

## Weekly One Liners 19th to 25th December 2022

### PETA India's 2022: Sonakshi Sinha named as 'Person of the Year' title

#### PETA India's 2022 Person of the Year title:

Bollywood actress, **Sonakshi Sinha** has been awarded **PETA India's 2022 Person of the Year title**. Sonakshi's actions helped save the lives of many animals killed for fashion, but her strong advocacy for dog and cat rights earned her the title. She is actively involved in animal welfare activities and regularly voices out the need for stronger animal protection laws. The international animal rights non-profit group endorsed the title and celebrated the actions of the "Dabang" actress for saving animal lives in India.

Last year, **Alia Bhatt** was awarded the same title. Previously PETA India Person of the Year winners include former Supreme Court Justice **KS Panicker Radhakrishnan**, cricketer **Virat Kohli**, comedian **Kapil Sharma**; and actors **John Abraham**, **Anushka Sharma**, **Sunny Leone**, **R Madhavan**, **Jacqueline Fernandez**, **Hema Malini**, and **Sonam Kapoor Ahuja**, among others.

#### About PETA:

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. PETA is the largest animal rights organization in the world, and PETA entities have more than 9 million members and supporters globally.

### Rafael Nadal and Iga Swiatek crowned ITF World Champions 2022

#### ITF World Champion Awards:

Spanish Tennis Player, **Rafael Nadal** has been named the Men's International Tennis Federation (ITF) World Champion 2022 for the 5th time after an outstanding 2022 season. Previously, He has been named the men's ITF World Champion in 2008, 2010, 2017 and 2019. Polish tennis player, **Iga Świątek**, has been named Women's ITF World Champion 2022 for her performance in 2022 winning 2 Grand Slam titles and 8 titles. The winners will be honoured at the annual ITF World Champions Awards event which will be held on 8th July 2023 at Victoria and Albert Museum, London, United Kingdom(UK). The event is usually held in Paris France.

#### ITF World Champion Awards is annually presented under 4 categories:

- ITF Singles World Champions
- ITF Doubles World Champions
- ITF Wheelchair World Champions
- ITF Junior World Champions

#### ITF World Champions 2022:

- **Barbora Krejčíková** and **Katerina Siniakova** have been named ITF Women's Doubles World Champions for the 2nd straight year and the 3rd time overall, having won the title in 2018 and 2021.
- **Rajeev Ram** and **Joe Salisbury** have been named ITF Men's Doubles World Champions for the 1st time.
- Japan's **Shingo Kunieda** and Netherlands' **Diede de Groot** were honoured in the men's and women's wheelchair categories
- At junior level, two-time Grand Slam boys' singles runner-up **Gilles Arnaud Bailly** of Belgium has been rewarded for a season of consistent performances, while Roland Garros girls' singles champion **Lucie Havlickova** of Czech Republic was crowned as ITF Girls World Champion.

### Jaipur Pink Panthers won 9th Pro Kabaddi League title

#### Pro Kabaddi League Season 9 Final:

**Jaipur Pink Panthers** won the **Pro Kabaddi League Season 9 Final** against a hard-fighting **Puneri Paltan** by a score of 33-29 to win their second PKL championship. After Patna, Jaipur Pink Panthers, the league's first-ever winners, are currently only the second team to win multiple titles. The tournament was played across Bengaluru, Pune, and Hyderabad while the playoffs were played in Mumbai. Jaipur Pink Panthers team is currently led by **Sunil Kumar Malik** and coached by Sanjeev Baliyan. The team is owned by **Abhishek Bachchan**.

#### PKL Season 9: Award winners from the Final

- Perfect Player of the Final: **Sunil Kumar (Pink Panthers)**
- Game Changer of the Final: **V Ajit Kumar (Pink Panthers)**
- Moment of the Final: **Ankush Rathee (Pink Panthers)**
- Move of the Final: **V Ajit Kumar (Pink Panthers)**
- Perfect Moment of the Final: **Sunil Kumar (Pink Panthers)**



**PKL Season 9: Prize money**

- WINNERS: Jaipur Pink Panthers: **Rs 3 crore**
- RUNNERS UP: Puneri Paltan: Rs 1.80 crore
- Semi-Final Losers: Dabang Delhi KC & Bengaluru Bull: Rs 90 lakh
- Eliminator Losers: UP Yoddhas & Tamil Thalaivas: Rs 45 lakh

**PKL Season 9: Award Winners of the Season:**

- Most Valuable Player of the Season: Arjun Deshwal (**Pink Panthers**) Rs 20 lakh
- Raider of the Season: Bharat (Bengaluru Bulls) Rs 15 lakh
- Defender of the Season: Ankush (Pink Panthers) Rs 15 lakh
- Young Player of the Season: Narender (Bengaluru Bulls) Rs 8 lakh

**List of winners of Pro Kabaddi League till now:**

Pro Kabaddi League Seasons	Winner
Season 1 (2014)	Jaipur Pink Panthers
Season 2 (2015)	U Mumba
Season 3 (2016)	Patna Pirates
Season 4 (2016)	Patna Pirates
Season 5 (2017)	Patna Pirates
Season 6 (2018)	Bengaluru Bulls
Season 7 (2019)	Bengal Warriors
Season 8 (2021-22)	Dabang Delhi

**Sahitya akademi awards 2022 announced**

**The Sahitya Akademi Award:** The award has been given by the central government for the best literature of every year. Accordingly, the central government has announced the Sahitya Akademi Award for literature on **December 22**. Writer **M. Rajendran** from Tamil Nadu has received this award for his novel '**Kala Pani**'. The awardee will be presented with a cash prize of one lakh rupees and a copper Shield. This 'Kala Pani' novel is a historical novel based on the war of Kalayarkovil or Kalayarkool.

**The following have won the Award in the below mentioned category:**

**SAHITYA AKADEMI AWARD 2022:**

Language	Title and Genre	Name of the Author
Assamese	Bhool Satya (Short Stories)	Manoj Kumar Goswami
Bodo	Sansrini Modira (Poetry)	Rashmi Choudhury
Dogri	Chhe Roopak (Drama)	Veena Gupta

Language	Title and Genre	Name of the Author
English	All The Lives We Never Lived (Novel)	Anuradha Roy
Gujarati	Gher Jatan (Autobiographical Essays)	Gulam Mohammad Shaikh
Hindi	Tumadi Ke Shabd (Poetry)	Badri Narayan
Kannada	Bahutvada Bhaarata mattu Bouddha Taatvikate (Collection of Articles)	Mudnakudu Chinnaswamy
Kashmiri	Zael Dab (Literary Criticism)	Farooq Fayaz
Konkani	Amrutvel (Novel)	Maya Anil Kharangate
Maithili	Pen-Drive Me Prithvi (Poetry)	Ajit Azad
Malayalam	Ashaante Seethayanam (Literary Criticism)	M. Thomas Mathew
Manipuri	Leironnung (Poetry)	Koijam Shantibala
Marathi	Ujavya Sondechya Bahulya (Novel)	Praveen Dashrath Bandekar
Nepali	Saino (Drama)	K.B. Nepali
Odia	Dayanadi (Poetry)	Gayatribala Panda
Punjabi	Main Ayngosh Nahi (Short Stories)	Sukhjit
Rajasthani	Alekhun Amba (Play)	Kamal Ranga
Sanskrit	Deepmanikyam (Poetry)	Janardan Prasad Pandey 'Mani'
Santali	Sabarnaka Balire Sanan' Panjay (Poetry)	Kajli Soren (Jagannath Soren)
Sindhi	Sindhi Sahit Jo Mukhtasar Itihas (Literary History)	Kanhaiyalal Lekhwani
Tamil	Kaala Paani (Novel)	M. Rajendran
Telugu	Manodharmaparagam (Novel)	Madhuranthakam Narendra
Urdu	Khwab Saraab (Novel)	Anis Ashfaq

**Sahitya Akademi:**

- Sahitya Akademi is India's National Academy of Letters.
- The Government of India established the Sahitya Akademi on 12 March 1954.
- Sahitya Akademi was set up by the Government but functions as an autonomous organisation.
- On 7 January 1956, it was registered as a society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860.
- Sahitya Akademi has recognised English and Rajasthani apart from the 22 languages enumerated in the Indian Constitution.

**General Rules and Eligibility Criteria for the Sahitya Akademi Award:**

- The book must be a remarkable contribution to the language and literature to which it belongs.
- The literary work or book should be first published in any of the languages recognised by the Sahitya Akademi during the five years prior to the year, immediately preceding the year of the award.
- The literary work should be written by an Indian and published in India.
- The book or literary work should not be a work of translation or an anthology of multiple authors
- When two or more books are equally good, the total literary contribution and standing of the authors of the books will be considered to decide the award.

**Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize 2021-22**

**Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize:** The **Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize** 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 winners, awarded \$10,000 and a Rabindranath Tagore statuette, were picked from a shortlist of 11 at India International Centre, with the Tagore Prize for social achievement going to Sanjoy K Roy, producer of the Jaipur Literature Festival.

**Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize Shortlist for 2021-22:**

1. A Play for the End of the World: **Jai Chakrabarti (Knopf, 2021)**
2. Manual for a Decent Life: **Kavita A. Jindal (Linen Press, 2020)**
3. Two and a Half Rivers: **Anirudh Kala (Niyogi, 2021)**
4. A Sky Full of Bucket Lists: **Shobhana Kumar (Red River, 2021)**
5. Osmosis: **Debarshi Mitra (Hawakal Publishers, 2020)**
6. The Elegant Nobody: **Jagari Mukherjee (Hawakal Publishers, 2020)**
7. My City is a Murder of Crows: **Nikita Parik (Hawakal Publishers, 2022)**
8. I Want a Poem and Other Poem: **Jerry Pinto (Speaking Tiger Books, 2021)**
9. The Earthspinner: **Anuradha Roy (Mountain Leopard Press, 2021)**
10. Anthropocene: Climate Change, Contagion, Consolation: **Sudeep Sen (Pippa Rann Books&Media, 2021)**
11. Love Without a Story: **Arundhati Subramaniam (Bloodaxe Books, 2021)**

**About the Awards:**

The Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize was started in 2018 to annually recognise literary and social accomplishments. In 2020, the award was won by Raj Kamal Jha, Chief Editor, The Indian Express, for The City and The Sea (2019, Penguin Books), and in 2019, it was awarded posthumously to Kabir for One Hundred Poems of Kabir, translated by Rabindranath Tagore.

**BBC Sports Personality of the Year 2022 Award**

**Beth Mead** has been awarded the **BBC Sports Personality of the Year for 2022** as she was the player of the tournament and top scorer at **Euro 2022**. Beth Mead defeated Germany in the finals at **Wembley** to win England's first major **women's football** trophy. The 27-year-old competed against Ben Stokes and Ronnie O'Sullivan for the BBC Sports Personality of the Year for 2022 award.

**Beth Mead Awarded BBC Sports Personality of the Year 2022 Award- Key Points**

- Beth Mead defeated eight-time champion **Germany** with her six goals and five assists at the Wembley finals.
- England secured their first major trophy for the first time since **1966**.
- They also won the **team of the year** and coach of the year for **Sarina Wiegman**.
- England's Cricketer **Ben Stokes** was second with winter Olympics curling champion **Eve Muirhead Third**.
- Seven-time snooker world champion **Ronnie O'Sullivan**, gymnast **Jessica Gadirova**, who won the floor title and 1,500 m athletics World Champion **Jake Wightman** were also shortlisted for the award.
- Beth Mead won the player of the tournament and won the **Golden boot** with six goals and five assists.
- She has been also named Arsenal's player of the season.
- Her international goal tally for the **2021-22 season** was 20 in 19 matches, beating the record of 13 scored by Jimmy Greaves in 1960-61.

**About Beth Mead**

**Bethany Jane Mead** was born on 9th May 1995. She is an English Professional footballer who plays forward for the **women's super league club Arsenal** and the England national team. At **UEFA Women's Euro 2022**, she became the Golden Boot Winner, Player of the Tournament, and top assist provider, leading England to win a major tournament for the first time.

**National Affairs**

- **India** looks forward to being back in the **UN Security Council**, **External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar** said, as he declared the country's candidature as **non-permanent member** for the 2028-29 term. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Ministry of Culture** in collaboration with Prasiddha Foundation inaugurated **Delhi International Arts Festival** at Kartavya Path with the tag-line - **'Where Bharat Meets India**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Union Steel Minister, **Jyotiraditya Scindia** has launched India's first Green Steel Brand "**KALYANI FERRESTA**" in New Delhi. This first-of-its-kind steel has been manufactured by a Pune-based Steel company, Kalyani group by using renewable energy resources, leaving zero carbon footprints in the environment. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- To raise awareness about the **importance of millet**, the **Agriculture Ministry** is hosting a **Millet food festival** in Parliament for the members. As the global agrifood systems face challenges to feed an ever-growing **global population**, **resilient cereals like millet** provide an affordable and nutritious option. The United Nations has passed a resolution declaring the year 2023 as the **International Year of Millets (IYM)**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Stock brokerage firm **HDFC Securities** has launched **Roots**, a dedicated platform providing comprehensive **investor education and market analysis**. The site offers multiple forms of valuable information, including articles, bite-sized tips, podcasts by experts, video tutorials and explainers, and live social media feed on the Indian financial markets. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Rajya Sabha Chairman **Jagdeep Dhankhar** has nominated legendary former athlete **PT Usha** to the panel of vice-chairperson in the upper house of the Parliament. YSRCP member **Vijai Sai Reddy** has also been nominated along with her. PT Usha was also elected as the president of the Indian Olympic Association recently. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **India votes for UNSC resolution:** A UNSC resolution on the mental health of UN peacekeepers has India's support. According to India's Permanent Representative to the UN, Ruchira Kamboj, as one of the nations that has sent the most troops over the years, India pays the utmost significance on the safety, security, and welfare of UN soldiers. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **HDFC borrows USD 400 million from IFC:** As part of their efforts to promote climate goals, the International Finance Corporation (IFC) has provided a loan to mortgage giant HDFC in the amount of USD 400 million for the financing of green, affordable housing units. ([Click here to read the article](#))



## States in the News

- **'Goa Liberation Day'** is celebrated on **December 19** to commemorate the **state's liberation** from **Portuguese rule in 1961**. As part of **Operation Vijay**, the Indian armed forces used the armed forces triffecta with the help of local resistance movements to eradicate European rule from the country. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **The Tamil Nadu government** has announced that all those who are eligible for benefits (other than minor children) under various government schemes are required to submit proof of possession of an Aadhaar number or undergo **Aadhaar identification**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **The 'Friends of Library' programme**, under which books would be directly given to those who are unable to access state-run libraries, was introduced by the **Tamil Nadu government**. The project will be helpful to people with disabilities, seniors, kids, and hospital in-patients, among others, who are unable to visit a library. Volunteers will hand over the books to such people from the libraries. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai** said that a **National Youth festival** is poised to be hosted at **Hubballi-Dharwad** twin cities, which will be inaugurated by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**. The National Youth Festival will be organized on January 12 in connection with the **birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- As the growth in the **tourism sector** is vital for socio-economic development in a state, the **Assam State Cabinet led by CM Himanta Biswa Sarma** approved the proposal for grant of **industrial status** to the tourism sector in the state. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **UP's Sania Mirza Clears NDA Exam:** Sania Mirza, a **Mirzapur** resident and the daughter of a TV mechanic, successfully passed the National Defense Academy admission examination (NDA). Sania Mirza is from the Jasovar village, which is within the jurisdiction of the Mirzapur Dehat Kotwali Police Station. ([Click here to read the article](#))

## International Affairs

- **Indian-origin Leo Varadkar** has returned for a second term as **Ireland's Prime Minister** as part of a job-sharing deal made by the country's centrist coalition government. His appointment was confirmed when he received the seal of office from **President Michael D. Higgins**, Ireland's head of state. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- On the 70th anniversary of the establishment of **diplomatic relations between India and Japan**, **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** said that the ties between the two countries have deepened in every sphere, be it **strategic, economic or people-to-people contacts**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- **Use of rupee in foreign trade:** In order to facilitate international trade, Sri Lanka has agreed to utilize the Indian Rupee (INR). It occurs shortly after the Indian government announced it was looking into ways to include nations who are particularly short on dollars in the Indian rupee trade settlement process. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **BF.7, New Covid Variant :** The **BF.7 sub-variant of Omicron** that is prevalent in China is thought to be the cause of the present spike in Covid-19 infections there. This isn't the first time BF.7 has been in the spotlight; back in October, it began to displace the main variations in the US and several other European nations. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **U.N. Security Council** has adopted its **first ever resolution** on **Myanmar** in 74 years to demand an end to violence and urge the **military junta** to release all political prisoners, including ousted leader **Aung San Suu Kyi**. Ms. Kyi, 77, has been a prisoner since the army toppled her government almost two years ago and violently cracked down on dissent. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **United States** is finalizing plans to send the **Patriot missile defense system** to Ukraine. **Ukraine** has asked its Western partners for air defenses, including **U.S.-made Patriot systems**, to protect it from heavy Russian missile bombardment including against its energy infrastructure. The system is part of **\$1.85 billion in assistance** unveiled in parallel with a **visit to Washington by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The lower house of the Spanish Parliament approved a measure allowing individuals over the age of 16 to change their legally recorded gender without the need for medical supervision. According to the law, drafted by the center-left coalition government, minors between the ages of 14 and 16 must be accompanied by their parents or legal guardians and those between the ages of 12 and 13 will require a judge's permission to make the move. ([Click here to read the article](#))

### Books and Authors

- The **Light We Carry: Overcoming in Uncertain Times** is a nonfiction book written by **Michelle Obama** and published, by Crown Publishing. The Light We Carry will inspire readers to examine their own lives, identify their sources of gladness, and connect meaningfully in a turbulent world. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Air Marshal PV Iyer (retd.)** has launched his book '**Fit At Any Age**' at India International Centre, New Delhi. He penned his journey to fitness in the book and shared anecdotes from his life to explain how he became motivated to work out daily. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- A book titled, '**The Indian Navy@75 Reminiscing the Voyage**' by Commodore Ranjit B Rai (Retd) and defence journalist Aritra Banerjee. The books tells you how the exploits and sacrifices of the British-era Royal Indian Navy (RIN) during World War 2 were omitted by British historians who could not digest the RIN's mutiny in 1946. ([Click here to read the article](#))

### Banking/Economy/Business News

- The 48th **Goods and Service Tax (GST) Council** meeting at the national capital Delhi on 17 December has concluded **without any decisions** on the highly anticipated **GST Appellate Tribunals, tax rate applicable on gutkha and pan masala**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **India's overall trade deficit for goods and services** in November this year **has fallen to \$11.11 billion**, lower than year-ago and month-ago levels. Moreover, thanks to a recovery in exports, India's monthly **merchandise trade deficit** came down to a six-month low of \$23.81 billion. **Trade deficit** is the amount by which a country's import costs exceed its export value in a given period. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **599th meeting** of the **board** was held in **Kolkata** on December 16. The meeting was **chaired by RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das**. The Central Board of Directors of the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** reviewed the **current economic situation, and global and domestic challenges** including the overall geopolitical developments, finance, and trade. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Road, transport and highways minister Nitin Gadkari** launched the **country's first-ever surety bond insurance product**, a move that would reduce the dependence of **infra developers** of bank guarantee. Surety Bond Insurance will act as a security arrangement for infrastructure projects and will insulate the contractor as well as the principal. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **IDFC FIRST Bank** has declared **ZERO Fee Banking** on savings accounts and waived fees on multiple banking services, including Passbook charges, NEFT charges. The bank said that customers maintaining as low as Rs 10,000 Average Monthly Balance, and the Rs 25,000 AMB savings account variant will get these benefits. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman** said **note in circulation (NiC)** has witnessed an annual growth of 7.98 per cent to Rs 31.92 lakh crore as of December 2, 2022. The demand for currency depends upon several macroeconomic factors, including economic growth and level of interest rates. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- **IPL surpasses \$10 billion valuation:** The Indian Premier League (IPL), whose total valuation has surpassed \$10 billion, has evolved into a decacorn. A D and P Advisory report made public on Tuesday states that the league is currently worth \$10.9 billion. Notably, it has shown a startling 75% rise since 2020. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Gross collection of Direct Taxes** has registered a **growth of 25.90 percent** which stood at 13,63,649 crore rupees in the financial year 2022-23. The Gross collection in the corresponding period stood at 10,83,150 crore rupees. According to the **Finance Ministry** data, the **Net Direct tax collection** for FY 2022-23 stood at 11,35,754 crore rupees, registering a **growth of 19.81 percent**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Reliance Projects and Property Management Services — a subsidiary of telecom major **Reliance Jio** — has deposited **Rs 3,720 crore** in an SBI escrow account to acquire mobile tower and fibre assets of **Reliance Infratel**. Reliance Infratel has fibre assets of about 178,000 route kilometres and 43,540 mobile towers across the country. The **National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT)** gave an approval to Jio for the acquisition of Reliance Infratel (RITL). ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **National Stock Exchange of India (NSE)** received in-principle approval from the capital markets regulator **Securities Exchange Board of India (Sebi)** to set up a **Social Stock Exchange (SSE)** as a separate segment. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) reduced India's growth prediction for FY23 from 7.4% forecasted in July to 6.8%. India's growth projection for FY23 has undergone three decreases, starting from 9% in January of this year. ([Click here to read the article](#))

### Agreements/MoU

- **The European Union has adopted a plan for a** global minimum 15% tax on big business. The landmark deal between nearly **140 countries** aims to stop governments racing to cut taxes in a bid to attract companies. It was praised by **US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen** as “an historic agreement which helps even the playing field”. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The next **World Trade Organization** ministerial conference will be held in **Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates** in February **2024**, the global trade watchdog confirmed in a statement. The UAE and Cameroon were both vying to host the event and came to an informal agreement for Abu Dhabi to host the first one and **Cameroon** to do the next, trade sources said. ([Click here to read the article](#))

### Appointments/Resignations

- **Harvard University** named **Claudine Gay**, a dean of the Faculty of Arts and Science, as its new president, the **first African American** to hold the post at the prestigious university. Gay, 52, is just the second woman to be elected to head the school in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Gay, the daughter of Haitian immigrants, will take over as the university's 30th president on July 1, 2023. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Major General **Mohit Seth** has taken over as the **General Officer Commanding (GOC) of the Counter Insurgency Force Kilo**. He took over from Major General **Sanjiv Singh Slaria** who has been moved to Northern Command headquarters in Udhampur. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **New head of AERB:** According to an order issued from the Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT), the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of **Dinesh Kumar Shukla** to the post of Chairperson of the **Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB)**. Shukla is the Former Executive Director of AERB. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Former Supreme Court judge, **Hemant Gupta** has been appointed as the chairperson of **New Delhi International Arbitration Centre (NDIAC)**. The NDIAC was established for the purpose of creating an independent and autonomous regime for institutionalised arbitration. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Indian Foreign Service official of 1997 batch, **Dr. Suhel Ajaz Khan** who is presently the Ambassador of India to the **Republic of Lebanon** has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Kingdom of **Saudi Arabia**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **The Air India management** has appointed Air India Express CEO **Aloke Singh** as the chief of Air India's low-cost airline business from January 1, 2023. The Low Cost Carrier (LCC) business will consist of AirAsia India and Air India Express. ([Click here to read the article](#))

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**Defence News**

- **Indian Navy's sailboat INSV Tarini** has set sail for an expedition to **Cape Town, South Africa** for participating in the **50th edition of Cape to Rio Race 2023**. This ocean sailing race will be flagged off from Cape Town on 2 January 2023 and will culminate at **Rio de Janeiro, Brazil**. The race is one of the most prestigious **Trans-Atlantic ocean races**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **fifth Scorpène submarine, Vagir of Project - 75 Kalvari Class submarines** has been delivered to the Indian Navy by **Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) Mumbai**. Defence Ministry said, the submarine would shortly be commissioned into the Navy and enhance its capability. Project-75 includes the indigenous construction of six submarines of Scorpene design. These submarines are being constructed at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) Mumbai, under collaboration with Naval Group, France. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- As the conflicts in the border region with **China** increase, the **Indian armed forces** are now set to procure the '**Pralay**' ballistic missile that can hit the target from 150 to 500 km. **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** had successfully conducted the maiden flight test of the indigenously developed surface-to-surface missile 'Pralay', from Dr A P J Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha in December 2021. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Indian Navy** launched '**Arnala**', the first of the eight **indigenously-built anti-submarine warfare shallow water craft (ASW-SWC)**, at the shipbuilding facility of L&T in Chennai's Kattupall. Built by **Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE)**, 'Arnala' made its first contact with the water of the **Bay of Bengal**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Veer Guardian 23: Indian Air Force (IAF) and Japanese Air Self Defence Force (JASDF)** are set to hold their maiden bilateral air exercise, "**Veer Guardian 23**", from January 16 to 26 at Hyakuri air base and Iruma air base in Japan. The IAF is fielding four Su-30MKI fighters from No. ([Click here to read the article](#))

**Awards and Recognitions**

- **Mrs World 2022:** Sargam Koushal created history as she finally won the Mrs World 2022 title after 21 years while competing for India in the pageant. The 32-year-old won the competition in Las Vegas after defeating competitors from 63 other nations. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC)** won the coveted **IEI (Institution of Engineers, India) Industry Excellence Award 2022** in Chennai. The largest producer of the iron ore in the country was felicitated at the 37th Indian Engineering Congress for its outstanding performance and high level of business excellence. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- Under **Smart Cities Mission, Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs** has won the **Platinum Icon** in the **Digital India Awards 2022** for their initiative "**DataSmart Cities: Empowering Cities through Data**". The award was announced under the 'Data Sharing and Use for Socio-Economic Development' category. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The Gujarati-language **Chhello Show (The Last Show)**, which is India's official entry for the **2023 Academy Awards or Oscars awards** in the International Feature film category, has been shortlisted for next year's Academy Awards. Meanwhile, the track **Naatu Naatu from SS Rajamouli's RRR** has been shortlisted in the **Best Original Song Category**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Rohini Nayyar prize: Sethrichem Sangtam**, who helped triple the incomes of **1,200 marginalised farmers** in Eastern Nagaland, was awarded the first **Rohini Nayyar prize** for outstanding contribution to rural development. The prize awarded to an individual 40 years or under in age, was presented by the **Niti Ayog Vice-Chairman Suman Bery**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)** has won the prestigious **GRIHA Exemplary Performance Award 2022**, a top national level Green Building Award. UIDAI HQ has been declared a winner among the existing highest rated building category. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **NHPC Limited** has been awarded as the winner of the '**Best Globally Competitive Power Company of India-Hydropower and Renewable Energy Sector**' at **PRAKASHmay 15th Enertia Awards 2022**. On the behalf of **NHPC**, **Shri U.S. Sahi**, Executive Director (EMS/CC/CSR) received the award. The event was held at the **New Delhi Institute of Management, New Delhi** on 22nd December 2022. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Professor Thalappil Pradeep**, Indian Scientist, **India Institute of Technology, Madras** received **VinFuture special Prize** on 20th December 2022 in Hanoi. Prof Thalappil Pradeep was awarded for the innovation of a **low-cost filtration system** to remove arsenic and other heavy metals from groundwater. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Kura Pokkhir Shunye Ura (The Golden Wings of Watercocks)** of Bangladesh and **Upon Entry of Spain** won the **Best Film Award** at the **28th Kolkata International Film Festival. Upon Entry** is a film from Spain which is a story about the unexpected interrogation of a couple from Barcelona that has to go through after landing in New York with pre-approved immigration visas. ([Click here to read the article](#))

**Summit and Conference**

- In Gujarat, Chief Minister **Bhupendra Patel** has unveiled the logo, website and social media handles of the Urban-20 conference in **Gandhinagar**. The UNESCO heritage city Ahmedabad will host the Urban 20 cycles as part of **G-20** meetings between February to July. The logo unveiling event in Gandhinagar was attended by senior officials of the Gujarat government and the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC). ([Click here to read the article](#))

**Ranks and Reports**

- The 2022 **Global Food Security Index (GFSI)** report was released by the **British weekly The Economist**. The **11th Global Food Security Index** shows a deterioration in the global food environment for the third year, **threatening food security**. In this report, **South Africa overtook Tunisia** to become the most food-secure country in Africa. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Union Minister for Science and Technology, **Jitendra Singh** has revealed that India had jumped from **7th to 3rd** in global scientific publications and scholarly output, according to a report by America's **National Science Foundation**. India also ranks third globally in the number of PhDs produced annually. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Social Progress Index (SPI) for States and Districts** made by the **Institute for Competitiveness and Social Progress Imperative** was submitted to **Economic Advisory Council- Prime Minister** and released. Based on the SPI scores, states and districts have been ranked under six tiers of social progress. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Three new cultural sites in India, including the iconic **Sun Temple at Modhera, historic Vadnagar town in Gujarat, and rock-cut relief sculptures of Unakoti in Tripura**, have been added to the tentative list of UNESCO world heritage sites. The UNESCO website describes a tentative list as an "inventory of those properties which each State Party intends to consider for nomination". ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Bollywood superstar, **Shah Rukh Khan** has become the only Indian to be named in an international list of **50 greatest actors of all time by a prominent British magazine**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **YouTube's** creative ecosystem supported more than **750,000 full-time equivalent jobs** in India in 2021 and added more than **Rs 10,000 crore** to the GDP of the nation. The business also disclosed that Courses, a new product that will provide viewers a greater learning experience and creators a new opportunity to monetize their work, would launch in beta in 2023. ([Click here to read the article](#))

**Sports News**

- According to the World Athletics, **Tokyo Olympics gold** medalist javelin thrower **Neeraj Chopra** of India was the most written about track and field athlete in 2022, displacing the Jamaican legend Usain Bolt from the top lists. The data collated by media analysis company **Unicepta** was cited by World Athletics, the global governing body for athletics. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Indian women Hockey team** led by Captain **Savita Punia** beat **Spain** 1-0 in the final to win the inaugural FIH Nations Cup played at Valencia, Spain. The winning goal was scored by **Gurjit Kaur** of India. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- England's leg-spinner **Rehan Ahmed** has become the **youngest men's Test cricketer** to take a five-wicket haul on debut during the ongoing third match against Pakistan at the National Bank Cricket Arena. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- France footballer **Karim Benzema** has announced his retirement from International football. Benzema ends his time with France with **37 goals in 97 appearances**, but his time with the squad hasn't exactly been easy since his debut 15 years ago. When Benzema made his debut for France against Austria in March 2007, he scored while playing as a substitute. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Indian national blind cricket team** won the **T20 World Cup** for the Blind for the third time in a row. They defeated Bangladesh at Bengaluru's M Chinnaswamy Stadium by a commanding score of 120 runs. The Indian captain, **Ajay Kumar Reddy** elected to bat after winning the toss, and his side eventually set a challenging total of 277 runs for Bangladesh. The Bangladeshi team could only muster 157 runs for three in return. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **International Olympic Committee (IOC)** announced that **Viacom18 Media** Private Limited (Viacom18) has secured the exclusive media rights to broadcast the **Olympic Games Paris 2024**, plus non-exclusive rights to the **Winter Youth Olympic Games Gangwon 2024**, in Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The manufacturer and designer of causal and athletic footwear, **Puma** has roped in Bollywood actor and entrepreneur **Anushka Sharma** as its brand ambassador. The association is intended to "accelerate Puma's strong commitment towards women consumer segment". ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Morocco** was rewarded by FIFA with hosting rights for the next Club World Cup in February, with an expanded **32-team edition set to launch in 2025**. The most recent edition of the tournament was held in the UAE in February 2022 and was won by the English football club, Chelsea. ([Click here to read the article](#))



- **Goa** will host India's first ever **World Table Tennis (WTT)** series event from February 27 to March 5. The top tier WTT Star Contender Goa 2023 will take place at the Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Indoor stadium, located at the Goa University Campus. **Stupa Analytics**, a homegrown sports analytics firm, will be the tournament host with active **support from the Goa government**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Sam Curran** breaks all the records and became the **most expensive cricketer ever** to be bought by any franchise of the **Indian Premier League (IPL)**. Sam Curran is a 24-year-old English Cricketer who was bought by **Punjab Kings** on the first day of the IPL auction for ₹18.5 crores. The IPL auctions for the 2023 season are being held in Kerala. ([Click here to read the article](#))

### Schemes and Committess News

- The **Ministry of Ayush** issued a notification regarding the status of the **centres of excellence** scheme 'AYURSWASTHYA Yojana'. Financial assistance is provided to eligible individual organizations/institutes for establishing and upgrading their functions & facilities and/or for research & development activities in AYUSH under the scheme. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **New pension scheme vs old pension scheme:** Several states are returning to the old pension scheme. The Punjab government recently announced that they are planning about going back to OPS for its employees. Punjab will become the fourth state to switch back to the OPS if the idea were to pass. The old pension scheme is already in place in states like Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, and Jharkhand. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma** launched the second version of '**Orunodoi**', the flagship scheme of the state government aimed at providing **financial security** to financially disadvantaged families. ([Click here to read the article](#))



- **Jammu and Kashmir Lt Governor Manoj Sinha** announced three New Schemes- **Holistic Development of Agriculture & Allied Sectors, Aspirational Towns, and Aspirational Panchayat for J&K Union Territory**. The projects which have now been approved by the administrative council, have an **outlay of 5013 crore rupees**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

### Science and Technology News

- The **US National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)** and the **French space agency Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales (CNES)** have jointly launched the newest **Surface Water and Ocean Topography (SWOT) spacecraft** to track nearly all the water on the surface of the Earth. It was launched atop a **SpaceX** rocket from **Space Launch Complex 4E at California's Vandenberg Space Force Base**. It will remain operational for 3 years. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The Government has said, the country's **maiden human space flight mission, Gaganyaan**, is targeted to be launched in the fourth quarter of 2024. **Science & Technology Minister, Dr. Jitendra Singh** said, in view of the paramount importance of crew safety, two uncrewed flights are scheduled, before the final human space flight- 'H1 mission', to demonstrate the performance of the crew escape system and parachute-based deceleration system for different flight conditions. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Vainu Bappu 40-inch telescope**, several stellar discoveries of the telescope were highlighted. The celebrations were held on the **15th and 16th of December 2022** in Kavalur, Tamil Nadu. The telescope set up by **Professor Vainu Bappu** has played a significant role in astronomy with major discoveries like the presence of rings around the **planet Uranus**, a new satellite of Uranus, the presence of an atmosphere around Ganymede which is a satellite of Jupiter. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** forthcoming **Chandrayaan 3 mission** will carry scientific instruments of the **United States of America**. The Chandrayaan mission 2 also carried American scientific instruments. This information was given by the **Union Minister of state (Independent charge) Science & Technology, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh** in the Rajya Sabha. ([Click here to read the article](#))

### Important Days News

- **International Human Solidarity Day (IHSD)** is observed annually on **December 20** across the globe to celebrate the ideal of unity in diversity. The celebration of the International Day of Human Solidarity is a significant step in the aim of the **United Nations Sustainable Development Agenda for 2030**, to eradicate poverty in all its forms across the globe. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Union Minister for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions **Dr. Jitendra Singh** has inaugurated **Good Governance Week** celebrations from **19-25 December 2022** at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi. The Minister also launched a five-day **“Prashasan Gaon Ki Ore”** a nationwide Campaign, to commemorate the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **National Mathematics Day** is celebrated on **December 22** across the nation every year. The National Mathematics Day is marked to recognise and celebrate the works of **Srinivasa Ramanujan**. Srinivasa Ramanujan, the Indian mathematical genius, was born on this day in 1887. This year nation celebrates his **135th birth anniversary of Ramanujan**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **National Farmers’ Day:** December 23 is observed as **Farmers’ Day or Kisan Diwas** across India. Farmers are the backbone of our economy and to honour their hardship, this day was coined by the government of India in 2001. This day also marks the birth anniversary of the ‘Champion of Indian Peasants’ and the fifth Prime Minister of India, **Chaudhary Charan Singh**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Every year on **December 24**, India observed the **National Consumer Day or Bharatiya Grahak Diwas**. This day is used to make all consumers aware of their powers and rights. ([Click here to read the article](#))

### Obituaries

- Lance Naik **Bhairon Singh Rathore**, a BSF veteran and hero of the 1971 India-Pakistan War, passed away in Jodhpur at the age of 81. The BSF veteran’s bravery at Rajasthan’s Longewala post during the war was portrayed by actor Suniel Shetty in the Bollywood movie ‘Border’. He served in the 14th BSF unit during the war and retired from service in 1987. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **H.R. Keshava Murthy**, a senior gamaka exponent, who was honoured with Padma Shri earlier this year, passed away. He was born in a family of **gamaka artists**. He had his initial training from his father Ramaswamy Shastry. Under the guidance of Venkateshaiah he continued his studies. ([Click here to read the article](#))

### Miscellaneous News

- A first-of-its-kind **Tribal Winter Festival** was held in the **Bandipora district of Jammu and Kashmir**. The festival is organised by the district administration in collaboration with various departments at Ketson, the festival witnessed huge public participation. The festival witnessed music, dance, and cultural events that left the people enthralled. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar** has got A grade by scoring 3.85 points in **National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC)** grading, thereby becoming the only University in India to get this score. GNDU is the only State/Central/Private University in India to get this score. **Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS)** is the only other educational institution with a higher grade of 3.89 in the country. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **India’s longest escape tunnel**, which is 12.89 km long constructed on the 111 km under-construction **Banihal-Katra railway line in Jammu and Kashmir** was completed by the Indian Railways. The longest tunnel is part of the **Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Railway Line (USBRL) project**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- With the onset of **winter solstice**, one of the harshest winter periods of 40 days, called **Chillai Kalan**, has begun in **Kashmir**. Chillai Kalan is a Persian term meaning ‘major cold’. The ongoing cold wave is said to reach its peak with **Kashmir’s mountains covered** in snow for weeks, and the famous Dal Lake also reaching freezing point. ([Click here to read the article](#))

### Static Takeaways

- PETA Founders: Ingrid Newkirk, Alex Pacheco;
- PETA Founded: 22 March 1980;
- PETA Headquarters: Norfolk, Virginia, United States;
- PETA President: Ingrid Newkirk.
- International Tennis Federation (ITF) President:- David Haggerty;
- International Tennis Federation (ITF) Headquarters:- London, United Kingdom (UK);
- International Tennis Federation (ITF) Establishment:- 1913.
- Tamil Nadu Governor: R. N. Ravi;
- Tamil Nadu Capital: Chennai;
- Tamil Nadu Chief minister: M. K. Stalin;
- Tamil Nadu Language: Tamil.
- IDFC FIRST Bank Headquarters: Mumbai;
- IDFC FIRST Bank CEO: V. Vaidyanathan (19 Dec 2018-);
- IDFC FIRST Bank Parent organization: Infrastructure Development Finance Company;
- IDFC FIRST Bank Founded: October 2015.
- Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor: Manoj Sinha.

- National Assessment and Accreditation Council Founded:1994;
- National Assessment and Accreditation Council President: D. P. Singh;
- National Assessment and Accreditation Council Headquarters: Bangalore, Karnataka, India.
- Atomic Energy Regulatory Board Founded: 15 November 1983;
- Atomic Energy Regulatory Board Headquarters: Mumbai.
- Madhya Pradesh Capital: Bhopal;
- Madhya Pradesh Governor: Mangubhai C. Patel;
- Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister: Shivraj Singh Chouhan.
- FIFA Founded: 21 May 1904;
- FIFA Founded: Paris, France;
- FIFA Headquarters: Zürich, Switzerland;
- FIFA Membership: 211;
- FIFA Languages: English, French, German, Spanish & Italian;
- FIFA First President: Robert Guérin;
- FIFA Current President: Gianni Infantino (Switzerland);
- FIFA Secretary General: Fatma Samoura (Senegal).
- Saudi Arabia Capital:Riyadh;
- Saudi Arabia Currency: Saudi Riyal;
- Saudi Arabia King: Salman of Saudi Arabia.
- Air India Headquarters:New Delhi;
- Air India Founded: 1932, Mumbai;
- Air India Founder: J. R. D. Tata.
- Director, India, YouTube: Ishan John Chatterjee
- Director-South, SouthEast Asia and APAC Emerging Markets, YouTube: Ajay Vidyasagar
- UNSC Headquarters: New York, USA
- UNSC President: Admiral Lord Terrence Hood
- Indian Air Force Headquarters: New Delhi;
- Indian Air Force Founded: 8 October 1932, India;
- Indian Air Force Chief of Defence Staff (CDS): General Anil Chauhan.
- IMF Headquarters: Washington DC, USA
- IMF Managing Director: Kristalina Georgieva
- HDFC Headquarters: Mumbai, India
- HDFC Chairman: Shyamala Gopinath



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