

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – DECEMBER 6, 2022

TAMIL NADU

- **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
- ✓ The Madras High Court broke this convention and recruited its first woman mace-bearer at the Principal Seat in June this year
- ✓ Justice R.N Manjula is the first to utilise the services of the court's first woman mace bearer.

STATES

- **The second and final phase of voting across 93 seats for the Gujarat Assembly elections - ended on December 5**

- ✓ A voter turnout of 61.1% was registered in the second phase, while the first phase of elections for 89 assembly seats held on December 1 saw a voter turnout of 63.3%
 - ✓ The counting of votes in Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh will take place on December 8
 - ✓ The elections for the Himachal Pradesh assembly took place on November 12
 - ✓ The Gujarat Assembly has a total of 182 seats, while Himachal Pradesh has a total of 68 assembly seats
- **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.
- ✓ The important feature of the ATM is prices are updated live.
- ✓ The gold ATM centre was launched by Sunitha Lakshmareddy, chair of the Telangana Women Commission.

NATIONAL

- **On December 5, Agriculture minister Narendra Singh Tomar - inaugurated the creation of an integrated 'agriculture investment portal' by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers welfare**
- ✓ The portal was inaugurated in a meeting held in New Delhi with the Co-Chairperson of Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Melinda French Gates.
 - ✓ The 'Krishi Nivesh portal' will be a centralised one-stop web platform for agri-investors to avail benefits of government schemes implemented by different departments related to agriculture and allied sectors.



- ✓ During the occasion, Mandaviya and Gates also unveiled a report titled ‘Grassroot Soldiers: Role of ASHAs and ANMs in the Covid-19 Pandemic Management in India’.
- ✓ It is a collaborative project of the ministry of health and family welfare (MoHFW), National Health Systems Resource Center (NHSRC) and the Institute for Competitiveness (IFC).

INTERNATIONAL

- **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 voting for the Oxford Word of the year was conducted between 21 November and 2 December.
- ✓ Goblin mode won by 318,956 votes, while “Metaverse” came second with 14,484 votes, followed by “#IStandWith” with 8,639 votes.
- ✓ The term "goblin mode" is often used to describe a type of behaviour that is unapologetically self-indulgent, lazy, slovenly, or greedy
- ✓ The word went viral on social media in February 2022 and became popular during the period when the Covid-19 lockdown restrictions were eased
- ✓ It, seemingly, captured the prevailing mood of individuals who rejected the idea of returning to ‘normal life’.
- ✓ The Word of the Year is based on usage evidence drawn from Oxford’s continually updated database of more than 19 billion words, gathered from news sources across the English-speaking world.
- ✓ Previous Oxford words of the year include “vax” (2021), “climate emergency” (2019) and “toxic” (2018).

- ✓ This year, Merriam-Webster chose “gaslighting” while Cambridge Dictionaries went with “homer”

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **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
- ✓ Union space minister Jitendra Singh represented Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the global conference and attended all meetings with UAE ministers on behalf of the PM.



- ✓ Dr Jitendra Singh will also attend the Ministerial Plenary on the ‘Role of Foreign Policy in Enabling Space Diplomacy and International Cooperation’ along with the MoS Foreign Affairs of the UAE, Foreign Minister of Bahrain and Minister of Advanced Technologies of Israel.
- ✓ 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 and the sixth in the world to achieve this feat.
- ✓ UAE is planning to launch Rashid Rover or the Emirates Lunar Mission shortly.
- ✓ In September 2019, Hanzala Al Mansoori became the first Emirati to go to space when he went to the International Space Station (ISS) for eight days through a Russian space vehicle from Kazakhstan

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **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 researchers are looking to generate 1 MW of power from ocean waves in the next three years using the new system.
- ✓ The system, which is called a 'point absorber wave energy converter', has a floating buoy, a rod and an electrical module.
 - ✓ The buoy moves up and down when the waves make contact and the relative motion gives rotation to an electric generator to produce power
- ✓ The basic system produces 100 watt electricity and the trials of the device were completed in the second week of November.
- ✓ The device can be useful in oil and gas, defence and security installations and communication sectors.
- ✓ The team is planning to produce 1MW power by floating up to 15 buoys at a location in south India where the waves are higher.
- ✓ The technology also can be used in offshore oil plants and remote islands in future.
- ✓ IIT Madras partnered with a startup Virya Paramita Energy (VPE) Private Limited, Motilal Nehru National Institute of Technology (MNNIT), Allahabad, for this test.
- ✓ The electrical storage system was designed by GKC Institute of Engineering and Technology and MCKV Institute of Engineering in West Bengal.
- ✓ NIOT also developed an ocean wave energy converter to generate electricity using a turbine-based system.

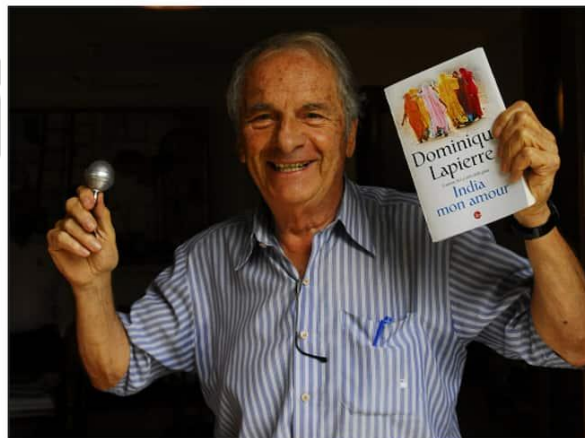
DEFENCE

- **The sales of weapons and military services by the 100 largest armament companies in the world - reached \$592 billion in 2021, a 1.9% increase compared with 2020 in real terms.**
 - ✓ This is the seventh consecutive year of rising global arms sales.
 - ✓ Two Indian defence PSUs — Hindustan Aeronautics (HAL) and Bharat Electronics (BEL) — figure in the list of the top 100 arms-producing companies
 - ✓ These details were released by Swedish think-tank Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) on December 5.
 - ✓ According to the report, a total of 40 US companies on the list will sell \$299 billion in arms in 2021.

- ✓ Since 2018, the top five companies in the Top 100 have all been based in the United States.
- ✓ Both Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (ranked 42nd with \$3.3 billion arms sales) and Bharat Electronics Limited (63rd with \$1.8 billion) have benefitted from the major orders placed by the 1.4-million strong Indian armed forces.
- ✓ The two together, however, accounted for a negligible 0.8% of the \$592 billion global arms sales last year.
- ✓ The union government has set an ambitious target for the indigenous defence industry to achieve a \$26 billion turnover in aerospace and defence goods, with exports of \$5 billion, by 2025.
- ✓ China has eight companies in the top 100 with total arms sales of \$109 billion, a 6.3% increase over 2020.
- ✓ According to the report, the combined arms sales of the Top 100 companies in Asia and Oceania reached \$136 billion in 2021, a 5.8% increase over 2020.
- ✓ Meanwhile, Middle Eastern firms generated \$15.0 billion in arms sales in 2021, representing a 6.5% increase over the previous year.

OBITUARY

- **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 donated the bulk of his royalties from "City of Joy" to support humanitarian projects in India.
- ✓ Lapierre was conferred India's third-highest civilian award Padma Bhushan in the 2008 Republic Day honours
- ✓ He founded a humanitarian association titled the 'City of Joy Foundation' – with his wife - rescuing children suffering from leprosy from the slums of Kolkata.

- ✓ The author-philanthropist contributed his earnings to patients suffering from tuberculosis and leprosy.
- ✓ While completing military service in 1954, Lapierre met American soldier named Larry Collins.
- ✓ The duo went on to collaborate on some of the most memorable books including 'Is Paris Burning?', which has sold about 50 million copies
- ✓ The duo also authored "Or I'll Dress You in Mourning" (1968), "O Jerusalem" (1972), "Freedom at Midnight" (1975), "The Fifth Horseman" (1980), and the thriller "Is New York Burning?"
- ✓ Lapierre also co-authored Five Past Midnight in Bhopal, a historical account of the Bhopal gas tragedy told through multiple witness accounts, which he researched by living in the city for three years in the 1990s
- ✓ In 1991, Lapierre published 'Beyond Love', the epic story of the discovery of the AIDS virus
- ✓ Among his later works, 'A Thousand Suns' chronicles the heroes and events that have shaped his life and 'India mon amour' his memoir reflecting his love for India

