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23rd and 24th December 2022

INTERNATIONAL

1) U.N. Security Council

- 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.

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2) Patriot missile defense system

- 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....

3) 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.

4) Spain passes new transgender law

- 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.

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- 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.

NATIONAL

1) Subrahmanyam Jaishankar

- Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, a former diplomat who served as 31st Foreign Secretary of India between 28 January 2015 – 28 January 2018, was inducted into Narendra Modi's cabinet as a Union Minister of External affairs in 2019.

- Prior to diving into Indian Political Sphere, he served as Indian Ambassador to the United States, China and the Czech Republic.

- In addition to this eminent portfolio, he also served as High Commissioner to Singapore (2007–09). Jaishankar also played a vital role in negotiating the Indo-US civilian nuclear agreement.

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2) Rajya Sabha's productivity during winter session 102%

- On Friday, the final day of the winter session, the Rajya Sabha was adjourned sine die, with a productivity score of 102%.

- Jagdeep Dhankhar, the chairman of the Rajya Sabha, claims that in 13 sittings, functional time was 64 hours and 50 minutes as opposed to the entire allocated time of 63 hours and 26 minutes, and productivity was 102%.

STATE NEWS

1) National Youth festival

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- 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.

2) Chillai Kalan

- 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.



3) Minimum Support Prices for copra for 2023 season

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved Minimum Support Prices for copra for 2023 season.
- The approval is based on recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices and views of major coconut growing states.

APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

1) Hemant Gupta

- Former Supreme Court judge, Hemant Gupta has been appointed as the chairperson of New Delhi International Arbitration Centre.
- The NDIAC was established for the purpose of creating an independent and autonomous regime for institutionalised arbitration.
- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of Justice Hemant Gupta (retired) as NDIAC chairperson and that of Ganesh Chandru and Anant Vijay Palli as its part-time members.

2) Dr. Suhel Ajaz Khan

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- 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.

- He will replace Dr. Ausaf Sayeed, a 1989 batch IFS officer. Dr. Khan is expected to take up the assignment shortly

3) Air India

- The Air India management has appointed Air India Express CEO Alok Singh as the chief of Air India's low-cost airline business from January 1, 2023.

- The Low Cost Carrier business will consist of AirAsia India and Air India Express. Air India signed agreements to complete the acquisition of 100% shareholding in AirAsia India and to subsidiarise it under Air India.

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SPORTS

1) FIFA with hosting rights for the next Club World Cup

- 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.

- European champion Real Madrid, South American champion Flamengo and Seattle Sounders, the first CONCACAF Champions League winner from the United States, will play in the traditional seven-team tournament from Feb. 1-11.

2) World Table Tennis

- Goa will host India's first ever World Table Tennis 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.



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- Stupa Analytics, a homegrown sports analytics firm, will be the tournament host with active support from the Goa government.

3) Sam Curran

- Sam Curran breaks all the records and became the most expensive cricketer ever to be bought by any franchise of the Indian Premier League.
- 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.

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AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

1) 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.

2) Rohini Nayar prize

- Sethrichem Sangtam, who helped triple the incomes of 1,200 marginalised farmers in Eastern Nagaland, was awarded the first Rohini Nayar 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.

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- The winner was selected by an eminent jury from civil society consisting of Dr. Ashok Khosla, founder, Development Alternatives; Dr. Rajesh Tandon, founder, PRIA; and Ms. Renana Jhabwala, national coordinator, SEWA.

3) GRIHA Exemplary Performance Award 2022

- The Unique Identification Authority of India 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. UIDAI believes and promotes the idea of recycle and reuse to reduce carbon footprint.
- It has been harnessing solar power to meet a portion of its energy consumption. It is recycling and reusing water and has been adhering to sustainable waste management practices.

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4) 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.

5) PRAKASHmay 15th EnerTia Awards 2022

- 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.

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- 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.

6) Thalappil Pradeep

- 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.

7) BBC Sports Personality of the Year for 2022

- 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.

8) Best Film Award at the 28th Kolkata International Film Festival

- 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.

- Kura Pokkhir Shunye Ura is a Bangladeshi Film that revolves around the journey of a peasant who is affected by the fury of nature.

IMPORTANT DAYS

1) 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.

- The day aims to spread awareness of the contributions of farmers to the socioeconomic development of the nation. It also recognises the efforts of the former Prime Minister who helped in uplifting the farmers in the country, introduced Debt Redemption Bill and Land Holding Act.



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2) National Consumer Day or Bharatiya Grahak Diwas

- 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.
- This day was made under the Consumer Protection Act, which came to power in 1986 to create awareness and save consumers from market exploitation like defective products or expensive pricing.

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