



CURRENT AFFAIRS (NOVEMBER, 2022) :

National

- ⇒ The Royal New Zealand navy and the Indian navy have signed a contract on the exchange of White Shipping Information Exchange. The white shipping information exchange refers to the exchange of prior information on the movement and identity of commercial non-military merchant vessels. Ships are generally classified into white (commercial ships), grey (military vessels), and black (illegal vessels).
- ⇒ The government of India has appointed Justice Dinesh Kumar Sharma as the presiding officer of the tribunal for the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA), related to the ban on the Popular Front of India (PFI) and its associates. Once an organisation is banned under the provisions of UAPA, a tribunal is set up by the government to adjudicate whether there are sufficient grounds for the decision. The Ministry of Home Affairs banned The Popular Front of India (PFI) and its affiliates for a period of five years. The Ministry of Home Affairs used the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act to enact the ban, claiming that the Popular Front of India (PFI) and its affiliates pose a 'major threat to internal security of the country' and are connected to terrorist organisations like the ISIS.
- ⇒ The Chief Election Commissioner Shri Rajiv Kumar launched a yearlong Voter Awareness Program 'Matdata Junction' during an event organized at Akashvani Rang Bhavan. The launch event was also facilitated by Election Commissioner Shri Anup Chandra Pandey. The Matdata Junction is a 52-episode radio series produced by the election commission of India, in collaboration with All India Radio.
- ⇒ The Prime Minister's Scheme for Mentoring Young Authors, known as YUVA 2.0 (Young, Upcoming and Versatile Authors), was launched by the Department of Higher Education of the Ministry of Education. In order to promote India and Indian literature abroad, it is an author mentoring programme for young and aspiring writers (under 30 years old).
- ⇒ Veteran industrialist Ratan Tata, former Supreme Court judge KT Thomas, and former deputy Lok Sabha speaker Kariya Munda have been nominated as trustees of the PM CARES Fund. A public charitable trust under the name of 'Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations Fund (PM CARES Fund)' has been set up, keeping in mind the need for having a dedicated fund with the primary objective of dealing with any kind of emergency or distress situation, like posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, and to provide relief to the affected.

- ⇒ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has released wild Cheetahs in Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh and launched the world's first Cheetah Rehabilitation Project. Cheetahs which have been brought from Namibia are being introduced in India under Project Cheetah, which is the world's first inter-continental large wild carnivore translocation project.
- ⇒ To connect entrepreneurs in India with the US-based investors, the commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal has created a programme called SETU (Supporting Entrepreneurs in Transformation and Upskilling). With SETU, mentors in the US who are eager to support entrepreneurship can connect with Indian firms that are just getting off the ground. The initiative was introduced during a discussion centred on particular concerns with India's startup ecosystem.

International

- ⇒ Kazakhstan's president, Kassym-Jomart Tokayev has restored the former name of the country's capital, Astana, just three years after he himself renamed it in honour of his predecessor. The name was changed to Nur-Sultan in March 2019, in honour of outgoing President Nursultan Nazarbayev.
- ⇒ Vladimir Putin has declared the Annexation of four Ukrainian regions by Russia namely Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson and Zaporizhia. The president of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy responded by unexpectedly submitting an application to join the NATO armed alliance.
- ⇒ The UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has declared 28 September as the International Day for Universal Access to Information.
- ⇒ The G4 grouping comprising India, Japan, Germany and Brazil expressed their concern over lack of any meaningful forward movement on long-pending reform of the UN Security Council (UNSC) and demanded 'urgency' on the issue. The foreign ministers of the G4 countries, in a joint press statement highlighted the urgency of reforming the UN and updating its main decision-making bodies, in order to better reflect contemporary realities.
- ⇒ The rotational presidency of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization has been handed over to India in Samarkand, Uzbekistan. Delhi will hold the presidency of the grouping for a year until September 2023. China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Pakistan and Uzbekistan are the member-countries of the SCO. Iran will join soon.

Economy

- ⇒ Under the money circulation and credit control policy of the RBI, the existing rates (as on 20.11.2022) are :



* Repo Rate (*Repo Rate is the rate at which commercial banks borrow money from the central bank, i.e., RBI*) : 5.90%.

* Fixed Reverse Repo Rate (*Reverse Repo Rate is the rate at which the commercial banks deposit their surplus money to the central bank*) : 3.35%

* Standing Deposit Facility (*SDF allows the RBI to absorb excess cash from the economy by sucking liquidity from commercial banks without giving government securities in return to the lenders*) : 5.65%

* Statutory Liquidity Ratio (*SLR is the percentage of deposits that commercial banks have to maintain with themselves*) : 18%

* CRR (*Cash Reserve Ratio is the proportion of deposits which the banks have to keep with the central bank*) : 4.5%

* Bank Rate (*Bank rate is the rate at which central bank, i.e. RBI, rediscounts the bills of exchange of commercial banks*) : 6.15%

* MSF (*Marginal Standing Facility is the loan banks are permitted to avail themselves from the RBI on overnight basis, using its SLR securities*) : 6.15%.

* Base Rate (*Base Rate reflects the actual cost of banks that has to be covered through lending. Banks cannot lend money below the Base Rate, which varies from bank to bank*) : 8.10% - 8.80%.

* MCLR (*The Marginal Cost of Funds Based Lending Rate refers to the minimum interest rate of a bank below which it cannot lend, except in some cases allowed by the RBI*): 7.05% - 8.05%.

(Difference: Base Rate is governed by the average cost of funds while MCLR is governed by the current cost of funds. MCLR replaced the Base Rate on April 1, 2016. Under the MCLR regime, banks must adjust their interest rates as soon as the repo rate changes. Earlier it was not so).

* Term Deposit (Fixed Deposit) Rate (more than 1 year): 5.50% - 7.25%.

* Savings A/c.: 2.70% - 3.00%.

⇒ India has emerged as the largest producer and consumer of sugar in the world and the second largest exporter. According to the latest release by Indian Sugar Mills Association (ISMA), sugar mills across the country have produced 342.37 lakh tons of sugar between 1st October 2021 and 30th April 2022. This is about 42 lakh tons higher than the sugar produced at the same time last year.

⇒ Swedish defence firm Saab announced its plan to set up a manufacturing facility in India for the Carl-Gustaf M4 shoulder-fired weapon system under the government's 'Make in India' initiative to bolster indigenous defence manufacturing. Production at the new facility is expected to begin in 2024.

⇒ India has climbed to the 40th rank in the Global Innovation Index of the World Intellectual Property Organization. Switzerland remains the world's leader in innovation for the 12th consecutive year. It leads globally in innovation outputs and specifically in patents by origin, software spending, high-tech manufacturing, production, and export complexity. The second position was secured by the US followed by Sweden, the UK, and the Netherlands.

⇒ The Union Bank of India inaugurated the Ethical Hacking Lab at the Cyber Security Centre of Excellence (CCoE) in Hyderabad. The lab with a cyber defence mechanism will protect the bank's information system, digital assets and channels against potential cyber threats.

⇒ Power sector-focused non-banking finance company (NBFC) 'REC Ltd.' has been accorded the status of a 'Maharatna' Central Public Sector Enterprise, thus providing it with greater operational and financial autonomy. REC Ltd is the 12th company to be given the Maharatna Status.

⇒ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das launched three key digital payment initiatives at the Global Fintech Fest 2022. They are, RuPay Credit Card on Unified Payments Interface (UPI), UPI Lite, and Bharat BillPay Cross-Border Bill Payments.

⇒ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) removed Central Bank of India from its Prompt Corrective Action Framework (PCAF) after the lender showed improvement in various financial ratios, including minimum regulatory capital and net non-performing assets (NNPAs). The RBI had imposed the PCA norms on the bank in June 2017 due to its high net NPA and negative return of assets (RoA). After reviewing the performance of the Central Bank of India, RBI decided to remove the restrictions on the bank. The PCA norm is a supervisory tool and is imposed when a bank breaches certain regulatory thresholds on capital to risk weighted assets ratio (CRAR), net NPAs and return on assets (RoA).

Sports

⇒ Indian Skipper Rohit Sharma has become the first-ever Indian to play 400 T20s. The India captain has achieved the milestone in the 2nd T20I of the series against South Africa in Guwahati. Rohit is the first Indian to hit a century in T20 cricket. Among Indians, Rohit is followed by Dinesh Karthik (368 T20s), MS Dhoni (361 T20s) and Virat Kohli is (354th T20s). The list of players who have donned most T20 caps is topped by Kieron Pollard, who has played 614 matches.

⇒ The West zone defeated the South zone to win the 2022 Duleep Trophy (cricket) at the SNR College Cricket Ground, Coimbatore.



- ⇒ The Rest of India won the Irani Cup (cricket) title after beating the Ranji Trophy Champion Saurashtra in Rajkot.
- ⇒ Jhulan Goswami, the legendary woman cricketer, announced her retirement from all forms of the game. Jhulan concluded her career with 255 wickets from 204 games, an ODI women's record.
- ⇒ Sikkim will host three Ranji trophy matches for the first time in December. The state will welcome three northeast teams: Mizoram, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh, at the Mining Cricket Ground near Rangpo.
- ⇒ India men's hockey team defender and vice-captain Harmanpreet Singh has been voted the FIH Player of the Year for the second year running, joining an elite list that includes Teun De Nooijer (Netherlands), Jamie Dwyer (Australia) and Arthur van Doren (Belgium).
- ⇒ Pankaj Advani defended his World Billiards Championships title for the 5th time, beating compatriot Sourav Kothari in the final at the High End Snooker Club in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia for a record 25th title at the global level.
- ⇒ Antim Panghal made an impressive debut at the National Games 2022 as she won the gold medal in women's 53kg wrestling. Haryana's Antim Panghal made history in August by becoming the first Indian to become the World Under-20 champion in women's wrestling.
- ⇒ Bajrang Punia won the bronze medal in the men's freestyle 65kg category at the World Wrestling Championships 2022 in Belgrade, Serbia. It was Bajrang's fourth medal at the world championships.
- ⇒ Bengaluru FC beat Mumbai City FC in the final of the 131st edition of Durand Cup at the Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan in Kolkata. Durand Cup is the oldest football tournament in India. The Durand Cup was initially played only by the Armed services during the British period. But in later years, the game was officially made open for the Professional Football Clubs.
- ⇒ In the men's category of the US Open Tennis, C. Alcaraz Garcia of Spain has lifted his first Grand Slam trophy after defeating C. Ruud, to become the youngest player to reach world No.1. The event was held at the Arthur Ashe Stadium in New York. In the women's category, I.Swiatek of Poland defeated O. Jabeur to win the 2022 US Open women's singles final title.
- ⇒ Roger Federer of Switzerland, one of the greatest tennis players has announces his retirement following the Laver Cup in London.

Awards

- ⇒ The SASTRA Ramanujan Prize for 2022 will be awarded to Ms Yunqing Tang, Assistant Professor at the University of California, Berkeley, USA. The Award is instituted by the Shanmugha Arts, Science, Technology & Research Academy (SASTRA) in 2005. The award includes a cash prize of \$10,000 and is presented annually to individuals aged 32 years and below, who made an outstanding contribution in the field of mathematics.
- ⇒ Anees Salim's *The Odd Book of Baby Names* (English fiction) and Rudrangshu Mukherjee's *Tagore & Gandhi: Walking Alone, Walking Together* (English non-fiction) were among the eight that were adjudged the best books of the year at the 'Valley of Words Book Awards. The PFC-VoW Book Awards, currently in its sixth edition, is considered one of the most comprehensive independent literary award programmes in India.
- ⇒ Ales Bialiatski, a human rights defender from Belarus who is now incarcerated; 'Memorial', a Russian human rights organisation; and Centre for Civil Liberties, a Ukrainian human rights organisation, have all been jointly given this year's Nobel Peace Prize 2022.
- ⇒ The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences announced the Nobel Prize for Physics 2022 to Alain Aspect (France), John F. Clauser (USA) and Anton Zeilinger (Austria) for their work on quantum mechanics.
- ⇒ The Nobel Prizes for Chemistry 2022 was awarded to Carolyn Bertozzi (USA), Barry Sharpless (USA) and Morten Meldal (Denmark) for the development of click chemistry and bio-orthogonal chemistry.
- ⇒ The Nobel Prizes for Medicine or Physiology 2022 was awarded to Swedish geneticist Svante Pääbo for his discoveries concerning the genomes of extinct hominins and human evolution."
- ⇒ The Nobel Prizes for Economics 2022 was awarded to Ben S Bernanke, Douglas W Diamond and Philip H Dybvig (all from USA) for their research on banks and financial crises.
- ⇒ The Nobel Prizes for Literature 2022 was awarded to the French author Annie Ernaux for "the courage and clinical acuity with which she uncovers the roots, estrangements and collective restraints of personal memory". Her books have explored how shame is built into the female consciousness, and how women censor and judge themselves even in personal spaces such as a diary.
- ⇒ Veteran actress Asha Parekh has been declared the recipient of the 2020 Dadasaheb Phalke award, making her the 52nd awardee of the honour. The award was instituted in 1969 and is the highest honour for an artiste in Indian cinema.



- ⇒ A women's rights activist from India, Srishti Bakshi has won the 'Changemaker' award at the UN SDG (United Nations Sustainable Development Goals) Action Awards held at a ceremony in Bonn, Germany. The award was given to recognise the efforts of Srishti Bakshi to raise awareness of gender-based violence and inequality.
- ⇒ Swati Piramal, Vice Chairperson, Piramal Group has been conferred the Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur (Knight of the Legion of Honour). The highest French civilian award comes in recognition of Piramal's outstanding achievements and contribution in the fields of business and industry, science, medicine, art and culture, both nationally and internationally.
- ⇒ Indian author and poet Meena Kandasamy has been announced as this year's recipient of the Hermann Kesten Prize by the PEN Centre in Germany's Darmstadt. The Hermann Kesten Prize honours personalities who, in the spirit of the charter of the PEN association, stand up for the rights of persecuted authors and journalists.
- ⇒ Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineering Limited (GRSE), Kolkata, has been awarded with the 'Rajbhasha Kirti Puraskar' by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India. GRSE was awarded by the Government of India for the best implementation of official language under public sector undertakings in region 'C' for the year 2021-22.

Persons

- ⇒ Pankaj Tripathi has been declared as the 'National Icon' of Election Commission of India (ECI). The Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Rajiv Kumar chose the actor for the honour, keeping in view his commitment to the cause and wide appeal across the country.
- ⇒ R Venkataramani has been appointed new Attorney General of India after KK Venugopal retired from the post.
- ⇒ Giorgia Meloni has become the first woman Prime Minister of Italy.
- ⇒ Alia Bhatt has been awarded the Best Actor at the prestigious Priyadarshni Academy Smita Patil Memorial Award.
- ⇒ Britain's King Charles has bestowed the titles of Prince and Princess of Wales on his eldest son William and daughter-in-law Kate, passing on the titles that he and his late wife Diana previously held. Charles, who became Prince of Wales in 1958, automatically became king on the death of his mother, Queen Elizabeth.

Died

- ⇒ Prof Acharya Ram Yatna Shukla, a Sanskrit scholar and former President of Kashi Vidwat Parishad, passed away.
- ⇒ Comedian Raju Srivastava has passed away at the age of 58. He had suffered a heart attack while exercising.
- ⇒ Keshav Rao Dattatreya Dikshit of Rashtriya Swayam Sevak Sangh has passed away.
- ⇒ Dwarka-Sharda Peeth Shankaracharya Swami Swaroopanand Saraswati has passed away.
- ⇒ Legendary Telugu Actor and former Union Minister Krishnam Raju Garu passed away.
- ⇒ Naresh Kumar, a former Indian tennis player and Davis Cup captain, passed away recently at the age of 93.
- ⇒ Former Chief Justice of India Kamal Narain Singh passed away at the age of 95. Justice Narain had a tenure of only 17 days as the CJI, making him the Chief Justice with the shortest tenure.

Miscellaneous

- ⇒ To create cyber-security awareness among all employees, the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd (IREDA) observed the 'Cyber Jaagrukta Diwas'. Cyber Jaagrukta Diwas is an initiative launched by the Ministry of Home Affairs that requires all government organizations to spread cyber-security awareness. It is observed on the first Wednesday of every month. The purpose is to create awareness and sensitize the Internet users on safeguarding against cyber frauds and cybercrimes.
- ⇒ Chandrayaan-2 Orbiter's X-ray spectrometer 'CLASS' has mapped an abundance of sodium on the moon for the first time.
- ⇒ World Mental Health Day is observed on October 10 every year. The slogan for 2022's celebration of World Mental health Day is "Make mental health & well-being for all a global priority."
- ⇒ The Union Government has appointed a three-member commission, headed by former Chief Justice of India K G Balakrishnan, to consider the possibility of granting SC status to 'new persons who have historically belonged to the Scheduled Castes' but have converted to religions other than Hinduism, Buddhism and Sikhism.
- ⇒ Uttar Pradesh government announced the creation of the first three all-female Provincial Armed Constabulary (PAC) battalions in the state. The objective of the action is to give women control over the state's security. Additionally, by designating women beat constables, women's aid desks were established at each of the state's 1,584 police stations.



- ⇒ Former Indian cricketer Mahendra Singh Dhoni has launched the made-in-India camera drone named 'Droni' with advanced features manufactured by Garuda Aerospace. Dhoni is the brand ambassador of Garuda Aerospace.
- ⇒ A majestic new Hindu Temple has been inaugurated in Jebel Ali Village, Dubai. The temple combines both Indian and Arabic architectural designs and gives a powerful message of tolerance, peace, and harmony. The temple is located in a neighbourhood that is generally known as the 'Worship Village' of UAE.
- ⇒ India will export missiles, rockets, and ammunitions to Armenia after the recent clashes between Armenia and Azerbaijan. The missiles will also include Indigenous Pinaka Multi-Barrel Rocket Launcher.
- ⇒ Defence Minister Rajnath Singh officially admitted the locally produced Light Combat Helicopters (LCH) 'Prachanda' into the Indian Air Force (IAF).
- ⇒ Indore bagged the title of India's cleanest city for the sixth time in a row as the results of the Central government's annual cleanliness survey 'Swachh Survekshan Awards 2022' were announced. Surat was adjudged the second cleanest city and Navi Mumbai came a close third in the category of cities with a population of more than a lakh. Madhya Pradesh secured the first position in the category of best performing states, followed by Chhattisgarh and Maharashtra.
- ⇒ The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has launched a multi-phase 'Operation Garuda'. Operation Garuda will help to disrupt, degrade and dismantle networks with international linkages through the rapid exchange of criminal intelligence on drug trafficking and coordinated law enforcement action across international jurisdictions through the Interpol. Operation Garuda is a Global Operation that was initiated in close coordination with Interpol and Narcotics Control Bureau.
- ⇒ Hardeep Singh Puri, Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, has inaugurated Asia's largest Compressed Bio Gas (CBG) plant in Lehragaga, in Sangrur, Punjab. The plant in Sangrur is just the beginning of India's master plan for a CBG-based rural economy and the government is taking all steps to promote the ecosystem around it.
- ⇒ The Supreme Court recently declared that all women have the right to safe and legal abortions up to 24 weeks of pregnancy, no matter their marital status. An abortion regulation that made a distinction between married and unmarried women was 'artificial and constitutionally unsustainable', according to the bench of Justices DY Chandrachud, JB Pardiwala, and AS Bopanna.
- ⇒ Mastercard, a global payment and technology company is set to launch Carbon Calculator features. Mastercard is in talks with Indian Banks to launch the Carbon Calculator feature which will offer the consumers an estimated carbon footprint for each of their purchases. Mastercard has started the Priceless Planet Coalition, which is a campaign to restore 100 million trees.
- ⇒ Amazon India has launched 'AmazeWIT Circles' to up-skilling and providing meaningful career opportunities to women in the technology space. The 'AmazeWIT Circles' is a dedicated networking event to educate women and make them industry ready for careers in technology.
- ⇒ Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) recently launched Operation Megha Chakra against Child Sexual Abuse Material Online Circulation Cases in 20 States & UTs. As part of Operation Megha Chakra, the CBI searched 56 locations across 20 States and Union Territories in relation to cases of the internet distribution of child sexual abuse material. In November 2021, the CBI carried out Operation Carbon, a similar crackdown which involved conducting raids at 76 different locations around the nation and making multiple arrests.
- ⇒ Indian Railways is installing a Real-Time Train Information System (RTIS), developed in collaboration with the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), on locomotives for automatic acquisition of train movement timing at the stations, including that of arrival and departure or run-through.
- ⇒ The Indian Army and the Defence Geoinformatics and Research Establishment (DGRE) have jointly installed the Avalanche Monitoring Radar, the first of its kind in India, in north Sikkim.
- ⇒ According to the Sample Registration System (SRS) Statistical Report 2020, India's under-5 mortality rate has dramatically decreased from 35 per 1,000 live births in 2019 to 32 per 1,000 live births in 2020, with the largest fall observed in Uttar Pradesh (UP) and Karnataka.
- ⇒ Antyodaya Diwas is celebrated annually on 25th September in India. It marks the birth anniversary of Indian leader Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya and is celebrated in his honour to remember his life and legacy.
- ⇒ Tamil Nadu has notified the country's first 'Dugong Conservation Reserve' in Palk Bay, covering the coastal waters of Thanjavur and Pudukottai districts with an area of 448 square kilometres, in order to protect the endangered Dugong species. At present, there are around 240 Dugongs in India and a majority of them are found in the Tamil Nadu Coast (Palk Bay region).



- ⇒ The Israel embassy in India in collaboration with Khushii Foundation launched a special project “Saaras” that promotes women empowerment, menstrual hygiene and awareness at Arthala, Ghaziabad in UP. This project deals with all ‘pillars’ for menstrual health and hygiene uplifting, social support, knowledge, skills, facilities, and materials.
- ⇒ The Bihar government is set to introduce a “no-bag day” rule in schools and a mandatory games period at least once a week to reduce the burden on students. The weekly “no-bag day” will have task-based practical classes. At least once a week, students will come to school only with their lunch boxes. They do not need to carry books. The day will be devoted to practical and experiential learning.
- ⇒ The Patrol vessel ‘Samarth’ has been commissioned for the Indian Coast Guard in Kochi. It will improve the operational capability of the Indian Coast Guard at sea.
- ⇒ Gujarati film ‘Chhello Show’ (‘Last Film Show’ in English), a coming-of-age drama about a young boy’s love affair with cinema in a village in Saurashtra, is India’s official entry for the 95th Academy Awards (or Oscar awards). The 95th Academy Awards are scheduled to take place on March 12, 2023 in Los Angeles. The film, which will represent the country in the best international feature film category at the Oscars, is produced by Siddharth Roy Kapur’s banner Roy Kapur Films.
- ⇒ The Mohammed Bin Rashid Space Centre (MBRSC) of the UAE and the China National Space Agency (CNSA) have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to work together on the UAE’s moon missions.
The Pullumpara village panchayat in the Thiruvananthapuram district, Kerala achieved the distinction of becoming the first totally digitally literate panchayat in the country.
- ⇒ Maharashtra Tourism Ministry has decided to rename the Daulatabad fort to Devgiri which is located near Aurangabad. The decision of renaming Daulatabad fort to Devgiri came after Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray renamed Aurangabad to Sambhajinagar after a long demand from Sena Foot Soldiers.
- ⇒ Border Security Force’s (BSF) first female camel riding squad will be deployed along the India-Pakistan border in Rajasthan & Gujarat. The squad will participate for the first time in the BSF Raising Day Parade on 1st December. This Squad will be the first of its kind in the world. The BSF is the only force in the country to have the Camel Contingents and the Camel Mounted Band. BSF, traditionally known as the ‘first line of defence, the Camel Contingents are used to keep a vigil in the vast expanse of the Thar Desert.
- ⇒ The Israeli ‘Heron’ drones would be equipped with strike capabilities as part of the Indian Air Force’s Project ‘Cheetah’ under the Make in India programme. The Project Cheetah aims to improve the Indian Air Force’s fleet of Israeli-made Heron unmanned aerial vehicles with stronger communication capabilities and long-range missiles that can hit enemy sites.
- ⇒ The Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park in West Bengal’s Darjeeling has been adjudged the best zoo in the country, while the Arignar Anna Zoological Park in Chennai has secured the second position, followed by the Sri Chamarajendra Zoological Gardens in Mysore, Karnataka. Kolkata’s Alipore Zoological Garden has secured the fourth position. There are around 150 zoos across the country.
- ⇒ Delhi Police has become the first police force in India to make a collection of forensic evidence mandatory in crimes punishable by more than six years.
- ⇒ India has become a power surplus country. We have connected the whole country into one grid, and strengthened the distribution system. These steps have increased the power availability to 22 hours in rural areas and 23.5 hours in urban areas. The next step is to take it to 24X7 guaranteed power supplies at an affordable price.
- ⇒ Indore is going to create history by implementing a fully digital addressing system, making it the first city in India to do so. A Memorandum of Understanding in this regard has been signed between Rajat Jain, a co-founder of Pataa Navigations and the CEO of Indore Smart City. Pataa has developed patented technology and is working with the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) to develop a digital addressing system for the nation.
- ⇒ The world’s largest museum of Harappan culture is coming up in Rakhigarhi in Haryana to showcase about 5,000-year-old Indus Valley artefacts. The village of Rakhigarhi was part of the Indus Valley Civilisation from 2600-1900 BC.
- ⇒ Uttar Pradesh has become the state to construct the highest number of (8,642) Amrit Sarovars (Lakes) in India. Amrit Sarovar is an ambitious mission initiated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, which aims to conserve water for the future. Madhya Pradesh is in the second position and Jammu and Kashmir in the third. Lakhimpur Kheri in Uttar Pradesh secured the first position by constructing 256 Amrit Sarovars.
- ⇒ Indian Institute of Technology, Madras (IIT-Madras) and International Business Machines (IBM) have made a collaboration to improve quantum computing research and talent development in India.



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- ⇒ The City of Los Angeles has officially designated September 17 as 'Squid Game Day', in recognition of the South Korean Netflix series' achievements. 'Squid Game' was nominated for 14 Emmy Awards in July and is the first non-English language series to earn a nomination for Outstanding Drama Series.
- ⇒ The Election Commission of India has released a new digital publication 'BLO e-Patrika' at an interactive session held with BLOs (Booth Level Officers) spread across the states in India.
- ⇒ Indian Railways floated tenders for the first time to invite private players to build a wheel plant. The manufacturing and transport of wheels for the rakes were halted due to the Russia-Ukraine war. This initiative by the Indian Railways will make India self-reliant as well as draws a blueprint to become an exporter of wheels. The plant aims to manufacture at least 80,000 wheels every year for the Super-Fast Vande Bharat Express Trains in India.
- ⇒ 'Taragiri', the third stealth frigate of the Indian Navy's Project 17A, was launched at the Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders (MDL) in Mumbai. This ship has been built using an integrated construction methodology which involves hull block construction in different geographical locations and integration and erection on the slipway at the MDL. The first two ships under the Project 17A were 'Nilgiri' and 'Udaygiri'.
- ⇒ Indian Army's Kharga Corps and the Indian Air Force have conducted a joint exercise 'Gagan Strike' in Punjab. The exercise, conducted over four days, comprised the deployment of attack helicopters as the aerial arm in support of ground forces carrying out drills, practising annihilation of enemy defences and deep penetration.

Books & Authors

- ⇒ The Odd Book of Baby Names – Anees Salim.
- ⇒ Tagore & Gandhi: Walking Alone, Walking Together – Rudrangshu Mukherjee.
- ⇒ Crimson Spring – Navtej Sarna.
