



CURRENT AFFAIRS – DECEMBER 1-31, 2022

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Foot Prints

(Compilation of Current Events)

 TAMIL NADU	 STATES	 NATIONAL	 INDIA & THE WORLD	 INTERNATIONAL
 SCHEMES	 DEFENCE	 SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY	 EVS	 ECONOMY
 COURT VERDICTS	 CONFERENCES & SUMMITS	 AWARDS	 PERSONALITIES	 BOOKS & AUTHORS
 SPORTS	 RANKS & REPORTS	 DAYS	 OBITUARY	 NEWS OF THE MONTH
 KNOWLEDGE	 APPOINTMENTS	 COMMITTEES	 APPS / PORTALS	 MISCELLANEOUS

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TAMIL NADU

➤ **Artificial Intelligence (AI)-generated NFT (non-fungible token)**

- ✓ In a first for any Indian state, Tamil Nadu - has launched its own Artificial Intelligence (AI)-generated NFT (non-fungible token) representing the state.
- ✓ Titled 'Netru, Indru, Nalai' (Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow), the NFT showcases the past, present and future of the state.
- ✓ It was launched by the state IT minister Mano Thangaraj on November 30 at the TechNext 2022 Web3 conference organized by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in Chennai.
- ✓ The NFT is set to be auctioned, and the proceeds will be used to set up a Web 3 Centre of Excellence (CoE) in the state.

➤ **Chennai's Third Botanical garden**

- ✓ Chennai's third botanical garden - to come up soon on a sprawling 137 hectare (338 acres) space on the city's outskirts.
- ✓ The state environment department has finalised the location, Kadambur village along GST Road in Chengalpet district.
- ✓ The garden will be home to climate resilient plants and will also have plants that will suit the weather conditions of Chennai
- ✓ It is being planned under the Green Tamil Nadu Mission as part of the effort to increase the state's green cover from the current 23.7% to 33%.

➤ **Metaverse, Web 3.0**

- ✓ Metaverse, Web 3.0 and other technologies to propel State's \$1 trillion economy dream.
- ✓ A thriving and a vibrant culture has been noticed across the broad spectrum of new age technologies, including Metaverse, Web 3.0, Blockchain and others in Tamil Nadu, according to a report by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and KPMG.
- ✓ The report titled 'Metaverse and web 3.0 opportunities in India - Nurturing Tamil Nadu's growth ambitions through nextgen technologies' pointed out that all major Information Technology (IT) companies in Tamil Nadu are focusing on Metaverse and Web 3.0 technologies via metaverse design, development, testing and support services.

➤ **SIPCOT Industrial Park**

- ✓ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin has inaugurated an industrial park at Eraiyur in Tamil Nadu's Perambalur district. He also laid the foundation stone for the Phoenix Kothari Footwear Park.
- ✓ The inauguration of the 243.39-acre park of the State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu (Sipcot) followed an announcement in the 2022-23 budget session that new parks would be set up in Coimbatore, Perambalur, Madurai, Vellore and Tiruvallur districts.

➤ **Tamil Nadu Police, Idol Wing - Non-Fungible Tokens (NFT)**

- ✓ The Tamil Nadu Police, Idol Wing - has launched its own non-fungible tokens (NFT) to award members of Idol Wing unit as rewards.
- ✓ This initiative will make Tamil Nadu Police the second police force in the world after Dubai to mint its own NFTs.
- ✓ Further, Tamil Nadu Police's Idol Wing has become the first police unit in the world to mint Soulbound Tokens (SBTs), a non-transferable form of NFT, as "Digital Medals" to motivate officers in the wing to make exceptional contributions.

➤ **Bharat Urea**

- ✓ Southern Petrochemical Industries Corporation (SPIC) - has become the first company in Tamil Nadu to start the supply of the indigenously manufactured urea, 'Bharat Urea'.
- ✓ The bags will carry information about the production cost, maximum selling price including taxes and subsidy offered by the Union government.
- ✓ This is based on the new design prescribed under the Centre's 'One Nation One Fertilizer' policy.

➤ **G20 Summit - Tamilnadu**

- ✓ The Union government has planned to hold around 200 meetings in 32 sectors at multiple locations across the country, including Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ Chennai has been tentatively chosen as one of the host cities for the meetings.
- ✓ India assumed the G20 presidency for a year beginning December 1, with the theme inclusiveness, "one earth-one family-one future".
- ✓ Tamil Nadu has successfully staged Modi-Xi Jinping summit at Mamallapuram in 2019, followed by the successful conduct of the 44th edition of the Chess Olympiad with active participation of players from 180 countries recently.

➤ **Verbal Autopsy Project**

- ✓ The pilot of the verbal autopsy project - will be launched in Karur and Krishnagiri districts in the state.
- ✓ The verbal autopsy is a process aimed at improving medical certification of home deaths.
- ✓ Under the project, a team of 20 health workers will soon visit households in Karur and Krishnagiri districts to conduct verbal autopsies.

➤ **First Woman Mace-Bearer**

- ✓ D Lalitha - was appointed as the first woman mace-bearer of the Madurai bench of Madras high court.
- ✓ Lalitha is serving as a macebearer to Justice N Mala of the Madurai bench.
- ✓ A mace-bearer is a person who walks in front of a judge (or any other dignitaries), clearing the way for them to enable easy navigation in the corridors of the court.
- ✓ In general, the post has been traditionally held by men, who carries the mace and walks before a dignitary signifying their power.

➤ **India's First Drone Skilling and Training Virtual e-learning Platform**

- On December 6, Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports, and Information and Broadcasting Anurag Singh Thakur - inaugurated India's first drone skilling and training virtual e-learning platform in Chennai.
- ✓ During the occasion, Thakur also launched the first of 1000 planned Drone Centre of Excellence at Garuda Aerospace's Manufacturing unit in Chennai.
 - ✓ The Union Minister also flagged off Garuda Aerospace's Drone Yatra, 'Operation 777' at Agni College of Technology, Chennai.

➤ **PM SVANidhi Scheme - Karur Corporation**

- ✓ Karur corporation - has topped among 20 municipal corporations in Tamil Nadu in facilitating loans to street vendors under the Centre's PM SVANidhi scheme.
- ✓ Among other corporations, Tambaram corporation stood second while Trichy corporation has come third.
- ✓ Karur corporation covered 88% of vendors while Tambaram corporation disbursed loan to 80% of its target.

➤ **Umanage Chennai**

- ✓ Electronics Corporation of Tamil Nadu Limited (ELCOT) - will be organising Asia's largest summit on technology and innovation, 'Umanage Chennai', between March 23 and 25, 2023, at the Chennai Trade Centre.
- ✓ The theme of the Conference is "Leave the future behind".

- ✓ Umagine Chennai 2023 is a key initiative towards the state aspiring to become a trillion-dollar economy by 2030.
- **Climate Change Mission**
 - ✓ Tamil Nadu is set to become the first state to launch its own Climate Change Mission.
 - ✓ It had launched the Green Tamil Nadu Mission last September and the Tamil Nadu Wetlands Mission this August.
 - ✓ A Special Purpose Vehicle—the Tamil Nadu Green Climate Company (TNGCC)—will implement the State Climate Action Plan.
- **Ayushman Bharat health and wellness centres**
 - ✓ Tamil Nadu - won the award at the national level for making the highest number of teleconsultations at Ayushman Bharat health and wellness centres.
 - ✓ During the campaign held between October 12 and December 8, there were 22.5 lakh teleconsultations made by the state.
 - ✓ National Health Mission (Tamil Nadu) director Shilpa Prabhakar Satish received the award.
 - ✓ The National Universal Health Coverage Day was celebrated through an event held in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, with the theme “Build the World We Want: A Healthy Future for All” on December 10.
- **Insecticides Act, 1968**
 - ✓ The Tamil Nadu government - has prohibited the sale and use of phosphorus paste (rat poison) or any preparation containing the substance under the Insecticides Act, 1968.
 - ✓ As per the government order, the sale, stocking, exhibition and use of “six highly toxic pesticides” harmful to human beings and animals have been banned for 60 days.
 - ✓ They have been prohibited by Tamil Nadu as per provisions under the Insecticides Act 1968 (Central Act 46 of 1968).
- **Sustainable Municipal Infrastructure Financing (SMIF)**
 - ✓ The Tamil Nadu government - has signed a loan agreement with German Development Bank, KfW for Rs.4,250 crore Sustainable Municipal Infrastructure Financing (SMIF).
 - ✓ The objective of the third phase of SMIF is on environment-related urban infrastructure, especially improving the capacity of urban local bodies in water supply and sewage disposal.

- ✓ The objective of the programme is to protect the environment, preserve the natural resources and improve the quality of life of the urban population.
- **Sponge Parks**
- ✓ Greater Chennai Corporation - will set up 47 'sponge parks', which will store flood water and recharge ground water, thereby solving the issue of inundation of city roads.
- ✓ Work order for five such parks has been issued and another 42 will be tendered out this month.
- ✓ The project will include construction of mini ponds and trenches at the parks.
- ✓ The trenches will carry water from roads and storm water drains into the ponds.
- **Namma School Foundation**
- ✓ On December 19, Tamil Nadu chief minister M K Stalin - launched the 'Namma School Foundation' project.
- ✓ The new initiative aims to improve infrastructure of State government-run schools with private participation.
- ✓ During the event, Namma school portal (<https://nammaschool.tnschools.gov.in>) and school virtual pavilion were also launched by the Chief Minister.
- **Friends of Library**
- ✓ Tamil Nadu government launches 'Friends of Library' programme.
- ✓ The 'Friends of Library' programme, under which books would be directly given to those who are unable to access state-run libraries, was introduced by the Tamil Nadu government.
- ✓ The project will be helpful to people with disabilities, seniors, kids, and hospital in-patients, among others, who are unable to visit a library. Volunteers will hand over the books to such people from the libraries.
- **Aadhaar mandatory**
- ✓ Tamil Nadu government makes Aadhaar mandatory for all its schemes.
- ✓ The Tamil Nadu government has announced that all those who are eligible for benefits under various government schemes will have to submit proof of having an Aadhaar number.
- **Project Nilgiri Tahr**
- ✓ The Tamil Nadu government - has unveiled the Project Nilgiri Tahr, and allocated an initial funding of Rs 10 crore for the project.

- ✓ The state environment, climate change and forest department has issued orders on December 28 for setting up 'The Nilgiri Tahr' project that seeks to ensure the protection and conservation of the animal.
- ✓ The Nilgiri tahr is recognised as the state animal of Tamil Nadu.



STATES

➤ Gold ATM

- ✓ India's first and the world's first real-time Gold ATM - was recently inaugurated at Begumpet in Hyderabad on December 3.
- ✓ Goldsikka Pvt Ltd launched the first Gold ATM in the country with technology support from Hyderabad-based startup, OpenCube Technologies Pvt Ltd.
- ✓ There are 8 available options for the quantity of gold starting from 0.5 grams to 100 grams.
- ✓ The ATM has a capacity of storing 5kgs of gold and people can insert their debit or credit cards into the ATM and buy gold coins, which are 24-carat gold and 999 certified.

➤ 23rd Hornbill Festival

- ✓ 23rd Hornbill Festival 2022 begins at Naga Heritage Village Kisama in Nagaland.
- ✓ It is also popularly known as the 'Festival of Festivals' and showcases Nagaland's rich culture.
- ✓ Hornbill is an Indian bird also known as the concave-casqued hornbill.
- ✓ It is one of the larger members of the hornbill family and is found in the Indian subcontinent and Southeast Asia.

➤ Divyangs

- ✓ Maharashtra - has become the first state in the country to set up a separate department for the differently-abled persons (Divyangs).
- ✓ The state government has created an independent Department of Disabled Welfare with a fund allocation of Rs 1,143 crore.
- ✓ This was announced recently by Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde while marking the International Day of Disabled Persons on December 3.
- ✓ The new department will formulate policies for the welfare of the disabled by taking into consideration views of the stakeholders.

➤ Gamosa

- ✓ The Assamese traditional scarf, "gamosa" - has received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag from the Geographical Indications (GIs) Registry.
- ✓ The recognition comes five years after the claim was made by the state directorate of handloom and textiles.
- ✓ While gamosa became the 10th product or goods from Assam to get the GI tag, the total number of GI tags of India has gone up to 432.
- ✓ A pious occasion is considered incomplete without a gamosa in Assam.

➤ **First Infantry Museum**

- ✓ The country's first Infantry Museum has been opened for the general public at Mhow, Indore, Madhya Pradesh. This museum is the first in the country and second in the world. Before this, such a museum has been built in America.
- ✓ The Army inaugurated to celebrate the Victory Day and the eve of the 75th year of the establishment of the Infantry School.
- ✓ The world-class museum has been set up with the intention of showcasing the Infantry.

➤ **Lion @ 47: Vision for Amrutkal**

- ✓ The Centre - has prepared "Lion @ 47: Vision for Amrutkal" document for Lion conservation as a part of the 'Project Lion' for conservation of Asiatic Lions in Gir, Gujarat.
- ✓ The details of the document was provided by the Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Ashwini Kumar Choubey in Rajya Sabha on December 22.
- ✓ 'Project Lion' is being implemented by the State Government of Gujarat and other stakeholders like Central Zoo Authority.

NATIONAL

➤ **Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Bill**

- ✓ On December 8, the Rajya Sabha - passed the Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Bill, which seeks to amend the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and give effect to India's obligations to the CITES.
- ✓ The bill seeks to strengthen the protection of endangered species and enhance punishment for illegal wildlife trade.
- ✓ It permits transfer or transport of a captive elephant for religious or "any other purpose" by a person having a valid certificate of ownership.

➤ **Kashi Tamil Sangamam Express**

- ✓ On December 10, Union minister of railways Ashwini Vaishnaw - announced a new train 'Kashi Tamil Sangamam Express' between Varanasi and Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ The announcement was made by the Minister to commemorate the ongoing month-long Kashi Tamil Sangamam.
- ✓ Kashi Tamil Sangamam is a month-long programme organized by the Ministry of Education, as a part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.

➤ **Energy Conservation (Amendment) Bill**

- ✓ The Rajya Sabha - passed the Energy Conservation (Amendment) Bill by a voice vote on December 12.
- ✓ The Bill seeks to amend the Energy Conservation Act, of 2001, which was last amended in 2010 to address various new factors
- ✓ It promotes energy saving and efficiency, empowering the Centre to define a carbon credit trading programme.
- ✓ The Bill seeks to mandate the use of non-fossil sources, including biomass and ethanol, for energy and feedstock, along with the use of green hydrogen and green ammonia.

➤ **Constitution (Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes) Orders (Second Amendment) Bill, 2022**

- ✓ On December 14, Rajya Sabha - passed the Constitution (Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes) Orders (Second Amendment) Bill, 2022.
- ✓ The bill seeks to recognise the 'Gond' community in the Scheduled Tribes category across four districts of Uttar Pradesh with some amendments.
- ✓ It amends the SC order to exclude Gond community as a Scheduled Caste in Chandauli, Kushinagar, Sant Kabir Nagar and Sant Ravidas Nagar districts of

Uttar Pradesh and also amends the ST order to recognise the community as ST in these four districts.

➤ **20 Nuclear Power Plants by 2031**

- ✓ India plans to commission 20 nuclear power plants by 2031, adding nearly 15,000 MW in power generating capacity, the government told the Lok Sabha.
- ✓ The first of these 20 nuclear power plants, a 700 MW unit, is expected to be commissioned in 2023 at Kakrapar in Gujarat, which already has three atomic power generating units operational.

➤ **First Dark Sky Reserve**

- ✓ Ladakh's Hanle becomes first dark sky reserve.
- ✓ The government of the Union Territory of Ladakh has designated a 1,073 square kilometre region in Ladakh's Hanle as India's first dark sky reserve, which will be known as the Hanle Dark Sky Reserve (HDSR).
- ✓ In a gazette notification issued by the UT's Wildlife Department, the UT has identified this region covering a cluster of six hamlets of the Hanle revenue range.

➤ **Narikoravan and Kurivikkaran**

- ✓ On December 15, the Lok Sabha - passed a Bill to include two communities – Narikoravan and Kurivikkaran – in the list of Scheduled Tribes (STs) in Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ It was passed on the basis of the recommendation of the state of Tamil Nadu
- ✓ Union minister for tribal affairs Arjun Munda moved the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Second Amendment) Bill, 2022.
- ✓ The proposed legislation seeks to provide justice to tribal communities of Tamil Nadu and the move would benefit about 27,000 people in the state.

➤ **Manohar International Airport (MIA)**

- ✓ The newly inaugurated Manohar International Airport (MIA) at Mopa - has become the first airport terminal in the country to bag the Indian Green Building Council's (IGBC) platinum rating under the Green New Buildings rating system.
- ✓ This was announced by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).
- ✓ MIA obtained the green certification after undertaking several sustainable features to preserve natural resources by conserving energy and water, and reducing waste.

➤ **EV-Yatra Portal**

- ✓ President Droupadi Murmu - recently launched the 'EV-Yatra Portal' and a mobile application during National Energy Conservation Day celebrations in New Delhi on December 14.
- ✓ The portal, developed by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency, was launched with the aim to facilitate in-vehicle navigation to the nearest public Electric Vehicle charger.
- ✓ The mobile app will offer details such as the types of chargers installed at the station, availability of charging slots, tariff to charge the EV, service provided etc.

➤ **UNESCO World Heritage Sites**

- ✓ On December 20, the Archaeological Survey of India - announced that three new sites in India have been added to the tentative list of Unesco world heritage sites.
- ✓ They are the iconic Sun Temple in Gujarat's Modhera, the historic Vadnagar – PM Narendra Modi's birthplace – and the rock-cut relief sculptures of Tripura's Unakoti.
- ✓ At present, India has 52 sites, including Varanasi and Satpura Tiger Reserve, on Unesco's tentative list.

➤ **Maritime Anti-Piracy Bill 2022**

- ✓ Parliament has passed the Maritime Anti Piracy Bill 2022 with Rajya Sabha approving it on 21 December 2022.
- ✓ The Bill enables Indian authorities to take action against piracy on the high seas.
- ✓ The Bill defines piracy as any illegal act of violence, detention, or destruction against a ship, aircraft, person, for private purposes, by the crew or passengers of a private ship or aircraft.

➤ **BF.7, New Covid Variant**

- ✓ The BF.7 sub-variant of Omicron that is prevalent in China is thought to be the cause of the present spike in Covid-19 infections there. This isn't the first time BF.7 has been in the spotlight; back in October, it began to displace the main variations in the US and several other European nations.
- ✓ The massive Covid rise in China is being caused by the BF.7 sub-variant of Omicron, which has been found in four cases in India. In Gujarat and Odisha, the instances of BF.7 Covid Variant first came to light. Currently, the Covid protocol is not required in the nation.

➤ **Prashasan Gaon Ki Ore**

- ✓ Union Minister for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions Dr. Jitendra Singh - has inaugurated Good Governance Week celebrations from 19-25 December 2022 with a nationwide launch of “Prashasan Gaon Ki Ore” campaign.
- ✓ Several good governance activities have been planned during the nationwide campaign based on the theme 'Prashasan Gaon Ki Ore' (governance towards village).

➤ **iNCOVACC**

- ✓ India’s first intranasal Covid vaccine iNCOVACC - has been approved by the health ministry as a booster or precautionary dose for those aged 18 years and above.
- ✓ On December 23, Union health minister Mansukh Mandaviya said that Bharat Biotech’s iNCOVACC would be added to the CoWin app and be available at private hospitals to start with.

➤ **KALYANI FeRRESTA**

- ✓ Union Minister for Steel, Jyotiraditya Scindia - launched the country’s first Green Steel Brand ‘KALYANI FeRRESTA’ in New Delhi recently on December 20.
- ✓ Saarloha Advanced Materials, a Kalyani group company, launched green steel under the brand Kalyani FeRRESTA.
- ✓ This first-of-its-kind steel has been manufactured by a Pune-based Steel company, Kalyani group by using renewable energy resources, leaving zero carbon footprints in the environment.

INTERNATIONAL

➤ **Countries of Particular Concern**

- ✓ The United States - has designated 12 countries as “countries of particular concern” for the current status of religious freedom in these nations.
- ✓ The 12 countries include Burma (Myanmar), the People’s Republic of China, Cuba, Eritrea, Iran, Nicaragua, the DPRK, Pakistan, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan.
- ✓ These countries are designated as Countries of Particular Concern under the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 for having engaged in or tolerated particularly severe violations of religious freedom.

➤ **Equal Access to Green Cards for Legal Employment’ (EAGLE) Act**

- ✓ The Joe Biden-led White House - has issued a statement supporting the passage of ‘Equal Access to Green Cards for Legal Employment’ (EAGLE) Act.
- ✓ The new legislation seeks to eliminate the per-country quota on green cards to enable US employers to hire people based on merit, not birthplace.
- ✓ The proposed Act also allows individuals who have been waiting in the backlog for two years, to file their green card applications.

➤ **Smoke-Free by 2025 - New Zealand**

- ✓ New Zealand - became the world's first country to ban smoking for future generations.
- ✓ The nation has passed new legislation as part of the country’s efforts to be smoke-free by 2025.
- ✓ The latest legislation introduced has banned those aged 14 and under from ever being able to legally buy cigarettes.
- ✓ The new laws will come into force in 2023.

➤ **Standing with the Ukrainian People**

- ✓ France to host International Conference “Standing with the Ukrainian People”.
- ✓ According to the French embassy, France will host an International conference “Standing with the Ukrainian People” in Paris with an aim to coordinate international support for civilian resilience in Ukraine and address the Ukrainian people’s urgent humanitarian needs.

➤ **The Carbon Border Tax (CBT)**

- ✓ On December 18, the European Union (EU) - has agreed to a carbon border tax, signifying the world’s first and largest such reform.

- ✓ The Carbon Border Tax (CBT) is aimed at making the EU economy completely carbon-neutral by the year 2030.
- ✓ The Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), also known as the carbon border tax, is a type of duty which will be placed on imports to the EU based on the number of carbon emissions that have been incurred in the production of a particle item or product.
- ✓ This measure makes it necessary for carbon-intensive industries to comply with stricter emission standards.



INDIA & OTHER COUNTRIES

- **Australia-India Centre for Energy (AICE)**
- ✓ India and Australia - have jointly proposed to launch the Australia-India Centre for Energy (AICE) during the two-day Energy Summit 2022 that will be hosted by IIT Madras in December 2022.
- ✓ The Australia-India Centre for Energy (AICE) will be a virtual centre that will promote collaboration among universities, research institutes and industry from India and Australia in the energy domain.
- ✓ IIT Madras and Deakin University in Australia are taking the lead in coordinating and driving the proposed AICE to work on the 2030 SDGs.

- **Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA)**
- ✓ The India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA) - comes into force from December 29.
- ✓ Once the ECTA becomes operational, bilateral trade could nearly triple up to \$70 billion in five years from \$25 billion currently.
- ✓ Exports of textiles and apparel, leather and footwear, furniture, sports goods, jewellery, machinery, railway wagons and select agricultural and marine products are seen to be the top beneficiaries in addition to pharma.

SCHEMES

➤ Sanitary Workers Development Scheme

- ✓ On December 9, Chief Minister M K Stalin - inaugurated a sanitary workers development scheme for the empowerment of sanitation workers across the state.
- ✓ Tamil Nadu is the second state in the country to have such scheme along with a mobile application for sanitation workers, after Odisha.
- ✓ The scheme will benefit around 53,301 sanitary workers 18,859 permanent workers and 34,442 temporary workers across the state.

➤ PM VIKAS Scheme

- ✓ PM Kaushal Ko Kaam Karyakram (PMKKK) renamed as PM VIKAS Scheme.
- ✓ Central government has renamed the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Ko Kaam Karyakram (PMKKK) as Pradhan Mantri Virasat Ka Samvardhan (PM VIKAS) Scheme in Dec 2022.
- ✓ It converges five erstwhile schemes of the Ministry viz. Seekho aur Kamao, USTTAD, Hamari Dharohar, Nai Roshni and Nai Manzil.
- ✓ It is a skill development initiative of the Union government for recognition and standardisation of skills.

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

➤ G-20

- ✓ India - will officially assume the presidency of the G-20 grouping on December 1, 2022 from the current chair Indonesia.
- ✓ The theme of India's G20 Presidency is 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' or 'One Earth One Family One Future'.
- ✓ The theme affirms the value of all life - human, animal, plant, and microorganisms and their interconnectedness on the planet Earth and in the wider universe.
- ✓ Noted artist Sudarsan Pattnaik created the logo of India's G20 presidency on sand as the country officially took over the chair of the grouping.
- ✓ Pattnaik displayed the logo and its theme at the International Sand Art Festival in Konark in Odisha.

➤ Global Technology Summit

- ✓ The 7th edition of the Global Technology Summit - was held from November 29 to December 1, 2022 in New Delhi in hybrid format.
- ✓ The theme for this year's Summit is 'Geopolitics of Technology'.
- ✓ The Global Technology Summit is India's annual flagship event on Geotechnology, co-hosted by the Ministry of External Affairs and Carnegie India, and held annually since 2016.

➤ Abu Dhabi Space Debate

- ✓ The global space conference 'Abu Dhabi Space Debate' - kicked off in the United Arab Emirates on December 5.
- ✓ More than 52 space entities from 46 countries are participating in the event.
- ✓ India and Israel were given the honour of delivering the inaugural address at the two-day international meet.
- ✓ In July 2020, UAE launched its Mars mission named 'Hope Probe' which entered into Mars orbit in February 2021. This made the UAE the first Arab country to achieve this feat.

➤ GDP Growth Forecast

- ✓ On December 6, the World Bank - improved its GDP growth forecast for India to 6.9% for FY23 in its India Development Update.
- ✓ According to the World Bank, the revision was due to higher resilience of the Indian economy to global shocks and better-than-expected second quarter numbers.

- ✓ India's economy grew at 6.3% in September quarter 2022-23 as compared to 13.5% in the June quarter.
- ✓ In October, the World Bank had slashed India's GDP growth forecast to 6.5% from 7.5%.
- **Asia and the Pacific Regional Meeting (APRM)**
 - ✓ The 17th Asia and the Pacific Regional Meeting (APRM) of the International Labour Organization (ILO) - was held in Singapore from December 6 to 9.
 - ✓ The meeting was held under the theme 'Integrated policy agenda for a human-centred recovery that is inclusive, sustainable and resilient'
 - ✓ It had set ten-point priorities of national action with the adoption of the "Singapore Declaration".
 - ✓ The declaration seeks to draw attention for the member countries to deal with the issue of dwindling wages of workers, inflation and unemployment.
- **Tamil Nadu Climate Summit 2022**
 - ✓ The State government has kick started Tamil Nadu Climate Summit 2022 in Chennai.
 - ✓ The CM launched initiatives such as climate smart villages, green schools and green temples.
 - ✓ The Climate Summit addressed the three major missions of the state government - Climate Change Mission, Green Tamil Nadu Mission, and Tamil Nadu Wetlands Mission.
- **Water Impact Summit**
 - ✓ The seventh edition of the India Water Impact summit will commence on December 15, 2022.
 - ✓ Organized by NITI Aayog, the event will showcase new technological innovations, research, policy frameworks, and investment models from around the world and from within India.
 - ✓ It will focus on select aspects of "Mapping and Convergence of 5P's (People, Policies, Plans, Programmes, and Projects)".
- **Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)**
 - ✓ The 15th Conference of Parties (COP15) to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) held in Montreal - adopted the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) on December 19.
 - ✓ The framework has 23 targets that the world needs to achieve by 2030 to reverse ecosystem degradation under four main goals.

- ✓ In the historic UN biodiversity agreement, more than 190 countries agreed to protect 30% of land and 30% of coastal and marine areas by 2030, fulfilling the deal's highest-profile goal, known as 30-by-30.
- **Urban 20 (U20)**
- ✓ The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs - is organizing the Urban 20 (U20) event from December 01, 2022 to November 30, 2023.
- ✓ Ahmedabad, a UNESCO World Heritage city, will host the U20 meetings that will culminate in U20 Mayors' Summit in July 2023.
- ✓ As part of the G20 Leaders' Summit, the first Sherpa meeting of Urban 20 (U20), one of the 10 engagement groups under G20, to prepare the urban agenda will be held in Ahmedabad on February 9-10, 2023.



DEFENCE

➤ **Agni Warrior**

- ✓ The 12th Edition of Exercise Agni Warrior, a bilateral exercise between the Singapore & Indian Army, which had commenced on 13 November 2022 concluded at Field Firing Ranges, Devlali (Maharashtra).
- ✓ Exercise Agni Warrior, involved showcasing joint firepower planning, execution and use of New Generation Equipment by the Artillery arm of both armies.

➤ **National Maritime Domain Awareness (NMDA)**

- ✓ The government - has approved the National Maritime Domain Awareness (NMDA) project for the Indian Navy.
- ✓ The NMDA project will provide “actionable intelligence” for tackling maritime threats.
- ✓ The 250 crore NMDA project was recently cleared by the PM-led Cabinet Committee on Security.

➤ **Naval Exercise Sangam**

- ✓ The 7th edition of Exercise Sangam, a joint Naval Special Forces exercise between Indian Navy MARCOs and US Navy SEALs commenced in Goa.
- ✓ The present edition which will see personnel from SEAL Team Five based at San Diego, US and Indian Navy MARCOs from INS Abhimanyu together aims at exchange of ideas and experiences on various aspects of maritime special operations.

➤ **IFR-22**

- ✓ Indian Navy ships participating in IFR-22 at Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh.
- ✓ Indian Navy ships Kochi, Kavaratti and Sumedha arrived in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh to participate in the maiden International Fleet Review (IFR) being conducted by the Bangladesh Navy (BN).
- ✓ The ships are taking part in a variety of activities in IFR-22 from 6-9 December 2022.
- ✓ All three ships are equipped with a versatile array of weapons and sensors and carry multi-role helicopters.

➤ **India-Indonesia Coordinated Patrol (IND-INDO CORPAT)**

- ✓ The 39th edition of India-Indonesia Coordinated Patrol (IND-INDO CORPAT) between the Indian Navy and the Indonesian Navy is being conducted from 08 - 19 December 2022.

- ✓ The CORPAT will be executed along the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) from 15 to 16 December 2022 and will conclude with a debrief at Port Blair.
- ✓ The 39th edition of IND-INDO CORPAT seeks to bolster the maritime cooperation between the two navies and forge strong bonds of friendship between India and Indonesia.

- **KAZIND - 2022**
- ✓ The 6th Edition of Indo - Kazakhstan joint training exercise "KAZIND-22" is conducted at Umroi (Meghalaya) from 15 to 28 December 2022.
- ✓ The scope of this exercise involves a Command Post Exercise (CPX) at the Battalion level and Company level Field Training Exercise (FTX) on sub-conventional operations.
- ✓ During the exercise, participants will engage in variety of missions ranging from joint planning, joint tactical drills, basics of special arms skills, HADR and raiding a hostile target.

- **Agni-V**
- ✓ On December 15, first night trial of Agni-V - was successfully carried out by the Strategic Forces Command (SFC) in collaboration with DRDO from Abdul Kalam Island off the Odisha coast.
- ✓ The test was to validate new technologies and equipment on the missile.
- ✓ The three stage solid-fuelled Agni-V, in its full operational configuration, was successfully tested for its entire range.
- ✓ The nuclear-capable Agni-V missile has the capability of hitting targets beyond the range of 5000 km.

- **Surya Kiran-XVI**
- ✓ The 16th edition of Indo-Nepal joint training exercise 'Surya Kiran' will be conducted at Nepal Army Battle School, Saljhandi, Nepal from 16 Dec 2022.
- ✓ It aims to enhance interoperability in jungle warfare & counter terrorism operations in mountainous terrain.
- ✓ It was first started in 2011.

- **INS Mormugao**
- ✓ The indigenously built guided missile destroyer 'INS Mormugao' - will be commissioned into the Indian Navy on December 18, the liberation day of Goa.
- ✓ Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will attend the event to commission the ship at the naval dockyard in Mumbai.

- ✓ Regarded as one of the most powerful warships ever built in India, the majestic ship has a displacement of 7,400 tonnes and measures 163 metres in length by 17 metres in width.
- **INS Arnala**
- ✓ Indian Navy's first anti-submarine warfare shallow water craft (ASWSWC), INS Arnala - was launched at the Larsen & Toubro shipyard in Kattipalli, Chennai recently on December 20.
- ✓ In keeping with the Naval maritime tradition, the ship was launched in the waters of Bay of Bengal to the chanting of invocation from Atharva Veda.
- ✓ This is the first of eight such ships being built by the Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) Ltd for the Navy, while eight more ASWSWC are being built by Cochin Shipyard Ltd.



APPOINTMENT

➤ **PT Usha**

- ✓ PT Usha was elected as the first woman president of Indian Olympic Association (IOA) on 10 December 2022.
- ✓ Ajay Patel, Gagan Narang and Rajlaxmi S. Deo have been elected as vice presidents.
- ✓ She is a multiple Asian Games gold medallist and fourth place finisher in the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics 400m hurdles final.



AWARDS

➤ UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards

- ✓ Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya - was conferred with the 'Award of Excellence' at the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation-2022 recently on November 26.
- ✓ The 100-year-old museum was part of the Victorian Gothic and Art Deco Ensembles of Mumbai's world heritage property.
- ✓ The "heroic" restoration of the historic museum has won the top award from United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).

➤ Wildlife Trust of India Award

- ✓ Kerala's man animal conflict mitigation team selected for Wildlife Trust of India award.
- ✓ An eight member team from Chinnakkanal that comes under the Munnar forest division, which has been instrumental in bringing down the incidents of mananimal conflict in the region, has won recognition for its efforts.

➤ Sharath Kamal

- ✓ Sharath Kamal receives the Khel Ratna award.
- ✓ Commonwealth Games star Sharath Kamal was presented the Khel Ratna award by the President Droupadi Murmu at the Rashtrapati Bhawan on Wednesday evening.

➤ Mina Sue Choi Crowned Miss Earth 2022

- ✓ South Korea's Mina Sue Choi was crowned Miss Earth 2022 during the pageant's coronation night on November 29 at Cove Manila, Okada Hotel, Parañaque City.
- ✓ There were 86 Eco-warriors, and only three queens were awarded the pageant's three elements titles.

➤ Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities for the year 2021 and 2022

- ✓ President Droupadi Murmu - conferred the National Awards for the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities for the year 2021 and 2022.
- ✓ 'International Day of Persons with Disabilities' was celebrated in New Delhi on 3rd December 2022.
- ✓ The National Awards for the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities are being given under various categories including Sarvshresth Divyangjan, Shresth Divyangjan and Shresth Divyang Bal/Balika.

➤ **Sargam Koushal - Mrs World 2022**

- ✓ Sargam Koushal created history as she finally won the Mrs World 2022 title after 21 years while competing for India in the pageant. The 32-year-old won the competition in Las Vegas after defeating competitors from 63 other nations.
- ✓ Sargam Koushal beat Mrs. Polynesia to win the title.
- ✓ The Jammu and Kashmir-born beauty queen previously worked as a teacher in Vizag.

➤ **Sahitya Akademi Award**

- ✓ Former IAS officer M Rajendran - was conferred the 2022 Sahitya Akademi award for his novel titled “Kaala Pani - Naadu Kadathapatta Mudhal Arasanin Kadhai”.
- ✓ The novel deals about the story of Marudhu brothers and their clans being expatriated by British to the Penang prison.
- ✓ The work portrays the contribution of Tamils for Indian freedom movement.
- ✓ The award carries Rs 1 lakh, a copper plaque and a citation, which would be presented at a later date.

➤ **VinFuture Prize 2022**

- ✓ Renowned researcher and Madras IIT Professor Pradeep Thalappil - has won the VinFuture Prize 2022 instituted by the VinFuture Prize Council to honour breakthrough research projects.
- ✓ Thalappil has been awarded the ‘Special Prize dedicated to Innovators from Developing Countries’ for his development of a low-cost filtration system to remove arsenic and other heavy metals from groundwater.

➤ **Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)**

- ✓ The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) - has won Data Security Council of India's (DSCI) ‘Best Security Practices in Government Sector’ award.
- ✓ The award was given to UIDAI during the recently concluded DSCI's three-day Annual Information Security Summit (AISS) in New Delhi.
- ✓ UIDAI is the first Government Organization to be Privacy Certified on leading industry standard (ISO27701).

PERSONALITIES

➤ "Superstars Of STEM"

- ✓ Three Indian-origin women are among 60 scientists, technologists, engineers, and mathematicians who have been selected as Australia's Superstars of STEM.
- ✓ The three Indian-origin women are - Neelima Kadiyala, Dr Ana Babu Ramani, and Dr Indrani Mukherjee.
- ✓ The initiative aims to smash society's gender assumptions about scientists and increase the public visibility of females and non-binary people.

➤ Volodymyr Zelenskyy

- ✓ On December 7, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy - has been named Time's "Person of the Year" for the year 2022.
- ✓ The magazine also appreciated the spirit of Ukraine throughout the difficult time of Russian aggression in the country.
- ✓ The 44-year-old Ukrainian leader has been attempting to fight off Russia's invasion of his country and has won widespread acclaim.

➤ Neeraj Chopra

- ✓ Neeraj Chopra has become the world's most written-about athlete in 2022. In 2022, he displaced Usain Bolt as the world's most written-about athlete.
- ✓ World Athletics, international governing body for the sport of athletics, revealed this citing data from a media analysis company Unicepta.
- ✓ Neeraj Chopra won the gold medal for India in Tokyo last year.

➤ PT Usha

- ✓ Renowned athlete PT Usha - became the first nominated Rajya Sabha MP to join the panel of Vice-Chairpersons in the upper house.
- ✓ The decision was announced by Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankar at the house recently on December 20.
- ✓ Along with Usha, YSRCP leader V Vijayasai Reddy has also been nominated as another chairperson in the panel.

BOOKS & AUTHORS

➤ **India: Mother of Democracy**

- ✓ Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan - has recently released a book titled "India: Mother of Democracy".
- ✓ Compiled by the Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR), the academic book has 30 articles written by 30 different authors.
- ✓ The authors of the book include the renowned archaeologist Vasant Shinde, Professor Rajiv Lochan of Panjab University, Professor Jigar Mohammad of Jammu University and Professor Veenu Pant of Sikkim University.

ECONOMY

➤ **Goods and Services Tax (GST) - November 2022**

- ✓ The Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections for the month of November 2022 - stood at Rs.1,45,867 crore, according to the data shared by finance ministry on December 1.
- ✓ The revenue for the month of November are 11% higher than the GST revenue in the same month last year, which stood at Rs.1,31,526 crore.
- ✓ This is the ninth straight month when collections from GST has remained above Rs.1.40 lakh crore.

➤ **Centre for Economics and Business Research (CEBR)**

- ✓ India to become 3rd largest economy in the world by 2037: CEBR report.
- ✓ UK based Centre for Economics and Business Research (CEBR) predicted in December 2022 that India will become the third-largest economy by 2037.
- ✓ Its annual report titled 'World Economic League Table' tracks macroeconomic developments globally.
- ✓ It expects the Indian economy to grow by 6.8% in 2022-23.
- ✓ In the next 5 years, India's annual economic growth is expected to average 6.4%.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

➤ Japan's space agency, JAXA

- ✓ Japan's space agency, JAXA - has successfully used steam to propel its EQUULEUS spacecraft.
- ✓ This is the world's first successful orbit control beyond low-Earth orbit using a water propellant propulsion system.
- ✓ After flying past the Moon, EQUULEUS used an engine named AQUARIUS that uses water as fuel to get to the second Earth-Moon Lagrange point (EML2).

➤ Sindhuja 1

- ✓ IIT Madras researchers - have developed an ocean wave energy converter system to generate electricity from sea waves.
- ✓ The device, Sindhuja 1, has been deployed 6km off the coast of Tuticorin in Tamil Nadu, with a location depth of 20 metres.
- ✓ The system, which is called a 'point absorber wave energy converter', has a floating buoy, a rod and an electrical module.

➤ Mandous

- ✓ Mandous - became the 13th cyclone to cross the coast between Chennai and Puducherry in the last 122 years.
- ✓ Cyclone Mandous crossed the east coast at Mamallapuram near Chennai on December 9 and completely moved over land.
- ✓ It brought up to 10cm of rainfall in Chennai with winds raging at 65kmph-75kmph and gusts that touched 85kmph.

➤ Cervavac

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

➤ SWOT

- ✓ NASA Launches International Mission 'SWOT' to Survey Earth's Water.
- ✓ The Surface Water and Ocean Topography (SWOT) mission is a satellite altimeter jointly developed and operated by NASA and CNES (French space agency) in partnership with the space agencies of the UK and Canada.

✓ The mission's objective is to make the world's first-ever global survey of the Earth's surface water, capable of observing the finer details of the ocean surface topography and measuring the changes in the terrestrial surface water bodies.

➤ **Gaganyaan**

✓ Gaganyaan, India's first human space mission, will be launched in 2024.

✓ The final 'H1 mission' will be launched in the fourth quarter in 2024. It aims to carry a crew of three Indian persons into orbit for five to seven days. The cost of the project is around Rs 10,000 crore.

✓ Astronaut designated for human space flight missions have been identified and are currently undergoing training.



SPORTS

➤ **Manisha Ramadass**

- ✓ Young Indian shuttler Manisha Ramadass - has claimed the BWF Female Para-Badminton Player of the Year award for her stellar run this season.
- ✓ On December 5, the BWF named Manisha as the winner after the 17-year-old won the gold in the World Championships in the SU5 section.
- ✓ Manisha, who is from Tamil Nadu, has been in excellent form this year, winning 32 of her 34 singles matches.

➤ **Weightlifting World Championships**

- ✓ Olympic silver medallist Mirabai Chanu - secured silver medal in the 49kg division in the Weightlifting World Championships in Bogota, Columbia.
- ✓ Mirabai lifted a combined weight of 200 kg (87kg in snatch and 113kg in clean and jerk) to win the silver medal.

➤ **Morocco**

- ✓ Morocco - created history to become the first African and Arab country to reach the World Cup semifinals.
- ✓ On December 10, Morocco secured a 1-0 victory over Portugal in the quarter finals at Al Thumama Stadium in Qatar.
- ✓ Cameroon (1990), Senegal (2002), and Ghana (2010) are the only other African teams which have managed to reach the quarter-finals of the previous World Cups.

➤ **ITF World Champions 2022**

- ✓ Rafael Nadal and Iga Swiatek crowned 2022 ITF World Champions.
- ✓ Spanish Tennis Player, Rafael Nadal has been named the Men's International Tennis Federation (ITF) World Champion 2022 for the 5th time after an outstanding 2022 season. Previously, He has been named the men's ITF World Champion in 2008, 2010, 2017 and 2019.
- ✓ Polish tennis player, Iga Świątek, has been named Women's ITF World Champion 2022 for her performance in 2022 winning 2 Grand Slam titles and 8 titles.

➤ **FIFA World Cup 2022**

- ✓ Argentina - won the FIFA World Cup 2022 after defeating France 4-2 on penalties, following a 3-3 draw in extra-time, in the final at the Lusail Stadium in Qatar.
- ✓ During the tournament, Lionel Messi has surpassed Lothar Matthäus (Germany) for the record of most FIFA World Cup matches played by a player (26).

- ✓ Further, Argentina extended their record for the most penalty shoot-out victories in FIFA World Cup tournaments by a team (6).
- **India - will bid for hosting the Olympic Games in 2036**
- ✓ This was announced by Union sports minister Anurag Thakur on December 27
- ✓ A roadmap will be presented before the full members of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) during the IOC session in Mumbai in September 2023.
- ✓ Gujarat's Ahmedabad will likely be the 'host city' with world-class sporting infrastructure available there.
- ✓ Paris will host the 2024 Olympics, while Los Angeles and Brisbane will host the next two editions in 2028 and 2032 respectively.

OBITUARY

- **Dominique Lapierre**
- ✓ Acclaimed French author Dominique Lapierre – died at the age of 91 on December 4.
- ✓ The French author with a passion for India, whose novels sold tens of millions of copies, is a well-known personality in the country.
- ✓ His 1985 novel "City of Joy" -- about the hardships of a rickshaw puller in Kolkata -- was a massive success.
- ✓ Lapierre was conferred India's third-highest civilian award Padma Bhushan in the 2008 Republic Day honours.

- **Pele**
- ✓ Brazilian football legend and its all time leading scorer, Edson Arantes do Nascimento, famously called Pele - has passed away on December 29 aged 82.
- ✓ He had been battling with cancer, as well as kidney and heart problems.
- ✓ Widely considered one of football's greatest ever players, Pele is the only player in history to have won three World Cups (1958 in Sweden, 1962 in Chile and 1970 in Mexico).

REPORT

➤ **World Bank Report**

- ✓ From 2030, 160 million to 200 million people can be exposed to lethal heatwaves in India every year, and nearly 34 million Indians will face job losses due to heat stress-related productivity decline. By 2037, the demand for cooling is likely to be eight times more than the current level, the World Bank has said in a report.
- ✓ In this scenario, it is imperative for India to deploy alternative and innovative energy efficient technologies for keeping spaces cool. According to the report, “Climate investment opportunities in India’s cooling sector”, this could open an investment opportunity of \$1.6 trillion by 2040, besides reducing green-house gas emissions significantly and creating 3.7 million jobs.

➤ **World Malaria Report 2022**

- ✓ WHO has released the World Malaria report 2022.
- ✓ As per the report, there was estimated 247 million malaria cases came in 2021 in 84 countries. The number of malaria cases has increased from 245 million in 2020 to 247 million in 2021.
- ✓ Malaria cases per 1000 population at risk has reduced from 82 in 2000 to 57 in 2019, before increasing to 59 in 2020.
- ✓ Twenty-nine countries are responsible for 96% of malaria cases around the world. Nigeria (27%), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (12%), Uganda (5%) and Mozambique (4%) accounted for 50% cases of malaria globally.
- ✓ In the South-East Asia Region, Malaria cases have reduced from 23 million in 2000 to about 5 million in 2021.
- ✓ India accounted for 79% of the total cases in the South-East Asia Region.
- ✓ Sri Lanka was declared malaria-free in 2016.

RANKINGS

➤ **International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)**

- ✓ India - has jumped to the 48th position, its highest ever spot, in the global aviation safety ranking by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the United Nation's aviation arm.
- ✓ The Indian aviation safety has scored the highest ever EI score of 85.49% which puts India in the 48th spot, ahead of China (49), Israel (50) and Turkey (54).
- ✓ In 2018, India scored 69.95% and was placed at the 102nd rank.
- ✓ The improved safety ranking will make it easier for Indian carriers to expand their operations abroad.

➤ **Early Warning Project**

- ✓ As per the recent report by the US think tank Early Warning Project, India is ranked 8th among the countries that are at the highest risk for mass killing in 2022 and 2023. India has seen a drop in rank from second position in the earlier year.
- ✓ "India's shift in rank from second to eighth can be most attributed to an improvement in the freedom of movement for men [which is one of the variables used for the analysis]," the report said.
- ✓ While Pakistan topped the list this year, Yemen ranked second, Myanmar third, Ethiopia fifth, Nigeria sixth and Afghanistan seventh, among all 162 countries, the 2022-23 report said.

➤ **Arton Capital - Strongest Passport List**

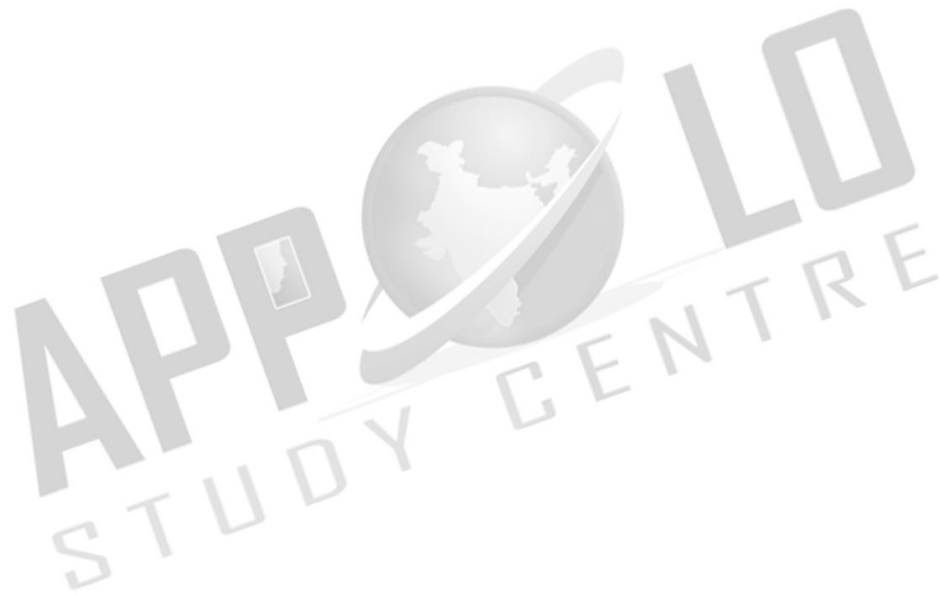
- ✓ India has ranked 87 in the world's strongest passport list released on 7 December 2022 by Arton Capital.
- ✓ The UAE ranked first, it is followed by Germany, Sweden, Finland, Luxembourg, Spain France. While Afghanistan stood last, Pakistan stood at 94.
- ✓ Emirati passport holders can enter 121 countries without a visa, and get a visa on arrival in a further 59 states.

IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Day	Theme
December 01	World AIDS Day	Theme for 2022 is "Equalize"
December 02	International Day for the Abolition of Slavery	Theme 2022 - 'Stories of Courage: Resistance to Slavery and Unity against Racism.'
December 02	National Pollution Control Day	The day is recognized to commemorate the precious lives that were lost in the Bhopal Gas Tragedy
December 02	World Computer Literacy Day	It is celebrated to address the digital divide that affects millions across the world and make computers more accessible to everyone
December 03	World Disability Day	Theme 2022 - "Transformative solutions for inclusive development: the role of innovation in fuelling an accessible and equitable world"
December 04	Indian Navy Day	India celebrates Navy Day every year to acknowledge the role of the Indian Navy and commemorate its achievements in 'Operation Trident' during the 1971 Indo-Pak War
December 04	International Cheetah Day	The Cheetah Day is observed every year to spread awareness about the conservation of Cheetahs and ways to prevent their extinction
December 05	World Soil Day	Theme 2022 - Soil: Where Food Begins
December 07	International Civil Aviation Day	The theme of International Civil Aviation Day will be: "Advancing Innovation for Global Aviation Development"
December 07	National Armed Forces Flag Day	This day is observed to honour Indian soldiers, sailors, and pilots

December 09	International Anti-Corruption Day	Theme is “UNCAC at 20: Uniting the World Against Corruption”
December 09	International Anti-Corruption Day	Theme 2022 - 'UNCAC at 20: Uniting the World Against Corruption'
December 10	Human Rights Day	The 2022 Theme of Human Rights Day is 'Dignity, Freedom, and Justice for All'
December 11	UNICEF Day	The word UNICEF stands for United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund and the purpose served by the organisation is to save children’s lives by providing them with humanitarian aid across the world
December 11	International Mountain Day	The theme of this year’s International Mountain Day (IMD) is ‘Women Move Mountains.’
December 14	National Energy Conservation Day	This day is celebrated to raise awareness regarding the conservation of energy as it is the best way to have a greener and brighter future
December 16	Vijay Diwas	Vijay Diwas is celebrated on December 16 every year to honor the victory of Indian armed forces over Pakistan in the 1971 war
December 18	Minority Rights Day	The theme of Minority Rights Day 2022 is “All in 4 Minority Rights”
December 18	International Migrants Day	This day is observed to guarantee that the rights of migrants are equally respected and not violated
December 20	International Human Solidarity Day	International Human Solidarity Day (IHSD) is observed annually on December 20 across the globe to celebrate the ideal of unity in diversity.
December 22	National Mathematics Day	Commemorate the birth anniversary of the famous mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan.

December 23	National Farmers' Day (Kisan Diwas)	Kisan Diwas, is observed to honour and recognise farmers as the foundation of the nation.
December 24	National Consumer Rights Day	The theme for 2022 is "Fair Digital Finance".
December 25	Good Governance Day	The day is devoted to former prime minister Atal Vihari Vajpayee.
December 27	International Day of Epidemic Preparedness	International Day of Epidemic Preparedness on December 27 serves the purpose of creating awareness about epidemics.



MISCELLANEOUS

➤ **Goblin Mode**

- ✓ The slang term "goblin mode" - has been named Oxford's 2022 Word of the Year.
- ✓ The phrase was one of three shortlisted words put to a vote, with the others being metaverse or a virtual reality environment and #IStandWith – used on social media to depict solidarity with a cause.
- ✓ Oxford Languages opened its choice of 'Word of the Year' to public vote for the first time in its history.
- ✓ The term "goblin mode" is often used to describe a type of behaviour that is unapologetically self-indulgent, lazy, slovenly, or greedy.

