its 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Satellite Awards. Bhavin Rabari won the Breakthrough Performance Award, while SS Rajamouli’s film “RRR” was given the Honorary Satellite Award. Chhello Show is produced by Siddharth Roy Kapur, Dheer Momaya, Nalin and Marc Duale. Pan Nalin is the director of the film. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- Bhavin Rabari (lead star of ‘Chhello Show’) – won the ‘Breakthrough Performance Award’ at 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Satellite Awards
- “RRR” film (by SS Rajamouli) – won the ‘Honorary Satellite Award’ at 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Satellite Awards

**15.** On January 15, S.S. Rajamouli’s global blockbuster RRR won Best Foreign Language Film and Best Song for “Naatu Naatu” at the 28<sup>th</sup> Critics Choice Awards (CCA) in Los Angeles. The track has been composed by veteran music director M.M. Keeravaani and voiced by singers Kala Bhairava and Rahul Sipligunj. In the Best Foreign Language Film, RRR was competing against films such as All Quiet on the Western Front, Argentina 1985, Bardo, False Chronicle of a Handful of Truths, Close and Decision to Leave. The film was nominated in five categories at the CCA, Best Picture, Best Director (Rajamouli), Best Foreign Language film, Best Visual Effects (V. Srinivas Mohan) and Best Song (‘Naatu Naatu’). [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- RRR – won ‘Best Foreign Language Film’ and ‘Best Song’ for “Naatu Naatu” at the 28<sup>th</sup> Critics Choice Awards
- The song is composed by – MM Keeravaani | Singer – Kala Bhairava & Rahul Sipligunj | Lyricist – Chandrabose

**16.** On January 11, the prestigious “Gangadhar National Award for Poetry 2021” was conferred on noted Malayalam poet K. G. Sankara Pillai by the Sambalpur University on 56<sup>th</sup> foundation day of the institution. The Gangadhar National Award for Poetry was instituted by Sambalpur University in 1989 in memory of Swabhava Kabi Gangadhar Meher, to honour an Indian poet for his/her creative excellence and distinctive attainment in Indian poetry. The award carries a cash prize of Rs 1 lakh, a shawl and a citation. Sankara Pillai is one of Kerala’s finest poets who came into prominence in the 1970s with the publication of the poem ‘Bengal’ and is now one of the most popular among the modern poets of Kerala.



[{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- K.G. Sankara Pillai (Malayalam poet) – conferred “Gangadhar National Award for Poetry-2021” by Sambalpur University
- The Award was instituted in 1989 in memory of Swabhava Kabi Gangadhar Meher
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan

**17.** On January 18, GMR Goa International Airport (GGIAL), a subsidiary of GMR Airports Infrastructure, has won “Best Sustainable Greenfield Airport” award under aviation sustainability and environment at ASSOCHAM’s 14<sup>th</sup> “International Conference-cum-Awards for Civil Aviation 2023” in New Delhi. The award was presented for ‘excellent initiatives’ taken by GGIAL in implementing sustainability as one of core concepts. Union Minister of Civil Aviation Jyotiraditya Scindia presented the award. Moreover, GMR Hyderabad International Airport (Rajiv Gandhi International Airport) has been adjudged as the ‘Best Airport in the use of Technology’. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- ASSOCHAM – organised the 14<sup>th</sup> “International Conference-cum-Awards for Civil Aviation 2023” in New Delhi
- Goa International Airport – won the “Best Sustainable Greenfield Airport” award
- Hyderabad International Airport – won the “Best Airport in the use of Technology” award
- HQs of ASSOCHAM – New Delhi | President – Sumant Sinha

**18.** On January 18, Nepalese ophthalmologist & Himalayan Cataract Project Co-Founder Dr Sanduk Ruit has won the “ISA Award for Service to Humanity”, a top civilian award of Bahrain. He is the 5<sup>th</sup> laureate of the ISA Award. He is fondly called as “God of Sight” to have saved 1,20,000 eyesight who would have otherwise gone blind in absence of treatment. The award carries a cash prize of USD 1 million, a certificate of merit and a gold medal. He is also the recipient of the Padma Shri Award by the GoI, The National Order of Merit of Bhutan as well as the Ramon Magsaysay Award. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- Dr Sanduk Ruit (Nepalese ophthalmologist) – won “ISA Award for Service to Humanity”, a top civilian award of Bahrain
- Bahrain – Manama – Dinar | PM – Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa | King – Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa

**19.** On January 15, noted writer K Venu bagged the first-ever ‘Federal Bank Literary Award 2022’ for his autobiography ‘Oranweshananthinte Katha’. He received the award from Balagopal Chandrasekhar, chairman and independent director of Federal Bank. Judging panel member P K Rajashekar commented that the essence of the book brought back the memory of the most-intense political timeline in the modern history of Kerala. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- K Venu – bagged the first-ever ‘Federal Bank Literary Award 2022’ for his autobiography “Oranweshananthinte Katha”
- HQs of Federal Bank – Aluva, Kerala | MD & CEO – Shyam Srinivasan | Tagline – “Your Perfect Banking Partner”

**20.** On January 20, R. Vishnu Prasad, a scientist with 69 patents, has been honored with the “Most Distinguished Scientist of the Year 2022” award at the Indian Achievers Awards at Vigyan Bhawan, Delhi by Anurag Thakur, Minister of Information & Broadcasting. The award recognizes individuals for their outstanding contributions in various fields, including culture, science, sports, and innovation. Some of his fellow awardees were Param Vir Chakra Subedar Major Sanjay Kumar, Indian field hockey player late Major Dhyana Chand, film actress Shruti Haasan, Padma Shri Alok Mehta, Indian professional boxer Vijendar Singh, Indian Olympic athlete & Padma Shri Sudha Singh, national paralympic coach Satyanarayana, IPS Yashasvi Yadav, Chairman & MD of T-Series Bhushan Kumar and The Kashmir Files Actor Darshan Kumar. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- R. Vishnu Prasad – honored with the “Most Distinguished Scientist of the Year 2022” at the Indian Achievers Awards
- Other awardees of Indian Achievers Awards 2023:
  - Param Vir Chakra Subedar Major Sanjay Kumar
  - Indian field hockey player late Major Dhyana Chand
  - Film actress Shruti Haasan
  - Padma Shri Alok Mehta
  - Indian professional boxer Vijendar Singh
  - Indian Olympic athlete & Padma Shri Sudha Singh
  - National paralympic coach Satyanarayana
  - IPS Yashasvi Yadav
  - Chairman & MD of T-Series Bhushan Kumar
  - The Kashmir Files Actor Darshan Kumar

**21.** The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Film Festival was organised from January 27 to 31 in Mumbai by the SCO Council of Head of States in association with the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting through National Film Development Corporation (NFDC). National Award-winning movie “Toolsidas Junior”, starring Rajiv Kapoor and Sanjay Dutt, was showcased at the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Film Festival. Directed by Mridul Toolsidass and produced by filmmaker Ashutosh Gowariker, the movie was screened as part of the Children Focus Section of the festival. At the 68th National Film Awards last year, “Toolsidas Junior” bagged the National Film Award for best feature film in Hindi, while child actor Buddhadev received a special mention. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- “Toolsidas Junior” film – was showcased at the SCO Film Festival organised in Mumbai
- “Toolsidas Junior” film – bagged the National Film Award for best feature film in Hindi in 2022
- Toolsidas Junior Film: Director – Mridul Toolsidass | Producer – Ashutosh Gowariker

**22.** On January 21, Manish Tiwari, an India-born founder of a multi-cultural marketing agency, has been conferred with ‘The Freedom of the City of London’ title for leaving a mark on the financial hub of the British capital. The award is given by the City of London Corporation. A previous Indian recipient of the honour is Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of India, and other prominent recipients include South African leader Nelson Mandela and Microsoft founder Bill Gates. The ‘Freedom of the City of London’ is believed to have begun in 1237. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- Manish Tiwari – conferred with ‘The Freedom of the City of London’ title
- Previous Indian recipient of the honour – Jawaharlal Nehru

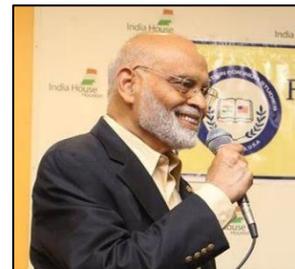
**23.** On January 22, Hindustani vocalist Padma Vibhushan Dr. Prabha Atre was conferred with the “Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia Lifetime Achievement Award” by Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde. Mr. Shinde presented Dr. Atre with a citation and ₹1 lakh at the programme, during which a symphony of 90 flautists was performed to mark her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- Dr. Prabha Atre (Hindustani vocalist) – conferred with the “Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia Lifetime Achievement Award”
- She was awarded by Maharashtra CM Eknath Shinde

**24.** On January 17, Indian-American Krishna Vavilala was honoured with ‘MLK Grande Parade Special Award’ for contributions towards connecting the Indian community with mainstream America as the US celebrated the legacy of civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr., a champion of civil rights for Blacks, was born on January 15, 1929, in Atlanta, Georgia, US. Vavilala, a longtime Houstonian and the founder and chairman of the Foundation of India Studies (FIS), has in the past led several MLK Grande Parades, dressed as Mahatma Gandhi with the sole purpose of bringing the Indian community closer to the Black community, based on the principles of non-violence, which both Gandhi and MLK Jr. had followed. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- Krishna Vavilala (Indian-American) – honoured with ‘MLK Grande Parade Special Award’
- Martin Luther King Jr., a champion of civil rights for Blacks, was born on January 15, 1929 in Atlanta, Georgia, US
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46<sup>th</sup> President – Joe Biden | 49<sup>th</sup> VP – Kamala Harris

**25.** On January 23, President of India, Droupadi Murmu, conferred the “Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar 2023” to 11 selected children in an award ceremony at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. The awards are conferred upon children in the age group of 5-18 years. These awards are given to selected students for their excellence in 6 categories - art and culture, bravery, innovation, scholastic, social service and sports. In this award ceremony, each awardee was given a medal, a cash prize of Rs 1 lakh and a certificate. The 2023 awardees were from 11 states/UTs, including 6 boys and 5 girls. The 11 awardees were Aadithya Suresh (Kerala), Shreya Bhattacharjee (Assam), Aditya Pratap Singh Chauhan (Chhattisgarh), Sambhab Mishra (Odisha), M Gauravi Reddy (Telangana), Shauryajit Ranjithkumar Khaire (Gujarat), Rishi Shiv Prasanna (Karnataka), Hanaya Nisar (Jammu & Kashmir), Kolagatla Alana Meenakshi (Andhra Pradesh), Rohan Ramchandra Bahir (Maharashtra) and Anoushka Jolly (New Delhi). [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- Droupadi Murmu – conferred the “Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar 2023” to 11 children (6 boys + 5 girls)
- Children’s age group – 5-18 years | 6 categories – art & culture, bravery, innovation, scholastic, social service & sports

**26.** On January 26, Ministry of Home Affairs announced that the President of India has approved 106 Padma awards. The list comprises 6 Padma Vibhushan, 9 Padma Bhushan and 91 Padma Shri awards. 19 of the awardees are women and the list includes 7 honoured posthumously. Some well-known Padma Shri awardees include - Ramkuiwangbe Newme, a Naga social worker from Assam, Composer M. M. Keeravani, who recently won the Golden Globe, Siddi tribal social worker from Gujarat Hirabai Lobi, war veteran Munishwar Chander Dawar, ‘Kannur ke Gandhi’ V.P. Appukkuttan Poduval, Master artisan Dilshad Hussain, etc. These awards are conferred by the President at ceremonial functions which are held at the Rashtrapati Bhawan usually around March or April every year.



### Smart Points:

- Total 106 Padma Awards in 2023 = 6 Padma Vibhushan + 9 Padma Bhushan + 91 Padma Shri

**27.** On January 23, Odisha State Disaster Management Authority (OSDMA) and Lunglei Fire Station (LFS), Mizoram, both in the Institutional category, have been selected for the “Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar-2023” for their excellent work in Disaster Management. The award is announced every year on 23<sup>rd</sup> January, the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose. The award carries a cash prize of Rs 51 lakh and a certificate in case of an institution and Rs 5 lakh and a certificate in case of an individual. For the award of year-2023, 274 valid nominations were received from institutions and individuals. The award, in Individual category, is yet to be announced. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- January 23, 2023 – 126<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose
- “Subhas Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar for 2023” in Institutional Category:
  - Odisha State Disaster Management Authority (OSDMA)
  - Lunglei Fire Station (LFS), Mizoram

**28.** On January 21, Aska Police Station in Ganjam district was awarded as the “Best Police Station in India” by Union Home Minister Amit Shah. IIC Prashant Kumar Sahoo received the trophy of the best police station from Shah at the DGP/IGP conference in New Delhi. Ranking of police stations is an annual exercise conducted by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs and the stations are judged on the basis of 165 different parameters like crime rate, investigation and disposal of cases, infrastructure and delivery of public service. Aska police station bagged the first spot in overall performance till December 26, 2022 after Pragati dashboard (developed by the State Crime Records Bureau) was introduced to rank police stations on their performances. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Aska Police Station (Odisha) – awarded as the “Best Police Station in India” by Union Home Minister Amit Shah
- ‘Pragati dashboard’ is developed by the State Crime Records Bureau – to rank police stations on their performances
- [Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar](#) | [CM – Naveen Patnaik](#) | [Governor – Ganeshi Lal](#)

**29.** On January 26, East Coast Railways’ Visakhapatnam railway station received the prestigious ‘Green Railway Station Certification’ with the highest Platinum rating. The certificate has been awarded by the Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) for adopting green concepts. It secured 82 out of 100 points in six environmental categories (sustainable facilities, health, hygiene, energy and water efficiency, smart green initiatives, innovation, and development). The Environment Directorate of Indian Railways (IR) with the support of IGBC has developed the ‘Green Railway Stations Rating System’ to reduce the adverse environmental impacts due to station operation, and maintenance and enhance the overall experience of the passengers. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Visakhapatnam railway station – received ‘Green Railway Station Certification’ with the highest Platinum rating
- The certificate is awarded by – Indian Green Building Council (IGBC)
- Green Railway Stations Rating System is developed by = Environment Directorate of Indian Railways (IR) + IGBC
- [HQs of Indian Railways – New Delhi](#) | [Chairman & CEO – Anil Kumar Lahoti](#)

**30.** In January 2023, ‘All that Breathes’, directed by Shaunak Sen has been nominated in the ‘Best Documentary Feature Film’ category for the 95<sup>th</sup> Academy Awards (Oscars) 2023. ‘The Elephant Whisperers’ directed by Kartiki Gonsalves has been nominated in the category of ‘Best Documentary Short Film’. While, ‘Naatu Naatu’ song of SS Rajamouli’s RRR film has been nominated in the category of ‘Best Original Song’. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- Three Indian nominations for the Oscars 2023:
  - Shaunak Sen's 'All that Breathes' film – nominated in the 'Best Documentary Feature Film' category
  - Kartiki Gonsalves' 'The Elephant Whisperers' film – nominated in the 'Best Documentary Short Film' category
  - 'Naatu Naatu' song of SS Rajamouli's RRR film – nominated in the 'Best Original Song' category

**31.** On 26<sup>th</sup> January 2023, the 74<sup>th</sup> Republic Day of India was celebrated across India. President Droupadi Murmu led her first Republic Day celebrations at Kartavya Path (earlier Rajpath). On this occasion, President Droupadi Murmu awarded the President's Tatrakshak Medal and Tatrakshak Medal to 6 Indian Coast Guard (ICG) personnel for their act of conspicuous gallantry, exceptional devotion to duty and distinguished/meritorious service. Besides, a total of 43 persons were selected for Jeevan Raksha Padak Series of Awards 2022. Of them, 4 awardees are posthumous. President Droupadi Murmu has approved the conferment of Jeevan Raksha Padak Series of Awards-2022 which includes Sarvottam Jeevan Raksha Padak to 7, Uttam Jeevan Raksha Padak to 8 and Jeevan Raksha Padak to 28 persons. Total 47 personnel were awarded Fire Service Medals. Out of these, Fire Service Medal for Gallantry was awarded to 2 personnel, Fire Service Medal for Distinguished Service to 7 personnel, and Fire Service Medal for Meritorious Service to 38 personnel. In addition, 55 personnel were also awarded Home Guard & Civil Defence Medals on the occasion. 17 from States and Union Territories & 6 from Central Ministries and Departments, total 23 tableaux participated at Kartavya Path for the Republic Day parade. In a first, the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) displayed a tableau during the Republic Day parade, with the theme 'Nasha Mukht Bharat'. Moreover, India's biggest drone show, comprising 3,500 indigenous drones, was scheduled to be held during Beating the Retreat ceremony on January 29, 2023. Garud Special Forces of the IAF, led by Squadron Leader Pritam Singh Jaitawat, participated for the first time in the Republic Day parade. Moreover, the iconic 21-Gun Salute to the President during the parade used 105 mm Indian Field Guns for the first time. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- President Droupadi Murmu awarded:
  - President's Tatrakshak Medal & Tatrakshak Medal – to 6 ICG personnel
  - Jeevan Raksha Padak Series of Awards – to 43 persons (4 posthumous)
  - Fire Service Medals – to 47 personnel
  - Home Guard & Civil Defence Medals – to 55 personnel
- Total 23 tableaux (17 states/UTs + 6 Ministries/Depts) – participated at Kartavya Path for the Republic Day parade
- NCB displayed a tableau during the Republic Day parade with the theme 'Nasha Mukht Bharat'
- Garud Special Forces of the IAF participated for the first time (led by Squadron Leader Pritam Singh Jaitawat)
- 21-Gun Salute to the President during the parade used '105 mm Indian Field Guns' for the first time

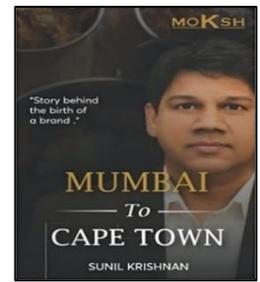
**32.** On January 26, the 'Everything Everywhere All at Once' film's actor, Michelle Yeoh, received her first Oscar nomination for Best Actress at the 95<sup>th</sup> Academy Awards. She is the first actress of Asian descent to achieve this feat. This year marks the highest number of Asian acting nominees recognized by the academy in its history. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- Michelle Yeoh (Malaysia) – first actress of Asian descent to receive Oscar nomination for Best Actress at the Oscars 2023

**33.** On January 26, Global Entrepreneur Sunil Krishnan was awarded the coveted Dr Ambedkar Award for Spreading Indian Cuisine Globally with Moksh. Sunil Krishnan is one of the most revered entrepreneurs and restaurateurs in South Africa, known for his tantalising cuisine that appeals to global taste buds. In 2003, He flew to South Africa during the Cricket World Cup and decided to explore business opportunities. What interested him was food, nightlife and art. Sunil Krishnan decided to settle in Cape Town. The serial entrepreneur Sunil Krishnan boasts of eight Moksh branches owns an Art Galley Cocktail bar lounge with live DJs named Artezian. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Sunil Krishnan – awarded the coveted Dr Ambedkar Award for Spreading Indian Cuisine Globally
- He owns 8 branches of Moksh and DJ Artezian in South Africa
- [South Africa – Cape Town – South African Rand](#) | [President – Cyril Ramaphosa](#)

**34.** On January 30, On the eve of the Republic Day 2023, Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh felicitated the 25 winners of “Veer Gatha 2.0” at an event organised in New Delhi. Veer Gatha project, last year, was jointly initiated by the Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Education as a part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. Shri Rajnath Singh gave away the winners a cash prize of Rs 10,000, a medal and a certificate, in the presence of Minister of Education Shri Dharmendra Pradhan and Raksha Rajya Mantri Shri Ajay Bhatt. Last year there were 8 lakhs participation, whereas this time the number of these entries crossed 19 lakhs. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Rajnath Singh – felicitated the 25 winners of “Veer Gatha 2.0” in New Delhi
- Veer Gatha project was jointly initiated by = Ministry of Defence + Ministry of Education
- [Ministry of Defence: Rajnath Singh](#) | [Constituency – Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh](#)
- [MoS in Ministry of Defence: Ajay Bhatt](#)
- [Ministry of Education: Dharmendra Pradhan](#) | [Constituency – Madhya Pradesh](#)
- [MoS in Ministry of Education: Subhas Sarkar](#)

**35.** On January 27, a British Sikh engineer Navjot Sawhney, who set up his Washing Machine Project around 4 years ago, won “Prime Minister Rishi Sunak’s Points of Light Award”. He was honoured for his hand-cranked machine invention which can be operated in regions without electricity. He named his first machines after his neighbour “Divya”. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Navjot Sawhney (British Sikh Engineer) – won the “Prime Minister Rishi Sunak’s Points of Light Award”
- [UK – London – Pound Sterling](#) | [PM – Rishi Sunak \(57<sup>th</sup>\)](#) | [New King – King Charles III](#)

**36.** On January 31, Former prime minister Dr Manmohan Singh was conferred a ‘Lifetime Achievement Honour’ by the India-UK Achievers Honours in London for his contribution to economic and political life. The India-UK Achievers Honours by NISAU UK, in partnership with the British Council in India and the UK’s Department for International Trade (DIT), celebrate the achievements of Indian students who studied at British universities and the Lifetime Achievement Honour is a nod to Dr Singh’s academic achievements at the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge. To mark 75 years of India’s independence, the first-ever India UK Achievers Honours covered 75 high achievers and some key Outstanding Achievers who bolster the India-UK diaspora living bridge. British Indian peer Lord Karan Bilimoria received the ‘Living Legend Honour’ at the awards ceremony on January 25. Opposition Labour Party MP Virendra Sharma, another a patron of NISAU UK, was also conferred the Living Legend Honour. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- Dr Manmohan Singh – conferred a ‘Lifetime Achievement Honour’ at the India-UK Achievers Honours in London
- The honour is given by = NISAU UK + British Council in India + UK’s Department for International Trade
- Karan Bilimoria & Virendra Sharma – received the ‘Living Legend Honour’

**37.** Union Minister of State for Defense Ajay Bhatt presented the awards for the 74<sup>th</sup> Republic Day parade. Uttarakhand’s ‘Manskhand’ tableau, which showcased religious places and the progressive developments of the state, was awarded the first position under Best Tableaux of State/UTs. Notably, the ‘Manaskhand’ theme for the tableau was proposed by CM Pushkar Singh Dhami. Maharashtra’s tableau, with the theme Sade Tin Shaktipithe & Nari Shakti, and Uttar Pradesh’s tableau, featuring the 3-day Deepotsav, won the second and third prizes respectively. Gujarat’s tableau, on the theme of “Clean-Green Energy Efficient Gujarat”, achieved the first ranking in the category of People’s Choice Awards. Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra won the second and third prize respectively. Gujarat’s tableau displayed the world’s largest Hybrid Renewable Energy Park at Khawda in Kutch; Modhera village-country’s first 24x7 solar-powered village through BESS (Battery Energy Storage System), prosperity of farmers under PM-KUSUM yojana through solar rooftop and canal rooftop energy system. Moreover, the Marching Contingent of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) was declared as the Best Marching Contingent among Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF)/other auxiliary forces under both categories. There were 17 states and 6 Ministries which presented their respective tableaux at the national level celebration and parade of the 74<sup>th</sup> Republic Day. For the first time, all Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) like CRPF, CISF, BSF, SSB, ITBP & Assam Rifles, showcased a common tableau for the 2023 Republic Day Parade. Assistant Commandant Komalpreet Kaur was the team leader of this tableau. Moreover, other winners are mentioned below in detail.



[{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- Ajay Bhatt – presented the awards for the 74<sup>th</sup> Republic Day parade
- Total 23 tableaux (17 states/UTs + 6 Ministries/Depts) – participated at Kartavya Path for the Republic Day parade
- **Winners declared by the Panel of Judges:**
  - Best 3 Tableaux (State/UTs): 1<sup>st</sup> – Uttarakhand | 2<sup>nd</sup> – Maharashtra | 3<sup>rd</sup> – Uttar Pradesh
  - Best Tableau (Ministries/Depts): Ministry of Tribal Affairs (for Eklavya Model Residential Schools)
  - Best Marching Contingent among 3 services: Punjab Regiment
  - Best Marching Contingent among CAPFs/Other Auxiliary Forces: CRPF
  - Special Prize: Central Public Works Department & ‘Vande Bharatam’ Dance Group
- **Winners under People’s Choice Awards (on MyGov Portal):**
  - Best 3 Tableaux (State/UTs): 1<sup>st</sup> – Gujarat | 2<sup>nd</sup> – Uttar Pradesh | 3<sup>rd</sup> – Maharashtra
  - Best Tableau (Ministries/Depts): Ministry of Home Affairs (for CAPF)
  - Best Marching Contingent among 3 services: IAF
  - Best Marching Contingent among CAPFs/Other Auxiliary Forces: CRPF

**38.** On January 26, an agriculturist-turned-craftsman, C. V. Raju, has been conferred ‘Padma Shri 2023’ for his work in the Etikoppaka toy craft. Mr. Raju is among the seven persons from Andhra Pradesh who have been selected for the Padma awards announced by the Union Home Ministry. Mr. Raju has his origins in Etikoppaka, a traditional craftsman village in Visakhapatnam district in coastal Andhra Pradesh. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- C. V. Raju (Andhra Pradesh) – conferred 'Padma Shri 2023' for his work in the Etikoppaka toy craft
- Etikoppaka – a traditional craftsman village in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh
- [Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Vishakhapatnam](#) | [CM – YS Jaganmohan Reddy](#) | [Governor – S. Abdul Nazeer](#)

**39.** On January 29, Maharashtra contingent of the National Cadet Corps (NCC) Directorate has won the prestigious Prime Minister's Banner at the Republic Day Camp (RDC)-2023 event for the second year in a row. Twenty-two cadets from the Maharashtra NCC directorate walked the Kartavya Path as part of the All India NCC contingent. Cadet Pujari Shivananda Ashok commanded the Republic Day parade contingent. Number 2 Maharashtra Naval NCC Unit was adjudged 'The Most Enterprising Naval Unit (MENU)' and Cadet Astha Singh was awarded for as the best Senior Wing Cadet (Navy). [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Maharashtra contingent of NCC Directorate – won Prime Minister's Banner at the Republic Day Camp (RDC)-2023
- [HQs of NCC – New Delhi](#) | [DG – Lt. Gen. Gurbirpal Singh](#) | [Founded on – 16 April, 1948](#) | [Motto – 'Unity & Discipline'](#)
- [Maharashtra: CM – Eknath Shinde](#) | [Governor – Ramesh Bais](#)



# Schemes & Initiatives

1. Scientists have discovered a new species of dwarf boa or snake (*Tropidophis cacuangoae*) in the Ecuadoran Amazon and named it after an Indigenous activist. The second part of the name honors early 20<sup>th</sup> century Indigenous rights activist Dolores Cacungo. Two specimens were found in the Colonso Chalupas National Reserve and in the private Sumak Kawsay Park, both in Ecuador. The team's findings were published in the European Journal of Taxonomy. [{Read more}](#)



## Smart Points:

- 'Tropidophis Cacungoae', dwarf boa or snake – discovered in Ecuadoran Amazon, Ecuador
- Ecuador – Quito – US Dollar | President – Guillermo Lasso

2. On January 1, Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu announced to set up the CM's Sukhashray Sahayata Kosh with an outlay of Rs 101 Crore. The scheme aims to provide the facility of higher education to needy children and destitute women. The state government will bear the expenditure on skill development education, higher education, and vocational training of such children in engineering colleges. [{Read more}](#)

## Smart Points:

- Himachal Pradesh – to set up the "CM's Sukhashray Sahayata Kosh" with an outlay of Rs 101 Crore
- The scheme aims to provide the facility of higher education to needy children and destitute women
- HP: Capital – Shimla & Dharamshala | CM – Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu | Governor – Shiv Pratap Shukla

3. On January 4, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved the proposal of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting regarding Central Sector Scheme "Broadcasting Infrastructure and Network Development" (BIND) at a cost of ₹2,539.61 Cr for infrastructure development of Prasar Bharati i.e. All India Radio (AIR) and Doordarshan (DD). The BIND scheme is the vehicle for providing financial support to Prasar Bharati for expenses related to expansion and upgradation of its broadcasting infrastructure, content development and civil work related to the organization. The scheme will enable the public broadcaster to undertake a major upgradation of its facilities with better infrastructure which will widen its reach, including in the Left Wing Extremism (LWE), border and strategic areas and provide high quality content to the viewers. The Scheme also envisages free distribution of over 8 lakh DD Free Dish STBs to people living in remote, tribal, LWE and border areas. [{Read more}](#)



## Smart Points:

- CCEA – approved the proposal regarding BIND, a Central Sector Scheme for infrastructure development of Prasar Bharati
- Outlay of the scheme – ₹2,539.61 Cr
- The Scheme envisages free distribution of over 8 lakh DD Free Dish STBs in remote, tribal, LWE & border areas
- Ministry of Information & Broadcasting: Anurag Singh Thakur | Constituency – Hamirpur, Himachal Pradesh
- Ministry of Education – Dharmendra Pradhan (Constituency – Deogarh, Madhya Pradesh)

4. On January 4, Madhya Pradesh government launched "Chief Minister's Residential Land Rights Scheme" (Mukhyamantri Aavaseya Bhoomi Adhikaar Yojana). Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan will distribute free leases of residential land to selected beneficiaries. Applications of 14 lakh people were received from all over the state. Out of these, 10,500 eligible beneficiaries of Tikamgarh district were given residential plots worth Rs 120 Cr. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

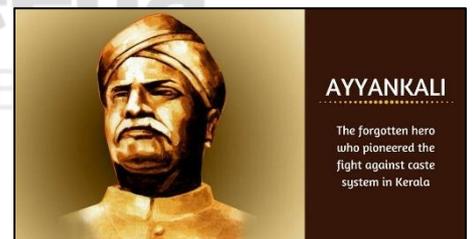
- MP – launched “Chief Minister’s Residential Land Rights Scheme” (Mukhyamantri Aavaseya Bhoomi Adhikaar Yojana)
- Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel

5. On January 9, National Health Authority (NHA) introduced a new system to measure and grade hospital performance under the flagship scheme Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY). This has been done to shift the focus of measuring performance of hospitals from volume of services provided to the value of healthcare services. The new initiative will introduce the concept of ‘value-based care’, where payment will be outcome based and providers will be rewarded according to the quality of the treatment delivered. Under the new model, the providers will be rewarded for helping the patients improve their health, which consequently will reduce the effects of disease in the population in the long term. Under value-based care, the performance of AB PM-JAY empaneled hospitals will be measured based on five performance indicators such as: 1. Beneficiary Satisfaction; 2. Hospital Readmission Rate; 3. The extent of Out-of-Pocket Expenditure; 4. Confirmed Grievances and 5. Improvement in-patient’s Health-Related Quality of Life. Additionally, NHA has made a provision to incentivize best performing hospitals that provide quality care to patients. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- NHA – introduced a new system to measure & grade hospital performance under AB PM-JAY
- The new initiative will introduce the concept of ‘value- based care’ instead of ‘volume of services provided’
- Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PMJAY) – completed 4 years on September 23, 2022
- AB PMJAY: Launched by PM Narendra Modi in September 2018 | Health cover of up to ₹5 lakh per family per year
- HQs of NHA – New Delhi | CEO – Ram Sevak Sharma | Founded in – 2018

6. On January 8, Kerala government launched a welfare fund board for the workers registered for the MGNREGS and the state’s urban job guarantee scheme - Ayyankali Urban Employment Guarantee Scheme. This is the first time that a state government has formed a welfare fund board for MGNREGS workers. This will facilitate the workers to get a monthly pension from the board on they turn 60. S Rajendran has been selected as the chairman of the board. As per the norm, any worker between the age of 18 and 55 can take the membership in the fund board. They have to pay an amount as premium (Rs 50 tentatively fixed) every month until the age of 55 and a member who has paid the contribution for at least 10 years will be eligible for pension. Apart from the monthly contribution from the workers, the government will also make an equivalent contribution towards the fund. The government can revise the contribution once every three years. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- Kerala – launched a welfare fund board for ‘MGNREGS’ workers & ‘Ayyankali Urban Employment Guarantee Scheme’
- This is the first time that a state government has formed a welfare fund board for MGNREGS workers
- S. Rajendran – elected as the Chairman of the board
- Monthly contribution from workers – Rs 50 | Minimum payment tenure – 10 years | Pension starting age – 60 years
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan

7. On January 8, in an effort to encourage social and emotional learning, the Tripura government introduced a special education programme titled ‘Saharsh’. The ‘Saharsh’ was launched in August, 2022 in 40 schools of the state on a pilot basis. It is extended to all government and aided schools of the state. The ‘Saharsh’ initiatives are aimed at empowering children to learn with happiness. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- Tripura – introduced a special education programme titled ‘Saharsh’
- Tripura: Capital – Agartala | CM – Manik Saha | Governor – Satyadev Narayan Arya

8. On January 7, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the government’s Aspirational Block Programme (ABP), which is aimed at improving performance of blocks lagging on various development parameters. The programme will cover 500 districts across 31 states and Union Territories initially. Over half of these blocks are in 6 states - Uttar Pradesh (68 blocks), Bihar (61), Madhya Pradesh (42), Jharkhand (34), Odisha (29) and West Bengal (29). However, states can add more blocks to the programme later. The Aspirational Blocks Programme is on the lines of the Aspirational District Programme that was launched in 2018 and covers 112 districts across the country. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- PM Modi launched Aspirational Block Programme to improve performance of blocks on development parameters
- Aspirational District Programme – launched in 2018 & covers 112 districts across India

9. On January 12, Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad Sangma launched ‘Shared School Bus System’, ‘Prime Tourism Vehicles’ and ‘Agriculture Response Vehicle Scheme’. This move will help to minimise traffic congestion in Shillong. Moreover, The Meghalaya Government is providing financial assistance to tourism entrepreneurs to purchase premium tourist vehicles. The buses are part of the Sustainable Transport and Efficient Mobility Society (STEMS) programme focussed on mobility and overall transportation to decongest the city. The introduction of the Meghalaya Agriculture Response Vehicle Scheme will mitigate the amount spent on transportation of agriculture produce by our farmers by giving them financial assistance for procurement of the ‘Agriculture Response Vehicles’ under the scheme. This initiative will provide a boost to the rural entrepreneurship ecosystem in the state. The buses are GPS enabled for real time tracking with a passenger information system and LED screens to show the routes. The NIC will develop a mobile application and website for tracking and booking of the buses. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- Meghalaya – launched ‘Shared School Bus System’, ‘Prime Tourism Vehicles’ and ‘Agriculture Response Vehicle Scheme’
- The buses are part of the Sustainable Transport and Efficient Mobility Society (STEMS) programme
- Financial assistance will be given to farmers for procurement of the ‘Agriculture Response Vehicles’ under the scheme
- Meghalaya: Capital – Shillong | CM – Conrad Kongkal Sangma | Governor – Phagu Chauhan

10. On January 9, MSME Minister Narayan Rane launched the web portal for Rs 6,062.45 Cr World Bank-assisted central government scheme called “Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP)” for MSMEs. Rane launched the portal at the ‘Regional Conference on Sustainable Development of MSMEs in Northeast Region’ in Agartala to scale up the implementation capacity and coverage of MSMEs in India. Out of the total scheme’s limit, Rs 3,750 Cr was approved by World Bank in June 2021 while the balance of Rs 2312.45 Cr would be funded by the government. The scheme targets to improve the performance of 5.55 lakh MSMEs. The scheme aims at inviting states and Union Territories to prepare financing roadmap called Strategic Investment Plans (SIPs). The scheme will begin with five first mover’ states - Gujarat, Maharashtra, Punjab, Rajasthan, and Tamil Nadu. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- ‘Regional Conference on Sustainable Development of MSMEs in Northeast Region’ – held in Agartala, Tripura
- Narayan Rane – launched a web portal for the scheme, “Raising & Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP)”
- Outlay of RAMP Scheme is Rs 6,062.45 Cr (Rs 3,750 Cr by World Bank + 2312.45 Cr by Government)



**11.** On January 11, the Union Cabinet approved a ₹2,600 Crore incentive scheme to promote Rupay debit card and low-value BHIM-UPI transactions (person-to-merchant) in FY23. A decision in this regard was taken in the meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) headed by PM Narendra Modi. Under the scheme, banks would be provided financial incentives for promoting Point of Sale (PoS) and e-commerce transactions using RuPay and UPI in the current financial year 2022-23. The scheme would also promote UPI Lite and UPI123PAY as economical and user-friendly digital payments. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Cabinet approved a ₹2,600 Cr incentive scheme to promote Rupay debit card & low-value BHIM-UPI transactions in FY23

**12.** Narendra Modi approved new integrated food security scheme for providing free foodgrains to Antodaya Ann Yojna (AAY) & Primary Household (PHH) beneficiaries. New scheme has been named as “Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana” (PMGKAY). The Central Government will spend more than Rs 2 lakh Cr in 2023 as food subsidy under NFSA and other welfare schemes, to remove the financial burden of the poor and the poorest of the poor. For effective and uniform implementation of NFSA 2013, PMGKAY will subsume the two subsidy schemes of Department of Food & Public Distribution - (a) Food Subsidy to FCI (b) Food Subsidy for decentralized procurement states dealing with procurement, allocation and delivery of free foodgrains to the states under NFSA. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Narendra Modi – approved new integrated food security scheme named as “Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana”
- The scheme is for providing free foodgrains to Antodaya Ann Yojna (AAY) & Primary Household (PHH) beneficiaries
- The Central Government will spend more than Rs 2 lakh Cr in 2023 as food subsidy under NFSA & other welfare schemes
- PMGKAY will subsume the two subsidy schemes of Department of Food & Public Distribution

**13.** On January 6, Centre approved the continuation of schemes of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) with an outlay of Rs 12,882 Cr for the remaining period of the 15<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission (2022-23 to 2025-26). Based on the Expenditure Finance Committee’s (EFC) recommendations, the outlay for the North East Special Infrastructure Scheme (NESIDS) will be Rs 8,139.5 Cr. The outlay for the “Schemes of NEC” will be Rs 3,202.7 Cr. The outlay for special packages for the Bodoland Territorial Council, the Dima Hasao Autonomous Territorial Council (DHATC) and the Karbi Anglong Autonomous Territorial Council (KAATC) in Assam is Rs 1,540 Cr. The five pillars of the “Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan” for a self-reliant India (economy, infrastructure, system, vibrant demography and demand) will get a push through the schemes. Recently, an amount of Rs 6,000 Cr has been sanctioned for the development of the National Waterway 2 and the National Waterway 16. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Centre approved the continuation of schemes of the Ministry of DoNER with an outlay of Rs 12,882 Cr
- The schemes have been approved for the remaining period of the 15<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission
- The outlays for various schemes:
  - North East Special Infrastructure Scheme (NESIDS) – Rs 8,139.5 Cr
  - Bodoland Territorial Council, DHATC and KAATC schemes of Assam – Rs 1,540 Cr
  - Schemes of NEC – Rs 3,202.7 Cr
  - Development of the National Waterway 2 & 16 – Rs 6,000 Cr



**14.** On January 11, Ministry of tourism included 36 destinations spread across 19 States and Union Territories in the first list (Phase 1) of the revamped Swadesh Darshan 2.0 scheme. These 36 destinations are picked up based on the State Perspective Plans submitted by respective States to the Central ministry. Out of these 36, some of the destinations selected were also part of the ambitious Iconic Tourist Destination development project of the ministry of tourism. These include Hampi, Kumarakom, Mamallapuram, Dholavira, Colva beach, etc. Under the revamped scheme, projects will be selected and implemented in such a way that “minimises the negative impacts and maximises the positive impacts of tourism”. In the SD 2.0, the states have to designate an Implementing Agency for the project and the funds will be transferred only to the implementing agency as per the guidelines. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Ministry of tourism – included 36 destinations in the Phase 1 of the revamped ‘Swadesh Darshan 2.0’ scheme
- These include Hampi, Kumarakom, Mamallapuram, Dholavira, Colva beach, etc.
- [Ministry of Tourism: G. Kishan Reddy | Constituency – Secunderabad, Telangana](#)
- [MoS in Ministry of Tourism: Shripad Yesso Naik & Ajay Bhatt](#)

**15.** On January 14, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh launched an initiative called ‘Soul of Steel’ that seeks to promote high-altitude endurance and adventure in Uttarakhand’s Garhwal Himalayas. The ‘Soul of Steel’ is being organised by CLAW Global, an entity comprising a group of veterans. Soul of Steel is a unique blend of specialised skills including high-altitude mountaineering, extreme cold survival, psychological endurance and physical toughness. The challenge opens the domain of niche military skills to an average youth who wishes to challenge his physical and psychological limits. It also aims to ensure tourism and boost the economy in the mountainous region of Uttarakhand. A total of 12 Indian participants and six international teams are going to participate in the around-three-month challenge. Singh also flagged off the ‘Road to the End’, a 460-km-long car rally, as part of the initiative. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Rajnath Singh – launched ‘Soul of Steel’ initiative to promote high-altitude endurance & adventure in Uttarakhand
- The 3-month challenge is being organised by – CLAW Global
- Rajnath Singh – also flagged off the ‘Road to the End’, a 460-km-long car rally
- [Uttarakhand: Capital – Dehradun & Gairsain | CM – Pushkar Singh Dhami | Governor – Lt. Gen. Gurmit Singh](#)

**16.** On January 16, Forest officials of the Katarniaghat division announced that NABARD would fund the skill-development initiative for Tharu people that live near the Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary in Uttar Pradesh. While some people from the ethnic group will be employed by the department, others will be given skill-development training, and products made by them will be sold at local souvenir shops. The department aims to achieve three objectives: to stop people from going to the jungle to collect firewood, reduce human-wildlife conflicts (HWC) and get locals’ support to promote eco-tourism. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- NABARD – would fund the skill-development initiative for Tharu people
- Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary – located in Uttar Pradesh
- [HQs of NABARD – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Shaji K V | Founded in – 1982](#)
- [UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel](#)

**17.** On January 15, Ministry of Minority Affairs (MOMA) discontinued the “Padho Pardesh scheme”. Students belonging to minority communities can no longer avail of interest subsidies on education loans to study abroad. In December 2022, the Indian Banks’ Association notified banks about the discontinuation of the scheme from 2022-23. The scheme was being implemented through Canara Bank, the designated nodal bank, from 2022-23. Under the Padho Pardesh Interest Subsidy Scheme, students who belong to minority communities - including Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, and Parsis - and want to pursue higher studies such as a master’s degree, MPhil and PhD abroad, are eligible to obtain interest subsidies on their entire loan amounts for course period, plus one year or six months after getting job, whichever is earlier. The move comes on the heels of the ministry discontinuing the Maulana Azad National Fellowship, which was for students from minority communities, saying it overlaps with other schemes under which minority students are also covered. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Ministry of Minority Affairs – discontinued the ‘Padho Pardesh scheme’
- Canara Bank – was the nodal bank to implement the scheme
- HQs of Canara Bank – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Non-Executive Chairman – Vijay Srirangam
- Ministry of Minority Affairs: Smriti Irani | Constituency – Amethi, UP
- MoS in Ministry of Minority Affairs: John Barla

**18.** On January 18, Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao formally launched the second phase of “Kanti Velugu” eye screening programme of people across the state. Around 15 lakh spectacles were dispatched to all the Primary Health centres and urban centres so far and 1,500 special teams have been formed for smooth conduct of the programme. The first round of “Kanti Velugu” programme held in 2018.

[{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Telangana – launched the second phase of “Kanti Velugu” eye screening programme
- The first round of “Kanti Velugu” programme held in 2018
- Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad | CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao | Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan

**19.** On January 27, Mumbai-based Godrej Agrovet Ltd introduced a ground-breaking initiative called “Samadhan”, a one stop solution centre for oil palm farmers. Providing a comprehensive package of knowledge, tools, services and solutions to farmers, “Samadhan” aims to be a critical enabler in Palm Oil industry and assist oil palm farmers in optimising their yields by adopting latest agricultural techniques and boosting their productivity. As a part of the Samadhan initiative, Godrej Agrovet will establish 50 Samadhan centers across the India by 2027. Also, the company has become the first in India to be awarded a verification Certification under the Indian Palm Oil Sustainability (IPOS) Framework which is established by the Solvent Extractors Association of India. The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer Welfare (MoAFW) has set a goal to cultivate 10,00,000 hectares of oil palm by 2027 under the ‘National Mission on Edible Oil - Oil Palm (NMEO-OP)’. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Godrej Agrovet (Mumbai) – introduced an initiative called “Samadhan”, a one stop solution centre for palm oil farmers
- Godrej Agrovet – aims to establish 50 Samadhan centers across the India by 2027
- Godrej Agrovet – became India’s first company to be awarded a verification Certification under the IPOS Framework
- MoAFW – aims to cultivate 10,00,000 hectares of oil palm by 2027 under the “National Mission on Edible Oil - Oil Palm”



**20.** The Atal Pension Yojana (APY) saw the highest-ever enrolments in 2022 with enrolments rising 36%. The figure crossed 10 million for the first time in a calendar year, reaching a total 12.5 million enrolments in 2022, from 9.2 million in 2021. Overall, the APY has crossed the landmark of 50 million enrolments in January 2023. Pension Fund Regulatory & Development Authority (PFRDA) regularly holds consultations with public sector banks (PSBs), department of financial services, state-level bankers committee and lead district managers to review and improve the implementation of APY across India. The highest number of enrolments age-wise was from 21-25 years (28%), accounting for 13.7 million subscribers. The Centre launched the APY in 2015 to ensure minimum social security for unorganized sector workers. The minimum age of joining the scheme is 18 years and maximum age is 40 years. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- APY saw the highest-ever enrolments in 2022 with enrolments rising 36%
- The figure crossed 10 million for the first time in a calendar year, reaching a total 12.5 million enrolments in 2022
- Total enrolments under APY till date crossed the landmark of 50 million in January 2023
- Nodal agency for the 'APY' – PFRDA
- APY: Launched in June 2015 | Age group – 18-40 years | Minimum guaranteed pension – Rs 1,000-5,000/m after 60
- HQs of PFRDA – New Delhi | Chairperson – Supratim Bandyopadhyay | Founded in – 2003

**21.** On January 27, Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) launched a massive district outreach programme called "Nidhi Aapke Nikat 2.0" in all the districts of the country. This programme was e-launched by Secretary of Ministry of Labour and Employment, Arti Ahuja. The aim of the programme is to reach out to all the districts in the country on the same day every month. The Nidhi Aapke Nikat 2.0 will be conducted on the 27<sup>th</sup> of every month. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- EPFO – launched a massive district outreach programme called "Nidhi Aapke Nikat 2.0"
- The programme will be conducted on the 27<sup>th</sup> of every month
- HQs of EPFO – New Delhi | CEO – Neelam Shami Rao | Established in – 1952

**22.** On January 26, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan announced the implementation of "Ladli Bahna Yojana" for women. Ladli Laxmi Yojana is also implemented by Madhya Pradesh government. Under this scheme, financial assistance of Rs 12,000 per year (Rs 1,000/month) will be provided by the government to the lower middle class and poor women (sisters) of the state. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Madhya Pradesh – launched "Ladli Bahna Yojana" for women
- 'Ladli Laxmi Yojana' – is also implemented by MP Govt
- Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel

**23.** On January 29, Uttar Pradesh government launched a campaign titled "Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan" to make daughters of the underprivileged classes capable and self-reliant. The campaign, 'Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan' will work in association with an NGO, under the 'Aarohini Initiative Training Program' for the safety and security of girls in all 746 Kasturba Gandhi Residential Girls Schools in the state. The Campaign will be implemented in three phases. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Uttar Pradesh – launched a campaign titled "Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan"
- The campaign will work in association with an NGO, under the 'Aarohini Initiative Training Program'
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel



**24.** In January 2023, the cabinet approved continuation of Schemes of Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region, with an outlay of Rs 12882.2 Cr, for the balance period of the 15<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission (2022-23 to 2025-26). Based on the Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) recommendations, the outlay for the North East Special Infrastructure Scheme (NESIDS) will be Rs 8139.5 Cr including committed liabilities of ongoing projects. The outlay for 'Schemes of NEC' will be Rs 3202.7 Cr including committed liabilities of ongoing projects. Moreover, the Ministry's new scheme "Prime Minister's Development initiative for the North Eastern Region - PM-Devine" (with an outlay of Rs 6, 600 Cr), was approved separately in October 2022. North East Gas Grid (NEGG) project of Rs 9,265 Cr is underway and will improve economy in NER. [{Read more}](#)

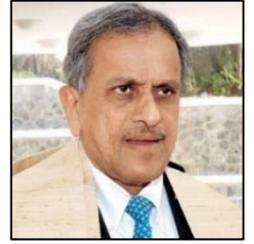
**Smart Points:**

- Cabinet approved continuation of Schemes of Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (Outlay – Rs 12882.2 Cr)
- Outlay for the North East Special Infrastructure Scheme – Rs 8139.5 Cr | Outlay for 'Schemes of NEC' – Rs 3202.7 Cr
- Outlay of 'Prime Minister's Development initiative for the North Eastern Region - PM Devine' – Rs 6, 600 Cr
- Outlay of North East Gas Grid (NEGG) project – Rs 9,265 Cr



# Obituaries

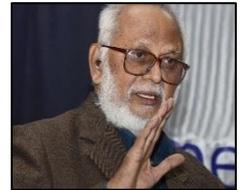
**1.** On January 1, Tata Group veteran and former Tata Sons director R K Krishna Kumar passed away. Krishna Kumar was involved in Tata's consultancy firm, RNT Associates, and the group's charitable trusts. He also received Padma Shri Award in 2009 in the field of Indian Trade & Industry. Krishna Kumar, well known as KK, was instrumental in the 271 million pounds buy-out of Tetley in 2000. He served as the managing director (MD) of Tata Global Beverages from May 1991 to January 1998. He was appointed the vice-chairman and managing director in 1997 of the company and retired in 2013. Krishna Kumar was also involved in Indian Hotels as vice chairman till 2013. [{Read more}](#)



## Smart Points:

- R K Krishna Kumar – former director of Tata Sons – passed away
- Awards: Padma Shri (2009) in Indian Trade & Industry
- He also served as MD of Tata Global Beverages from May 1991 to January 1998
- [HQs of Tata Sons – Mumbai, Maharashtra](#) | [Chairman – Natarajan Chandrasekaran](#)

**2.** M.S. Prabhakara, journalist, academic and author in English and Kannada, passed away. He was 87. He had served as correspondent for The Hindu for many decades in Assam and South Africa. Born in Kolar in Karnataka in 1936, he had lived for nearly three decades in Assam first as a teacher in Gauhati University and later as a correspondent of The Hindu. He lived for nearly a decade in South Africa, during its most turbulent years. [{Read more}](#)



## Smart Points:

- M. S. Prabhakara – journalist, academic & author in English & Kannada – passed away

**3.** Padma Shri awardee Sribhashyam Vijayasarithi, who is known for his poetry, passed away at the age of 86. Vijayasarithi began composing poetry at the age of seven. Even though he studied in Urdu medium, he excelled in Sanskrit. He was also the founder of Sri Yagna Varaha Swamy Kshetram (temple complex). He has written 100 books in Sanskrit and Telugu. He was born on March 10, 1936, in Chegurthi village in Karimnagar district. Vijayasarithi introduced Seesam, a Telugu poetic form, in the Sanskrit language and he was the first man who introduced that epistolary form in Sanskrit. He was awarded the Padma Shri in the literature and education category in 2020. [{Read more}](#)



## Smart Points:

- Sribhashyam Vijayasarithi – Sanskrit & Telugu poet – passed away
- He was the founder of Sri Yagna Varaha Swamy Kshetram (temple complex)
- Awards: Padma Shri (2020) in Literature & Education

**4.** Grammy winner Anita Marie Pointer, one of four sibling singers who earned pop success and critical acclaim as The Pointer Sisters, passed away. She was 74. Anita, Ruth, Bonnie and June Pointer grew up singing in their father's church in Oakland, California. She had won 3 Grammy awards. The group's 1973 self-titled debut album included the breakout hit, "Yes We Can Can." Known for hit songs including "I'm So Excited," "Slow Hand," "Neutron Dance" and "Jump (For My Love)," [{Read more}](#)



## Smart Points:

- Anita Marie Pointer (US) – a Singer & Songwriter – passed away (3 Grammy awards)

5. On January 2, Gujarat's first woman Chief Secretary Dr. Manjula Subramaniam, a 1972 batch IAS officer of Gujarat cadre, passed away. She served as the first woman Chief Secretary of Gujarat in 2008-09 when Narendra Modi was the Chief Minister of Gujarat. In between, she also worked in the Centre in the Ministry of Commerce and the Prime Minister's Office. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Dr. Manjula Subramaniam – Gujarat's first woman Chief Secretary – passed away
- Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Bhupendra Patel | Governor – Acharya Dev Vrat

6. The ICAR-National Research Centre on Equines (ICAR-NRCE), Hisar (Haryana), in collaboration with ICAR-Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI), Izatnagar (Uttar Pradesh) developed a homologous live-attenuated LSD vaccine, named "Lumpi-ProVac". Agrinnovate India Limited (AgIn), the commercial arm of DARE, under Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, granted 'Non-Exclusive Rights' for commercial production of "Lumpi-ProVac", to Institute of Veterinary Biological Products (IVBP), Pune. The vaccine is used for the prophylactic immunization of animals against Lumpy Skin Disease, which illicit protection for about one year. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Agrinnovate India – granted 'Non-Exclusive Rights' for commercial production of "Lumpi-ProVac" to IVBP, Pune
- The vaccine is developed by = ICAR-NRCE (Hisar, Haryana) + ICAR-IVRI (Izzatnagar, Bareilly, UP)
- HQs of ICAR – New Delhi | DG – Himanshu Pathak | Established in – 1929

7. Janaki Ballabh, a veteran Indian translator (Sinologist) and writer who was among few Indians who lived and worked in China during some of its most turbulent moments, passed away in Beijing at the age of 94. Mr. Ballabh spent years working for the Foreign Languages Press in Beijing, translating a range of Chinese works into Hindi. He was joined in Beijing by his wife Shyama Ballabh, who became Radio Beijing's first Hindi announcer. He was the first Indian to have granted long-term residency in China along with his wife. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Janaki Ballabh – a veteran Indian translator (Sinologist) – passed away
- He spent years in translating a range of Chinese works into Hindi

8. On January 4, Walter Cunningham, the last surviving astronaut from the first successful crewed space mission "Apollo 7" of the NASA, passed away in Houston. He was 90. Cunningham, in 1968, crewed the mission with Navy Capt. Walter M. Schirra and Donn F. Eisele, an Air Force major. The Apollo 7 astronauts also won a special Emmy award for their daily television reports from orbit. Neil Armstrong, who became the first person to walk on the moon, was also Apollo 11 astronaut. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Walter Cunningham (US) – the last surviving astronaut of NASA's "Apollo 7" mission – passed away
- He crewed the mission with Walter M. Schirra & Donn F. Eisele in 1968

9. On January 15, Indian National Congress (INC) MP Santokh Singh Chaudhary died of heart attack while taking part in the Bharat Jodo Yatra. He was a Lok Sabha MP (Member of Parliament) from Jalandhar constituency of Punjab. He won Indian general elections in 2014 & 2019. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- Santokh Singh Chaudhary – a Politician – passed away (Party - Indian National Congress)

**10.** On January 3, Shyamal Ghosh, who played as a defender in the Indian football team in the 1970s, passed away. He was 71. Shyamal Ghosh his first major break at Mohun Bagan in 1972. He made his India debut against Thailand at the Merdeka Cup in 1974. In 1977, he was made the captain of the East Bengal side. Shyamal Ghosh was presented with East Bengal's Lifetime Achievement Award in 2016. He won the Santosh Trophy thrice. As a coach, Shyamal Ghosh handpicked Bhaichung Bhutia to play for East Bengal in 1993 when he was just 17. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- Shyamal Ghosh – Former Football Player – passed away
- Awards: East Bengal's Lifetime Achievement Award in 2016 & Santosh Trophy (Thrice)

**11.** On January 3, Eminent Rabindra Sangeet exponent Sumitra Sen of West Bengal passed away. She was 89. The West Bengal government had awarded her 'Sangeet Mahasamman' in 2012. Her memorable songs that regaled Rabindra Sangeet lovers for over four decades include Megh Bolechhe Jabo Jabo, Tomari Jharnatar Nirjone, Sakhi Bhabona Kahare Bole and Achhe Dukho Achhe Mrityu. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- Sumitra Sen – Eminent Rabindra Sangeet exponent – passed away
- Awards: 'Sangeet Mahasamman' by West Bengal Govt in 2012
- [West Bengal: Capital – Kolkata](#) | [CM – Mamta Banerjee](#) | [Governor – CV Ananda Bose](#)

**12.** On January 7, Dr Tehemton Erach Udwadia, best known as the father of laparoscopic surgery in India, passed away. He conducted the country's first laparoscopic cholecystectomy (gall bladder removal) at JJ Hospital on May 31, 1990. He was awarded the Padma Bhushan, the country's third highest civilian award, in 2017 in the field of Medicine. "More Than Just Surgery: Life lessons beyond the O.T." book is authored by him. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- Dr Tehemton E Udwadia – also known as the 'Father of laparoscopic Surgery in India' – passed away
- He conducted India's first laparoscopic cholecystectomy (gall bladder removal) at JJ Hospital on May 31, 1990
- Awards: Padma Bhushan in 2017 in the field of Medicine
- "More Than Just Surgery: Life lessons beyond the O.T." book – authored by Tehemton Erach Udwadia

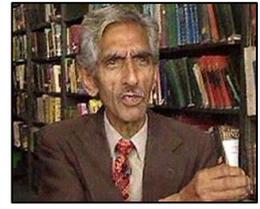
**13.** On January 8, Former governor of West Bengal, former speaker of Uttar Pradesh assembly and senior leader of Bhartiya Janta Party (BJP), Keshari Nath Tripathi, passed away. He was 89. He was born in erstwhile Allahabad (now Prayagraj) on November 10, 1934 and had an additional charge for short stints as governor of Bihar, Meghalaya and Mizoram while he was Governor of West Bengal. He was speaker of the UP State Legislative Assembly from 1991 to 1993, 1997 to 2002 and from May 2002 to March 2004. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- Keshari Nath Tripathi – former Governor of West Bengal – passed away
- He also had an additional charge as Governor of Bihar, Meghalaya & Mizoram
- [West Bengal: Capital – Kolkata](#) | [CM – Mamta Banerjee](#) | [Governor – CV Ananda Bose](#)

**14.** On January 9, Renowned Kashmiri poet, critic and scholar, Professor Abdul Rehman Rahi passed away. He was 98. He was awarded the Jnanpith Award for the year 2004. He got Sahitya Akademi Award in 1961 for his poetry collection 'Nawroz-e-Saba' and Padma Shri in 2000. He is the first Kashmiri writer to be awarded Jnanpith, the country's highest literary award, for his poetic collection 'Siyah Rood Jaeren Manz' (In Black Drizzle). [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Professor Abdul Rehman Rahi – Kashmiri poet, critic & scholar – passed away
- Awards: Jnanpith Award (2004), Sahitya Akademi Award (1961) & Padma Shri (2000)
- Professor Abdul Rehman Rahi – first Kashmiri writer to be awarded Jnanpith Award (India's highest literary award)

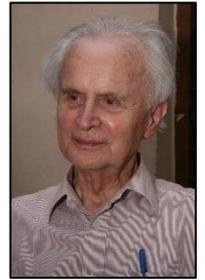
**15.** On January 13, Former Union minister and once the Janata Dal (United)'s chief Sharad Yadav passed away. Yadav formed the Loktantrik Janata Dal in 2018 after the JD(U) decided to return to an alliance with the BJP in Bihar. Ten-time MP, 7 times in the Lok Sabha and 3 times in the Rajya Sabha, Yadav was regarded as a very good socialist leader. He was the first president of the JD(U) and held the post from 2003 to 2016. He also served as the Union Minister for Civil Aviation, Minister of Labour & Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Sharad Yadav – Former Union Minister & first President of the JD(U) – passed away
- He was 10-time MP: 7 times in the Lok Sabha & 3 times in the Rajya Sabha

**16.** On January 11, Ronald E. Asher, renowned linguist and ambassador of Tamil and Malayalam to the world passed away. A linguist who specialised in Dravidian languages, Prof. Although Prof. Asher is known to Malayalis as the man who discovered and exposed Vaikom Mohammed Basheer as a "universal writer". He was the most popular linguist in India from Europe and he popularised modern literature of Tamil and Malayalam in English. Prof. He was the first occupant of Vaikom Mohammed Basheer Chair at Mahatma Gandhi University. He received the Basheer Memorial Award in 2010 instituted by the Pravasi Trust. Moreover, he was a Fellow of the Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland, a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, and an Honorary Fellow of the Sahitya Akademi. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Ronald E. Asher – Linguist & Ambassador of Tamil and Malayalam to the world – passed away
- He exposed Vaikom Mohammed Basheer as a "Universal Writer" | He received Basheer Memorial Award in 2010
- He was the first occupant of Vaikom Mohammed Basheer Chair at Mahatma Gandhi University

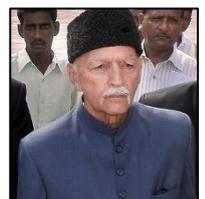
**17.** On January 11, Greece's former King Constantine II, whose nine-year reign coincided with one of the most turbulent periods in the country's political history, died aged 82. Constantine II, the only son of King Paul and Queen Frederica of Greece, ascended to the throne in 1964. Constantine II was a sailor whose team won a gold medal at the 1960 Olympics. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Constantine II – Former King of Greece – passed away (1960 Olympic Gold Medalist)
- Greece – Athens – Euro | PM – Kyriakos Mitsotakis

**19.** On January 14, the last Nizam of Hyderabad Mukarram Jah Bahadur passed away in Turkey. He was laid to rest in the family's vault in the forecourt of Mecca Masjid near Charminar in Hyderabad. Mukarram Jah, or as he was titled Nawab Mir Barkat Ali Khan Walashan Mukarram Jah Bahadur, became Nizam VIII after the inauguration ceremony on April 6, 1967. His father was Azam Jah, the eldest son of Nizam Mir Osman Ali Khan, whose kingdom was merged with India on September 18, 1948. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- Mukarram Jah Bahadur – Last Nizam of Hyderabad – passed away in Turkey
- He became Nizam VIII after the inauguration ceremony on April 6, 1967

**20.** On February 14, Ray Cordeiro, who interviewed music acts including the Beatles during a six-decade career on Hong Kong radio that earned him the title of the world's longest-working disc jockey (DJ), passed away. He was 98. Cordeiro, who was born in Hong Kong in 1924 of Portuguese descent, was recognized by the Guinness Book of Records as the world's longest-working DJ. His "All the Way With Ray" show of easy listening music was on RTHK Radio 3 for 51 years until his retirement. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- Ray Cordeiro (Hong Kong) – world's longest-working disc jockey on Hong Kong Radio – passed away

**21.** On January 19, Social worker & Padma Shri awardee Prabhaben Shah of Union territory of Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Daman, & Diu passed away. She was 92. For her selfless services, Prabhaben was awarded India's fourth highest civilian Award, Padma Shri in January 2022 in social work category. Fondly known as "Daman ki Divya", Prabhaben Shah organised canteens for the poor. She also coordinated All India Women Council's 'Vatra Banks' to assist Gujarat flood victims. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- Prabhaben Shah ('Daman ki Divya') – a Social worker – passed away
- Awards: Padma Shri (2022) in Social Work category

**22.** On January 17, Sister Andre, French nun and the world's oldest person passed away at the age of 118. Her birth name was Lucile Randon. Sister Andre lived in the southern city of Toulon in France. She devoted the majority of her life to religious pursuits. As per Guinness, Sister André was the oldest nun to ever live. The French nun lived through two world wars and the 1918 flu pandemic and, more than a century later, survived Covid-19 too. Before becoming a Catholic nun, she used to look after children during World War II. Later on, she spent next 28 years caring for elderly people at a hospital and orphans. Jeanne Louise Calment, born on February 21, 1875, lived for an extraordinary period of 122 years and 164 days, as stated by Guinness World Records.

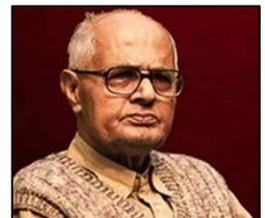


[{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- Sister Andre (Lucile Randon) – French nun and the world's oldest person – passed away at the age of 118
- She was the oldest nun to ever live
- Oldest person ever – France's Jeanne Louise Calment who lived for 122 years and 164 days
- [France – Paris – Euro](#) | [President – Emmanuel Macron](#) | [PM – Elisabeth Borne](#)

**23.** On January 19, Jnanpith awardee and eminent Assamese litterateur Nilmani Phookan passed away following prolonged old-age related problems. He was 90. He received the Sahitya Akademi award in 1981 for his book of poems 'Kobita', the Padma Shri in 1990 and the Sahitya Akademi fellowship in 2002. He is the third recipient of the Jnanpith award from Assam after Birendranath Bhattacharya and Mamoni (Indira) Raisom Goswami, and he received 56<sup>th</sup> Jnanpith Award for the year 2021 in April, 2022. Phookan was bestowed with the title of 'Kavya Rishi'. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- Nilmani Phookan ('Kavya Rishi') – Assamese litterateur – passed away
- Awards: 56<sup>th</sup> Jnanpith Award (2021), Sahitya Akademi Award (1981), Padma Shri (1990)

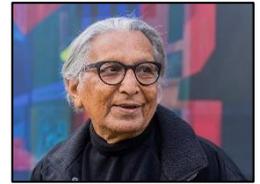
**24.** On January 20, renowned Bharatanatyam dancer and guru, writer and research scholar Lakshmi Vishwanathan died. She was 78. Among the many awards she received are the 'Kalaimamani' from the Tamil Nadu government, the 'Sangeet Natak Akademi Award' from the President of India and titles like 'Nritya Chudamani' (Sri Krishna Gana Sabha) and 'Nritya Kalanidhi' (The Music Academy, Madras), as well as the 'Kalidas Samman'. A gold medallist in English literature from Madras University, she authored four books - 'Kunjamma-Ode to a Nightingale' (a biography of M.S. Subbulakshmi); 'Women of Pride-the Devadasi Heritage'; 'Kapaliswara Temple'; and 'Bharatanatyam: The Tamil Heritage'. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Lakshmi Vishwanathan (Tamil Nadu) – Bharatanatyam Dancer & Guru, Writer, Research Scholar – passed away
- Awards: 'Kalaimamani', 'Sangeet Natak Akademi Award', 'Nritya Chudamani', 'Nritya Kalanidhi', 'Kalidas Samman'
- Her Books:
  - 'Kunjamma-Ode to a Nightingale'
  - 'Women of Pride-the Devadasi Heritage'
  - 'Kapaliswara Temple'
  - 'Bharatanatyam: The Tamil Heritage'

**25.** On January 24, Renowned architect Balkrishna Vithaldas Doshi passed away at the age of 95. Doshi was the first Indian architect to be awarded the Pritzker Prize. He was also awarded the Royal Institute of British Architects' Royal Gold Medal in 2022. Earlier, he had also received Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- B. V. Doshi – a Renowned Architect – passed away
- Awards: Royal Gold Medal (2022), Padma Bhushan, Padma Shri, Pritzker Prize (first Indian to receive this)

**26.** On January 21, former Vice Chief of Air Staff Air Marshal Harjeet Singh Arora passed away at the age of 61. Air Marshal Harjeet Singh Arora (Retd.) superannuated on June 30, 2021. He was succeeded by Air Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari. He was awarded the Ati Vishisht Seva Medal in January 2011 and the Param Vishisht Seva Medal in January 2020. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Air Marshal Harjeet Singh Arora – Former Vice Chief of Air Staff – passed away
- He was succeeded by Air Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari
- HQs of IAF – New Delhi | Chief – Air Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari | Vice Chief – Air Marshal Sandeep Singh

**27.** On January 31, Former Union Law Minister and Eminent Jurist, Shanti Bhushan, passed away at the age of 97. Bhushan, who was also a senior advocate, served as the law minister from 1977 to 1979 in the Morarji Desai cabinet. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Shanti Bhushan – Former Union Law Minister and Eminent Jurist – passed away

# Meetings, Conferences & Summits

1. On January 3, PM Narendra Modi addressed the 108<sup>th</sup> Indian Science Congress (ISC) via video conferencing held at Rashtrasant Tukadoji Maharaj Nagpur University, which is also celebrating its centenary this year. The focal theme of this year's ISC is "Science and Technology for Sustainable Development with Women Empowerment". Several other programmes such as Children's Science Congress, Farmer's Science Congress, and Tribal Science Congress were also organised alongside ISC. The first session of the Congress was held in 1914. [{Read more}](#)



## Smart Points:

- PM Narendra Modi – addressed 108<sup>th</sup> 'Indian Science Congress' held at Rashtrasant Tukadoji Maharaj Nagpur University
- Focal Theme – "Science and Technology for Sustainable Development with Women Empowerment"
- The first session of the Congress was held in 1914
- Maharashtra: CM – Eknath Shinde | Governor – Ramesh Bais

2. On January 5, Union Health Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya chaired a High-level Meeting to review the status of Kala-Azar disease in the 4 endemic states of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, and West Bengal. The meeting was also presided over by Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, Dr. Bharati Pravin Pawar. India is committed to eliminating Kala Azar from the country by 2023. 632 (99.8%) endemic blocks have already achieved elimination status. Kala Azar is also known as Visceral Leishmaniasis or Dum Dum Fever. Kala-Azar is a protozoan parasitic disease, spread by sandfly bites. [{Read more}](#)



## Smart Points:

- Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya – chaired a High-level Meeting to review the status of 'Kala-Azar' disease
- 4 endemic states for 'Kala Azar' – Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand & West Bengal | It is spread by Sandfly bites
- India is committed to eliminating Kala Azar (Visceral Leishmaniasis or Dum Dum Fever) from the country by 2023

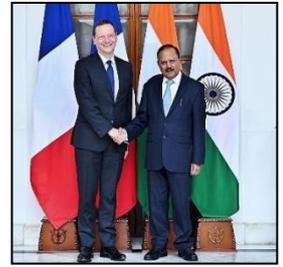
3. On January 4, Puducherry Lieutenant Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan announced that Puducherry will host the first meeting of G20 on January 31, 2023. The Lieutenant Governor released stickers, badges and posters with G20 logo. The events will be held across different parts of the country under different segments. Kolkata hosted the first "G20 Working Group on Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion" between the January 9-11. Moreover, a working group meeting will be held on health in Thiruvananthapuram, Chennai will host a meeting on Education, while Guwahati will host the first Sustainable Financial Meeting and Chandigarh will host the first Financial Architecture Meeting. G20 Foreign Ministers Meeting will be held in New Delhi in March 2023. [{Read more}](#)

## Smart Points:

- Puducherry – to host the first meeting of G20 on January 31, 2023
- Kolkata – hosted the first G20 Working Group on Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion
- Thiruvananthapuram – to host a G20 Working Group Meeting
- Chennai – to host the G20 Meeting on Education
- Guwahati – to host the first G20 Sustainable Financial Meeting
- Chandigarh – to host the first G20 Financial Architecture Meeting
- New Delhi – to host the G20 Foreign Ministers Meeting



4. On January 5, National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval held the 36<sup>th</sup> round of the Indo-French Strategic Dialogue with his French counterpart, Emmanuel Bonne in New Delhi. Both participants agreed to intensify efforts towards strategic autonomy. The two sides held discussions on a variety of issues, including the current global security situation in the context of the conflict in Ukraine, regional security in the context of Afghanistan, counter-terrorism, cyber security, defence cooperation in the Indo-Pacific, besides other issues of mutual concern. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- NSA Ajit Doval – held 36<sup>th</sup> round of ‘Indo-French Strategic Dialogue’ in New Delhi
- [France – Paris – Euro](#) | [President – Emmanuel Macron](#) | [PM – Elisabeth Borne](#)

5. On January 5-6, Ministry of Jal Shakti organized the “1<sup>st</sup> All India Annual State Ministers Conference on Water” with the theme “Water Vision@2047” in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh. The Conference had 5 thematic sessions - Water Security in Water Deficit, Water Surplus and Hilly Regions, Water Use Efficiency including Reuse of Waste Water/ Grey Water, Water Governance, Climate Change Resilient Water Infrastructure, and Water Quality. It was organised to take forward the “Action Plan and Vision Document of India@2047”, a plan by the government to make India a developed Nation by 2047. While addressing the challenges of water security as part of the India@2047 plan, the Prime Minister had proclaimed the ‘5P’ mantra which includes Political will, Public financing, Partnerships, Public Participation and Persuasion for sustainability. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Ministry of Jal Shakti – organized “1<sup>st</sup> All India Annual State Ministers Conference on Water” in Bhopal
- Theme – “Water Vision@2047” | Prime Minister – proclaimed ‘5P’ mantra for the plan
- 5Ps – Political will, Public financing, Partnerships, Public Participation, Persuasion for sustainability
- [Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal](#) | [CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan](#) | [Governor – Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel](#)
- [Ministry of Jal Shakti: Gajendra Singh Sekhawat](#) | [Constituency – Jodhpur, Rajasthan](#)
- [MoS for Jal Shakti & Food Processing Industries – Prahlad Singh Patel](#)

6. On January 6, Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, Anurag Singh Thakur, launched the themes of ‘Youth 20 (Y20) Summit’, logo and website in the Curtain raiser event of ‘Y20 Summit India’ in New Delhi. India is hosting the Y20 summit for the first time. Anurag Thakur also talked about the Themes of Y20 i.e., i) Future of Work: Industry 4.0, Innovation & 21<sup>st</sup> Century skills, ii) Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction: Making Sustainability a way of life, iii) Peacebuilding and Reconciliation: Ushering in an era of No War, iv) Shared Future: Youth in Democracy and Governance, and v) Health, Wellbeing & Sports: Agenda for Youth. The Youth20 Group’s inception meeting will take place in Guwahati, Assam in February 2023. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Anurag Singh Thakur – launched the themes, logo & website of ‘Youth 20 (Y20) Summit’ in New Delhi
- India is hosting the ‘Y20 Summit’ for the first time
- 5 themes:
  - Future of Work: Industry 4.0, Innovation & 21<sup>st</sup> Century skills
  - Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction: Making Sustainability a way of life
  - Peacebuilding and Reconciliation: Ushering in an era of No War
  - Shared Future: Youth in Democracy and Governance
  - Health, Wellbeing & Sports: Agenda for Youth

7. On January 12 and 13, India hosted a special virtual summit, “The ‘Voice of Global South Summit” under the theme ‘Unity of Voice, Unity of Purpose’. Global South refers to the developing and the less-developed countries of the world. More than 120 countries were invited to participate in this Summit. The initiative is inspired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s vision of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas and Sabka Prayas and is underpinned by India’s philosophy of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam. The inaugural and concluding sessions were at the head of state or government level and hosted by the Prime Minister. The theme of the Inaugural Leaders’ session was ‘Voice of Global South for Human-Centric Development’ and that of the Concluding Leaders’ session was ‘Unity of Voice, Unity of Purpose’. In addition, there were 8 ministerial sessions on various themes. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- India – hosted “The ‘Voice of Global South Summit”
- The theme of the Inaugural Leaders’ session – ‘Voice of Global South for Human-Centric Development’
- The theme of the Concluding Leaders’ session – ‘Unity of Voice, Unity of Purpose’

8. PM Narendra Modi chaired the second National Conference of Chief Secretaries in Delhi between 6-7 January to further boost the partnership between the Union and the State governments. This three-day Conference focused on achieving rapid and sustained economic growth in partnership with the States. The Conference also laid the ground for collaborative action for achieving a developed India with a thrust on growth and job creation and inclusive human development. The discussion during the conference was held on six identified themes: Thrust on MSMEs; Infrastructure and Investments; Minimizing Compliances; Women’s Empowerment; Health and Nutrition; and Skill Development. Besides, focused deliberations were also held on four topics, viz. Vocal for Local; International Year of Millets; G20: Role of States; and Emerging Technologies. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- PM Narendra Modi – chaired ‘National Conference of Chief Secretaries’ held in New Delhi
- The Conference focused on achieving rapid & sustained economic growth in partnership with the States

9. On January 9, Tamil Nadu launched the ‘Global Tamil Angels’ platform for investors from the global Tamil diaspora to make investments in the State’s start-ups. The platform was launched at the “Global Startup Investors Summit”, jointly organised by the Tamil Nadu Startup and Innovation Mission and FeTNA International Tamil Entrepreneur Network. A multi-crore American Tamil Fund (ATF) by investors from the Tamil Diaspora in the US was announced at the event to invest in the State’s start-ups. The ATF has pledged investments to the tune of ₹16 crore before December 2023. Global Tamil Angels is a platform by StartupTN that makes fundraising easy for Tamil Nadu-based start-ups and investing easy for Global Tamil Angel Investors by helping them get connected. It aims to onboard angel investors from the Tamil diaspora across countries. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Tamil Nadu – launched the ‘Global Tamil Angels’ platform at “Global Startup Investors Summit”
- Summit organised by = Tamil Nadu Startup & Innovation Mission + FeTNA International Tamil Entrepreneur Network
- The platform is launched for investors from the global Tamil diaspora to make investments in the State’s start-ups
- American Tamil Fund (ATF) has pledged investments of about ₹16 Cr before December 2023
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin | Governor – Ravindra Narayan Ravi

**10.** On the occasion of World Hindi Day on January 10, the World Hindi Day 2023 Conference's main theme was announced which is "Hindi: From Traditional Knowledge to Artificial Intelligence". The conference will be held at the Denarau Island Convention Center in Nadi, Fiji. Hindi is the third most widely spoken language in the world after Mandarin Chinese and English, with about 600 million speakers globally. Vishwa Hindi Diwas marks the day when Hindi was first spoken in the United Nations' General Assembly in 1949. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- 12<sup>th</sup> "World Hindi Conference" – to be held in Nadi, Fiji (in Feb 2023)
- Conference's Theme – "Hindi: From Traditional Knowledge to Artificial Intelligence"
- January 10 – World Hindi Day | Hindi was first spoken in the UNGA in 1949

**11.** On January 11, the Vice President & Rajya Sabha Chairman, Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar addressed the inaugural session of the 83<sup>rd</sup> All India Presiding Officers' Conference in Jaipur. The All India Presiding Officers' Conference (AIPOC) is the apex body of the Legislatures in India that completed its 100 years in 2021. This is the 4<sup>th</sup> time that the Conference was organized in Jaipur. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Jagdeep Dhankhar – addressed the inaugural session of the 83<sup>rd</sup> All India Presiding Officers' Conference in Jaipur
- Rajasthan: Capital – Jaipur | CM – Ashok Gehlot | Governor – Kalraj Mishra

**12.** On January 10 & 11, Piyush Goyal visited Washington D.C. to participate in the 13<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Meeting of the 'India-U.S. Trade Policy Forum'. Before the delegation level talks, he also held a one-to-one meeting with USTR Ambassador Katherine Tai. The Ministers underlined the significance of the TPF in forging robust bilateral trade ties and enhancing the bilateral economic relationship to benefit working people in both countries. India appreciated the resumption of inspections by U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and asked the U.S. side to also resume inspections of new facilities and non-priority areas at the earliest. The Ministers welcomed the finalization of the Turtle Excluder Device (TED) design. The Ministers launched a new working group on "Resilient Trade" to deepen bilateral dialogue on a range of issues that can enhance the resiliency and sustainability of the trade relationship. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Piyush Goyal – participated in the 13<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Meeting of the India-U.S. Trade Policy Forum
- India + US – finalized the Turtle Excluder Device (TED) design
- The ministers launched a new working group on "Resilient Trade" to deepen bilateral dialogue
- Ministry of Commerce & Industry: Piyush Goyal | Constituency – Maharashtra
- MoS in Ministry of Commerce & Industry: Anupriya Singh Patel & Som Parkash

**13.** On January 12, the United Arab Emirates, the host of COP28, has appointed its Industry Minister Sultan Al Jaber as the President of the 2023 UN Climate Change Conference (UNFCCC COP28). The COP28 to the UNFCCC will be held from 30 November to 12 December 2023 in Dubai, UAE. The role of the COP president is to facilitate and guide the negotiations. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- UAE appointed Sultan Al Jaber as the President of COP28 to the UNFCCC – to be held in Dubai (in Nov-Dec 2023)
- UAE – Abu Dhabi – Dirham | President – Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan

**14.** With an aim to open up newer opportunities to promote international trade of Indian spices, the 14<sup>th</sup> edition of the World Spice Congress (WSC) is to be held in Mumbai from 16-18 February 2023. India is known as the ‘Spice Bowl’ of the world. It produces a number of quality, rare and medicinal spices. The theme of the WSC 2023 is “VISION 2030: S-P-I-C-E-S (Sustainability, Productivity, Innovation, Collaboration, Excellence and Safety)”. The WSC is organized by the Spices Board, under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- 14<sup>th</sup> World Spice Congress (WSC) – to be organized by Spices Board in Mumbai (in Feb 2023)
- Theme – “VISION 2030: S-P-I-C-E-S (Sustainability, Productivity, Innovation, Collaboration, Excellence and Safety)”
- HQs of Spices Board of India – Kochi, Kerala | Chairman – A. G. Thankappan

**15.** On January 12, Union minister of petroleum and natural gas, Hardeep Singh Puri addressed the 11<sup>th</sup> edition of Confederation of Indian Industry’s flagship event ‘Bio Energy Summit 2023’ held in New Delhi. The theme of the summit was “Energy Transition - Solution for a Sustainable Tomorrow”. The bio energy summit discussed solutions to challenges facing the world including climate change and sustainable development. During the summit, the minister said that India has increased the ethanol blending in petrol from 1.53% in 2013-14 to 10.17% in July 2022. Moreover, setting up 2G refineries to make ethanol from Parali (Panipat) and Bamboo (Numaligarh) with the twin objective of reducing pollution along with achieving energy security goals is another milestone in this direction. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Hardeep Singh Puri – addressed the 11<sup>th</sup> ‘Bio Energy Summit 2023’ by CII
- Theme of the summit – “Energy Transition – Solution for a Sustainable Tomorrow”
- India has increased the ethanol blending in petrol to 10.17% in July 2022 (from 1.53% in 2013-14)
- 2G refineries will be setup to make ethanol from Parali (Panipat) and Bamboo (Numaligarh)
- Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas: Hardeep Singh Puri | Constituency – Uttar Pradesh
- MoS in the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas: Rameswar Teli
- HQs of CII – New Delhi | President – Sanjiv Bajaj | VC – Sanjiv Puri | DG – Chandrajit Banerjee | Founded in – 1895

**16.** On January 13, the Central government announced to organize India’s first Global Tourism Summit in New Delhi in April 2023 as part of the G-20 presidency, where all G-20 member countries will participate. The Global Tourism Investors Summit 2023 will be organized by the Union Ministry of Tourism, in association with Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) as the Industry Partner. Ahead of the Global Tourism Investors’ Summit, a road show was held in Kolkata. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- India’s 1<sup>st</sup> “Global Tourism Summit 2023” in New Delhi = to be organised by Ministry of Tourism + CII (in April 2023)
- HQs of CII – New Delhi | President – Sanjiv Bajaj | VC – Sanjiv Puri | DG – Chandrajit Banerjee | Founded in – 1895
- Ministry of Tourism: G. Kishan Reddy | Constituency – Secunderabad, Telangana
- MoS in Ministry of Tourism: Shripad Yesso Naik & Ajay Bhatt

**17.** On January 18 to 20, India hosted its first Health Working Group (HWG) meeting in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala after assuming its G20 presidency on December 1, 2022. The second health working group meeting will be held on April 17-19 in Goa, third meeting from June 4-6 in Hyderabad, Telangana, and the fourth meeting G20 health ministerial meeting will take place on August 17-19 in Gandhinagar, Gujarat. India is currently part of the G20 Troika which refers to the top grouping within the G20 comprising countries like Indonesia, Brazil and India. It is the first time three developing nations are a part of this Troika. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- India – hosted its first HWG meeting in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala after assuming its G20 presidency
- Upcoming HWG meetings: 2<sup>nd</sup> – Goa (April 17-19) | 3<sup>rd</sup> – Hyderabad (June 4-6) | 4<sup>th</sup> – Gandhinagar (August 17-19)
- India is currently part of the G20 Troika in which other two countries are Indonesia & Brazil
- Presidency of G20 Summit: 2023 – India (Dec 1, 2022 to Nov 30, 2023) | 2024 – Brazil
- India’s G20 motto – ‘Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam’ | Theme – ‘One Earth One Family One Future’ | Sherpa – Amitabh Kant

**18.** On January 17, the first G20 Infrastructure Working Group (IWG) meeting under G20 India Presidency was concluded in Pune. The G20 IWG discussed the 2023 Infrastructure Agenda under the Indian G20 Presidency. The meeting discussed the flagship theme of “Financing Cities of Tomorrow - Inclusive, Resilient and Sustainable”, amongst others. It also discussed other important themes, such as exploring ways to collate the data on Infrastructure spending and make the data useful for the private sector. On the side-lines, the Pune meeting was also complemented by a High-Level Workshop on “Financing of Cities of Tomorrow” wherein over 15 international experts discussed the issues related to financing of the cities. The second meeting of the Infrastructure Working Group is scheduled to be held in Vishakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, on 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> of March, 2023. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> ‘Infrastructure Working Group Meeting’ under India’s G20 Presidency – held in Pune, Maharashtra
- The meeting discussed flagship theme of “Financing Cities of Tomorrow - Inclusive, Resilient and Sustainable”
- On the side-lines, a High-Level Workshop on “Financing of Cities of Tomorrow” was also held in Pune
- 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of IWG is scheduled to be held on March 28-29 – in Vishakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh
- Presidency of G20 Summit: 2023 – India (Dec 1, 2022 to Nov 30, 2023) | 2024 – Brazil
- India’s G20 motto – ‘Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam’ | Theme – ‘One Earth One Family One Future’ | Sherpa – Amitabh Kant

**19.** On January 16, two-day “Think-20” meeting under the G20 was held at the Kushabhau Thackeray International Convention Centre in Bhopal during which experts and foreign guests discussed various topics including the ‘Environment-friendly lifestyle-ethical values and global good governance’. The main speaker at the inaugural session was Tetsushi Sonobe, Dean and CEO of the Asian Development Bank Institute, Tokyo. On January 17, there were two plenary sessions, a round table meeting and a valedictory session with the concluding speech of Governor Mangubhai Patel. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- “Think-20” meeting under G20 was held at – Kushabhau Thackeray International Convention Centre in Bhopal
- The main speaker at inaugural session – Tetsushi Sonobe, Dean & CEO of ADB Institute, Tokyo
- Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel

**20.** On January 12-13, India hosted two-day virtual “Voice of Global South Summit”. The inaugural Leaders’ Session was led by PM Narendra Modi. The theme of the Summit was “Unity of Voice, Unity of Purpose”. During the summit, PM Narendra Modi announced the “Aarogya Maitri” project under which India will provide essential medical supplies to any developing country affected by natural disasters or humanitarian crises. The PM also highlighted India’s “Vaccine Maitri” initiative that supplied vaccines to more than 100 countries during Covid-19. He also announced that India will establish the ‘Global South Center of Excellence’ to carry out research on development solutions. Moreover, PM Modi also proposed a “Global South Young Diplomats Forum” to connect young officers of foreign ministries for synergising our diplomatic voice. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- India – hosted the virtual “Voice of Global South Summit” | Theme – “Unity of Voice, Unity of Purpose”
- The inaugural Leaders’ Session was led by – PM Narendra Modi
- During the summit, PM Narendra Modi announced the “Aarogya Maitri” project
- India will establish the ‘Global South Center of Excellence’ to carry out research on development solutions
- PM Modi also proposed a “Global South Young Diplomats Forum” to connect young officers of foreign ministries

**21.** On January 16 to 20, the 53<sup>rd</sup> edition of the annual meeting of World Economic Forum (WEF) was held at Davos in Switzerland. The theme for this year’s WEF meeting was “Cooperation in a Fragmented World”. World leaders shared their insights on the prevalent economic conditions across the globe. According to the WEF’s annual Global Risks Report, recession threat, cost-of-living crisis and debt distress is likely to dominate the outlook for at least two years. The congregation of experts, academics, investors, and political and business leaders discussed some of the pressing issues the world is facing today, such as the Russia-Ukraine crisis, global inflation and climate change and promote innovative solutions. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- 53<sup>rd</sup> edition of annual meeting of WEF – held at Davos in Switzerland
- Theme for this year’s WEF meeting – “Cooperation in a Fragmented World”
- HQs of WEF – Cologny, Switzerland | Exe Chairman – Klaus Schwab | President – Borge Brende | Founded in – 1971

**22.** As part of the G20 presidency, a “Business 20 (B20) Inception Meeting” began in Gujarat’s capital Gandhinagar with over 600 delegates participating in the event, to deliberate on issues ranging from climate change, innovation, global digital cooperation and resilient global value chains. The B20 India 2023 dialogue took place under the theme of ‘RAISE’ (Responsible, Accelerated, Innovative, Sustainable and Equitable Businesses). In Kutch, the first meeting of the Tourism Working Group of G20 countries will take place from February 7 to February 10, while a similar event of the Urban 20 Inception will be held in Ahmedabad from February 9 to February 10. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Business 20 (B20) Inception Meeting – held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat
- Theme – ‘RAISE’ (Responsible, Accelerated, Innovative, Sustainable and Equitable Businesses)
- First meeting of the Tourism Working Group of G20 countries – to take place in Kutch, Gujarat
- Urban 20 Inception Meeting – to take place in Ahmedabad, Gujarat
- Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Bhupendra Patel | Governor – Acharya Dev Vrat

**23.** The sixth edition of the 'International Spice Conference' was held from January 19 to 22 at ITC Grand Chola in Chennai. The theme of the conference was "Reboot; Rebound - Beyond the New Normal". The conference was hosted by the All-India Spices Exporters Forum (AISEF), which represents spice exporters from India, and the Cochin Chamber of Commerce and Industry. MM Murugappan, Chairman of Carborundum Universal Limited, delivered the keynote address at the inaugural function. The conference aims to address the problems faced by the spice industry in the post-Covid era, including a tight economy and limited crop supply. The meet also released the AISEF-YES Bank report 'Spices of India: Strides towards market-driven imperatives.' [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- 6<sup>th</sup> International Spice Conference – held in Chennai (hosted by – All-India Spices Exporters Forum)
- Theme – “Reboot; Rebound - Beyond the New Normal”
- AISEF – represents spice exporters from India
- AISEF-YES Bank report ‘Spices of India: Strides towards market-driven imperatives’ was also released
- [Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai](#) | [CM – Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin](#) | [Governor – Ravindra Narayan Ravi](#)

**24.** On January 10, a 7-day long Startup-India Innovation Week to celebrate the National Startup Day started across the nation with several events to reach ecosystem stakeholders and enablers. Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) organized a workshop on Alternative Investment and their Central role, chaired by Anurag Jain, Secretary, DPIIT as part of the Startup India Innovation Week 2023 at Vanijya Bhawan, New Delhi. On this occasion, the DPIIT also organized the “ASCEND (Accelerating Startup Calibre & Entrepreneurial Drive) SAMAGAM” in Northeast. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- January 10 to 16 – Startup-India Innovation Week
- DPIIT – organized a workshop on Alternative Investment and their Central role, chaired by Anurag Jain – in New Delhi
- DPIIT – also organized the “ASCEND (Accelerating Startup Calibre & Entrepreneurial Drive) SAMAGAM” in Northeast
- [HQs of DPIIT – New Delhi](#) | [DPIIT works under – Ministry of Commerce & Industry](#)

**25.** On January 19, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (MoAFW), along with PHD Chamber of Commerce & Industry (PHDCCI) in association with National Centre for Cold Chain Development (NCCD) as a knowledge partner, organised a one-day exhibition and conference as “India Cold Chain Conclave” in New Delhi. The Conclave and exhibition was inaugurated by Manoj Ahuja, Secretary, Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare. On this occasion, Shri Ahuja handed over the letter of acceptance to the five Cluster Development Agencies and Implementing Agencies for respective Clusters viz. Apple in Shopian (J&K), Banana in Ananthapur (Andhra Pradesh), Grape in Nasik (Maharashtra), Mango in Mahbubnagar (Telangana) and Turmeric in West Jaintia Hills (Meghalaya), out of 12 selected clusters for pilot phase. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- MoAFW + PHDCCI + NCCD = organised the “India Cold Chain Conclave” in New Delhi
- On this occasion, Manoj Ahuja handed over the letter of acceptance to the 5 Cluster Development Agencies:
  - Apple in Shopian (J&K)
  - Banana in Ananthapur (Andhra Pradesh)
  - Grape in Nasik (Maharashtra)
  - Mango in Mahbubnagar (Telangana)
  - Turmeric in West Jaintia Hills (Meghalaya)
- [HQs of PHDCCI – New Delhi](#) | [President – Pradeep Multani](#)

**26.** Ministry of Tourism, Government of India participated in FITUR from January 18-22 in Madrid which is one of the world's largest international travel exhibitions. The India Pavilion was graced by the presence the King and Queen of Spain, and was formally inaugurated by His Excellency. The Indian Delegation was led by Mr. Rakesh Kumar Verma, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Tourism who participated in key business meetings facilitated by the dedicated Industry Development & Investment Promotion (IDIP) Division at the Ministry of Tourism managed by Invest India. The meetings had discussions around investment opportunities in the Indian tourism & hospitality sector. The leadership from these organizations were also formally invited to participate in the 1st Global Tourism Investors' Summit being organized by the Ministry of Tourism between 10th - 12th April, 2023 in New Delhi on lines of India's G20 Presidency. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

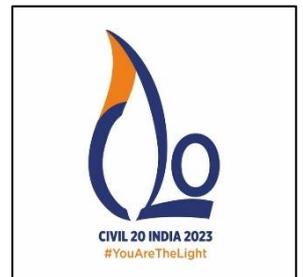
- Ministry of Tourism – participated in FITUR from January 18-22 in Madrid, Spain
- FITUR – one of the world's largest international travel exhibitions
- Indian Delegation was led by – Mr. Rakesh Kumar Verma
- 1<sup>st</sup> Global Tourism Investors' Summit – to be held in New Delhi (in April 2023)
- Ministry of Tourism: G. Kishan Reddy | Constituency – Secunderabad, Telangana
- MoS in Ministry of Tourism: Shripad Yesso Naik & Ajay Bhatt

**27.** On January 19, India participated in the 'First Movers Coalition (FMC) Leadership Meeting' of the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos, Switzerland. DPIIT Secretary, Anurag Jain, highlighted India's role in democratizing the digital ecosystem at the CII-EY Session. At the Building Unicorns panel, Secretary underscored India's push for the Startup 20 (S-20) agenda as the G20 President. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- India – participated in the 'First Movers Coalition (FMC) Leadership Meeting' of the WEF in Davos, Switzerland
- HQs of WEF – Cologne, Switzerland | Exe Chairman – Klaus Schwab | President – Borge Brende | Founded in – 1971

**28.** On January 21, India's Civil 20 Engagement Group (C20), the official engagement group of the country's G20 leadership, has been inaugurated at Amritapuri in Kerala's Kollam district. Sri Mata Amritanandamayi (Amma) serves as Chair of C20. On the occasion, Amma initiated a Rs 50 Crore project by the Mata Amritanandamayi Math to support the welfare of pregnant women who are malnourished and people with disabilities in underdeveloped districts across India and other developing nations. Members of India's C20 include Sri M, the Satsang Foundation as Participant; Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini as Secretariat; and the Vivekananda Kendra, Kanyakumari as Institutional Partner. C20's purpose is to bring the concerns of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) from around the world to the G20 Summit set to take place in New Delhi in September, 2023. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- India's Civil 20 Engagement Group (C20) – inaugurated at Amritapuri, Kollam, Kerala
- Chair of C20 – Sri Mata Amritanandamayi (Amma)
- Presidency of G20 Summit: 2023 – India (Dec 1, 2022 to Nov 30, 2023) | 2024 – Brazil
- India's G20 motto – 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' | Theme – 'One Earth One Family One Future' | Sherpa – Amitabh Kant



**29.** India is hosting the 'Youth 20 (Y20) Summit' for the first time on the sidelines of the G20 summit. The first meeting of the Y20 Group shall be held in Guwahati, Assam from February 6-8, 2023. This is the first of the various meetings to be held on the five Y20 themes across India in a run-up to the final Youth-20 Summit in August 2023. Five themes include - Future of Work; Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction; Peace Building and Reconciliation; Youth in Democracy and Health, Wellbeing and Sports. Youth20 is one of the 8 official engagement groups under the G20 umbrella. Other groups include - Business community (B20), Civil society (C20), Labor unions (L20), Scientists (S20), Think tanks (T20), Urban cities (U20), and Women (W20). [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- The first meeting of the Y20 Group – to be held in Guwahati, Assam (in Feb 2023)
- 5 Themes Y20:
  - Future of Work
  - Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction
  - Peace Building and Reconciliation
  - Youth in Democracy and Health
  - Wellbeing and Sports
- 8 official engagement groups under G20 – B20, C20, L20, S20, T20, U20, W20, Y20
- The final Youth-20 Summit – to be held in August 2023

**30.** On January 17, more than 300 intellectuals from India and abroad released the “Bhopal Declaration” after discussing the G-20 agenda in the two-day meeting of Think-20 (T20) under G20 in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh. Director General of Research and Information System for Developing Countries-RIS and Chief organizer of Think-20, Sachin Chaturvedi said that the Bhopal Declaration has also emphasized promoting traditional medicine systems like AYUSH and encouraging value-oriented development in infrastructure development. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- ‘Meeting of Think-20 (T20)’ under G20 – held in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh
- More than 300 intellectuals from India and abroad released the “Bhopal Declaration” at T20 Meeting
- [Presidency of G20 Summit: 2023 – India \(Dec 1, 2022 to Nov 30, 2023\) | 2024 – Brazil](#)
- [India’s G20 motto – ‘Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam’ | Theme – ‘One Earth One Family One Future’ | Sherpa – Amitabh Kant](#)

**31.** The first meeting of the Environment, Climate & Sustainability Working Group (ECSWG) under the Sherpa Track of G20 was scheduled to be held in Bengaluru from February 9-11, 2023. Total 4 Meetings of the ECSWG are scheduled to be hosted by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) during India’s G20 presidency which ends on November 30, 2023. The discussions at ECSWG focused on the agenda ‘Promotion of Blue Economy along with Coastal Sustainability’, ‘Restoration of Degraded Lands and Ecosystems’ and ‘Enhancement of Biodiversity’ and ‘Strengthening of Circular Economy’. Moreover, the Geo-Spatial Forest Information System developed by the Karnataka Forest Department is a unique platform which uses Remote Sensing and GIS technology and provides spatial database of all notified forest lands in the state. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the 'Environment, Climate & Sustainability Working Group' – held in Bengaluru, Karnataka
- Karnataka Forest Department – developed the 'Geo-Spatial Forest Information System'
- Presidency of G20 Summit: 2023 – India (Dec 1, 2022 to Nov 30, 2023) | 2024 – Brazil
- India's G20 motto – 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' | Theme – 'One Earth One Family One Future' | Sherpa – Amitabh Kant

**32.** The Election Commission of India (ECI) hosted the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on the theme "Use of Technology and Elections Integrity" at New Delhi on 23-24 January, 2023. ECI is leading the Cohort on Elections Integrity which was established as a follow up to the 'Summit for Democracy' held virtually in December, 2021. The first international conference of the Cohort was organized on 31 Oct-1 Nov, 2022 at New Delhi on the topic 'Role, Framework and Capacity of Election Management Bodies'. The two-day international conference was inaugurated by Chief Election Commissioner of India Shri Rajiv Kumar. 'Summit for Democracy', was an initiative of US President and hosted in December 2021. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- ECI – hosted the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on the theme "Use of Technology and Elections Integrity" in New Delhi
- HQs of ECI – New Delhi | Chief Election Commissioner – Rajiv Kumar (25<sup>th</sup>) | Formed on – 25<sup>th</sup> Jan, 1950
- Election Commissioners (2) – Anup Chandra Pandey & Arun Goel

**33.** On January 25, Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology, Rajeev Chandrasekhar, inaugurated the first-ever India Stack Developer Conference in New Delhi. According to the MeitY, the event saw participation from more than 100 different startups, industry associations and other organisations/group of countries like G20 countries. India Stack refers to the Indian government's ambitious project to create a unified software platform aimed at bringing the country's population into the digital age. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- Rajeev Chandrasekhar – inaugurated the first-ever India Stack Developer Conference in New Delhi
- Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology: Ashwini Vaishnaw | Constituency – Odisha
- MoS in Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology: Rajeev Chandrasekhar

**34.** In January 2023, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of Steering Committee of Ken-Betwa Link Project (SC-KBLP) was held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi under the Chairmanship of Secretary of Ministry of Jal Shakti, Pankaj Kumar. The meeting was attended by representatives of both the states of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh and officials of various Central Ministries and NITI Aayog. During the meeting, deliberations were held on various agenda items. Besides, two wildlife sanctuaries namely Nauradehi Wildlife Sanctuary and Rani Durgawati Wildlife Sanctuary of Madhya Pradesh and Ranipur Wildlife Sanctuary of U.P. have been approved by state government for bringing them under the 'Project Tiger'. Ken and Betwa are the tributaries of Yamuna River. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- Pankaj Kumar – chaired the 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of Steering Committee of Ken-Betwa Link Project – held in New Delhi
- Ken-Betwa Link Project – between MP & UP (the first river interlinking project)
- Ken & Betwa are the tributaries of – Yamuna River

**35.** On January 26, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov announced that the 15<sup>th</sup> BRICS Summit will take place in South Africa's Durban in August 2023. Earlier in 2013, the fifth annual BRICS summit was held in Durban, South Africa. While the 14<sup>th</sup> BRICS Summit was held in Beijing, China. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- 15<sup>th</sup> BRICS Summit – to take place in Durban, South Africa in August 2023
- BRICS Member Countries = 5 – Brazil, Russia, India, China & South Africa | BRICS Chairmanship in 2022 – China

**36.** On January 23, Chief Minister of Goa, Dr. Pramod Sawant inaugurated the “Smart Cities CEOs Conference on Data and Technology” in Panaji, Goa. The two-day conference was organized by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) in coordination with Imagine Panaji Smart City Development Ltd (IPSCDL). Hosted by IPSCDL, the conference witnessed the participation of CEOs/Municipal Commissioners of 100 Smart Cities along with officials from the Central, State government, Industry and knowledge partners. Since its inception, IPSCDL, under the Smart Cities Mission, has taken up 47 projects in Panaji city worth Rs. 950.34 Crore, out of which 15 projects worth Rs. 58.15 Crore have been completed. Smart Cities Mission was launched by PM Narendra Modi on June 25, 2015. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- Pramod Sawant – inaugurated the “Smart Cities CEOs Conference on Data and Technology” in Panaji, Goa
- The conference was organised by = MoHUA + IPSCDL | SCM was launched by PM Modi in June, 2015
- Goa: Capital – Panaji | CM – Pramod Sawant | Governor – P. S. Sreedharan Pillai

**37.** The 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the “Interpol Young Global Police Leaders Programme (YGPLP)” was held in Delhi from January 25 to February 2, 2023 with the theme “Trust”. It aimed at building trust between public-police as well as trust factors between international police forces in the era of technology. There were 60 participants from 44 countries. The Central Bureau of Investigation, which acts as a nodal agency with Interpol, is coordinating with the participating nations. Young Global Police Leaders Programme was set up in 2019 to prepare the next generation of global police leaders to effectively combat international crime, now and in the future. The second edition of global police leaders programme was held in March, 2022 in UAE. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the “Interpol Young Global Police Leaders Programme (YGPLP)” – held in Delhi, India
- Theme – “Trust” | CBI acts as a nodal agency with Interpol | YGPLP was set up in 2019

**38.** On January 27, Meghalaya Governor BD Mishra announced that the state will host the Space-20 programme of the G20 nations in Shillong in April, 2023 to discuss how space partnerships can contribute to the economy of the countries. India has decided to host around 200 G20 meetings across the country during its yearlong Presidency of the influential group. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- Meghalaya – will host the Space-20 programme of the G20 nations in Shillong in April, 2023
- Meghalaya: Capital – Shillong | CM – Conrad Kongkal Sangma | Governor – Phagu Chauhan

**39.** On January 27, the 30<sup>th</sup> National Child Science Congress began in Ahmedabad, Gujarat. Secretary of Gujarat Science and Technology department, Vijay Nahera, inaugurated the Congress. Gujarat Council on Science and Technology (GUJCOST), Gujarat Council of Science City, and SAL Education hosted the five-day congress which concluded on January 31. More than 1400 delegates including child scientists, escort teachers, evaluators, and government officials attended the congress. The theme of the congress was “Understanding Eco System for Health and Wellbeing”. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- 30<sup>th</sup> National Child Science Congress – held in Ahmedabad, Gujarat
- It was hosted by = GUJCOST + Gujarat Council of Science City + SAL Education
- Theme – “Understanding Eco System for Health and Wellbeing”
- Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Bhupendra Patel | Governor – Acharya Dev Vrat

**40.** On January 31, the first G20 International Financial Architecture Working Group meeting under the G20 Indian Presidency was held in Chandigarh. International Financial Architecture Working Group is one of the important workstreams under the G20 Finance Track with a focus on strengthening the international financial architecture. It also aims to address multiple challenges faced by vulnerable countries. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- First G20 International Financial Architecture Working Group Meeting – held in Chandigarh
- Presidency of G20 Summit: 2023 – India (Dec 1, 2022 to Nov 30, 2023) | 2024 – Brazil
- India’s G20 motto – ‘Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam’ | Theme – ‘One Earth One Family One Future’ | Sherpa – Amitabh Kant



# Ranks, Reports & Surveys

1. Asian Development Bank (ADB) in its report released on Annual Procurement, ranked WAPCOS as Top amongst Consulting Services Firm in Water and other Infrastructure Sectors, with highest sanctioned financed amount. Water and Power Consultancy Services (India) Limited (WAPCOS), a Government of India (GoI) enterprise, is a leading technology driven Consultancy and Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) organization in the fields of Water Resources, Power and Infrastructure Development and works under the Ministry of Jal Shakti. [{Read more}](#)



## Smart Points:

- ADB – ranked WAPCOS as Top amongst Consulting Services Firm in ‘Water and other Infrastructure Sectors’
- WAPCOS (Water & Power Consultancy Services) – is an EPC organization under Ministry of Jal Shakti)
- Ministry of Jal Shakti: Gajendra Singh Sekhawat | Constituency – Jodhpur, Rajasthan
- MoS for Jal Shakti & Food Processing Industries – Prahlad Singh Patel
- HQs of ADB – Mandaluyong, Philippines | President – Masatsugu Asakawa | Members – 68 | Established in – 1966

2. A bird survey conducted at the Silent Valley National Park in the last week of December identified 141 species, of which 17 were new. So far, 175 species of birds have been spotted in Silent Valley. The survey held on December 27, 28 and 29 marked the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first bird survey in Silent Valley in 1990. The survey was held in association with the Kerala Natural History Society. [{Read more}](#)

## Smart Points:

- Bird Survey conducted at the Silent Valley National Park (Kerala) – identified total 141 species (17 new)
- First Bird Survey in Silent Valley NP was conducted in 1990
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan

3. According to the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers data, India surpassed Japan in auto sales in 2022, making it the third-largest auto market for the first time. India’s sales of new vehicles totalled at least 4.25 million units, based on preliminary results, topping the 4.2 million sold in Japan. In 2021, China continued to lead the global auto market, with 26.27 million vehicles sold. The U.S. remained second at 15.4 million vehicles, followed by Japan at 4.44 million units. [{Read more}](#)

## Smart Points:

- India – surpassed Japan & became the third-largest auto market in 2022 | 1<sup>st</sup> – China, 2<sup>nd</sup> – USA
- Japan – Tokyo – Yen | PM – Fumio Kishida

4. The net profit of operating Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs) jumped 50.87% to Rs 2.49 Lakh Crore during 2021-22, with ONGC, Indian Oil Corporation (IOCL), Power Grid Corporation of India (PGCIL), NTPC and Steel Authority of India Ltd (SAIL) emerging as the top five performers, respectively, according to the “Public Enterprises Survey 2021-22”. The net profit of profit-making Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) stood at Rs 2.64 Lakh Crore in FY 2021-22 against Rs 1.89 Lakh Crore in the previous fiscal, up 39.85%. Besides, the corporate social responsibility (CSR) expenditure of all CSR eligible CPSEs (160) stood at Rs 4,600 Crore in FY 2021-22. [{Read more}](#)

## Smart Points:

- Net profit of operating Public Sector Enterprises increased 50.87% to Rs 2.49 Lakh Crore during 2021-22
- ONGC – was the top profit making CPSEs during 2021-22 | Followed by – IOCL & PGCIL



5. According to the “On-time Performance Review 2022” released by aviation analytics firm Cirium, Bengaluru’s Kempegowda International Airport and Delhi’s Indira Gandhi International Airport were among the top 10 on-time airports globally. Bengaluru’s airport was the second best airport globally in 2022 in terms of on-time arrivals and departures, while Indira Gandhi Airport stood at 7<sup>th</sup> spot. Japan’s Haneda Airport was the best-performing airport. Mumbai’s Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport stood at the 11<sup>th</sup> spot. Among the separate global rankings for ‘Large Airports’, four Indian airports stood in top 20. In the list of ‘Medium Airports’, Jaipur Airport and Cochin Airport stood at 9<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> spots, respectively. No Indian airport featured in the top 20 in the ‘Small Airports’ category. Moreover, in the Asia Pacific region, India’s Indigo and AirAsia India airlines were among the top 10 best on-time performers at 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> spots, respectively. US’ Delta Air Lines was the best-performing airline globally. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- “On-time Performance Review 2022” – released by Cirium
- Kempegowda International Airport – the 2<sup>nd</sup> best airport globally in 2022 in terms of ‘on-time arrivals & departures’
- Top – Haneda Airport (Japan) | Indira Gandhi International Airport – 7<sup>th</sup>
- In APAC region: Indigo (5<sup>th</sup>) & AirAsia India (6<sup>th</sup>) airlines were among the top 10 best on-time performers
- Globally Top – Delta Air Lines (US)

6. According to a PwC India report titled “Startup Tracker-CY22”, funding for Indian start-ups fell by \$24 billion in the calendar year 2022, a drop of 33% in comparison to 2021. Early-stage funding grew by 12% as compared to 2021. Additionally, the SaaS segment witnessed an increase of 20% in funding values during 2022 compared to 2021 and accounted for nearly 25% of all funding activity in 2022. Early-stage deals accounted for 60-62% of the total funding in 2021 and 2022 (in volume terms). In city-wise start-up funding, Bengaluru, NCR and Mumbai account for nearly 82% of total Indian start-ups as of December 2022. Bengaluru witnessed the highest number of unicorns, followed by NCR and Mumbai. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- “Startup Tracker-CY22” – released by PwC
- Funding for Indian start-ups fell by \$24 billion in the calendar year 2022
- Early-stage funding grew by 12% during 2022 as compared to 2021 (accounted for 62% of the total funding 2022)
- SaaS segment witnessed an increase of 20% in funding values during 2022 (accounted for nearly 25%)
- Bengaluru – witnessed the highest number of unicorns (Indian start-ups) as of December 2022

7. On January 9, according to a new study the United Nations University Institute on Water, Environment and Health (UNU-INWEH), also known as the UN’s think tank on water, around 3,700 dams in India will lose 26% of their total storage by 2050 due to accumulation of sediments which can undermine water security, irrigation and power generation in future.



China, meanwhile, the world’s most heavily dammed nation, has lost about 10% of its storage and will lose a further 10% by 2050. In 2015, the Central Water Commission reported that among 141 large reservoirs, which are over 50-years-old, one quarter had lost at least 30% of their initial storage capacity. The loss of 1,650 billion cubic metre storage capacity is roughly equal to the annual water use of India, China, Indonesia, France and Canada combined. In 2022, the Asia-Pacific region, the world’s most heavily dammed region, is estimated to have lost 13% of its initial dam storage capacity. It will have lost 23% of initial storage capacity by 2050. Accumulation of sediments decreases a reservoir’s capacity over the years and determines a reservoir’s life expectancy. A dam is considered “large” if it is higher than 15 m or between 5 and 15 m high, but impounds over 3 million cubic metres. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- UNU-INWEH (UN's think tank on water) report:
  - India will lose 26% of their total storage by 2050 due to accumulation of sediments | China – to lose 10% by 2050
  - China – has the highest number of dams in the world
  - Asia-Pacific region – world's most heavily dammed region
  - Asia-Pacific region – to lost 23% of initial storage capacity by 2050
- [HQs of UNU-INWEH – Hamilton, Ontario](#)

**8.** India's largest airline IndiGo and Airports Authority of India (AAI)-owned Coimbatore Airport are among the 20 most punctual airlines and airports globally, according to "Punctuality League" report of Official Airline Guide (OAG). They are the only Indian airline and airport in the OAG's report. When it comes to On-Time Performance (OTP) in 2022, IndiGo is ranked 15<sup>th</sup> while Coimbatore airport is at the 13<sup>th</sup> position, as per the report by aviation analytics firm OAG. The list is topped by Garuda Indonesia with an OTP of 95.63%, followed by Safair (95.30%) and Eurowings (95.26%) at the second and third spots, respectively. Among the top 20 mega airlines by OTP, IndiGo is at 5<sup>th</sup> place in the list, topped by All Nippon Airways (88.79%). Mega airlines are the world's top 20 operators in terms of scheduled flights in 2022. Among the top 20 airports in terms of OTP globally in 2022, the list is topped by Japan's Osaka International Airport (Itami) with an OTP of 91.45%. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- "Punctuality League" report – released by Official Airline Guide (OAG)
- World's Top airline in terms of OTP – Garuda Indonesia | Top in India – IndiGo (15<sup>th</sup> globally)
- World's Top airport in terms of OTP – Osaka International Airport (Japan) | Top in India – Coimbatore Airport (TN)
- [HQs of IndiGo – Gurugram, Haryana](#) | [CEO – Pieter Elbers](#) | [Chairman – Meleveetil Damodaran](#)

**9.** On January 12, according to a report by the National Association of Automobile Manufacturers of South Africa (NAAMSA), the Indian auto manufacturer Mahindra has been named the fastest-growing brand in South Africa for the year 2022. 'Mahindra SA' increased its sales volume by a massive 78% compared to 2021. This is also the second year since 2019 that Mahindra has been crowned South Africa's fastest-growing brand and the fourth year in the past five that the brand has been among the country's fastest-growing brands. Mahindra South Africa is a fully owned subsidiary of Mahindra & Mahindra India. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- NAAMSA Report: Mahindra was named the fastest-growing brand in South Africa for 2022
- Mahindra SA increased its sales volume by a massive 78% compared to 2021
- [South Africa – Cape Town – South African Rand](#) | [President – Cyril Ramaphosa](#)

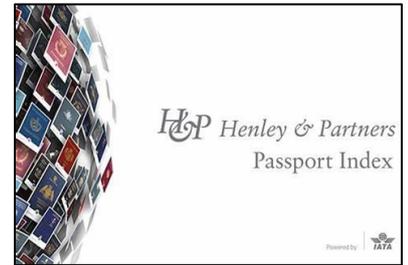
**10.** On January 14, World Economic Forum (WEF) released a report titled "Global Risks Report 2023". The 2023's report expects a decade of disruption, decay and impossible choices. The world's top current risks are energy, food, inflation and the overall cost of living crisis. Over the next 2 years, the cost-of-living crisis remains the number one threat, followed by natural disasters and trade and technology wars. However, over the next 10 years, lack of climate mitigation and climate adaptation lead, with biodiversity loss and ecosystem collapse viewed as one of the most rapidly deteriorating global risks over the next decade. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- “Global Risks Report 2023” – released by WEF
- World’s top current risks are – Energy, Food, Inflation & the overall Cost of Living Crisis
- Over the next 2 years, the ‘cost-of-living’ crisis remains the No. 1 threat
- HQs of WEF – Cologne, Switzerland | Exe Chairman – Klaus Schwab | President – Borge Brende | Founded in – 1971

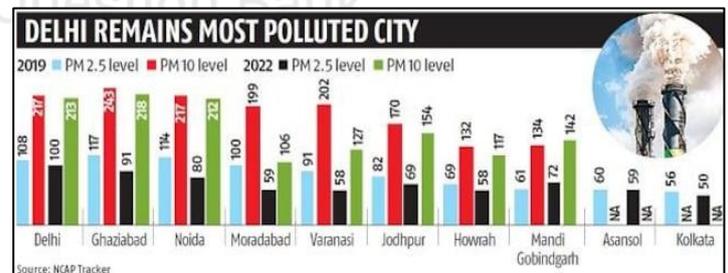
**11.** On January 11, according to the latest ‘Henley Passport Index 2023’, India stands at the 85<sup>th</sup> position, two places ahead of last year’s 87<sup>th</sup> spot. Henley Passport Index ranks passports based on their power and mobility. The index is prepared by London-based Henley and Partners, a global citizenship and residence advisory firm. The index gathers data from the International Air Transport Association (IATA) which manages inter-airline cooperation globally. The Henley Passport Index is updated quarterly according to countries’ visa policy changes. It covers 227 destinations and 199 passports. Japan is at the top spot in the Index followed by Singapore & South Korea sharing the second position. Germany & Spain are sharing the 3<sup>rd</sup> spot. Afghanistan is at the last rank in the index. According to Henley Passport Index’s analysis, India fares worse, despite having the world’s fifth-largest economy: its passport holders can access just 59 destinations worldwide and only 6.7% of global GDP, of which the country’s own GDP accounts for around half. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- “Henley Passport Index 2023”: India – 85<sup>th</sup> (India’s passport holders can access 59 destinations worldwide)
- The Index is topped by – Japan | 2<sup>nd</sup> – Singapore & South Korea | 3<sup>rd</sup> – Germany & Spain
- The Index covers 227 destinations & 199 passports
- HQs of IATA – Montreal, Canada | DG – Willie Walsh

**12.** On January 11, a report by the Centre’s National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) Tracker was released. NCAP addresses air pollution in 131 non-attainment cities, so called for not meeting the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for the period of 2011-15 under the National Air Quality Monitoring Program (NAMP). According to the report, Delhi’s Air Quality Index (AQI) was the India’s most polluted for the last four years. Noida and Ghaziabad, Varanasi in east UP, Jodhpur (Rajasthan), Howrah and Kolkata in West Bengal are also among the 10 worst polluted cities and they have not shown any improvement in air quality. National Clean Energy Program (NCAP) was started in 2019. India’s annual average safe limits for PM 2.5 (ultra-fine particulate matter) and PM 10 are 40 micrograms/per cubic metre (ug/m3) and 60 micrograms/per cubic metre. The NCAP has set a target of reducing key air pollutants PM10 and PM2.5 by 40% in these cities by 2026. Srinagar in Jammu and Kashmir and Kohima in Nagaland are among the cleanest cities in India for PM 2.5 and PM 10 respectively. Gorakhpur, in Uttar Pradesh, also features in the clean cities list for both PM 2.5 and PM 10. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- NCAP Tracker report:
  - Delhi is the most populated city in India
  - Other populated cities in top 10 – Noida, Ghaziabad, Varanasi, Jodhpur, Howrah & Kolkata
  - Cleanest Cities – Srinagar (for PM 2.5) & Kohima (for PM 10)
- NCAP target – to reduce air pollutants PM10 & PM2.5 by 40% by 2026 | NCAP was started in 2019

**13.** Patna-based research institute Centre for Policy Analysis (CPA) has put India on top of the “Global Minority Index”, followed by South Korea, Japan, Panama and the US, in its Global Minority Report tabulating 110 countries. Maldives, Afghanistan and Somalia figure at the bottom of the list. The approach has been mathematical and the grading of countries was done on the basis of approach of the State towards minority religions, and the extent of their inclusiveness. This report only takes into account macro parameters to analyse the status of religious minorities in a country, and the approach of a state towards them.

**Smart Points:**

- “Global Minority Index” – released by Centre for Policy Analysis (Patna, Bihar)
- India topped the Index | 2<sup>nd</sup> – South Korea, 3<sup>rd</sup> – Japan

**14.** According to the “World Social Report 2023: Leaving No One Behind In An Ageing World” released by UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), the number of people aged 65 years or older worldwide is projected to more than double, rising from 761 million in 2021 to 1.6 billion in 2050. By the end of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the world could have nearly 2.5 billion older people. In 2021, one in 10 people worldwide were aged 65 or above. Moreover, by 2050, the world will have an estimated 459 million persons aged 80 or more, almost triple the number in 2021 at around 155 million. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- “World Social Report 2023: Leaving No One Behind In An Ageing World” – released by UNDESA
- Number of people aged 65 or older is projected to more than double from 761 million in 2021 to 1.6 billion in 2050
- In 2021, one in 10 people worldwide were aged 65 or above
- The world could have nearly 2.5 billion older people by the end of the 21<sup>st</sup> century
- [HQs of UNDESA – New York, US | Under-Secretary-General – Liu Zhenmin](#)

**15.** On January 11, a report titled “Never Forgotten: The Situation of Stillbirth Around the Globe” released by UNICEF revealed that around 1.9 million stillbirths (babies born with no sign of life at 28 weeks of pregnancy or later) occurred worldwide in 2021. The global stillbirth rate in 2021 was 13.9 stillbirths per 1,000 total births. According to the data released, one stillborn baby is born every 16 seconds in 2021. Most child deaths occur in the first five years, of which half are within the first month of life. Besides, the United Nations Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation (UNIGME) released the “Levels & Trends in Child Mortality” report. An estimated 5 million children died before their fifth birthday and another 2.1 million children and youth aged between 5-24 years lost their lives in 2021. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- “Never Forgotten: The Situation of Stillbirth Around the Globe” – released by UNICEF
- Around 1.9 million stillbirths occurred worldwide in 2021 (global stillbirth rate - 13.9 stillbirths per 1,000 total births)
- “Levels & Trends in Child Mortality” report – released by UNIGME
- Around 5 million children died before their fifth birthday
- Another 2.1 million children & youth aged between 5-24 years lost their lives in 2021
- [HQs of UNICEF – New York, US | Executive Director – Catherine Russell | Established in – 1946](#)

**16.** Global growth is slowing sharply in the face of elevated inflation, higher interest rates, reduced investment, and disruptions caused by Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, according to the World Bank’s latest “Global Economic Prospects” report. The global economy is projected to grow by 1.7% in 2023 and 2.7% in 2024. Growth in advanced economies is projected to slow from 2.5% in 2022 to 0.5% in 2023. In South Asia, growth is projected to slow to 5.5% in 2023 before picking up to 5.8% in 2024. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- “Global Economic Prospects” report – released by World Bank (on January 10)
- Global Economy is projected to grow by 1.7% in 2023 & 2.7% in 2024
- Growth in advanced economies is projected to slow from 2.5% in 2022 to 0.5% in 2023
- In South Asia, growth is projected at 5.5% in 2023 & 5.8% in 2024
- [HQs of World Bank – Washington D.C., US](#) | [Members – 189](#) | [President – David Malpass](#) | [MD & CFO – Anshula Kant](#)

**17.** On January 16, the “World Employment and Social Outlook: Trends 2023 (WESO Trends)”, released by the International Labour Organization (ILO), stated that the total working hours per person are still below pre-pandemic levels in Asia Pacific region. The report projected that global employment growth will be only 1% in 2023, less than half the level in 2022. On the other hand, the global unemployment is slated to rise slightly in 2023, by around 3 million, to 208 million (corresponding to a global unemployment rate of 5.8%). Globally, the labour force participation rate of women stood at 47.4 % in 2022, compared with 72.3% for men. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- “World Employment and Social Outlook: Trends 2023 (WESO Trends)” – released by the ILO
- Global Employment growth will be only 1% in 2023
- Global Unemployment is slated to rise by around 3 million in 2023 – to 208 million
- Globally, the labour force participation rate of women stood at 47.4 % in 2022 (72.3% of men)
- [HQs of ILO – Geneva, Switzerland](#) | [DG – Gilbert F. Houngbo](#) | [Founded in – 1919](#)

**18.** On January 17, according to a report in The Times of India, Russia has become India’s fourth-largest trading partner with imports from the country spiking five-fold to \$32.9 billion during the April-December. There are two main contributors to India’s higher imports from Russia - crude oil and fertilisers. Moreover, according to a Reuters report, Russia had become the biggest fertiliser supplier to India in the first half of the FY23 for the first time by offering discounts over prevailing global prices. India’s fertiliser imports from Russia surged 371% to a record 2.15 million tonnes in the first 6 months of the year that started on April 1. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- Russia – become India’s 4<sup>th</sup> largest trading partner with imports spiking five-fold to \$32.9 billion during the Apr-Dec
- Two main contributors to India’s higher imports from Russia – Crude Oil & Fertilisers
- Russia – became the biggest fertiliser supplier to India in H1 FY23 for the first time
- India’s fertiliser imports from Russia surged 371% to a record 2.15 million tonnes in H1 FY23
- [Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble](#) | [PM – Mikhail Mishustin](#) | [President – Vladimir Putin](#)

**19.** Indian economy is likely to reach the \$26 trillion mark by 2047, the 100<sup>th</sup> year of India’s independence, according to an EY (Ernst & Young) report, titled “India@100: Realizing the potential of a \$26 trillion Economy”. It also said that the per capita income is also expected to increase to \$15,000. The report was launched by Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum at Davos, Switzerland. Under the most preferred scenario, India is likely to cross the critical thresholds of \$5 trillion, \$10 trillion and \$20 trillion in market exchange rate terms, in FY2028, FY2036 and FY2045, respectively. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- “India@100: Realizing the potential of a \$26 trillion Economy” report – released by Ernst & Young
- The report was launched by – Ashwini Vaishnav
- Indian economy is likely to reach the \$26 trillion mark by 2047

**20.** On January 19, Brand Finance’s rankings for 2023 were released. Accenture has succeeded in retaining its position as the most valuable IT services brand for the fifth consecutive year with a jump of 10% bringing its brand valuation to US\$39.9 billion. The company has also been ranked as the strongest IT services brand with a Brand Strength Index (BSI) score of 87.8 out of 100 and a corresponding AAA brand rating. At the second position is India’s Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) with a brand value increase of 2%, taking its valuation to US \$17.2 billion. Infosys, too, made it to the top three most valuable IT services brands globally with a valuation of US\$13.0 billion, up by 2%. Infosys was founded by Narayana Murthy in 1981. HCLTech and Wipro have been ranked eighth and ninth, respectively, in the list. Another Indian brand that made it to the top 25 is LTIMindtree. After a successful merger between L&T Infotech and Mindtree in 2022, LTIMindtree has become the fastest-growing IT services brand globally. Anand Mahindra’s Tech Mahindra improved its ranking by four positions from fifteenth to eleventh. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- “Most valuable IT Services Brands 2023” by Brand Finance: Top – Accenture | 2<sup>nd</sup> – TCS | 3<sup>rd</sup> – Infosys
- 8<sup>th</sup> – HCLTech | 9<sup>th</sup> – Wipro | 11<sup>th</sup> – Tech Mahindra
- [HQs of Accenture – Dublin, Ireland](#) | [CEO – Julie Sweet](#) | [MD \(in India\) – Rekha Menon](#)

**21.** According to the report conducted by Dealroom and London & Partners, India has ranked 4<sup>th</sup> globally with USD 24.1 billion worth of Venture Capital (VC) investments in 2022. Further analysis from the research showed that USD 10.7 billion of that investment went into companies based in Bengaluru. With this, Bengaluru joined London and New York in the top 5 hubs for tech VC investment last year. The leading sectors that contributed to India’s strong VC funding performance were education, food, media, fin-tech and transportation. According to the data findings, total 2022 global VC funding (USD 485.2 Bn) experienced a 33% dip from the record levels seen in 2021 (USD 723 Bn). At a national level, the top three countries for tech investment in 2022 were - the US (\$233.3 Bn), followed by China (\$48 Bn) and the UK (\$29.9 Bn). [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- According to the report conducted Dealroom and London & Partners:
  - India ranked 4<sup>th</sup> globally with \$24.1 billion worth of Venture Capital (VC) investments in 2022
  - Top 3: US (\$233.3 Bn), China (\$48 Bn), UK (\$29.9 Bn)
  - Bengaluru topped in India with \$10.7 Bn worth of VC investments

**22.** On January 10, according to data provided in Tracxn annual report, Bengaluru topped the startup funding chart in India with \$10.8 billion in 2022, followed by Mumbai at \$3.9 billion, and Gurugram at \$2.6 billion. Startups based in Delhi and Chennai registered \$1.2 billion each in funding, followed by Pune at \$1 billion. There were 22 unicorns in 2022, compared to 46 in 2021, and average funding before the unicorn round was around \$160 million. India started experiencing funding winter in Q4 of 2021 and it has been on a declining trend since. Because of rising interest rates and fear of a worldwide recession, investments across all industries have been impacted. The months of April, October and November in 2022 saw no new unicorns. Despite the impact on funding in edtech, Byju’s has topped the list of highest funding raised in 2022. It raised over \$1.2 billion in 2022 from existing investors. This amounted to almost 50% of the total funding received in the edtech sector. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- Tracxn annual report:
  - Bengaluru topped the startup funding chart in India with \$10.8 billion in 2022
  - Bengaluru was followed by Mumbai at \$3.9 billion & Gurugram at \$2.6 billion
  - There were 22 unicorns in 2022, compared to 46 in 2021 & average funding before unicorn round was \$160 million
  - Byju's has topped the list of highest funding raised in 2022 in Edtech (\$1.2 billion)

**23.** Amazon has reclaimed the top spot as the world's most valuable brand despite its brand value falling 15% this year from \$350.3 billion to \$299.3 billion, according to brand valuation consultancy Brand Finance's report, "Global 500 2023". Amazon is back at No. 1 with its rating slipping from AAA+ to AAA. Apple (with brand value of \$297.5 billion) slipped to second position, followed by Google (\$281.4 billion). From India, Tata Group's brand value ranking went up to 69 from 78 last year. While Infosys jumped to the 150<sup>th</sup> slot from 158 last year. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- "Global 500 2023" report – released by Brand Finance
- Amazon (\$299.3 billion) – the world's most valuable brand | 2<sup>nd</sup> – Apple (\$297.5 billion), 3<sup>rd</sup> – Google (\$281.4 billion)

**24.** Reliance Industries Chairman and Managing Director Mukesh Ambani has been ranked No. 2 globally and No. 1 among Indians in "Brand Guardianship Index 2023", compiled by Brand Finance. Brand Finance's survey gave Mukesh Ambani a BGI score of 81.7, just below 83 of Jensen Huang, CEO of US-based Nvidia, who topped the Index globally. Mukesh Ambani is followed by Satya Nadella, CEO of Microsoft, and Shantanu Narayen, CEO of Adobe, at the third & fourth place globally. The Brand Guardianship Index is a global recognition of CEOs, who are building business value in a sustainable manner, by balancing the needs of all stakeholders - employees, investors, and the wider society. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- "Brand Guardianship Index 2023" – compiled by Brand Finance
- Mukesh Ambani (globally No. 2) – topped among Indians with a BGI score of 81.7
- Globally: 1<sup>st</sup> – Jensen Huang (CEO of Nvidia) | 3<sup>rd</sup> – Satya Nadella (CEO of Microsoft)

**25.** On January 18, the UNICEF released a report titled "Transforming Education with Equitable Financing". The report looks at government spending from pre-primary through tertiary education in 102 countries. Only 16% of public education funding goes to the poorest 20% of learners, while 28% goes to the richest 20%. UNICEF called for equitable financing to combat 'learning poverty'. The gap is most pronounced among low-income countries, as children from the wealthiest households benefit from more than 6 times the amount of public education funding compared to the poorest learners. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- "Transforming Education with Equitable Financing" report – released by UNICEF
- Only 16% of public education funding goes to the poorest 20% of learners, while 28% goes to the richest 20%
- HQs of UNICEF – New York, US | Executive Director – Catherine Russell | Established in – 1946

**26.** Global employment will grow by just 1% in 2023 and the current global economic slowdown is likely to force more workers to accept lower quality, poorly paid jobs which lack job security and social protection, according to the “World Employment and Social Outlook: Trends 2023” report released by the International Labour Organization (ILO). This would lead to an addition of around 3 million jobs to 208 million. The global unemployment rate has been pegged at 5.8%. In Asia and the Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean, annual employment growth is projected to be around 1%. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- “World Employment and Social Outlook: Trends 2023” report – released by the ILO
- Global employment will grow by just 1% in 2023 | Global unemployment rate is pegged at 5.8%
- HQs of ILO – Geneva, Switzerland | DG – Gilbert F. Hougbo | Founded in – 1919

**27.** On January 19, the “Annual Status of Education Report (ASER)” was released by Pratham Foundation. The report revealed that almost all (98.4%) students in the age bracket of 6-14 years are now enrolled in schools. There was an increase of 7.3% points in government school enrollment in the period 2018 to 2022. This national survey sheds light on learning outcomes in schools. It was last conducted at this scale in 2018, so this marks the return of the survey after 4 years. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- “Annual Status of Education Report (ASER)” – released by Pratham Foundation
- 98.4% students aged 6-14 years are now enrolled in schools (an increase of 7.3% points between 2018 to 2022)

**28.** According to the World Bank’s “Global Economic Prospects” report, Pakistan has South Asia’s weakest economy. As per World Bank’s forecast, Pakistan’s economic growth to slow further to 2% during the current year FY23. The report also cited devastating floods in 2022 as a reason for the precarious economic situation in the country. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- “Global Economic Prospects” report – released by World Bank
- Pakistan has South Asia’s weakest economy
- Pakistan – Islamabad – Pakistani Rupee | PM – Shehbaz Sharif | President – Arif Alvi

**29.** According to Global Firepower Index 2023, India is ranked 4 of 145 out of the countries considered for the annual GFP review. India holds a PwrIndx score of 0.1025. A score of 0.0000 is considered 'perfect'. The GFP index denotes India as a Top 5 world power. The US topped the index with PwrIndx score of 0.0721, followed by Russia & China. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Global Firepower Index 2023: India – 4<sup>th</sup> | Top – US, 2<sup>nd</sup> – China, 3<sup>rd</sup> – Russia
- India holds a PwrIndx score of 0.1025

**30.** Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Bihar and West Bengal have emerged as the top five states with the highest number of mobile gamers, according to a report titled “India Mobile Gaming Report (IMGR) 2022” released by Mobile Premier League (MPL), a mobile esports and digital gaming platform. This is the second year in a row that Lucknow has earned recognition for its gaming prowess. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- “India Mobile Gaming Report (IMGR) 2022” – released by Mobile Premier League
- Uttar Pradesh – has the highest number of mobile gamers
- HQs of MPL – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Co-Founder & CEO – Sai Srinivas Kiran G



**31.** To encourage tree plantation on farmland along with crops to help farmers get additional income, Bihar government in association with Forest Survey of India (FSI) has decided to conduct “Trees Outside Forest (TOF) Field Survey” to identify the dominant tree species that are growing outside the recorded forest areas (RFA) in the state. As per the Forest Survey of India (FSI) “India state of Forest Report, 2021”, Bihar has registered an increase of 3.79% in growing stock in RFA and 0.58% in TOF, respectively. The survey, which will be completed in two months, will cover all 38 districts. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Bihar + FSI = to conduct “Trees Outside Forest (TOF) Field Survey” to identify the dominant tree species
- Bihar: Capital – Patna | CM – Nitish Kumar | Governor – Rajendra Vishwanath Arleka
- HQs of FSI – Dehradun, Uttarakhand | DG – Anoop Singh

**32.** On January 23, Women and Child Development Minister Smriti Irani announced that the World Economic Forum (WEF) has recognised the need to include women’s participation in local government bodies in its Gender Gap Report. The World Economic Forum (WEF) ranked India at 135 out of 146 countries in its Global Gender Gap (GGG) Index for 2022. The WEF's gender gap report is based on four parameters - economic participation and opportunity, educational attainment, health and survival, and political empowerment. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- WEF – recognised the need to include women’s participation in local government bodies in its ‘Gender Gap Report’
- India ranked 135<sup>th</sup> in the ‘Global Gender Gap (GGG) Index for 2022’ released by the WEF
- HQs of WEF – Cologny, Switzerland | Exe Chairman – Klaus Schwab | President – Borge Brende | Founded in – 1971

**33.** On January 26, India has emerged as one of the top three countries in the world where the area under organic agriculture expanded the maximum in 2020, according to IFOAM-Organics International data. The total increase under organic cultivation globally in 2020 was 3 million hectares (mh), out of which Argentina accounted for 7,81,000 hectares, followed by Uruguay at 5,89,000 hectares and India at 3,59,000 hectares. Of the world’s total 74.9 mh under organic farming, Australia has the highest at 35.7 mh, whereas India has 2.8 mh. The Cabinet is yet to approve Agriculture Ministry’s Rs 2,481 Crore proposal to launch the National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF). The mission is supposed to be implemented from the current fiscal until 2025-26. Under the scheme, farmers will get a maximum of ₹15,000/hectare (until 2025-26) depending on loss in income, if any, after switching over to natural farming. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- India – ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> in the world in terms of the area expanded under Organic Agriculture in 2020
- 1<sup>st</sup> – Argentina | 2<sup>nd</sup> – Uruguay
- Currently, Australia has the highest organic farming area at 35.7 million hectares (mh) | India has 2.8 mh

**34.** In January 2023, Mukesh Ambani’s Reliance Jio is the strongest brand in India and ranked 9<sup>th</sup> among the world’s strongest brands, according to the report titled “Global 500 - 2023” published by Brand Finance. This makes ‘Jio’ ahead of brands like EY, Coca Cola, Accenture and Porsche, and behind the likes of Google, YouTube, Deloitte and Instagram. With a ‘Brand Strength Index’ of 90.2, Jio is the only brand among the world’s strongest 25 brands, according to the Brand Finance listing. Brand Strength Index, is primarily a quantitative analysis, where scores for the independent measures are informed by market research and financial data. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- “Global 500 - 2023” – published by Brand Finance
- Reliance Jio – is the strongest brand in India and ranked 9<sup>th</sup> among the world’s strongest brands
- HQs of Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd – Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Akash Ambani



**35.** 5 billion people globally remain unprotected from harmful trans-fat, according to the report titled “Countdown to 2023 - WHO Report on Global Trans Fat Elimination 2022”. The report is an annual status report published by the World Health Organization (WHO) in collaboration with Resolve to Save Lives, to track progress towards the goal of trans fat elimination in 2023. The WHO first called for the global elimination of industrially produced trans-fat in 2018, with an elimination target set for 2023. 43 countries have now implemented best-practice policies for tackling trans-fat in food, with 2.8 billion people protected globally. Industrially produced trans-fat (also called industrially produced trans-fatty acids) is commonly found in packaged foods, baked goods, cooking oils and spreads. Trans fat intake is responsible for up to 5,00,000 premature deaths from coronary heart disease each year around the world. There are two best-practice policy alternatives: A mandatory national limit of 2 grams of industrially produced trans-fat per 100 grams of total fat in all foods; and a mandatory national ban on the production or use of partially hydrogenated oils (a major source of trans fat) as an ingredient in all foods. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- “Countdown to 2023 - WHO Report on Global Trans Fat Elimination 2022” published by = WHO + Resolve to Save Lives
- 5 billion people globally remain unprotected from harmful trans-fat
- WHO first called for global elimination of industrially produced trans-fat in 2018, with an elimination target set for 2023
- 43 countries have now implemented best-practice policies for tackling trans-fat in food
- Trans fat intake is responsible for up to 5 Lakh premature deaths globally from coronary heart disease each year
- Two Best-Practice Policy:
  - A mandatory national limit of 2 grams of industrially produced trans-fat per 100 grams of total fat in all foods
  - A mandatory national ban on the production or use of partially hydrogenated oils
- [HQs of WHO – Geneva, Switzerland](#) | [DG – Tedros Adhanom](#) | [Member Countries – 194](#) | [Founded in – 1948](#)

**36.** On January 29, Ministry of Education released the “All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) 2020-2021”. The Ministry has been conducting All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) since 2011, covering all higher educational institutions located in Indian Territory and imparting higher education in the country. The survey collects detailed information on different parameters such as student enrollment, teacher’s data, infrastructural information, financial information etc. For the first time, in AISHE 2020-21, HEIs have filled data using entirely online data collection platform through the Web Data Capture Format (DCF) developed by Department of Higher Education through the National Informatics Centre (NIC). The total enrollment in Higher Education has increased to nearly 4.14 Crore in 2020-21 from 3.85 crore in 2019-20. The total number of Universities/University like institutions registered is 1,113, Colleges 43,796 and Standalone Institutions 11,296. The Institutes of National Importance (INIs) have almost doubled from 75 in 2014-15 to 149 in 2020-21. The total number of faculty/teachers are 15,51,070 of which about 57.1% are male and 42.9% are female. The female per 100 male faculty has improved to 75 in 2020-21. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Ministry of Education – released the “All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) 2020-2021”
- The data was collected through ‘Web Data Capture Format (DCF)’ – developed by NIC
- Total enrollment in Higher Education has increased to nearly 4.14 Cr in 2020-21
- Total number of Universities/Institutions registered is 1,113, Colleges 43,796 & Standalone Institutions 11,296
- Institutes of National Importance (INIs) have almost doubled to 149 in 2020-21
- Total number of faculty/teachers are 15,51,070 (57.1% male + 42.9% female)
- The female per 100 male faculty has improved to 75 in 2020-21



**37.** According to the “World Economic Situation and Prospects 2023” report released by the United Nations (UN), India’s gross domestic product (GDP) growth rate is projected to moderate to 5.8% in calendar year 2023 from an estimated 6.4% in 2022 as higher interest rates and a global economic slowdown weigh on investment and export performance. As per the UN, India’s annual inflation is estimated at 7.1% in 2022, exceeding the 2-6% target band set by the central bank but is expected to decelerate to 5.5% in 2023. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- “World Economic Situation and Prospects 2023” report – released by the UN
- India’s GDP growth rate is projected to moderate to 5.8% in calendar year 2023
- India’s annual inflation is estimated at 7.1% in 2022 (exceeding the 2-6% target band set by the central bank)
- HQs of UN – New York, US | Secretary-General – Antonio Guterres | Established in – October 24, 1945

**38.** On January 31, Indian Institutional Ranking Framework (IIRF) released the ranking of Top Management and Business School, called “MBA Ranking 2023”. IIM Ahmedabad has taken over the first position followed by IIM Bengaluru and IIM Kolkata in second and third position respectively. The UK’s London Business School tops among the Business Schools globally. The top three position has been attained by the public institutions while among only private institutions, Xavier Labour Relations Institute (XLRI), Jamshedpur topped the list, followed by Management Development Institute (MDI), Gurgaon & Symbiosis Institute of Business Management, Pune. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- “MBA Ranking 2023” – released by Indian Institutional Ranking Framework (IIRF)
- Overall Rankings in India: 1<sup>st</sup> – IIM Ahmedabad, 2<sup>nd</sup> – IIM Bengaluru, 3<sup>rd</sup> – IIM Kolkata
- Xavier Labour Relations Institute (XLRI), Jamshedpur – topped among only private institutions
- London Business School (UK) – tops among the Business Schools globally

**39.** On January 29, National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) emerged as the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest exchange in the world in the equity segment by the number of trades (electronic order book) in 2022 as per statistics maintained by the World Federation of Exchanges (WFE). In 2021, it was ranked at 4<sup>th</sup> position. NSE has also maintained its position as the world’s largest derivatives exchange in 2022 by the number of contracts traded based on statistics maintained by Futures Industry Association (FIA), a derivatives trade body. The calendar year witnessed the benchmark equity index - the Nifty 50 touching lifetime high of 18,887.60. Significant strengthening in liquidity was witnessed in most of the product categories, including equity, equity derivatives, and currency derivatives. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- WFE Data: NSE – 3<sup>rd</sup> largest exchange in the world in the equity segment by the number of trades in 2022
- FIA Data: NSE was the world’s largest derivatives exchange in 2022 by the number of contracts traded
- Nifty 50 reached lifetime high of 18,887.60 in 2022
- HQs of NSE – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Girish Chandra Chaturvedi

**40.** 52 avian species were observed in the “Asian Waterbird Census-2023” conducted in the Union Territory of Ladakh. The GoI-UNDP Himalaya project and Department of Wildlife Protection Ladakh in collaboration with the Ladakh Biodiversity Council had organised the census between January 17 and January 19 in collaboration with Ladakh biodiversity council. The observations were recorded on the eBird app, which is an online database of bird observations providing scientists, researchers, and amateur naturalists with real-time data about bird distribution and abundance. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- 52 avian species – observed in the “Asian Waterbird Census-2023” conducted in Ladakh
- Organised by = GoI-UNDP Himalaya Project + Department of Wildlife Protection Ladakh + Ladakh Biodiversity Council
- Ladakh: Capital – Leh | Lt. Governor – B. D. Mishra



**41.** In January 2023, the report titled “Asia-Pacific Overview of Food Security and Nutrition 2022: Urban Food Security and Nutrition”, the 5<sup>th</sup> annual assessment of food insecurity and hunger, was released by UN agencies - the FAO, UNICEF, World Health Organisation and World Food Programme. Growing numbers of people in Asia lack enough to eat as food insecurity rises with higher prices and worsening poverty. The prevalence of undernourishment as measured by the UN agencies was 9.1% in 2021. Nearly a half-billion people, more than 8 in 10 of them in South Asia, were undernourished in 2021 and more than 1 billion faced moderate to severe food insecurity. The Asia-Pacific region imports nearly USD 2 trillion of food a year. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- “Asia-Pacific Overview of Food Security & Nutrition 2022: Urban Food Security & Nutrition” (5<sup>th</sup> annual assessment):
  - released by FAO + UNICEF + WHO + WFP
  - prevalence of undernourishment as measured by the UN agencies was 9.1% in 2021
  - Nearly a half-billion people, more than 8 in 10 of them in South Asia, were undernourished in 2021
  - Asia-Pacific region imports nearly USD 2 trillion of food a year

**42.** On January 31, India’s solar module manufacturing capacity is expected to reach approximately 95 GW by the end of 2025, according to “State of Solar PV Manufacturing in India” report by Mercom Capital Group. The solar module manufacturing capacity as of September 2022 was 39 GW. In September 2022, the Cabinet approved a Rs 19,500-crore production linked incentive (PLI) scheme on ‘national programme on high efficiency solar PV modules’ with an aim to attract Rs 94,000 crore investment in the sector. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- “State of Solar PV Manufacturing in India” report – by Mercom Capital Group (US)
- The solar module manufacturing capacity as of Sep 2022 – 39 GW
- India’s solar module manufacturing capacity is expected to reach approx 95 GW by 2025
- Cabinet approved a Rs 19,500 Cr PLI scheme on ‘national programme on high efficiency solar PV modules’ (in Sep’22)

**43.** Ministry of Defence was the top procuring ministry of goods and services from MSME sellers in the calendar year 2022, according to the Government eMarketplace (GeM). The ministry has purchased products and services worth Rs 16,747 Crore in the calendar year 2022 from the portal. Financial year-wise, the defence ministry had procured Rs 15,047.98 Crore worth of goods and services from MSMEs in FY22. Meanwhile, in terms of state, Uttar Pradesh ranked top buyer of MSME goods worth Rs 9,642 Crore through GeM in 2022. The marketplace had recorded Rs 1,06,647 Crore turnover in FY22 and is aspiring to double it in FY23, said GeM CEO Prashant Kumar Singh. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Ministry of Defence – the top procuring ministry of goods & services from MSME sellers at GeM in the CY 2022
- MoD’s purchase in CY22 – Rs 16,747 Cr | MoD’s purchase in FY22 – Rs 15,047.98 Cr
- Uttar Pradesh – ranked top buyer of MSME goods worth Rs 9,642 Cr through GeM in 2022
- GeM recorded Rs 1,06,647 Cr turnover in FY22 | CEO of GeM – Prashant Kumar Singh

**44.** According to the latest data, Japan-based Toyota Motor Corp continues to be the world’s top-selling automaker in 2022, defending its title for a third straight year. The company recently said it sold 10.5 million vehicles in 2022. At the number 2 position is the Volkswagen Group with the sale of 8.3 million vehicles in 2022. According to a report by Bloomberg, S&P Global Mobility predicts that Toyota will continue to widen its lead over Volkswagen in 2023. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Toyota Motor Corp – continues to be the world’s top-selling automaker in 2022 (3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive year)
- Toyota Motor Corp sold 10.5 million vehicles in 2022 | 2<sup>nd</sup> – Volkswagen Group (8.3 million vehicles)
- HQs of Toyota Motor Corp – Japan | CEO – Akio Toyoda

# Amount & Agreements

1. On January 1, Tripura government signed Rs 2,275 Cr agreement with Asian Development Bank (ADB) to strengthen and improve power distribution efficiency in the north-eastern state. Of the Rs 2,275 Cr fund, the central government will repay Rs 1,820 Cr while the state is supposed to provide Rs 455 Cr. Currently, the northeastern state generates 84 MW power out of the state's per day demand of 450/460 MW. It receives around 500 MW power from OTPC, NEEPCO and other central PSUs. The states export 160 MW power to Bangladesh. Apart from the ADB funding, an additional amount of Rs 800 Cr will be spent to improve the power distribution which includes underground transmission line in Agartala city and the installation of smart electric meters. [{Read more}](#)

## Smart Points:

- Tripura – signed Rs 2,275 Cr agreement with ADB to strengthen and improve power distribution efficiency
- 2,275 Cr = Rs 1,820 Cr (to be repaid by central govt) + Rs 455 Cr (by state govt)
- Tripura: Capital – Agartala | CM – Manik Saha | Governor – Satyadev Narayan Arya

2. On January 4, Under the instructions of Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal, financial aid worth Rs 28.11 Crore has been allocated to 28,112 Flue Cured Virginia (FCV) tobacco farmers who have incurred crop loss due to the Mandous cyclone in Andhra Pradesh. A special interest-free crop loan of Rs 10,000 has been extended to each member of Tobacco Board's Growers' Welfare Schemes of Andhra Pradesh. Mandous is an Arabic word meaning 'Treasure box'. The cyclone was named by the UAE. [{Read more}](#)

## Smart Points:

- Financial aid worth Rs 28.11 Cr is allocated to Mandous cyclone-affected tobacco farmers in Andhra Pradesh
- Special interest-free crop loan of Rs 10,000 is extended to each member of Tobacco Board's Growers' Welfare Schemes
- Cyclones Mandous (meaning 'Treasure box') – named by the UAE

3. By January 3, the Indian government and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed loan agreements totalling \$1.22 billion for developing infrastructure in various Indian states. The agreements would cover projects for improving the power sector and highways in the northeastern states of Tripura (\$220 million loan) and Assam (\$300 million loan), metro rail connectivity in Chennai (\$350 million loan), and improvement of key economic areas in Maharashtra (\$350 million loan). [{Read more}](#)

## Smart Points:

- Indian Govt + ADB = signed loan agreements totalling \$1.22 billion for developing infrastructure in various Indian states
- \$1.22 billion = Tripura (\$220 million) + Assam (\$300 million) + Chennai (\$350 million) + Maharashtra (\$350 million)
- HQs of ADB – Mandaluyong, Philippines | President – Masatsugu Asakawa | Members – 68 | Established in – 1966

4. On January 10, United States Charge d' Affaires to India, Elizabeth Jones visited the Paigah Tombs Complex in Hyderabad and announced a \$250,000 project to support the conservation and restoration of its six tombs constructed in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. She stated the restoration of Paigah Tombs is Fifth Ambassador's Fund for Cultural Preservation project implemented by the US Consulate General in Hyderabad. Paigah Tombs Complex is a protected complex of the Department of Archaeology, Government of Telangana. About two to three years back, the government of Telangana had given the responsibility to Aga Khan Trust for the conservation of the Complex. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- US – announced a \$250,000 project to support the conservation and restoration of Paigah Tombs Complex in Hyderabad
- Paigah Tombs Complex – constructed in the 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> centuries
- United States Charge d’Affaires to India – Elizabeth Jones
- Telangana – had given the responsibility for the conservation of the Complex to Aga Khan Trust
- Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad | CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao | Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46<sup>th</sup> President – Joe Biden | 49<sup>th</sup> VP – Kamala Harris

**5.** In January 2023, S. Jaishankar visited Maldives and Sri Lanka during his 3-day visit to further expand bilateral engagement with the two key maritime neighbours of India. India extended a concessional \$40 million Line of Credit (LoC) for developing sporting infrastructure in the Maldives, as part of India’s efforts to bring flagship projects such as “Fit India” and “Khelo India” into the ambit of the Neighbourhood First Policy. Fit India and Khelo India were introduced by the Modi government to revive sporting and fitness culture at the grass root level in the country. Jaishankar inaugurated the community centre with his Maldivian counterpart Abdulla Shahid. Foakaidhoo is one of the inhabited islands in the Maldives. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- India – extended a concessional \$40 million Line of Credit (LoC) for developing sporting infrastructure in Maldives
- It is part of India’s efforts to bring flagship projects like “Fit India” & “Khelo India”
- He also inaugurated a community centre in Shaviyani Foakaidhoo
- Maldives – Male – Maldivian rufiyaa | President – Ibrahim Mohamed Solih
- Ministry of External Affairs: S. Jaishankar | Constituency – Gujarat
- MoS in Ministry of External Affairs: Rajkumar Ranjan Singh, V. Muraleedharan & Meenakshi Lekhi

**6.** On January 23, Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Nhava Sheva Freeport Terminal Private Limited (NSFTPL) have signed a USD 131 million (about ₹1,066 Crore) loan agreement to upgrade the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Container Terminal, Navi Mumbai, to enhance international trade in India through efficient, transparent, and state-of-the-art logistics infrastructure. NSFTPL is a special purpose vehicle jointly owned by J M Baxi Ports & Logistics Limited (JMBPL) and CMA Terminals. The financing package comprises \$61.4 million from ADB’s ordinary capital resources and \$69.6 million from Leading Asia’s Private Infrastructure Fund (LEAP) administered by ADB. The funds will be used to upgrade existing berths and yards and install additional energy efficient equipment such as electric quay cranes. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- ADB + Nhava Sheva Freeport Terminal = signed a \$131 million loan agreement to upgrade Jawaharlal Nehru Port Container Terminal, Navi Mumbai
- NSFTPL (a Seaport in Maharashtra) is owned by = J M Baxi Ports & Logistics Ltd + CMA Terminals
- HQs of ADB – Mandaluyong, Philippines | President – Masatsugu Asakawa | Members – 68 | Established in – 1966



# Ordinance, Bills & Acts

1. On January 11, Uttarakhand Governor Lt Gen Gurmit Singh (ret'd) has given his consent to a Bill providing 30% horizontal reservation to domiciled women of the state in government jobs. The 'Uttarakhand Public Services (Horizontal Reservation for Women) Bill, 2022' was passed by the state assembly on November 29, 2022. With the governor's consent to the Bill, it has become an Act. The act aims to ensure social justice, equality of opportunity, improvement in living standards and gender equality in public planning. [{Read more}](#)

## Smart Points:

- Uttarakhand – approved a Bill providing 30% horizontal reservation to domiciled women of the state in government jobs
- Uttarakhand: Capital – Dehradun & Gairsain | CM – Pushkar Singh Dhami | Governor – Lt. Gen. Gurmit Singh

# Acquisitions & Mergers

1. Reliance Projects and Property Management Services, a subsidiary of Reliance Jio, deposited Rs 3,720 Cr in an SBI escrow account to acquire mobile tower and fibre assets of Reliance Infratel. The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) has already given an approval to Jio for the acquisition of Reliance Infratel (RITL). [{Read more}](#)

## Smart Points:

- Reliance Jio – deposited Rs 3,720 Cr in an SBI escrow account for the acquisition some assets of Reliance Infratel
- NCLT has given an approval to Jio for the acquisition of Reliance Infratel
- HQs of Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd – Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Akash Ambani

2. On January 12, China's Alibaba Group sold a 3.1% stake in Indian digital payments firm Paytm for a total of \$125 million through a block deal. Alibaba, which held a 6.26% stake in Paytm as of end-September, sold the stake at 536.95 rupees apiece. Formally known as One97 Communications, Paytm listed in 2021 after a mega \$2.5 billion initial public offer (IPO). [{Read more}](#)

## Smart Points:

- Alibaba Group (China) – sold a 3.1% stake in Paytm for a total of \$125 million through a block deal
- HQs of Paytm – Noida, Uttar Pradesh | MD & CEO – Vijay Sekhar Sharma | Founded in – 2010

3. On January 14, the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) allowed the Jalan-Kalrock Consortium (JKC) to take over Jet Airways. The airline was originally promoted by Naresh Goyal and had operated its last flight on April 17, 2019. The airline was originally promoted by Naresh Goyal and had operated its last flight on April 17, 2019. [{Read more}](#)

## Smart Points:

- NCLT allowed the Jalan-Kalrock Consortium (JKC) to take over Jet Airways
- Jet Airways closed its operations in April 2019
- HQs of NCLT – New Delhi | President – Ramalingam Sudhakar | Established in 2016 – by Eradi Committee

4. On January 23, India Grid Trust (IndiGrid) will acquire a 100% stake in Khargone Transmission Ltd at an enterprise value of about Rs 1,497.5 Crore. The acquisition will be for a cash consideration of an enterprise value not exceeding Rs 1,497.5 Crore, according to a BSE filing. IndiGrid signed a share purchase agreement on January 21, 2023, for this acquisition. The Khargone Transmission was incorporated on November 28, 2015. [{Read more}](#)

## Smart Points:

- IndiGrid – to acquire a 100% stake in Khargone Transmission Ltd (Madhya Pradesh)
- HQs of IndiGrid – Mumbai | CEO – Harsh Shah



# MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

**1.** NTPC Ltd signed a non-binding MoU with Italy-based Maire Tecnimont Group's Indian arm Tecnimont Pvt Ltd to jointly evaluate and explore the possibility to develop a commercial-scale green methanol production facility at the NTPC project in India. The two organisations aim to jointly evaluate and explore the possibility of developing a commercial-scale green methanol production facility at the NTPC project in India. This green methanol project includes capturing carbon from NTPC power plants and converting it into green fuel. NTPC, under the ministry of power, is the country's largest power-producing company and supplies one-fourth of the total electricity in the country. At present, NTPC has a commissioned renewable energy capacity of 2,332 MW. [{Read more}](#)

## Smart Points:

- NTPC + Tecnimont Pvt Ltd = an MoU to develop a 'Commercial-scale Green Methanol Production Facility'
- The project includes capturing carbon from NTPC power plants & converting it into green fuel
- Tecnimont Pvt Ltd – is an Indian arm of Italy-based Maire Tecnimont Group
- NTPC – is India's largest power-producing company | Commissioned Renewable Energy capacity – 2,332 MW
- HQs of NTPC – New Delhi | CMD – Gurdeep Singh | Founded in – 1975

**2.** On January 3, Uttar Pradesh government signed MoUs with six UAE-based companies worth Rs 18,590 Cr with 6 companies of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) ahead of the Global Investors Summit (GIS) to be held in Lucknow in February. This agreement will help in the creation of over 20,000 new employment opportunities. Ahead of the GIS, eight teams of the Uttar Pradesh government visited 16 countries, receiving investment proposals totaling more than Rs 7.12 lakh Cr. The largest share of investment proposals worth Rs 4 lakh Cr has been received from the United Kingdom (UK) and the United States of America (USA). [{Read more}](#)

## Smart Points:

- UP – signed MoUs with 6 UAE-based companies ahead of 'Global Investors Summit' to be held in Lucknow (in February)
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

**3.** National Education Society for Tribal Students (NESTS) announced to organize two-days' face-to-face capacity building programme at YMCA Auditorium, New Delhi for EMRS teachers to implement 'Amazon Future Engineer Program' (CSR Programme) in collaboration with the Learning Links Foundation (LLF). Learning Links Foundation (LLF) is a philanthropic organization working for 'Amazon Future Engineer Program' that is unique in the area of computational skills training for students and teachers of EMRSs. One of the objectives was to launch Amazon Future Engineer (AFE) Program in around 54 EMRSs across 6 States namely, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan, and Telangana. [{Read more}](#)

## Smart Points:

- NESTS – organized capacity building programme for EMRS teachers in New Delhi
- NESTS + LLF = will implement 'Amazon Future Engineer Program' (NESTS works under Ministry of Tribal Affairs)
- Ministry of Tribal Affairs: Arjun Munda | Constituency – Khunti, Jharkhand
- MoS in Ministry of Tribal Affairs: Renuka Singh Saruta & Bishweswar Tudu



4. On January 4, an MoU for collaborative and sponsored research projects was signed between Hindustan Copper Limited (HCL) and Indian Institute of Technology (Indian School of Mines), Dhanbad, at HCL Corporate Office in Kolkata, West Bengal. The first technical collaboration with IIT (ISM), Dhanbad, is a momentous occasion for HCL, the only copper miner in India. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- HCL + IIT (ISM) Dhanbad (Jharkhand) = an MoU for collaborative & sponsored research projects
- HQs of HCL – Kolkata, West Bengal | CMD – Arun Kumar Shukla

5. On January 6, Kewal Kiran Clothing Ltd (KKCL) announced its strategic partnership with Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) as the Indian Cricket Team's Official Partner, showcasing its flagship brand 'KILLER' on Team India jersey. KKCL will keep the brand Killer logo on Team India's Kit until 31<sup>st</sup> May 2023. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Kewal Kiran Clothing (brand 'KILLER') – partnered with BCCI & became the Official Sponsor of Indian Cricket Team
- HQs of BCCI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | President – Roger Binny | Secretary – Jay Shah | Founded in – 1928

6. On January 5, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and Microsoft signed an MoU to work together to fuel the growth of space technology startups in India. The partnership would help empower space tech start-ups across the country with technology tools and platforms, go-to-market support and mentoring to help them scale and become enterprise-ready. Through this tie-up, the space tech startups identified by ISRO would be onboarded onto the Microsoft for Startups Founders Hub platform. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- ISRO + Microsoft = an MoU to work together to fuel the growth of space technology startups in India
- HQs of ISRO – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Director – S. Somanath | Formed on – August 15, 1969
- HQs of Microsoft – Washington, US | Chairman & CEO – Satya Nadella | Founded in – 1975

7. On January 5, Indian Army signed an agreement with the Assam government to offer Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS) at 8 medical college and hospitals in the state. Memorandum of Agreements were signed between the Indian Army authorities and 8 government medical colleges and hospitals. This understanding will facilitate the cashless and capless treatment of almost 1.12 lakh beneficiaries. Unlike other schemes, this scheme covers all types of diseases. The Assam Cancer Care Foundation (ACCF), which is an Assam government and TATA Trust initiative, has also been empanelled with ECHS. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Indian Army + Assam = MoUs to offer Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS) at 8 medical college/hospitals
- HQs of Indian Army – New Delhi | Chief – Lt. Gen. Manoj Pande | Vice Chief – Lt. General Baggavalli Somashekar Raju
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Himanta Biswa Sarma | Governor – Gulab Chand Kataria

8. On January 5, the International Hockey Federation (FIH) signed a partnership with the JSW Group for the upcoming "FIH Odisha Hockey Men's World Cup 2023" (15<sup>th</sup> edition) in Bhubaneswar-Rourkela to be held from January 13-29, 2023. The group supports and promotes Olympics in India and has created an Olympic Training Institute in the Inspire Institute of Sport as well as has Olympic training centres across India. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- FIH + JSW Group = partnership for the “FIH Odisha Hockey Men’s World Cup 2023” (15<sup>th</sup> edition)
- It is scheduled to be held in Bhubaneswar-Rourkela from January 13-29, 2023
- HQs of FIH – Lausanne, Switzerland | President – Mohammad Tayyab Ikram | CEO – Thierry Weil | Founded in – 1924
- HQs of JSW Group – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CMD – Sajjan Jindal

9. On January 10, India and Panama signed an MoU to enhance cooperation in the training of diplomats. External Affairs Minister Dr Subrahmanyam Jaishankar held a bilateral meeting with Panama’s Foreign Minister Janaina Tewaney Mencomo in the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention which was held in Indore. They also discussed the opportunities for greater economic, health, finance and people to people linkages. The PBD convention was held on January 8-10, 2023 on the theme ‘Diaspora: Reliable Partners for India’s Progress in Amrit Kaal’. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- India + Panama = an MoU to enhance cooperation in the training of diplomats
- PBD convention – held on January 8-10 in Indore, MP
- Theme of PBD convention – “Diaspora: Reliable Partners for India’s Progress in Amrit Kaal”
- Panama – Panama City – Balboa | President – Laurentino Cortizo

10. On January 9, Garuda Aerospace, the Chennai-based drone manufacturing company has signed an MoU with Rallis India Ltd, a subsidiary of Tata Chemicals. Rallis will supply pesticides and crop nutrients to Garuda Aerospace for a pilot demonstration in Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh. The drone pilots will conduct demonstrations on a 1,000-acre crops such as paddy, onion, Bengal gram, wheat and vegetables. The drone-based solution will enable businesses achieving their sustainability goals by efficient use of resources. Garuda Aerospace has a fleet of 400 drones and a well-trained team of over 500 pilots in 26 locations across India while Rallis India holds a distribution network for crop care and seeds. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Garuda Aerospace + Rallis India Ltd = an MoU for a pilot demonstration in Maharashtra & Andhra Pradesh
- Drone pilots will conduct demonstrations on 1,000-acre crops such as paddy, onion, Bengal gram, wheat & vegetables
- HQs of Garuda Aerospace – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | CEO – Agnishwar Jayaprakash

11. On January 7, the ODP Corporation selected HCL Technologies as its primary IT partner. ODP Corporation is a leading provider of products, services and technology solutions through an integrated business-to-business (B2B) distribution platform and omnichannel presence. As part of this agreement, HCLTech will leverage its automation and artificial intelligence (AI) capabilities to enable efficient IT operations with personalized and intuitive IT services. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- ODP Corporation – selected HCL Technologies as its primary IT partner
- HCLTech – will leverage its automation and AI capabilities to enable efficient IT operations
- HQs of HCL Technologies – Noida, UP | MD & CEO – C. Vijayakumar | Chairperson – Roshni Nadar Malhotra



**12.** On January 12, REC Limited signed three strategic MoUs in the backdrop of the 7<sup>th</sup> edition of the Madhya Pradesh Global Investors Summit 2023. The first MoU was signed with the MP Power Management Company Limited (MPPMCL), to extend financial assistance of Rs 15,086 Crore. The second MoU was signed with Rewa Ultra Mega Solar Ltd (RUMSL) wherein REC will commit a sum of Rs 1,000 Crore as financial assistance for renewable energy projects. The third MoU was signed with World Bank to finance select state owned electricity distribution companies. The state aims to generate 20% of its electricity through renewable sources by financial year 2024, 30% by FY 2027 and 50% by FY 2030. As a part of this REC-World Bank program, the total volume of financing available will be USD 1 Billion. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- REC Ltd – signed 3 MoUs in the backdrop of the 7<sup>th</sup> edition of ‘Madhya Pradesh Global Investors Summit 2023’
- Three MoUs with: MPPMCL, Rewa Ultra Mega Solar & World Bank
- MP aims to generate 20% of its electricity through renewable sources by FY24, 30% by FY27 & 50% by FY30
- [Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel](#)
- [HQs of REC Ltd – New Delhi | Chairman & MD – Vivek Kumar Dewangen | Founded in – 1969](#)

**13.** On January 11, RITES Ltd signed an MoU with Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IIT-Kanpur) to strengthen and develop a sustainable future by “Transforming to Green”. The umbrella MoU pertains to exploring opportunities in the areas of sustainability, including ESG and carbon-related works like carbon neutrality etc. in sectors such as steel, cement, and power among others. It also includes R&D-related works on air quality sensors to align RITES with the vision of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) and Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) to address air pollution, greenhouse gas emissions and solid waste management. RITES, a Miniratna (Category - I) Schedule ‘A’ public sector enterprise, is a leading player in the transport consultancy and engineering sector in India, having diversified services and geographical reach. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

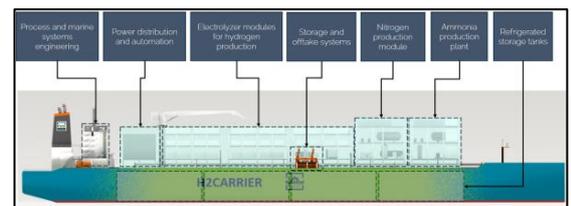
- RITES + IIT Kanpur = an MoU to strengthen and develop a sustainable future by “Transforming to Green”
- The MoU will explore opportunities in the areas of sustainability, including ESG and carbon-related works
- [Director of IIT Kanpur – Abhay Karandikar](#)

**14.** On January 11, Uttar Pradesh government signed 79 MoUs worth Rs 76,000 Crore ahead of the Uttar Pradesh Global Investors Summit (UPGIS) 2023 which is set to be held in Lucknow in February 2023. Moreover, six investors from different states of the country have made proposals for big investments in the Lucknow roadshow. These investors include: City Gold Corporation, Nexon Energia, Varun Beverages, Haldiram, Dharampal Satyapal and Kent RO System. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- ‘Uttar Pradesh Global Investors Summit (UPGIS) 2023’ – to held in Lucknow (in Feb)
- UP Govt – signed 79 MoUs worth Rs 76,000 Crore
- [UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel](#)

**15.** On January 13, Larsen & Toubro (L&T) signed an agreement with Norway-based H2Carrier (H2C) to develop floating Green Ammonia Projects for industrial-scale applications. Under this MoU, L&T will become a partner for engineering, procurement, construction, installation and commissioning of the topsides for H2C’s floating process plants. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- L&T + H2Carrier (Norway) = an MoU to develop floating Green Ammonia Projects for industrial-scale applications
- HQs of L&T – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO & MD – S. N. Subrahmanyam

**16.** On January 9, Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board signed MoUs with chapters of eight countries of the Global Organisation of People of Indian Origin (GOPIO) at the MP Tourism Pavilion of Brilliant Convention Centre in Indore at the 17th Pravasi Bhartiya Divas (PBD) Convention. These MoUs were signed with France Metropole Paris, Mauritius, Reunion Island, Martinique, Sri Lanka, GOPIO International, Malaysia, and Mauritius. These MoUs have been executed with the aim of boosting cooperation in the development of the Tourism sector of the State, and promotion, and publicity of tourist places. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- MP Tourism Board – signed MoUs with chapters of 8 countries of Global Organisation of People of Indian Origin (GOPIO)
- MoUs were signed at – MP Tourism Pavilion of Brilliant Convention Centre in Indore at 17<sup>th</sup> PBD Convention
- Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel

**17.** On January 16, Warehousing Development Regulatory Authority (WDRA) signed an MoU with State Bank of India to help farmers in getting low interest rate loans. The MoU was signed with the intent of promoting awareness about the new loan product called 'Produce Marketing Loan' to exclusively fund against e-NWRs (electronic Negotiable Warehouse Receipt) with features such as nil processing fee, no additional collateral and attractive interest rates. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- WDRA + SBI = an MoU to help farmers in getting low interest rate loans through new product, 'Produce Marketing Loan'
- HQs of SBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Dinesh Kumar Khara
- MDs – Challa Sreenivasulu Setty | Alok Kumar Choudhary | Ashwini Kumar Tewari | Swaminathan Janakiraman

**18.** On January 18, Siemens signed a 3-billion-euro (\$3.25 billion) or Rs 26,000 Cr contract to supply and service freight trains in India, the biggest locomotive deal in its history. Siemens will deliver 1,200 electric locomotives and provide servicing for 35 years under the agreement, also its biggest ever in India. The Siemens-designed, 9,000-horsepower trains with a top speed of 120 km (75 miles)/hr will be assembled in Dahod, Gujarat, India over the next 11 years, with deliveries starting in 24 months. India is looking for technology, better efficiency, and longer lifespan for its trains. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Siemens – signed a 3-billion-euro (\$3.25 billion) or Rs 26,000 Cr contract to supply and service freight trains in India
- Siemens will deliver 1,200 electric locomotives and provide servicing for 35 years
- The Siemens-designed, 9,000-horsepower trains with a top speed of 120 km (75 miles)/hr will be assembled in India
- HQs of Siemens AG – Munich, Germany | CEO – Roland Busch
- HQs of Indian Railways – New Delhi | Chairman & CEO – Anil Kumar Lahoti

**19.** On January 18, India's Adani Enterprises Limited (AEL) signed an agreement with Ashok Leyland and Canada's Ballard Power to launch a pilot project to develop a Hydrogen Fuel Cell Electric Truck (FCET) for mining logistics and transportation. The FCET is scheduled to be launched in India in 2023. Hydrogen, made by splitting water with an electrical process called electrolysis, can be used as a fuel. If the devices that do that, electrolyzers, are powered by renewable energy, the product is called green hydrogen. Adani has a tie-up with French energy company TotalEnergies as part of a deal to form a new green hydrogen project in India. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- Adani Enterprises + Ashok Leyland + Ballard Power (Canada) = an agreement to develop a Hydrogen Fuel Cell Electric Truck (FCET) for mining logistics and transportation
- HQs of Adani Enterprises – Ahmedabad, Gujarat | Chairman – Gautam Adani | MD – Rajesh Adani
- HQs of Ashok Leyland – Chennai, TN | CEO – Shenu Agarwal | President – Sanjay V. Jorapur (owned by Hinduja Group)

**20.** On January 11, Chennai's SRM Institute of Science and Technology signed an MoU with the Indian Navy and the Naval Welfare and Wellness Association (NWWA). The MoU will promote academic cooperation, scientific understanding of defence technology and research and development. Students will have the opportunity to visit naval centres and understand the environment on a ship. The MoU will also facilitate collaborations between students and researchers from SRM and officers in the Navy in the fields of Artificial Intelligence, RADAR, quantum analysis and data science. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- SRM Institute of S&T (Chennai) + Indian Navy + NWWA = an MoU for collaborations in the fields of AI, RADAR, quantum analysis & Data Science
- HQs of Indian Navy – Delhi | Chief – Admiral R. Hari Kumar | VC – S. N. Ghormade | Founded in – 26<sup>th</sup> Jan, 1950

**21.** On January 16, NTPC Renewable Energy Ltd (NTPC REL) signed an MoU with Government of Tripura for development of Floating and Ground Mounted based Renewable Energy Projects in Tripura. This MoU embarks upon the journey towards development of large sized Renewable Energy Projects in the State of Tripura and shall help Govt of Tripura in meeting its Clean Energy Commitments and obligations. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- NTPC REL + Tripura = an MoU for development of Floating & Ground Mounted based Renewable Energy Projects
- HQs of NTPC REL – Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh | CEO – Mohit Bhargava
- Tripura: Capital – Agartala | CM – Manik Saha | Governor – Satyadev Narayan Arya

**22.** On January 13, During RK Singh's three-day visit to Abu Dhabi, India and the UAE signed an agreement on green hydrogen development and the laying of undersea cable connecting India to the UAE under 'One Sun, One World, One Grid initiative.' During his visit, RK Singh held a meeting with COP28 President designate and UAE's Special Envoy for Climate Change Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber. COP28 is scheduled to be held in November in Dubai. The two sides discussed the priorities of the two nations in the area of energy and how India and the UAE could cooperate to make India's G20 Presidency. [{Read more}](#)



### Smart Points:

- India + UAE = an agreement on green hydrogen development and the laying of undersea cable
- The cable will connect India to the UAE under 'One Sun, One World, One Grid initiative'
- COP28 – to be held in November in Dubai | President designate – Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber
- India has set a goal of becoming net zero by 2070
- UAE – Abu Dhabi – Dirham | President – Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan
- Ministry of Power and Ministry New & Renewable Energy: Raj Kumar Singh | Constituency – Arrah, Bihar
- MoS in Ministry of Power: Krishan Pal Gurjar

**23.** On January 16, Telangana government and WEF entered into a collaboration agreement at the Forum's annual meeting in Davos, Switzerland. The World Economic Forum (WEF) has chosen Hyderabad for establishing its Center for the Fourth Industrial Revolution (C4IR) focused on healthcare and life sciences. The C4IR Telangana will be an autonomous, non-profit organisation and the only such of World Economic Forum in India with a thematic focus on healthcare and life sciences. C4IR Telangana will be the 18<sup>th</sup> centre to join WEF's Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) network that spans four continents. With the centre, Telangana is poised to become an important node in the global network of 4IR centres. [{Read more}](#)



**Smart Points:**

- Telangana + WEF = a collaboration for establishing its Center for the Fourth Industrial Revolution (C4IR) in Hyderabad
- C4IR Telangana – will be 18<sup>th</sup> centre to join WEF's 4IR network
- Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad | CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao | Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan
- HQs of WEF – Cologne, Switzerland | Exe Chairman – Klaus Schwab | President – Borge Brende | Founded in – 1971

**24.** On January 19, Udupi Cochin Shipyard Limited (UCSL), the Kerala Department of Fisheries and five fishermen Self Help Group societies from Kerala have signed a tripartite agreement for construction of 10 deep-sea tuna long liner cum gill netter fishing vessels. The order value is about ₹14 Crore. UCSL at Malpe in Udupi is a fully owned subsidiary of Cochin Shipyard Limited. The vessels are designed as per the standard design for deep sea fishing vessel under Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY). [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- UCSL + Kerala Department of Fisheries + 5 fishermen SHGs = a tripartite agreement for construction of 10 deep-sea tuna long liner cum gill netter fishing vessels
- UCSL (Malpe, Karnataka) – a fully owned subsidiary of Cochin Shipyard Limited
- HQs of Cochin Shipyard – Kochi, Kerala | Chairman & MD – Madhu S. Nair | Incorporated in – 1972
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan

**25.** On January 19, in the presence of the Minister for Ports, Shipping & Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal, Indian Ports Association (IPA) and Research & Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) signed an MoU for setting up a Centre for Maritime Economy and Connectivity. The proposed project of Transshipment Port at Galathea bay at Greater Nicobar in Andaman & Nicobar Islands will be advantageous for the BIMSTEC Nations. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Indian Ports Association + RIS = an MoU for setting up a 'Centre for Maritime Economy and Connectivity'
- HQs of IPA – New Delhi | Chairman – Rajiv Jalota
- HQs of RIS – New Delhi | Director General – Sachin Chaturvedi

**26.** On January 20, the International Hockey Federation (FIH) partners with JSP Foundation for Hockey Development and Men's World Cup Lausanne, Switzerland. This partnership will also see the JSP Foundation coming onboard the ongoing FIH Odisha Hockey Men's World Cup 2023 Bhubaneswar-Rourkela as a Global Partner. The 15<sup>th</sup> edition of FIH's flagship event for men was played from 13 to 29 January in Odisha, India. The International Hockey Federation (FIH) is the world governing body for the sport of hockey, recognised by the International Olympic Committee (IOC). Founded in 1924, FIH today has 140-member National Associations. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- FIH + JSP Foundation = partnered for Hockey Development and Men's World Cup Lausanne, Switzerland
- JSP Foundation – Global Partner of 'FIH Odisha Hockey Men's World Cup 2023'
- HQs of FIH – Lausanne, Switzerland | President – Mohammad Tayyab Ikram | CEO – Thierry Weil | Founded in – 1924
- HQs of JSP Foundation – Bhubaneswar, Odisha | Chairperson – Shallu Jindal

**27.** On January 19, the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) signed an MoU with the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) for setting the Annual Performance Target for the year 2022-23. The government has set a target of Rs 3,361 Crore for revenue from operations, up by 18% from the previous year's achievement, for 2022-23. The government has also set various performance-related key parameters such as return on net worth, return on capital employed, non-performing asset NPA to total loans, asset turnover ratio and earning per share, among others. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- IREDA + MNRE = an MoU for setting the Annual Performance Target for the year 2022-23
- Government has set a target of Rs 3,361 Cr for revenue from operations, up by 18% from previous year
- HQs of IREDA – New Delhi | CMD – Pradip Kumar Das
- Ministry of Power and Ministry New & Renewable Energy: Raj Kumar Singh | Constituency – Arrah, Bihar
- MoS in Ministry of Power: Krishan Pal Gurjar

**28.** On January 23, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) has partnered with Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL), under the aegis of Ministry of Defense, for creating an apprenticeship training framework. The move aims to address the need for skilled and future-ready workforce in the Central Public Sector Undertaking and Industries. Under the collaboration, more than 250 apprentices have been engaged in the BDL facility in Hyderabad where 'Astra' missile is manufactured. The apprentices will be provided on-the-job training in different sections in the facility. [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- MSDE + BDL = partnership to create an 'Apprenticeship Training Framework'
- More than 250 apprentices are engaged in the BDL facility in Hyderabad where 'Astra' missile is manufactured
- HQs of BDL – Hyderabad, Telangana | CMD – Siddharth Mishra | Founded in – 1970
- Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship: Dharmendra Pradhan | Constituency – Madhya Pradesh
- MoS in Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship: Rajeev Chandrasekhar

**29.** On January 24, Mobile phone brand OPPO India has partnered with CSC Academy for the "Cyber Sangini" program to empower women in rural and semi-urban areas by training them in the fundamentals of cybersecurity and cyber wellness. CSC Academy is the Education & CSR wing of Common Services Centres (CSC) under the Ministry of Electronics & IT (MeitY). Under this project, OPPO will support the training of 10,000 women all over India who will be known as 'Cyber Sanginis' and act as Cyber Security Ambassadors in their area. After completing a specially designed course over 45 days, these women will be provided with a certificate from CDAC or NIELIT, making them eligible for suitable employment opportunities or to start earning livelihood in their locality. CSC has planned to set up 7,000 CSC Academy centres (one in every block) across India with the main aim of providing education and skills. CSC Academy, setup in 2017, is a not-for-profit society under the Societies Registration Act 1860 (Act 21 of 1860). [{Read more}](#)

### Smart Points:

- OPPO India + CSC Academy = partnership for "Cyber Sangini" program to empower women in rural & semi-urban areas
- CSC Academy – the Education & CSR wing of Common Services Centres (CSC) under MeitY
- Under this project, OPPO will support the training of 10,000 women all over India who will be known as 'Cyber Sanginis'



**30.** On January 23, Ministry of AYUSH signed an MoU with India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC), Ministry of Tourism to work together for the promotion of Medical Value Travel in Ayurveda and other traditional systems of medicine. The implementation and progress of the MoU will be monitored by a Joint Working Group (JWG) co-chaired by representatives from MoA and ITDC. The JWG will also identify the best practices adopted by Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand etc. to promote themselves as a preferred destination for medical value travel. According to the report 'The Global Wellness Economy: Looking beyond COVID' by the Global Wellness Institute (GWI), the Global Wellness economy will grow at 9.9% annually. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Ministry of AYUSH + ITDC (Ministry of Tourism) = an MoU to promote Medical Value Travel in Ayurveda
- 'The Global Wellness Economy: Looking beyond COVID' – by the Global Wellness Institute (GWI)
- Global Wellness economy will grow at 9.9% annually
- HQs of ITDC – New Delhi | Chairman – Sambit Patra | Established in – October 1966
- Ministry of AYUSH: Sarbananda Sonowal | Constituency – Majuli, Assam
- MoS in Ministry of AYUSH: Munjapara Mahendrabhai
- Ministry of Tourism: G. Kishan Reddy | Constituency – Secunderabad, Telangana
- MoS in Ministry of Tourism: Shripad Yesso Naik & Ajay Bhatt

**31.** On January 23, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in partnership with Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL) launched an 'Inclusive Circular Economy' project to promote sustainability. The initiative focuses on end-to-end management of plastic waste by promoting the segregation of waste at source, collection of the segregated waste, and setting up Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs) for recycling all kinds of plastic waste along the value chain. Further, to ensure better waste management and recycling of plastic waste, the project will also reach out to 1,00,000 households for segregation at source. The project is a scale-up of existing partnership under UNDP's flagship Plastic Waste Management Programme. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- UNDP + HUL = launched an 'Inclusive Circular Economy' project to promote sustainability
- The initiative focuses on end-to-end management of Plastic Waste
- HQs of UNDP – New York, US | Administrator – Achim Steiner | Founded in – 1965
- HQs of HUL – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Sanjiv Mehta | Chairman – Nitin Paranjpe

**32.** On January 28, the United States and European Union signed an agreement to speed up and enhance the use of artificial intelligence to improve agriculture, healthcare, emergency response, climate forecasting and the electric grid. The officials called it the first sweeping AI agreement between the United States and Europe. AI modeling, which refers to machine-learning algorithms that use data to make logical decisions, could be used to improve the speed and efficiency of government operations and services. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- US + EU = a first-of-its-kind agreement to speed up and enhance the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46<sup>th</sup> President – Joe Biden | 49<sup>th</sup> VP – Kamala Harris
- HQs of EU – Brussels, Belgium | Member Countries – 27
- President of European Parliament – Roberta Metsola
- President of European Council – Charles Michel
- President of European Commission – Ursula von der Leyen



**33.** A second batch of 12 cheetahs, 7 male and 5 female, will be brought from South Africa to Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh in February 2023. The central government confirmed that an MoU on cooperation in reintroduction of cheetahs has been signed between the two countries. The cats will join 8 cheetahs introduced to India from Namibia during 2022. The South African cheetahs range from 18 months to 4 years in age. Under the 'Action Plan for Reintroduction of Cheetah in India', 50 cheetahs will be brought from African countries to various national parks over 5 years. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- India + South Africa = an MoU to introduce 2<sup>nd</sup> batch of 12 Cheetahs (7 male + 5 female) in Kuno National Park, MP
- First batch of 8 Cheetahs was brought from Namibia in 2022
- Under 'Action Plan for Reintroduction of Cheetah in India', 50 cheetahs will be brought from African countries in 5 years
- [South Africa – Cape Town – South African Rand](#) | [President – Cyril Ramaphosa](#)

**34.** On January 31, Australian Trade and Investment Commission (Austrade) signed an MoU with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) to collaborate on Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) programmes. The MoU aims to focus on Australian training standards and delivery in sectors ranging across automotive, allied health, mining, IT, cyber security, renewable energy, logistics, supply chain and water management. The Australia-India Future Skills Initiative is the Australian Government's flagship programme which aims to support India's workforce and skills development through partnerships with Australian vocational education, training and skills providers. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- Austrade (Australia) + CII (India) = an MoU to collaborate on Technical Vocational Education & Training (TVET) programs
- [HQs of CII – New Delhi](#) | [President – Sanjiv Bajaj](#) | [VC – Sanjiv Puri](#) | [DG – Chandrajit Banerjee](#) | [Founded in – 1895](#)
- [Australia – Canberra – Australian Dollar](#) | [PM – Anthony Albanese](#)

**35.** On January 31, Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TSRTC) has entered into an MoU with Nalsoft for Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) implementation. TSRTC is the first among all the State Road Transport Corporation undertakings in the country to commission and implement it. In order to integrate all the departments and front office systems, TSRTC has decided to implement the Oracle ERP project and Nalsoft will be the implementation partner. It is expected to go live in record a 9 months time. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- TSRTC + Nalsoft = an MoU for Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) implementation
- TSRTC – 1<sup>st</sup> State Road Transport Corporation to commission & implement ERP
- TSRTC – to implement the Oracle ERP project with Nalsoft as the implementation partner
- [Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad](#) | [CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao](#) | [Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan](#)
- [HQs of Nalsoft – Hyderabad](#) | [MD – V C Sajjanar](#) | [CEO – CA Venkata Nalluri](#)



## Important Days

January 1	205 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Bhima-Koregaon battle (1818)
January 1	Global Family Day
January 1	65 <sup>th</sup> DRDO Day
January 4	5 <sup>th</sup> World Braille Day by UN (since 2019) (birth anniversary of Louis Braille)
January 6	World Day of War Orphans
January 6	76 <sup>th</sup> Foundation Day of Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)
January 8	Earth's Rotation Day
January 10	World Hindi Day (Vishwa Hindi Diwas)
January 12	National Youth Day (birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda)
January 12	18 <sup>th</sup> Foundation Day of NCPCR
January 14	Armed Forces Veterans Day
January 15	148 <sup>th</sup> Foundation Day of Indian Meteorological Department
January 15	75 <sup>th</sup> Army Day (Commemorates the achievements of the first Indian Commander in Chief of Army - Field Marshal K. M. Cariappa)
January 16	Thiruvalluvar Day
January 16	National Startup Day
January 10-16	Startup India Innovation Week - by DPIIT
January 11-17	34 <sup>th</sup> National Road Safety Week
January 19	18 <sup>th</sup> NDRF Raising Day (since 2006)
January 21	Statehood Day of Manipur, Meghalaya & Tripura
January 23	Parakram Diwas (since 2021) (126 <sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Subhas Chandra Bose)
January 23	Foundation Day of Uttar Pradesh (Theme – "Investment and Employment")
January 24	5 <sup>th</sup> International Day of Education (dedicated to Afghan girls) (Theme – "To Invest in People, Prioritise Education")
January 24	National Girl Child Day (since 2008)
January 24	5 <sup>th</sup> International Day of Education (Theme – "To Invest in People, Prioritize Education")
January 25	53 <sup>rd</sup> Statehood Day of Himachal Pradesh
January 25	National Tourism Day
January 25	13 <sup>th</sup> National Voters' Day (since 2011) (Theme – "Nothing Like Voting, I Vote for Sure")
January 26	International Customs Day (Theme – "Nurturing the Next Generation: Promoting a Culture of Knowledge-sharing and Professional Pride in Customs")
January 26	74 <sup>th</sup> Republic Day of India
January 27	International Holocaust Remembrance Day (Theme – "Home and Belonging")
January 28	17 <sup>th</sup> Data Privacy Day or Data Protection Day (Theme - "Think Privacy First")
January 28	Birth Anniversary of Lala Lajpat Rai
January 29	World Leprosy Day (Theme - "Act Now. End Leprosy")
January 30	Martyrs' Day (Shaheed Diwas) (death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi)



January 30	4 <sup>th</sup> World Neglected Tropical Diseases Day (Theme - "Act Now. Act Together. Invest in Neglected Tropical Diseases.")
January 31	31 <sup>st</sup> Foundation Day of National Commission for Women (Theme - "Sashakt Nari Sashakt Bharat")
January	Cervical Health Awareness Month

Important Books & Authors	
"Breaking Barriers: the Story of a Dalit Chief Secretary"	Kaki Madhava Rao
"Ambedkar: A Life"	Shashi Tharoor
"Human Anatomy" (co-writers - Dr Vaibhav Chaturvedi & Dr Kanak Dwivedi)	Dr Ashvini Kumar Dwivedi
"Mukhyamantrir Diary 1 (Chief Minister's Diary No.1)"	Himanta Biswa Sarma
"Revolutionaries: The Other Story of How India Won Its Freedom"	Sanjeev Sanyal
"Spare (memoir)"	Prince Harry
"More Than Just Surgery: Life lessons beyond the O.T."	Tehemton Erach Udwadia
"Braving A Viral Storm: India's Covid-19 Vaccine Story"	Aashish Chandorkar & Suraj Sudhir
"My land and My People"	Dalai Lama
"Come! Let's Run"	Ma. Subramanian
India's Knowledge Supremacy: The New Dawn	Dr. Ashwin Fernandes
Never Give an Inch: Fighting for the America I Love	Mike Pompeo
The Poverty of Political Economy: How Economics Abandoned the Poor	Meghnad Desai





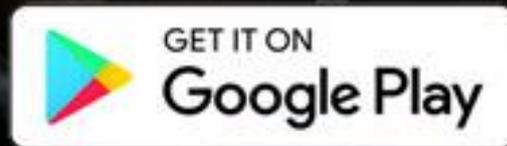
SCAN TO  
DOWNLOAD APP

Smartkeeda प्रस्तुत करता है

भारत का पहला

**EGS**

Education-Gaming-Social-Platform



Play Quizzes in

QUANT | REASONING | ENGLISH | GS | CURRENT AFFAIRS | LAW

Useful for Exams

- BANK & INSURANCE
- SSC & RAILWAYS
- TEACHING EXAMS
- LAW EXAMS
- UPSC
- DEFENCE EXAMS
- STATE EXAMS
- CUET

इस खेल में कोई वित्तीय जोखिम नहीं है और इसकी आदत लग जाए तो अच्छा है।



**Smartkeeda**

The Question Bank

*Presents*

# Testzone

India's Leading Test Series Platform

**All Banks Exams**

2022-2023

12 Months Plan

@Just

Rs. **629**

To get 10% Off use code **MockDrill**

- ✓ Brilliant Test Analysis
- ✓ Excellent Content
- ✓ Unmatched Explanation

**Buy Now**

