Current Events

December 2022

The download for Current Affairs for Recruitment Test (RTs) exams of UPSC, including ALC, LEO, APFC, EPFO EO/AO, Admin Officer, Store Officer, Deputy Director, and Investigator Grade-I is available.

The Current Events are tailored to the latest RTs trends and requirements of UPSC. To optimize exam performance, focus on the following key points:

- Cover current events from the past 18 months only, up to the date of the exam. For periodic events, such as the Budget, Economic Survey, Nobel Prize, or Tournaments, refer to only the latest ones. For instance, for an April 2023 exam, study the 2023 budget, not the 2022 budget.
- The UPSC RT exam is factual, so don't delve into details or implications.
- The Return on Investment (ROI) for studying current affairs is generally low. Therefore, devote an appropriate amount of time to them while prioritizing other topics that have a higher ROI. For instance, studying 100 pages of current affairs may result in solving only 5 questions, while studying 100 pages of Polity could yield 14-15 questions.
- A few questions will always be unsolvable, no matter how much you've studied. Don't get discouraged by them, as they won't affect your selection.
- Based on experience, you can expect to answer approximately 60-70% of question in exam, from these concise current affairs booklets.
- Current affairs for UPSC RT exams are purely factual, so self-study is better than coaching classes. In fact, coaching classes are counterproductive, as a teacher may only cover 10 events in 60 minutes, while you can cover 35-40 events in the same time frame.

Finally, note that these files are specifically prepared for RT exams of UPSC and should not be used for Civil Services Preliminary exam (GS Paper 1).

If you want to report any correction/error/feedback, you are welcome at **contact@humanperitus.com.** We will check and respond within 1 working day.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

December 2022

1. Sports and Games

Stephanie Frappart becomes first woman referee at FIFA Men's World Cup
Stephanie Frappart (*France*) has become the first woman to Referee in the FIFA Men's World Cup 2022 in a match between Germany and Costa Rica. Also in 2021, she became the first woman to referee a men's World Cup qualifying match. Earlier in May 2022, she became one of three female referees to be selected in the pool for the World Cup, along with Rwanda's Salima Mukansanga and Yoshimi Yamashita of Japan.

3rd edition of T20 World Cup Cricket Tournament for the Blind held in India
3rd edition of T20 World Cup Cricket Tournament for the Blind was organised in India. The tournament is being organised to mark the World Disability Day (*3rd December*) celebrations universally. Former India batter Yuvraj Singh is the brand ambassador of the tournament. The participating nations were Australia, Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan, South Africa, Sri Lanka and the host, India. Note that, India defeated Bangladesh to win their 3rd consecutive title of the T20 World Cup 2022 for the Blind at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium, Bangalore.

Rudrankksh Patil clinches gold in 10m air rifle event at ISSF President's Cup
Indian shooter Rudrankksh Balasaheb Patil has won Gold in the 10m Air Rifle Men's event, at the season-ending International Shooting Sport Federation President's Cup. He beats Daniel Solazzo (*Italy*). The Indian thus became the recipient of the Golden Target award, given to the best athlete of the year in the event.

The ISSF Presidents Cup is the season finale of the International Shooting Sport Federation yearlong competition where top ranked shooters of the year are invited. It was held in Cairo, Egypt.

Saurashtra wins Vijay Hazare Trophy, 2022
Saurashtra cricket team has defeated Maharashtra cricket team in the final to win the 2022 Vijay Hazare Trophy at the Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad, Gujarat.

Aditya Mittal became 77th Chess Grandmaster of India
Aditya Mittal has become India's 77th chess Grandmaster during the tournament held in Spain. To become a GM, a player has to secure three GM norms and cross the live rating of 2,500 ELO points. He is also the fifth Indian to achieve the GM title in 2022 after Bharath Subramaniyam, Rahul Srivastav, V Pranav V and Pranav Anand.

Ishan Kishan scored fastest double century in the history of ODI Cricket
Indian Cricketer Ishan Kishan has made history by becoming the 7th batsman in One-Day International (ODI) cricket to hit a double-century and the fastest to achieve the feat during his country's third ODI match against Bangladesh.

Indian Women's Hockey team wins FIH Women's Nations Cup 2022
The Indian women's hockey team has won the FIH Women's Nations Cup 2022 by defeating Spain. FIH Women's Nations Cup 2022, was held in Valencia, Spain.

Argentina wins FIFA World Cup, 2022
Argentina has defeated France by 4-2 on penalties to win the 2022 FIFA World Cup, held at the Lusail Stadium in Doha, Qatar.

December 2022

This is third-ever World Cup victory of Argentina and first since 1986. Kylian Mbappé (*France*) has won the 2022 FIFA World Cup Golden Boot award with 8 goals.

Also, Lionel Messi won Golden Ball, i.e., best player award. The 'Young Player' award went to Enzo Fernandez and the Golden Glove award to Emi Martinez. Fair Play Award goes to England.

2. Science and Technology

US Scientists conducts Nuclear Fusion resulting in Net Energy Gain
Researchers at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, California (the National Laboratory of the US Department of Energy), for the first time ever, were able to achieve ignition in nuclear fusion i.e., creating a nuclear reaction that generates more energy than it consumes. This is to be called as '*net energy gain*'.

Nuclear Fusion is the process by which two light atomic nuclei (for example tritium and deuterium) combine to form a single heavier (Helium) one while releasing massive amounts of energy. Fusion reactions take place in a state of matter called plasma a hot, charged gas made of positive ions and freely moving electrons with unique properties distinct from solids, liquids, or gases.
For fusion reactions to be sustainable, the energy released by the initial reaction needs to set the stage for more reactions. To this end, the Researchers goal has been to create a "burning plasma".

Burning plasma refers to a state in which the fusion reactions that power a plasma are self-sustaining, releasing more energy than is required to maintain the reaction. In a burning plasma, the energy released by the fusion reactions is used to heat and maintain the plasma and can be harvested as a source of power. Burning plasma is the ultimate goal of fusion research, as it is the point at which fusion becomes a viable energy source.

ISRO signs MoU with Social Alpha to establish SpaceTech Innovation Network
Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has signed an MoU with Social Alpha to launch SpaceTech Innovation Network (SpIN), India's first dedicated platform for innovation, curation, and venture development for the space entrepreneurial ecosystem. It has launched its first innovation challenge. SpIN will primarily focus on facilitating space tech entrepreneurs in three distinct innovation categories: Geospatial Technologies and Downstream Applications; Enabling Technologies for Space & Mobility; and Aerospace Materials, Sensors, and Avionics. The tie-up is a one-of-a-kind public-private collaboration for start-ups and SMEs in the space industry. Social Alpha is a multi-stage innovation curation and venture development platform for science and technology start-ups.

NASA launches first-ever mission SWOT to observe nearly all water on Earth
NASA has launched the first-ever global satellite mission, the Surface Water and Ocean Topography (SWOT) Mission, that will observe nearly all water on Earth's surface, measuring the height of water in the planet's lakes, rivers, reservoirs, and the ocean. It is a collaborative effort between NASA and French space agency with contributions from Canadian and UK Space Agencies.

The Satellite will measure height of water in freshwater bodies and ocean on more than 90% of Earth's surface. SWOT will cover the entire Earth's surface between 78 degrees South and 78 degrees North latitude at least once every 21 days, sending back about one terabyte of unprocessed data per day. SWOT measurements will also help researchers, policymakers, and resource managers better assess and plan for things, including floods and droughts.

First data detects unexpected kilonova emission from 'a long-duration Gamma-Ray Burst'
While tracing a burst of high-energy light, detected in December 2021 at the outskirts of Milky Way, astronomers have spotted the first astronomical event in which a long Gamma-Ray Bursts (GRB) has been accompanied by the unexpected discovery of a kilonova emission. Generally, kilonova are visible and infrared light associated with short-period Gamma-Ray Bursts (GRBs) thought to be heat produced by the radioactive decay of heavier elements.

Gamma-Ray Bursts are powerful astronomical cosmic bursts of high-energy gamma-ray. GRB emits more energy in a few seconds than our Sun will emit in its lifetime. It has 2 distinct emission phases: the short-lived prompt emission (the initial burst phase that emits gamma-rays), followed by a long-lived multi-wavelength afterglow phase. The high-energy outburst lasted about a minute, and follow-up observations taken from the 3.6-meter Devasthal Optical Telescope identified a kilonova.

Kilonova vs Supernova: Supernova is the explosive demise of heavy stars when they run out of fuel for nuclear fusion. A kilonova is a similar cosmic event that occurs not when stars die but when a neutron star smashes into another neutron star or a black hole. A kilonova releases heavy metals like gold, silver, and selenium into outer space at tremendous velocities, as well as radiation, to the accompaniment of a gamma-ray burst – one of the most energetic cosmic events ever known.

Neutron stars are formed when massive stars explode in a supernova while their cores implode, crushing their constituent protons and electrons together into a super-dense ball of neutrons.

ARTPARK-IISc, Google to launch Project Vanni
The Indian Institute of Sciences (IISc), ARTPARK (AI and Robotics Technology Park) and Google have come collectively with Google India to launch a digital Project named Vanni. It aims to build an Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning (AI/ML) model to collect language samples from 773 districts across India. It will be an AI-based language model that can understand diverse Indian languages and dialects. Potential use of such datasets is in building apps in areas such as health, agriculture, and financial inclusion.

UNOOSA organizes World Space Forum
United Nations Office of Outer Space Affairs and Government of Austria have organized World Space Forum (WSF) 2022 under the theme "*Sustainability in Space for sustainability on Earth*".

World Space Forum is a platform to promote discussions on the role of space science and technology in global sustainable development. It brings together stakeholders from broader space community, including from governmental institutions, international intergovernmental organizations, and NGOs, as well as industry, private sector and academia.

Space Sustainability refers to ensuring that all humanity can continue to use outer space for peaceful purposes and socio-economic benefit now and in the long term. It will require international cooperation, discussion, and agreements designed to ensure that outer space is safe, secure, and peaceful.

Indian Initiatives for Space Sustainability
- *Project NETRA:* ISRO has initiated 'Project NETRA' to monitor space debris. It would provide first-hand information on the status of debris, which would aid further planning on protecting space assets.
- *Space Situational Awareness:* SSA is comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the space and terrestrial environment that enables timely, relevant, decision-quality and accurate assessments, in order to successfully protect space assets. India and the US have also signed a bilateral space situational awareness arrangement.
- *SPADEX:* To provide in-orbit servicing, ISRO is developing a space docking experiment called 'SPADEX'. It looks at docking a satellite on an existing satellite, offering support in re-fueling and other in-orbit services while enhancing the capability of a satellite.

SFC carries out successful test of Agni-V Missile

The Strategic Forces Command (SFC) has carried out the successful test of the missile from APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha.

SFC is a key tri-services formation that manages and administers all the strategic assets. It falls under purview of the Nuclear Command Authority (NCA).

Agni-V is a nuclear capable advanced surface-to-surface ballistic missile developed indigenously by DRDO under the Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP). The IGMDP had five missiles as Prithvi, Agni, Trishul, Nag and Akash. Agni-V uses a three-stage solid fuelled engine.

INS Mormugao commissions in Indian Navy

Indian Naval Ship (INS) Mormugao was commissioned into Indian Navy.

Mormugao is the second warship of P15B class of stealth guided-missile destroyers. It is equipped with surface-to-surface and surface-to-air missiles besides modern surveillance radar that provides target data to weapon systems. It can fight under nuclear, biological and chemical warfare conditions.

Indian Navy allows women to join Special Forces Marine Commando Force (MARCOS)

Indian Navy to allow women to opt for Special Forces Marine Commando Force (MARCOS).

Women can now choose to become marine commandos only if they meet eligibility criteria as described by Indian Navy. It will also be available to both sailors and female officers joining service as Agniveers in 2023.

MARCOS was raised in 1987. Exclusivity of the unit lies in its competence to operate in all 3 mediums namely Sea, Air and Land.

3. Environment

15ᵗʰ COP of United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity held in Montreal Canada

15ᵗʰ COP of United Nations Convention on Biological diversity was held in Montreal Canada. At the Conference "Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework" (GBF) was adopted.

Global Biodiversity Framework" (GBF) includes 4 goals and 23 targets for achievement by 2030.

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is the international legal instrument for "the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources" that has been ratified by 196 nations. Its overall objective is to encourage actions, which will lead to a sustainable future.

India became a party to the convention in 1994 and enacted the Biological Diversity Act in 2002 to give effect to the Convention.

Restoration Barometer Report, 2022

At the Convention on Biological Diversity's Conference of the Parties (CBD COP15), the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) launched its first Restoration Barometer Report 2022.

The *Restoration Barometer* was launched in 2016 as the Bonn Challenge Barometer. The Barometer tracks restoration progress across terrestrial ecosystems including coastal and inland waters where use or management rights can be identified.

The Barometer provides an opportunity for national and sub-national governments to simplify and streamline reporting on their restoration commitments and can help track and record progress towards global goals.

UNEP releases 'State of Finance for Nature (SFN) 2022' Report

The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) has released the Report titled – 'State of Finance for Nature (SFN) 2022' The Report revealed that nature-based solutions are still significantly under-financed.

The report was released by the UNEP and the BMZ-financed Economics of Land Degradation (ELD) Initiative with support from Vivid Economics by McKinsey.

Economics of Land Degradation (ELD) is a global initiative aimed at integrating the true value of land into decision-making processes and promoting sustainable land use. It was launched in 2011 by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the European Commission.

Nature-based solutions (NbS) is an umbrella term that aims to protect, sustainably manage, and restore natural or modified ecosystems to meet critical societal needs today while building long term environmental and economic resilience.

Energy Conservation (Amendment) Act, 2022

Energy Conservation (Amendment) Act, 2022 came into force. It amends Energy Conservation Act, 2001 which provides a framework for regulating energy consumption and promoting energy efficiency and energy conservation.

The Highlights of the Act are:
- The Bill amends the Energy Conservation Act, 2001 to empower the Central Government to specify a carbon credit trading scheme.
- Designated consumers may be required to meet a proportion of their energy needs from non-fossil sources.
- The Energy Conservation Code for buildings will also apply to office and residential buildings with a connected load of 100 kilowatt or above.
- Energy consumption standards may be specified for vehicles and ships.
- The amendment requires State Governments to constitute energy conservation funds for promotion of energy efficiency and conservation measures. This fund shall receive contribution by both Union and State govt.

UN Water Summit on Ground water, 2022 concludes in Paris, France
United Nations (UN) Water Summit on Groundwater (GW) 2022 was concluded in Paris, France.

The Summit was organised by UN-Water, UNESCO and International Groundwater Resources Assessment Centre (IGRAC) to bring attention to groundwater at highest international level. Summit marked the completion of "Groundwater: Making the invisible visible" campaign run by UN-Water throughout 2022.

UN-Water is UN inter-agency coordination mechanism for all freshwater and sanitation related matters.

IGRAC is UNESCO Centre that works under World Meteorological Organisation (WMO), and financially supported by Netherlands. One of IGRAC's flagship products is Global Groundwater Information System (GGIS).

It is to be noted that the United Nations World Water Development Report 2022 was published in March 2022.

UN 2023 Water Conference will be held in New York in March 2023.

IEA releases Renewable Energy Report, 2022
Renewable Energy Report, 2022 was released by International Energy Association (IEA). As per it, India stands 4th globally in Renewable Energy Installed Capacity (including Large Hydro), 4th in Wind Power capacity and 4th in Solar Power capacity.

Renewables 2022 is the IEA's primary analysis on the sector, based on current policies and market developments. It forecasts the deployment of renewable energy technologies in electricity, transport and heat to 2027 while also exploring key challenges to the industry and identifying barriers to faster growth.

New Zealand records largest ever bleaching of sea sponges
New Zealand has recorded the largest-ever sponge bleaching event off its southern coastline.

Sponges are among the most ancient and abundant animals on rocky reefs across the world. In New Zealand, they occupy up to 70% of the available seafloor, particularly in so-called mesophotic ecosystems at depths of 30-150m. Sponges are simple aquatic animals with dense, yet porous, skeletons. Their habitat is reefs across the world.

Tamil Nadu braces with Cyclone Mandous

Tamil Nadu and neighbouring areas are witnessing for heavy rainfall with cyclone Mandous expected to make landfall. Tropical cyclones are violent storms that originate over warm ocean waters near equator.

The name '*Cyclone Mandous'* was given by the United Arab Emirates, which means *"treasure box*" in Arabic. It is the second tropical storm to rise in Bay of Bengal post-monsoon this year after Cyclone Sitrang, which hit the Bangladesh coast in October 2022.

4. Schemes and Programmes

Govt. notifies National Geospatial Policy, 2022

The Ministry of Science and Technology has notified a citizen centric National Geospatial Policy (NGP) 2022, to strengthen the Geospatial sector to support national development. The policy is aimed to set up high resolution topographical survey and mapping, with a high-accuracy Digital Elevation Model (DEM) by 2030. The policy emphasizes the importance of locally available and locally relevant maps and geospatial data.

Geospatial data are descriptions of events or occurrences with a location on or near the surface of the earth. This location can be static – relating to earthquakes, vegetation, etc., or dynamic – a person walking on the road, a package being tracked, etc. Geospatial data is collected through various sources, such as satellite imagery, GPS (Global Positioning System), and surveying.

The *Geospatial Data Promotion and Development Committee* (GDPDC) shall be constituted at the national level as the apex body for formulating and implementing appropriate guidelines, strategies, and programs. GDPDC would replace and subsume the functions and powers of the National Spatial Data Committee (NSDC) constituted in 2006 and GDPDC constituted in 2021.

Pradhan Mantri Adi Adarsh Gram Yojna

Ministry of Tribal Affairs has revamped the existing Scheme of 'Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Scheme (SCA to TSS) with nomenclature 'Pradhan Mantri Adi Adarsh Gram Yojna (PMAAGY)', for implementation during 2021-22 to 2025-26.

The Scheme aims at transforming villages with significant tribal population into model village (Adarsh Gram). The main objective of this scheme is to achieve integrated socio-economic development of selected villages through convergence approach. It includes preparing Village Development Plan based on the needs, potential, and aspirations. It also includes maximizing the coverage of individual / family benefit schemes of the Central / State Governments and improving the infrastructure in vital sectors like health, education, connectivity and livelihood.

The scheme envisions to mitigate gaps prominently in 8 sectors of development viz. Road connectivity (Internal and Intervillage /block), Telecom connectivity (Mobile /internet), School, Anganwadi Centres, Health Sub-Centre, Drinking water facility, Drainage and solid waste management.

5. Polity

Appointment of Election Commissioners
A private member's Bill was introduced in Lok Sabha regarding formation of selection committee for Election Commissioners.

The Bill seeks to insulate the appointment process of election commissioners and mandates that they should not be eligible for any post-retirement jobs. It seeks the members of the EC, including the Chief Election Commissioners (CEC), to be appointed by PM-led panel.

Private member Bill
- Any bill introduced by a member other than a minister.
- Can only be introduced and discussed on Fridays.
- Admissibility is decided by Chairman in case of Rajya Sabha and Speaker in case of Lok Sabha.
- No private member's bill has become an Act since 1970.

Under Article 324(2), the President of India is empowered to appoint the Chief Election Commissioners and the Election Commissioners.

6. *Governance*

Govt. launches Digi Yatra for 3 Airports
Ministry of Civil Aviation has launched Digi Yatra for 3 Airports in the country.

Digi Yatra aims to digital processing of passengers at the airports. Passengers will be automatically processed based on facial recognition system at check points like; Entry point check, Entry into Security Check, Aircraft Boarding, additionally this will also facilitate self-Bag Drop and Check-in, using facial recognition to identify pax and data recall. Digi Yatra will facilitate paperless travel and avoid identity check at multiple points.

MeitY is the new nodal ministry for online gaming
Government has notified that Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY) is now the nodal ministry regulating online gaming. In May 2022, MeitY set up an inter-ministerial task force to propose rules for regulating online gaming.

An '*online game*' is a video game that is either partially or primarily played through the Internet or any other computer network available.

India Internet Governance Forum (IGF), 2022 held in New Delhi
India Internet Governance Forum (IIGF) 2022 was held in New Delhi.
Theme for the year 2022: "*Leveraging Techade for Empowering Bharat*".

The India Internet Government Forum is an initiative associated with the UN Internet Governance Forum (UN-IGF). The Internet Governance Forum (IGF) is a multi-stakeholder platform bringing representatives together from various groups, all at par to discuss public policy issues related to the Internet.

Internet Governance is development and application by Governments, private sector and civil society, in their respective roles, of shared principles, norms, rules, decision-making procedures, and programs that shape evolution and use of Internet.

Lone-Wolf Terrorism
Experts have raised concerns about growing threat of lone-wolf terrorism in India.

Violent terror attacks by extremist individuals acting upon their radicalized beliefs are termed as 'Lone-wolf terrorism'. Their actions are either inspired or influenced by a specific terrorist organisation and ideology or operate within a particular social atmosphere.

Steps taken by India:
- Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 provides special procedures to deal with terrorist activities, among other things.
- Establishment of National Investigation Agency (NIA) which is functioning as Central Counter Terrorism Law Enforcement Agency in country.
- National Intelligence Grid or NATGRID that aims to provide a "cutting-edge technology to enhance India's counter-terror capabilities.
- Establishment of Counter-terrorism and Counter-Radicalization Division and Cyber and Security division in Ministry of Home affairs.
- National Security Council Secretariat has been given a constitutional and legal mandate to develop a new counter radicalization programme.

7. *International Relations*

Govt. organizes International Lusophone Festival in Goa
The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), in partnership with Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR) and the Government of Goa, has organized the International Lusophone Festival in Goa. The festival sought to further India's connect with the Lusophone world.

The Community of Portuguese Language Countries, also known as the Lusophone Commonwealth, is a multilateral forum, founded in July 1996 at the first CPLP Heads of State & Government Summit in Lisbon. The founding members were Angola, Brazil, Cabo Verde, Guinea Bissau, Mozambique, Portugal, and Sao Tome e Principe, while Timor Leste and Equatorial Guinea joined later.

India joined CPLP as an associate observer in July 2021. As part of India's engagement with CPLP, the Ministry of External Affairs celebrated the World Portuguese Language Day in Delhi on 5th May since 2021.

Note that, the Portuguese rule over Velha Goa (or Old Goa) started in 1510 and lasted till 1961.

RBI signs Currency Swap Agreement with Maldives
Reserve Bank of India has signed a Currency Swap Agreement (CSA) with Maldives Monetary Authority under SAARC Currency Swap Framework.

SAARC Currency Swap Facility came into operation in 2012 with to provide a backstop line of funding for short term foreign exchange liquidity requirements or balance of payment crises till longer term arrangements are made. CSA between the two countries is an agreement or contract to exchange currencies with predetermined terms and conditions.

India proposes reforms in UN via NORMS
India has proposed reforms in United Nations via NORMS (New Orientation for Reformed Multilateral System) to determine a global order that best reflects contemporary realities.

Multilateralism is an institutionalized collective action by an inclusively determined set of independent states.

NORMS envisages reform in all 3 pillars of the current multilateral architecture (peace and security, development, and human rights), with the UN at its centre. It calls for a representative multilateral structure which is needed to address emerging challenges such as terrorism, radicalism, pandemics, threats from new and emerging technologies and so on.

17th G20 Summit concludes in Bali, Indonesia
The 17th G20 Summit was concluded with the adoption of Bali declaration. The Group highlighted its differences in the on-going war in Ukraine and asked for Russia's complete withdrawal from the territories of Ukraine.

The motto for this G-20 summit was "Recover Together, Recover Stronger".

Also, India took over the Presidency of G20 from Indonesia.

The theme of India's Presidency - "*Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam*" or "One Earth - One Family - One Future"

The theme affirms the value of all life on the planet Earth and also spotlights LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment), both at the level of individual lifestyles as well as national development.

Defence Exercises in News

Kazind-2022: It is an India - Kazakhstan joint training exercise that was instituted in 2016 as Exercise Prabal Dostyk and was renamed as Ex Kazind in 2018.

Surya Kiran: It is the 16th edition of joint training exercise between India and Nepal.

Agni Warrior: It is a bilateral exercise between Singapore & Indian Army.

Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT): Indian Navy conducts CORPATs with several countries in Indian Ocean region. One such exercise was conducted with Indonesian Navy.

8. Awards and Recognition

Govt. announces Sahitya Akademi awards 2022
The Government has announced the Sahitya Akademi Award for Literature. The award has been given by the Central Government for the best literature of every year. The awards, recommended by distinguished jury members were approved by the Executive Board of the Sahitya Akademi having its President Chandrashekhar Kambar.

Key Points
- The awards in 23 languages included seven books of poetry, six of novel, two of short stories, three dramas, two literary criticism and one each of autobiographical essays, collection of articles and literary history.
- Tamil author M. Rajendran, Telugu writer Madhuranthakam Narendra and Sanskrit Poet Janardan Prasad Pandey 'Mani' were among 23 literateurs awarded the Sahitya Akademi Awards for 2022.
- The Bhasha Samman was awarded to Udaya Nath Jha for his valuable contribution to the field of classical and medieval literature in the eastern region.
- The Bal Sahitya Puraskar has been given in Santhali to Ganesh Marandi for his book Hapan Mai.

PETA India's 2022Person of the Year title
Bollywood Actress, Sonakshi Sinha has been awarded PETA India's 2022 Person of the Year title. Her actions helped save the lives of many animals killed for fashion, but her strong advocacy for dog and cat rights earned her the title. Last year, Alia Bhatt was awarded the same title.

PETA stands for *People for Ethical Treatment of Animals*. PETA was founded in 1980 and is dedicated to establishing and defending the rights of all animals. PETA operates under the simple principle that animals are not ours to experiment on, eat, wear, use for entertainment, or abuse in any other way.

India's Greenhouse-in-a-Box startup Kheyti wins 2022 Earthshot Prize
A Greenhouse-in-a-Box sustainable solution for small farmers devised by Telangana startup Kheyti has won the 1 million pounds Earthshot Prize, founded by Britain's Prince William and dubbed the '*Eco Oscars*'.

Sargam Kaushal wins Mrs. World 2022
Sargam Koushal (*Mumbai*) has won the title of Mrs. World 2022. This title is won by any Indian after a gap of 21 years. Aditi Govitrikar brought the Mrs. India crown to India in 2001. Also, Mrs. Polynesia was named the first runner-up, followed by Mrs. Canada as the second runner-up.

Mrs. World is the first beauty pageant for married women, launched in 1984.

Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize 2021-22
The Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize 2021-22 has been jointly won by Sudeep Sen for his genre and formbender *Anthropocene: Climate Change, Contagion, Consolation* (Pippa Rann Books & Media, 2021) and Shobhana Kumar for her haibun collection *A Sky Full of Bucket Lists* (Red River, 2021).

The Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize was started in 2018 to annually recognize literary and social accomplishments. The winners are awarded $10,000 and a Rabindranath Tagore statuette.

9. *Social Development*

United Nations Commission on Women (CSW)
UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) has adopted a resolution to remove Iran from the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) for the remainder of its four-year term ending in 2026. The CSW meets annually in March at UN Headquarters in New York and is described as the biggest gathering of gender equality advocates in the world.

UN-CSW is the principal global intergovernmental body exclusively dedicated to promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women. It was established by ECOSOC in 1946. It plays a leading role in implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. It consists of one representative from each of 45 Member States elected by ECOSOC on the basis of equitable geographical distribution.

WHO releases Global Antimicrobial Resistance and Use Surveillance System (GLASS) Report 2022
World Health Organization (WHO) has released Global Antimicrobial Resistance and Use Surveillance System (GLASS) Report. As per the Report, the spectre of untreatable disease, caused by Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), ravaging humanity is inching closer.

Anti-Microbial Resistance (AMR) occurs when bacteria, viruses, fungi and parasites change over time and no longer respond to medicines making infections harder to treat and increasing the risk of disease spread, severe illness and death. In other words, it occurs when microbes evolve mechanisms that protect them from the effects of anti-microbials drugs.

WHO World Malaria Report, 2022
World Health Organization has released the World Malaria Report 2022. This Report showed that despite continued impact of COVID-19, malaria cases and deaths remained stable in 2021.

Malaria is a life-threatening mosquito borne blood disease caused by plasmodium parasites. It is predominantly found in the tropical and subtropical areas of Africa, South America as well as Asia. It is preventable as well as curable. It is caused by Plasmodium parasites, which are spread to people through the bites of infected female Anopheles mosquitoes. After entering the human body, parasites initially multiply within the liver cells and then attack the Red Blood Cells (RBCs) resulting in their rupture.

In India, malaria elimination efforts were initiated in 2015 and were intensified after the launch of the *National Framework for Malaria Elimination* (NFME) in 2016 by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Govt. releases Social Progress Index
Economic Advisory Council to Prime Minister (EAC-PM) has released the Social Progress Index (SPI) for States and Districts of India. The Report has been prepared by Institute for Competitiveness, headed by Dr. Amit Kapoor and the Social Progress Imperative, headed by Mr. Michael Green and was mandated by Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister of India.

SPI is a comprehensive tool intended to be a holistic measure of the Social Progress made by the country at the national and sub-national levels. SPI assesses the performance of states and districts on three dimensions of social progress: Basic Human Needs, Foundations of Wellbeing, and Opportunity.

Key Highlights of SPI
- Best-performing States/UTs are Puducherry, Lakshadweep, and Goa.
- Top 3 performing districts are Shimla, Solan in Himachal Pradesh, and Aizawl in Mizoram.

- Globally, India is ranked 110th on SPI in 2022.

ICAO releases Aviation Safety Rankings

International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) has released the latest Aviation Safety Rankings. As per it, India's position has jumped to the 48th place from the 102nd spot in 2018.

This ranking is released by International Civil Aviation Organisation. 187 countries were ranked, topped by Singapore. Index measures 8 critical elements of the safety oversight system, including primary aviation legislation, resolution of safety issues etc.

ILO publishes Global Wage Report, 2022-23

International Labour Organisation (ILO) has released Global Wage Report 2022-23. It presents an analysis of how concurrent crises – COVID19 pandemic followed by cost-of-living crisis – have impacted wages and purchasing power across countries and regions.

10. Economy

Digital Lending
Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) guideline on digital lending became effective on December 1. The RBI came out with the guidelines on digital lending in September 2022.

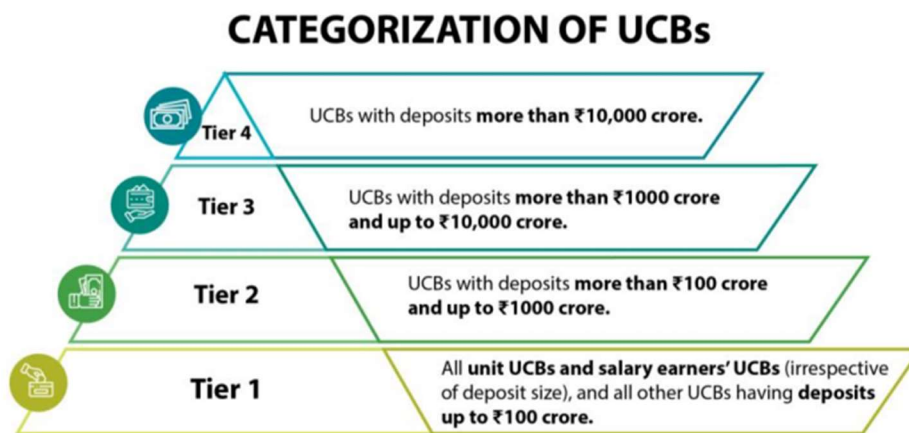These guidelines are applicable to digital lending extended by:
- All Commercial Banks
- Primary (Urban) Co-operative Banks,
- State Co-operative Banks,
- District Central Co-operative Banks; and
- Non-Banking Financial Companies (including Housing Finance Companies)

Also, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has revised its securitization guidelines. Under the new norms, RBI bars lenders from securitizing loans that mature in less than 365 days. These include short tenor loans such as MFIs, gold loans, and short-term personal and consumer durable loans.

Securitization is the process of pooling and repackaging of financial assets into marketable securities that can be sold to investors. Securitization market is primarily intended to redistribute the credit risk away from the originators to a wide spectrum of investors who can bear the risk, thus aiding financial stability and provide an additional source of funding.

RBI announces Re-Categorisation of Urban Cooperative Banks
The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced a four-tiered regulatory framework for categorization of Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs).

CATEGORIZATION OF UCBs

Tier 4 — UCBs with deposits **more than ₹10,000 crore.**

Tier 3 — UCBs with deposits **more than ₹1000 crore and up to ₹10,000 crore.**

Tier 2 — UCBs with deposits **more than ₹100 crore and up to ₹1000 crore.**

Tier 1 — All **unit UCBs and salary earners' UCBs** (irrespective of deposit size), and all other UCBs having **deposits up to ₹100 crore.**

The framework was recommended by the Expert Committee on Urban Co-operative Banks for strengthening the financial soundness of the UCBs.

Co-operative banks are financial entities established on a cooperative basis and belonging to their members. This means that the customers of a co-operative bank are also its owners.

Umbrella Organisation (UO): The RBI accorded regulatory approval for setting up of an Umbrella Organisation (UO) for UCB sector. UO can act as a self-regulatory body for small UCBs, will have a paid-up capital of Rs. 300 crores and should provide cross liquidity and capital support to the UCBs when needed.

NITI Aayog publishes Land Titling
NITI Aayog has published Model Conclusive Land Titling Act.

Land titling is a generic term used to denote the programmes implemented by the state to enable the individuals and the state to exchange or trade in land or property rights. Access to the land and its documented ownership is the core of livelihood for the majority of poor specially the most vulnerable groups like marginal, farmers, tribes, other backward categories etc.

Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)
Defence, Space Agencies has released 99% of Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) prohibited areas for oil Exploration and Production (E&P).

Under United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), EEZ is the area beyond and adjacent to the territorial sea, generally extending 200 nautical miles from shore.

Kirti Parekh panel on Gas Prices submitted its report to the Government
The Kirit Parikh Committee was constituted to review gas prices. It has now submitted its report to the Central Government. The panel has suggested linking the price of gas produced by state-owned firms from fields given to them on a nomination basis to imported crude oil prices.

Panel provided gas pricing recommendations to:
- Ensure a fair price for consumers.
- Increase share of gas in India's energy mix to 15% by 2030.

Presently, there are multiple gas pricing mechanisms including, APM (Administered Price Mechanism), non-APM etc. Mechanism is formula based and considers prices prevailing at major international markets such as Henry Hub, National Balancing Point, Alberta and Russia.

Special Window for Affordable and Mid-income Housing (SWAMIH) Fund
The Government has infused about Rs. 5,000 crores in SWAMIH Investment Fund.

SWAMIH fund: The fund was set up by Government of India to complete stalled housing projects in November 2019. It is an Alternative Investment Fund to provide priority debt financing for the completion of stalled housing projects, brownfield, RERA registered residential developments that are in the affordable housing / mid-income category. It is a Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)-registered Alternate Investment Fund – II.

Alternative Investment Fund or AIF means any fund established or incorporated in India which is a privately pooled investment vehicle which collects funds from sophisticated investors, whether Indian or foreign, for investing it in accordance with a defined investment policy for the benefit of its investors.

There are different categories of AIF:
- *AIF I:* AIFs which invest in start-up or early-stage ventures or social ventures or SMEs or infrastructure or other sectors or areas which the government or regulators consider as socially or economically desirable.
- *AIF II:* Various types of funds such as real estate funds, private equity funds (PE funds), funds for distressed assets, etc.
- *AIF III:* Various types of funds such as hedge funds, PIPE Funds, etc.

Scheme for facilitating Startups Intellectual Property Protection (SIPP)
Government has revised the Scheme for facilitating Startups Intellectual Property Protection (SIPP) and facilitation fees has been notably increased by at least 100%.

SIPP was launched in 2016 to encourage and facilitate IPR protection by Startups. It is implemented by office of CGPDTM (Controller General of the Patents, Designs and Trademarks). It provides facilitators to start ups for filing and processing of their applications for patents, designs and trademarks.

11. Important Days

World Soil Day 2022 – 5th December
The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has celebrated World Soil Day 2022 (5th December) with the launch of its first Global Status on Black Soils, which are at greater risk than ever due to the climate crisis, biodiversity loss and land use change.

World AIDS Day – 1st December
World AIDS Day is celebrated annually on December 1 to raise awareness and encourages progress in HIV and AIDS prevention, treatment and care.

The theme for 2022 World AIDS day is *'Equalize'.*

WHO has founded this day on 1st December in 1988. In August 1988, James W. Bunn and Thomas Netter have conveyed the idea of AIDS day to the Director of AIDS Global Program

International Civil Aviation Day – 7th December
International Civil Aviation Day is celebrated every year on December 7 to promote the importance of international civil aviation.

Every 5 years, coinciding with ICAO anniversaries (2014/2019/2024/2029/etc.), the ICAO Council establishes a special anniversary theme for International Civil Aviation Day. Between these anniversary years, Council representatives select a single theme for the full four-year intervening period.

The Council has decided that from now until 2023, the theme will be: "*Advancing Innovation for Global Aviation Development*".

International Anti-Corruption Day – 9th December
International Anti-Corruption Day is celebrated annually on 9th December. This day is celebrated to raise public awareness on malpractice of corruption and its effects.

The 2022 International Anti-Corruption Day (IACD) seeks to highlight the crucial link between anti-corruption and peace, security, and development.

The 2022 IACD also marks the start of efforts to mark the twentieth anniversary of the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC).
The theme for the year 2022: "*Uniting the world against Corruption*"

Human Rights Day – 10th December
Human Rights Day observed every year on 10th December to mark the anniversary of the adoption of Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) by United Nations General Assembly in 1948.
Theme in 2022: *"Dignity, Freedom, and Justice for All."*

Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) is a milestone document in the history of human rights. Drafted by representatives with different legal and cultural backgrounds from all regions of the world, the Declaration was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in Paris on 10 December 1948 (General Assembly resolution 217 A) as a common standard of achievements for all peoples and all nations.

Noble Prize Day – 10th December
Nobel Prize is celebrated on 10th December every year. It honours the achievements of Alfred Bernhard Nobel, a Swedish engineer, chemist, entrepreneur, and philanthropist. Nobel Prize Day is a tribute to the person who instituted the Nobel Prize.

International Universal Health Coverage Day – 12th December
International Universal Health Coverage Day is celebrated on 12th December every year. It aims to raise awareness of the need for strong and resilient health systems and universal health coverage with multi-stakeholder partners. Each year on 12 December, UHC advocates raise their voices to share the stories of the millions of people still waiting for health, champion what we have achieved so far, call on leaders to make bigger and smarter investments in health, and encourage diverse groups to make commitments to help move the world closer to UHC by 2030.
The theme for 2022 UHC day is *"Build the world we want: A healthy future for all"*.

National Energy Conservation Day – 14th December
Ministry of Power has celebrated the National Energy Conservation Day on 14th December. This day is organized by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) – which operates under the Ministry of Power, aiming to present India's stellar achievements in cost-efficient energy production and resource conservation.

National Energy Conservation Day aims to generate awareness among the masses in India about the importance of saving energy. People are also kept in the loop on new courses of action and plans that are being formulated. Information is given on minimizing energy waste and how the public can do their part in conserving resources.

National Mathematics Day – 22 December
National Mathematics Day is celebrated in India every year on December 22. It is observed to honour the birth anniversary of the Mathematician Srinivas Ramanujan who greatly contributed towards mathematical analysis, number theory, infinite series and continued fractions.

Also, Ramanujan's home state of Tamil Nadu celebrates 22 December as 'State IT Day', memorialising both the man and his achievements, as a native of Tamil Nadu.

Srinivas Ramanujan
- In 1911, Ramanujan published the first of his papers in the Journal of the Indian Mathematical Society.
- Ramanujan compiled around 3,900 results consisting of equations and identities. One of his most treasured findings was his infinite series for π.
- Ramanujan travelled to England in 1914.
- He worked out the Riemann series, the elliptic integrals, hypergeometric series, the functional equations of the zeta function, and his own theory of divergent series.
- The number 1729 is known as the Hardy-Ramanujan number after a visit by Hardy to see Ramanujan at a hospital. It is the smallest number which can be expressed as the sum of 2 different cubes in two different ways.
- The Actor Dev Patel-starrer 'The Man Who Knew Infinity' (2015) was a biopic on Ramanujan.

Vijay Diwas – 16th December
In India, Vijay Diwas (also called Victory Day) is celebrated every year on 16th December. The day is observed to commemorate the service, valour, and sacrifices of the gallant men of the Indian Armed Forces' victory over Pakistan in the 1971 war. On this day, we pay homage to all the soldiers who had defended the nation in the war.

Kisan Diwas – 23ʳᵈ December
Kisan Diwas or National Farmers' Day is celebrated across the nation on 23ʳᵈ December to commemorate the birth anniversary of the 5ᵗʰ Prime Minister of India, Chaudhary Charan Singh. Chaudhary Charan Singh brought farmer-friendly policies and worked towards the welfare of the farmers. He served the country as Prime Minister from July 1979 to January 1980.

National Consumer Rights Day – 24ᵗʰ December
National Consumer Rights Day is celebrated every year on 24ᵗʰ December. The Day is celebrated to commemorate December 24, 1986, when the Consumer Protection Act received assent of the President of India. The purpose of the day is to make consumers aware of their rights and responsibilities.
Theme for the year 2022: *"Fair and Digital".*

International Day of Persons with Disabilities – 3ʳᵈ December
The International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD) is celebrated every year on 3ʳᵈ December. The day was instituted by United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in 1992. It aims to promote an understanding of disability issues and mobilize support for the dignity, rights and well-being of persons with disabilities.
Theme for this year 2022:*"Transformative solutions for inclusive development: the role of innovation in fuelling an accessible and equitable world"*

National Armed Forces Day – 7ᵗʰ December
National Armed Forces (also known as the National flag day of India) is celebrated every year on 7ᵗʰ December. The aim to observe this day as the national armed forces day is to collect funds from the people for the betterment of armed forces.

UNICEF Day – 11ᵗʰ December
UNICEF Day is observed every year on 11ᵗʰ December, to spread awareness on saving children's lives, defending their rights and helping them fulfil their potential from childhood to adolescence.
Theme for the year2022: "*One team for child rights*"

The UN's International Children's Emergency Fund was established in the aftermath of World War II. Their mandate was to help people whose lives and futures were at risk, no matter what role they played during the war. The programme focuses on providing supplies, assistance and also improving the health, nutrition, education and general welfare of children. The organisation became a permanent agency of the UN in 1953.

12. Culture

India added 3 sites to the tentative UNCESO World Heritage Sites
3 sites – Vadnagar town, Sun Temple at Modhera, and the rock cut sculptures of Unakoti in Tripura – have been added to the tentative list of UNCESO World Heritage Sites in December 2022. The UNESCO tentative list is an "inventory of those properties which each State Party intends to consider for nomination".

The Sun Temple, Modhera dedicated to Surya Dev, is the earliest of such temples which set trends in architectural and decorative details, representing the Solanki style at its best.

Vadnagar is a municipality under Mehsana district of Gujarat. A multi-layered historic town, the history of Vadnagar stretches back to nearly 8th century BCE. The town still retains a large number of historic buildings that are primarily religious and residential in nature.

Unakoti, located in the North-Eastern region of Tripura, is known as an ancient holy place associated with Shaiva worship. The site is a massive gallery set in a forested area displaying a number of towering low relief images in a unique style, making it a masterpiece of human creative genius.

UNESCO World Heritage Site is a place that is recognized by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization as of distinctive cultural or physical importance which is considered of outstanding value to humanity.

Govt. grants Geographical Indications tag to 9 products
The Government has granted the Geographical Indication (GI) tag to 9 products from across the country. The top 5 States holding maximum number of GIs are Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka and Kerala.

A *Geographical Indication* (GI) is defined in the TRIPS Agreement as an indication which identifies a' good' as originating in the territory of a member, or a regional locality in that territory, where a given quality, reputation or other characteristic of the good is essentially attributable to its geographical origin. A geographical indication right enables those who have the right to use the indication to prevent its use by a third party whose product does not conform to the applicable standards.

India, in compliance with its obligation under TRIPS, has taken legislative measures by enacting the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration & Protection) Act, 1999 and the Geographical Indication of Goods (Regulation and Protection) Rules, 2002.

Hornbill Festival of Nagaland
Hornbill Festival, celebrated in the month of December, is celebrations of the indigenous warrior tribes of Nagaland with an aim to revive and protect the culture of Nagaland. It is named after Hornbill – a tropical bird reflected in tribal cultural expressions, songs and dances.

Nagas celebrates Hornbill festival to revive, protect, sustain and promote the richness of the Naga heritage and traditions. It occurs during 1-10 December on an annual basis. It is also called the "Festival of Festivals". The festival pays tribute to Hornbill, the most admired and revered bird for the Nagas for its qualities of alertness and grandeur. It is organized by State Tourism and Art & Culture Departments and also supported by Union Government. Hornbill Festival was established on 1st December 1963.

Govt. celebrates birth anniversary of J.C. Bose
Ministry of Culture has organized an international conference on the occasion of 164ᵗʰ Birth Anniversary of the Indian scientist Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose (J.C. Bose).

J.C. Bose (1858-1937) was an Indian Physicist and plant physiologist. Born in Munshi Ganj, Bengal Presidency, British India (currently, in Bangladesh). Inspired by nationalist ideals, he founded the Bose Institute in 1917. It was Asia's first modern research centre which focussed on interdisciplinary research.

He was the first Asian to be awarded a US patent in in 1904 and first Asian along with Srinivasa Ramanujan FRS, to become the fellows of the Royal Society (FRS) in 1920. He was the President of the 14ᵗʰ session of the Indian Science Congress in 1927.

J.C. Bose believed that plants had a sensitive nervous system and that their responses to external stimuli could be measured and recorded. Bose invented the instrument Crescograph which demonstrated the minute movements of plants subjected to external stimuli and measure their rate of growth. It can detect movement as small as 1/100,000 of an inch.

J.C. Bose is also regarded as the first science fiction writer in Bengali. He authored '*Niruddesher Kahani*', The Story of the Missing One (1896), which was one of first works in Bengali Science fiction.