

Weekly One Liners 26th December 2022 to 01st January 2023

Forbes annual list, PV Sindhu among top 25 highest-paid female athletes

Forbes annual list: India’s badminton star, **PV Sindhu** is the only Indian sportsperson to feature in the top 25 of Forbes’ annual list of the world’s highest-paid female athletes. Sindhu, the 2016 Tokyo Olympics silver medallist, occupies the 12th spot in the list. Japanese tennis star Naomi Osaka tops the list. For the third straight year, Osaka tops Forbes’ annual list of the World’s highest-paid female athletes. The list is dominated by tennis players once again.

List of 15 highest paid female athletes of the year:

1. Naomi Osaka (Japan) – Tennis – \$51.1 million
2. Serena Williams (USA) – Tennis – \$41.3 million
3. Eileen Gu (China) – Skiing – \$20.1 million
4. Emma Raducanu (UK) – Tennis – \$18.7 million
5. Iga Swiatek (Poland) – Tennis – \$14.9 million
6. Venus Williams (USA) – Tennis – \$12.1 million
7. Coco Gauff (USA) – Tennis – \$11.1 million
8. Simone Biles (USA) – Gymnastics – \$10 million
9. Jessica Pegula (USA) – Tennis – \$7.6 million
10. Minjee Lee (Australia) – Golf – \$7.3 million
11. Candace Parker (USA) - Basketball - \$7.2 million
12. P.V. Sindhu (India) - Badminton - \$7.1 million
13. Leylah Fernandez (Canada) - Tennis - \$7 million
14. Lydia Ko (New Zealand) - Golf - \$6.9 million
15. Ons Jabeur (Tunisia) - Tennis - \$6.5 million

Important facts:

- Sindhu, the 2016 Tokyo Olympics silver medalist, is ranked 12th in the list, which is topped by Japanese tennis star Naomi Osaka.
- The 27-year-old Sindhu, who won the singles gold and doubles silver at the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham earlier this year, earned \$7 million out of her total earnings of \$7.1 million.
- For the third year in a row, Osaka topped Forbes’ annual list of the world’s highest-paid female athletes. The list is once again dominated by tennis players.
- Naomi Osaka, the world number 42, topped the list with a total annual earning of \$51.1 million, while Serena Williams is a distant second with \$41.3 million and Eileen Gu, the freestyle skier, third with a total coffer of \$20.1 million.

FIFA officially announced the 2022 world rankings

FIFA (Fédération Internationale de Football Association): **FIFA** has officially announced the **2022 world rankings**, and Brazil hold on to their No. 1 spot and 22nd FIFA Men’s World Cup 2022 Champions Argentina ranked 2nd. Morocco has improved from 22nd to 11th in the FIFA world ranking, following their achievements at the 2022 FIFA Global Cup.

Why aren’t Argentina top?

Given the way FIFA calculates its rankings, Lionel Messi and Argentina were given points based on the strength of their recent opponents. Brazil have a total points tally of 1840.77, just over two points more than Argentina’s 1838.38. That means that Argentina will overtake Brazil after their next game if they win and Brazil fail to win.

Who are the big climbers?

- **Morocco** are the big winners as the Atlas Lions surged up 11 spots to 11th in the world. The job Walid Regragui did was sensational and they were the darlings of the 2022 World Cup.
- **Japan** also moved up four spots to 20th, while the USA and Switzerland each moved up three spots with the Americans ranked 13th in the world and Switzerland in 12th.
- **Australia** moved up 11 spots to 27th as the Socceroos shocked us all by reaching the last 16 at the World Cup, where they gave eventual champs Argentina a really tough game.
- Cameroon moved up 10 places to 33rd, thanks largely to their famous victory against Brazil in the group stage.

FIFA rankings top 10:

| Ranking | Country | Points |
|---------|-------------|---------|
| 106. | India | 1192.09 |
| 1. | Brazil | 1840.77 |
| 2. | Argentina | 1838.38 |
| 3. | France | 1823.39 |
| 4. | Belgium | 1781.30 |
| 5. | England | 1774.19 |
| 6. | Netherlands | 1740.92 |
| 7. | Croatia | 1727.62 |
| 8. | Italy | 1723.56 |
| 9. | Portugal | 1702.54 |
| 10. | Spain | 1692.71 |

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National Affairs

- **Food and Consumer Affairs Minister Piyush Goyal** launched a host of new initiatives, including the **right to repair portal** and an **NTH mobile app** and opened new premises of **National Consumer Helpline centre** in the national capital. A memorandum of understanding was also signed between the **Consumer Affairs Department and IIT (BHU)**, Varanasi as well launched a capacity building programme of consumer commissions. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Esports** received a huge boost from the Indian government. It is incorporated into the nation's mainstream sports disciplines. Droupadi Murmu, the President of India, amended the regulations governing eSports in accordance with the authority "**conferred by clause (3) of article 77 of the Constitution**" and requested that "e-Sports be included as part of multi-sports events" from the Ministries of Electronics and Information Technology and Sports. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- An **Indian firm** has bagged a contract for providing consultancy for a capacity building project at **Mongla port**, the second largest seaport in **Bangladesh**, which will boost sub-regional connectivity in South Asia. The contract was signed between **Mongla Port Authority and EGIS India Consulting Engineers Pvt Ltd**. The total project cost under **Government of India concessional Line of Credit is USD 530 million** of which PMC contract awarded to EGIS India Consulting Engineers Ltd. is for USD 9.60 million. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Smt. Droupadi Murmu** has laid the foundation stone of the project '**Development of Pilgrimage Facilities at Bhadrachalam Group of Temples**' at Sri Seetha Ramachandra Swamivari Devasthanam, Bhadrachalam in Telangana. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **President Murmu** inaugurated the project "**Development of Srisailem Temple in the State of Andhra Pradesh**" at Srisailem Temple Complex, **Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh**. The project has been sanctioned and executed under **PRASHAD** scheme viz. National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive of the **Ministry of Tourism**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

States in the News

- **Madhya Pradesh government:** According to **Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister, Shivraj Singh Chouhan**, a huge statue of former Prime Minister **Atal Bihari Vajpayee** will be installed and a research centre will be built as part his grand memorial in Gwalior. On December 26 at the 'Gwalior Gaurav Diwas' function to mark the late leader's **98th birth anniversary**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- Stage is all set in **Uttar Pradesh** to rename two places after the state government got the approval by Union Home Ministry. The Union Home Ministry has given its consent to change the names, a Municipal Council in Gorakhpur and a village in Deoria, both in eastern UP, following recommendations from the state government. The 'no-objection' certificates were issued by the Union Home ministry for changing the name of '**Mundera Bazaar**' **municipal council** in Gorakhpur district to '**Chauri-Chaura**' and that of '**Telia Afghan**' village in Deoria district to '**Telia Shukla**'. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Kerala Chief Minister **Pinarayi Vijayan's constituency** has achieved a new record recently. It has become the only constituency in India to have a library in all the wards. CM Vijayan's constituency **Dharmadam** has achieved the position of complete library constituency in India, the first in India. Out of the total 138 wards in the constituency, there were no libraries in 63 wards. Dharmadam reached the achievement with the opening of libraries in these wards too. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Uttar Pradesh** Deputy Chief Minister **Brijesh Pathak** and Minister of State for Medical Education **Mayankeshwar Sharan Singh** inaugurated the '**E-Sushrut**' **Hospital Management Information System (HMIS)** in 22 state medical colleges. The initiative was launched by the state medical education department in collaboration with the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (CDAC). ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **World Class Kayaking Canoeing Academy** to be set up at Tehri in Uttarakhand. The Union Minister of Power and New & Renewable Energy **R.K.Singh** announced the World Class Kayaking Canoeing Academy. Chief Minister **Pushkar Singh Dhami** also inaugurated the National Championship "Tehri Water Sports Cup" at Tehri Lake. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The 'Spice Coast' in the far north of **Kerala**, better known as **North Malabar**, bask in myriad colours and the pomp and splendour of the cultural extravaganza titled '**Bekal International Beach Festival**'. Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan has inaugurated the 10-day first international beach festival, that captures the wholeness and the essence of the district's cultural and artistic uniqueness and displays the rich cultural diversity and grandeur of the country, at the majestic Bekal Beach Park. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- **Maharashtra** assembly has passed the **Lokayukta Bill 2022**, which brings the chief minister and council of ministers under the ambit of the anti-corruption ombudsman. The bill was passed without discussion as the opposition had staged a walkout over the alleged scam in the Teachers Entrance Test. Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis termed the bill a historic legislation. Cabinet Minister Deepak Kesarkar introduced the Bill which has a provision to bring the Chief Minister and the cabinet under the purview of the anti-corruption ombudsman. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **The 'Dhanu Yatra' festival**, the largest open-air theatre festival began after a gap of two years, in **Bargarh at the Odisha**. The vibrant Dhanu Yatra is associated with the culture of **Odisha**. The Festival is being held from December 27 to Jan 6, 2023. Several artists from 130 cultural troupes from across the country are scheduled to perform during the festival. Around 3,000 artistes of 130 cultural troupes from across the country is participating in the festival. However, Kansa is the central attraction of the Dhanu Yatra. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The Madurai Bench of **Madras High Court** has prohibited devotees from carrying mobile phones inside temples in Tamil Nadu. The Division Bench of Justice R. Mahadevan and J Sathya Narayana Prasad held that the gadgets divert the attention of the devotees from the purpose of visiting the temple. The **Tamil Nadu Temple Entry Authorisation Act 1947**, and the Rules empower the trustees or any authority in charge of the temple to make regulations for the maintenance of order and decorum in the temple. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Andhra Pradesh government** has introduced a lesson on the contribution of **Fatima Sheikh** in the textbooks of the eighth class. Fatima Sheikh was India's first woman Muslim teacher and one of India's greatest social reformers and educators. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Tamil Nadu Government** has announced the '**Nilgiri Tahr Project**', India's first-of-its-kind initiative aimed at restoring the state animal's original habitat and stabilizing its population. The 'Nilgiri Tahr Project' is a five-year program with a budget of Rs 25.14 crore. It will also have a dedicated team chaired by the project director to deal with species conservation. The team will explore the possibility of undertaking captive breeding of the animals for **re-introduction in forest patches** where it has become locally extinct. ([Click here to read the article](#))

International Affairs

- **Sitiveni Rabuka** was confirmed as **Fiji's next Prime Minister** more than two decades after the former military commander first held the office in a term lasting nearly seven years. The 74-year-old won the nomination by one vote over incumbent Frank Bainimarama at a sitting of the Fijian Parliament in Suva. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Bomb Cyclone**: Bomb Cyclone has thrashed **US and Canada** with extreme climate and has trapped the residents inside their houses with snow and power outages. During the Christmas season, the bomb cyclone occurred due to a low temperature of **-40 degrees Fahrenheit**. Thousands of flights have been canceled and several highways have been blocked. People are advised not to step outside their homes as it can be life-threatening. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Maldives** criminal court sentenced **former president Abdulla Yameen to 11 years in prison** and fined him \$5 million after finding him **guilty of corruption and money laundering** charges related to receiving kickbacks from a private company. Yameen has denied any wrongdoing. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Antarctica's Biodiversity** new research has indicated that more has to be done to safeguard Antarctic ecosystems, and if we don't make a change, up to 97% of Antarctic species with land-based populations might go extinct by the year 2100. The study, which was just released, also discovered that ten crucial techniques to lessen threats to Antarctica's biodiversity may be implemented with just USD 23 million annually. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Brain-eating amoeba infection reported in South Korea**: For the first time ever, a rare and potentially fatal brain-eating amoeba has been discovered in South Korea. Primary amebic meningoencephalitis (PAM) is a rare and serious infection caused by the amoeba naegleria fowleri, which is commonly found in warm freshwater and soil. ([Click here to read the article](#))

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- Bangladesh **Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina** inaugurated the first metro rail in Dhaka. The metro train was flagged off in Dhaka for the first journey between **Diabari and Agargaon station**. The metro rail is part of the Bangladesh project of Mass Rapid Transit to be completed by 2030. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- India-assisted 720 Megawatts **Mangdechhu Hydroelectric Power Project** has been recently handed to Druk Green Power Corporation (DGPC) in **Bhutan**. With this project, **India and Bhutan** have successfully completed four mega hydroelectric power projects. The commissioning of the project has increased **Bhutan's Electrical Power Generation Capacity** by 44 per cent. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Benjamin Netanyahu** was sworn-in as **Israel's prime minister** for a sixth time, leading the Jewish state's most right-wing government to date. Netanyahu, 73, already **Israel's longest-serving Prime Minister**, has the support of 63 lawmakers in the **120-member Knesset (Israeli parliament)**. In the house, 54 lawmakers voted against his government. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Vice President Kamala Harris** has named **Indian American Rajeev Badyal** to a key **national space advisory group**, which is tasked to maintain a robust and responsible US space enterprise and preserve space for current and future generations. Badyal, vice-president of **Project Kuiper** of Amazon, is among the 30 space experts named by Harris to the National Space Council's **Users Advisory Group (UAG)**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **British Indian Army Memorial** will be erected in **Glasgow, Scotland**, to honour the millions of Indian troops who gave their lives fighting alongside the British throughout the two World Wars. Recently, Glasgow City Council approved the planning proposal subject to limitations, clearing the way for the memorial's final designs to be created next to Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The Centre signed a peace agreement with a **Manipur insurgent group**, which agreed to give up violence and join the peaceful democratic process. The tripartite agreement was signed by the central and Manipur governments and the **Zeliangrong United Front (ZUF)** rebel group which mostly operated in Manipur. The agreement was signed by senior home ministry officials and the government of Manipur and the representatives of ZUF in presence of **Chief Minister N Biren Singh**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Ministry of Power** announced that it has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** to implement an **early warning system** for vulnerable hydro projects and power stations in hilly regions. The MoU was signed by Alok Kumar, Secretary at the Ministry of Power, and Dr Samir V Kamat, Secretary of the Department of Defence (R&D) and Chairman of DRDO. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Nicosia, Cyprus**, Foreign Minister of **Cyprus Ioannis Kasoulides** and External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar signed three important agreements. The two ministers had fruitful conversations during Jaishankar's first official visit to Cyprus about bilateral relations, multilateral cooperation, geopolitical and regional problems, the Indo-Pacific issue, the Middle East, Europe, and India's relationship with the European Union. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- In conjunction with the Learning Links Foundation, the **National Education Society for Tribal Students (NESTS)** was setting up a two-day face-to-face capacity building program which was held on 28th and 29th of December 2022, for EMRS teachers to implement the **Amazon Future Engineer Program (LLF)**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Tata Steel and TuTr Hyperloop** signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) at IIT Madras to collaborate on the development and wide-scale use of Hyperloop technology. The primary study topics will concentrate on the most important design and material selection problems. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Agreements/MoUs Signed

- **Atal Incubation Centre (AIC)** at the **Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC)** signed agreements with **MSMEs** for incubation of newer technologies into commercial products. The agreements were signed to commemorate the launch of the AIC at the BARC to hasten conversion of products from research labs to the market. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **NTPC** signed a non-binding Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Tecnimont Private Limited**, the Indian subsidiary of Maire Tecnimont Group, Italy. NTPC is India's largest power generation company. The objective of the MoU is to jointly **evaluate and explore** the possibility to develop a commercial-scale Green Methanol production facility at the NTPC project in India. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Books and Authors

- **C Rangarajan** authored a book titled "**Forks in the Road: My Days at RBI and Beyond**". It was published by the Penguin Business (Penguin Group). The book is the memoir of Dr C. Rangarajan, an Indian economist, a former Member of Parliament, and the **19th Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Banking/Economy/Business News

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** recently said that **all leading banks** should issue the locker agreement to its holders **before January 1, 2023**, as the new locker rules will be implemented from that date. Earlier, the RBI had announced revised guidelines on August 8, 2021, which became effective from January 1, 2022. And now, **all the locker owners must display their eligibility for a new locker arrangement** and sign a renewal agreement prior to January 1, 2023. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Indian Billionaire **Gautam Adani** is to control 64.71% of **New Delhi Television Ltd (NDTV)** as the founders have decided to sell most of the shares. The founders of NDTV, Prannoy Roy and his wife Radhika Roy have decided to transfer most of the shares in the company giving Gautam Adani his conglomerate control of about 65% of NDTV. The decision comes after four months after Gautam Adani announced his takeover of the news channel. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Centre for Economics and Business Research (CEBR)**, which is a **UK-based economics consultancy**, predicted that **India** will become the **third-largest economy** by 2037. **14th edition** of the report noted that over the next five years, the **annual rate of GDP growth** is expected to **average 6.4%**. After that, the growth is expected to **average 6.5%** in the subsequent nine years. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- With the intent of deepening credit flow to **small businesses** and also helping lenders avoid loan losses on such bets, **credit information company TransUnion Cibil** launched a ranking system for MSME borrowers. The **'FIT Rank'** launched by TransUnion Cibil in association with Online PSB Loans, will rate the over 6 crore **micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs)** by drawing inputs from their current accounts, income tax returns and also **Goods and Service Tax (GST) returns** to arrive at a score between 1-10 to rate a borrower after taking consent to draw the relevant data. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Reliance Jio** announced it has launched True 5G services in **Andhra Pradesh**. The 5G services were launched in **Tirumala, Visakhapatnam, Vijayawada, and Guntur districts**. Apart from their existing investment of Rs 26,000 crore, additionally **Jio has invested over Rs 6,500 crore** for deploying 5G network in Andhra Pradesh. By December 2023, Jio True 5G services will be made available in every town, taluka, mandalam and village of Andhra Pradesh. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Rupay-based credit card on UPI platform:** By March 2023, State Bank of India (SBI), ICICI Bank, and Axis Bank want to start issuing RuPay credit cards over the UPI. Currently, the RuPay credit card segment on the UPI platform is live with three public sector banks—Union Bank of India, Punjab National Bank, and Indian Bank—and one private sector bank—HDFC Bank. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Worldline ePayments India (WEIPL)**, a leader in **digital payments**, has received in-principle authorisation from the **Reserve Bank Of India (RBI)** to act as a **payment aggregator (PA)**. The authorisation by the RBI was under the provisions of the Guidelines on Regulation of Payment dated March 17, 2020. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Indian Bank**, one of the leading public sector banks in the country, has launched its flagship business mentoring program for **MSME** entrepreneurs '**MSME Prerana**' in the state of **Rajasthan**. Indian Bank's unique program, "MSME Prerana", is a first-of-its-kind initiative for MSME Sector in the country by any bank. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Reliance Retail Ventures Limited (RRVL)**, a subsidiary of **Reliance Industries Ltd** signed definitive agreements to acquire 100 percent equity stake in **Metro Cash and Carry India Pvt Ltd**, which operates under the '**Metro India**' brand, for a cash consideration of **Rs 2,850 crore**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- To enhance the insurance force in India, the **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** will soon introduce "**Bima Vahaks**" in each gram panchayat. **Each Gram Panchayat** will have a 'Bima Vahak' who would be tasked to sell and service simple parametric bundled insurance products, **Bima Vistar**, covering health, property, life and personal accident. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- According to an RBI report, **public sector banks (PSBs)** accounted for the majority of frauds reported in 2018–19, **with 55.4%** of the cases reported and 90% of the money involved. This is primarily due to an inadequate internal process, lack of personnel, and inadequate systems to address operational risks. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- A pan-Indian "**Financial Literacy and Inclusion survey**" conducted by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) found that awareness and knowledge of digital banking are on par between the rural and urban population nationwide, with the average for both segments being 11.7 on a scale of 21. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Bajaj Allianz General Insurance**, one of the leading private general insurers of India, announced the launch of its unique health insurance rider '**Respect Senior Care Rider**'. This rider helps one fulfill their parental responsibility smoothly. In order to accomplish this goal, Bajaj Allianz General Insurance has **typed up with a wide network of service providers** to assist the insured with their worries. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **India, Australia** Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement comes into force from 29 December. **India and Australia** signed the **Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA)** on the 2nd of April 2022. ECTA is the first trade agreement of **India with a developed country after more than a decade**. The agreement encompasses cooperation across the entire gamut of bilateral economic and commercial relations between the two friendly countries. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** stated in its annual report on trend and progress of banking in India that the health of Indian banks continued to improve in 2021–2022 with their balance sheet rising at double digits after a gap of seven years and their asset quality and capital position improving. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)**, in its report released on annual procurement, ranked **Indian-PSU company WAPCOS** as top amongst consulting services firms in water and other infrastructure sectors, with the highest sanctioned financed amount. In another report on its members' Fact Sheet – 2022 released by the ADB, WAPCOS figured amongst the **Top 3 consultants from India** involved in consulting services contracts under ADB loan, grant, and technical assistance projects in energy, transport and water, and other urban infrastructure sectors. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) published a web publication on the activities of the Indian banking sector called Statistical Tables relating to Banks in India: 2021-22' The publication includes details of priority sector advances for scheduled commercial banks, except regional rural banks, together with entity-specific information on the main categories of liabilities and assets, along with their maturity profile, income, and expenses. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **26th edition of the Financial Stability Report** was released by the Reserve Bank of India on December 29. The Reserve Bank of India publishes a financial stability report (FSR) every two years (RBI). The report reflects the Sub-Committee of the Financial Stability and Development Council's (FSDC) collective evaluation of the financial system's resilience and vulnerabilities to financial stability. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **government's fiscal deficit** in end-November touched 59 per cent of the full year Budget Estimate on increased **capital expenditure** and slow growth in non-tax revenue. In actual terms, the **fiscal deficit**, which is the difference between expenditure and revenue, was Rs 9.78 lakh crore during the April-November period of 2022-23. In the corresponding period last year, the deficit was 46.2 per cent of the Budget Estimates of 2021-22. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Production of eight infrastructure sectors** increased by 5.4 per cent in November against a 3.2 per cent growth in the same month last year on a better show by **coal, fertiliser, steel, cement and electricity segments. Crude oil, natural gas and refinery products**, however, recorded negative growth in November this year. The **production growth of eight key sectors** slowed down to 0.9 per cent in October. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **SBI Foundation** has designed a project in collaboration with **Himalayan Environment Studies and Conservation (HESCO)** that aims to promote equitable economic and ecological development in 10 disaster-prone villages in Joshimath Block of **Chamoli District**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **central government hiked interest rates** on various **small savings schemes** including senior citizen savings scheme during the January to March quarter **but kept the rate for Public Provident Fund (PPF) and Sukanya Samriddhi scheme** unchanged for this period. The rates on the various instruments have been raised between 20 to 110 basis points and now range from 4.0 % to 7.6%. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Tata Motors** to complete the acquisition of **Ford India's** manufacturing plant at Sanand through its subsidiary on 10th January 2023. The company has announced that its arm **Tata Passenger Electric Mobility Ltd (TPEML)** would acquire **Ford India Pvt Ltd (FIPL)** Sanand Plant in Gujarat for Rs 725.7 crore. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Adani Group** informed stock exchanges that it has acquired additional 27.26 per cent equity stake in **NDTV from founders Prannoy Roy** and his wife Radhika Roy. The billionaire **Gautam Adani**-backed Adani Group acquired shares from Roys at Rs 342.65 per share which was 16.55 per cent higher than the open offer price of Rs 294 per share. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Appointments/Resignations

- **State Bank of India: SBI Funds Management** has appointed **Shamsher Singh** as managing director and chief executive officer of the company. Singh, who was deputy managing director at **State Bank of India (SBI)**, has taken over the charge from Vinay M Tonse following his repatriation to the public sector lender, the asset management company. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Anil Kumar Lahoti** has been appointed as the **Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Railway Board**. The former General Manager of Central Railway was appointed as a Member (Infrastructure) of the board a week ago, and will be taking over the chairmanship from **Vinay Kumar Tripathi on January 1**. ([Click here to read the article](#))



- **Shri Ganji Kamala V Rao IAS** has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer of the **Food Safety & Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)**. Shri Ganji Kamala V Rao IAS is currently serving as the Managing Director of Indian Tourism Development Corporation Ltd. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Santosh Kumar Yadav**, the senior bureaucrat, was appointed as the Chairman of the **National Highway Authority of India (NHAI)**. Santosh Kumar Yadav is a 1995-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of the Uttar Pradesh cadre. He is currently serving as the additional secretary in the Department of School Education and Literacy, **Ministry of Education**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Lieutenant General **Arvind Walia** has been appointed as the next **Engineer-in-Chief of the Indian Army**. He would be succeeding **Lt Gen Harpal Singh** who is superannuating on December 31. An officer of the 1986 batch, Lt Gen Walia is an alumnus of the Indian Military Academy, Dehradun, and also received the prestigious Silver Medal there. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has approved the reappointment of Baskar Babu Ramachandran as the MD & CEO of **Suryoday Small Finance bank** for three years effective from 23rd January 2023. The founder of the bank, Baskar Babu Ramachandran sold the bank's 50 lakh shares on 16th December for **₹55.44 crores** to close a loan for exercising warrants to maintain the promoter's stake at the minimum of 26 percent for the first 5 years. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Vigilance Commissioner **Praveen Kumar Srivastava** has been appointed as the **acting Central Vigilance Commissioner (CVC)**. His appointment comes after [Suresh N. Patel](#) completed his term as the chief of the anti-corruption watchdog Central Vigilance Commission on December 24. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Uttar Pradesh** government has appointed **IPS officer Laxmi Singh** as the new Noida Police chief, making her the first woman officer to head a Police Commissionerate in the state. The 2000-batch officer, who replaced Alok Singh in Gautam Buddha Nagar. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Defence News

- In a step to augment the operational capabilities of the **Armed Forces and the Indian Coast Guard in future**, the **Defence Acquisition Council (DAC)**, headed by **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh** accorded approval for **Acceptance of Necessity (AoN)** for **24 Capital Acquisition Proposals**. These proposals include **six for the Indian Army, six for the Indian Air Force, 10 for the Indian Navy and two for the Indian Coast Guard for a total value of Rs 84,328 crore**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- **Drone manufacturer Garuda Aerospace** has received the Type Certification and **RPTO (Remote Pilot Training Organisation)** approvals from the **Director General of Civil Aviation** for the indigenously designed **kisan drones**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Union Home Minister **Amit Shah** launched the '**Prahari Mobile app** and Manual of **Border Security Force (BSF)** in New Delhi. The Prahari App will enable jawans to access personal information and information related to accommodation, Ayushman-CAPF, and leaves on their mobile. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Indian Air Force** successfully tested the extended range version of the **BrahMos Air Launched Missile** against the Ship Target in the Bay of Bengal from the SU-30 MKI fighter jet. The test was carried out on 29th December 2022 and according to the Defence Ministry, the **Supersonic cruise missile** successfully achieved all its mission objectives. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **The Indian Army** inaugurated its first **3-D Printed House Dwelling Unit (with Ground plus One configuration)** for soldiers at Ahmedabad Cantt. The dwelling unit has been constructed by the **Military Engineering Services (MES)** in collaboration with MiCoB Pvt Ltd incorporating the latest 3D Rapid Construction Technology. Construction work of the dwelling unit measuring 71 sqm with garage space was completed in just 12 weeks by utilising the 3D printed foundation, walls and slabs. The disaster-resilient structures comply with Zone-3 earthquake specifications and green building norms. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Awards and Recognitions

- **Ekalabya Puraskar:** Indian cyclist **Swasti Singh** has been honoured with the prestigious **30th Ekalabya Puraskar for the year 2022**. The award is instituted by IMFA's charitable wing, **IMPACT**. Swasti received a cash award of **Rs 5 lakh** along with a citation at the Ekalabya Puraskar function held in Bhubaneswar. She has bagged two gold and as many silver medals at the national level. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **KR Gouri Amma national award:** Noted Cuban social worker and human rights advocate, **Aleida Guevara** has been selected for the first **KR Gouri Amma national award** instituted by the **K.R. Gouri Amma Foundation**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **The Wharton-QS Reimagine Education Awards**, also known as "**the Oscars of Education**," gave significant recognition to the **Indian Institute of Technology, Madras (IIT-M)**. The best programme awards went to the IIT Madras courses, BS Data Science and NPTEL in partnership with IISc Bangalore. The institute has been awarded and its BS in Data Science and Applications is awarded the silver in the best online programme category. While, the **National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning (NPTEL)**, a joint initiative of IITs and IISc, run by IIT Madras, won the gold in the lifelong learning category. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- On the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister of the country **Atal Bihari Vajpayee**, many personalities who played an important role in various fields were honored, at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi during 9th Atal Samman Samaroh. **Prabhu Chandra Mishra** has been awarded **Atal Samman Award** for his excellence in field of science & research. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP)**, the US-based international organisation has selected the anti-drug & illicit liquor campaign 'Nijaat' of **Chhattisgarh** police for 'Leadership in Crime Prevention' award in the institutional category. The prestigious IACP 2022 Award has selected the de-addiction drive 'Nijaat', which was executed following the directive by chief minister **Bhupesh Baghel** to act tough against drug peddlers, and bootleggers and check to smuggling of drugs. A successful singular campaign, 'Nijaat' witnessed the striking results to achieve a drug-free society with missionary zeal. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Summit and Conference

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi** addressed the **75th Amrut Mahotsav of Shree Swaminarayan Gurukul Rajkot Sansthan** via video-conferencing. Shree Swaminarayan Gurukul Rajkot Sansthan was established at Rajkot in 1948 by seer **Shri Dharmajivandasji Swami**. It has expanded and currently has more than 40 branches all over the world, providing facilities for school, undergraduate and postgraduate education to **more than 25,000 students**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Indian Institute of Science (IISc)** has been announced as the **Secretariat for Science 20 (S20), the G20 summit's science working group**. IISc stated that S20 will play a key role in helping resolve global issues like poverty and bring together the developments made by the G20 member states for development. ([Click here to read the article](#))



- As part of **India's G20 presidency**, the Minister for Electronics & Information Technology, Communications and Railways, **Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw** has launched the "**Stay Safe Online**" campaign and the "**G20 Digital Innovation Alliance**" (**G20-DIA**). MeitY, the Nodal Ministry for the G20 Digital Economy Working Group (DEWG), has represented India in numerous working groups and Ministerial sessions during previous presidencies. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Ranks and Reports

- India** is ranked **fifth** on the global list of the best cuisines for 2022, according to **Taste Atlas**. The ranking is based on audience votes for ingredients, dishes, and beverages. Italy's food came in first place followed by Greece and Spain. India received 4.54 points and the best rated foods of the country include "**garam masala, malai, ghee, butter garlic naan, keema**", the rating said. It has a total of 460 items in the list. Furthermore, the best restaurants to try Indian cuisine are **Shree Thaker Bhojanalay (Mumbai), Karavalli (Bengaluru), Bukhara (New Delhi), Dum Pukht (New Delhi), Comorin (Gurugram)** and 450 others, according to the list. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Punjab** ranks **second** in the country in **average monthly income per agricultural household**. The fact came to light in a data provided by **Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Narendra Singh Tomar** in the ongoing session of Rajya Sabha. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs, Hardeep Singh Puri** launched draft guidelines for a **new ranking system of cities** based on finance and beauty. The competition is aimed at identifying and promoting financially happy cities and improving municipal finances. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Sports News

- Geta Sora**, a rising star in badminton, won the under-9 category of the **Top Arena Junior International Badminton Championship** in Malaysia, bringing honor to Arunachal and the nation as a whole. **Jaryl Teh**, the second seed from Malaysia, was defeated by Sora in two sets of 21-5 and 21-16 to win the championship. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Telangana Boxing star and the reigning world champion, **Nikhath Zareen, and Lovlina Borgohain**, the bronze medalist from the Tokyo Olympics, both won gold medals in their separate finals in the Elite Women's National Boxing Championships. The Railway Sports Promotion Board won the team trophy with ten awards in the **6th Elite Women's National Boxing Championships in Bhopal**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- Boxing Day Test between **Australia and South Africa** at the iconic MCG, Cricket Australia (CA) and [Australian Cricket Association](#) (ACA) in a joint-statement announced that Australia's Men's Test Player of the Year award will now be named in honour of the late **Shane Warne**. Cricket Australia (CA) chief executive Nick Hockley and Australian Cricketers' Association Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Todd Greenber renamed the Australia's men's Test Player of the Year award to honour the legendary spinner 'Shane Warne' during the Boxing Day Test against South Africa. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- South African** batter **Farhaan Behardien** has announced retirement, concluding an 18-year international cricketing career. The 39-year old has represented the Proteas in 59 ODIs and has 1074 runs and 14 wickets under his belt. Behardien also has 38 T20I caps for South Africa and has amassed 518 runs at an average of 32.37. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Schemes and Committess News

- The government said that the **food processing industry** has invested Rs 4,900 crore so far under the **production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme**. The PLI scheme for the food processing industry was approved in March 2021, with a budget outlay of Rs 10,900 crore. It will be implemented for seven years, until 2026-27. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Science and Technology News

- IIT Kanpur** is ready with an **artificial heart** that would be of great help to people with acute cardiac problems. **Artificial hearts can be implanted in serious patients**. IIT Kanpur and cardiologists from across the country have developed this artificial heart. Trial on animals will start from February or March. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Bharat Biotech's** "iNCOVACC" is the **world's first Intranasal vaccine** for COVID to receive approval for the primary 2-dose schedule, and as a heterologous booster dose. **Bharat Biotech International (BBIL)** announced that **iNCOVACC (BBV154)**, is scheduled to be introduced in the country as a booster dose shortly. iNCOVACC is now available on CoWin, and priced at **Rs 800+GST** for private markets and priced at **Rs 325+GST** for supplies to Govt of India and State Governments. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- To create the **SwasthGarbh app**, the **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Roorkee** and the **All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) New Delhi** worked together. Pregnant women can access antenatal care and real-time medical support through the smartphone app. The software may be downloaded for free from the Google Play Store. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **SpaceX Falcon 9** launch vehicle launched into low Earth Orbit the first 54 **Starlink Satellites** of the new generation, or v2.0 or Gen2. The SpaceX Falcon 9 was launched on 28th December 2022, and it took place from the SLC-40 launch pad of the **US Air Force Base** at Cape Canaveral. It is the 60th successful SpaceX mission since the beginning of 2022. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Important Days News

- Good Governance Day**: Every year, in honour of former Indian Prime Minister **Atal Vihari Vajpayee's birthday**, India observes "**Good Governance Day**". The day is devoted to former prime minister Atal Vihari Vajpayee. Prime Minister Narendra Modi 2014 announced that "Good Governance Day" will be observed annually on December 25 in memory of the former PM. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced to observe **Veer Bal Diwas 2022** on the occasion of the Prakash Purab of **Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji**. Veer Bal Diwas is going to be celebrated in India every year on 26th December. Veer Bal Diwas 2022 marks the martyrdom of Sri Guru Gobind Singh's sons **Sahibzada Baba Zorawar Singh Ji** and **Baba Fateh Singh Ji**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Gwalior Gaurav Diwas** is celebrated on the birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna **Atal Bihari Vajpayee**. He is also known as the son of Gwalior. Gwalior Gaurav Diwas is celebrated on 25th December. On the occasion of Gwalior Gaurav Diwas, **Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan** reviewed the participation through video conferencing and appealed to the people of Gwalior to light lamps at their homes on 25th December 2022. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- International Day of Epidemic Preparedness** on **December 27** serves the purpose of creating awareness about epidemics. In its 75th session and 36th plenary meeting on **December 7, 2020**, the **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)** passed a resolution which declared December 27 as the International Day of Epidemic Preparedness. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Obituaries

- England's 1966 World Cup-winning right back, **George Cohen** has passed away, his former club Fulham announced. He made his international debut in 1964 and went on to represent his country 37 times, playing a key role in England's only World Cup triumph when it beat West Germany 4-2 after extra time at Wembley in the final. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Brazilian football legend **Edson Arantes do Nascimento**, famously called **Pelé**, has passed away aged 82. He is considered by many as one of the greatest footballers of all time. He was instrumental in Brazil's three World Cup victories in 1958, 1962, and 1970. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Heeraben Modi (Hiraben Modi), mother of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, passed away early on Friday (30 December 2023) in an Ahmedabad hospital. Heeraben was 99. The news of her passing was announced in a bulletin from the UN Mehta Institute of Cardiology and Research Centre, where she was taken on Wednesday when her condition began to deteriorate. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Arata Isozaki**, a Pritzker-winning **Japanese architect** known as a post-modern giant who blended culture and history of the East and the West in his designs, has died. He was 91. Isozaki won the Pritzker Architecture Prize, internationally the highest honor in the field, in 2019. Arata Isozaki, Whose Hybrid Style Forged 'New Paths,' Wins Pritzker Prize. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Miscellaneous News

- The **10th Edition of the North East Festival** began at the **Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium** in New Delhi. The **festival aims to promote the North East region's diverse life, culture, traditions, and tourism.** **Micro Small and Medium Enterprises Minister Narayan Rane** inaugurated the MSME Exhibition at the North East Festival. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Ladakh** celebrated **Losar Festival** to mark the Ladakhi New Year. Losar Festival is celebrated in Ladakh on 24th December 2022. The Losar Festival or the **Ladakhi New year** is a major socio-religious festival of Ladakh celebrated during winter. The **Losar Festival** will continue for nine days from the new year. People will celebrate by offering prayers in the name of God and goddess. They will also dance and sing in honor of **Ibex and the pilgrimage of Mount Kailash.** ([Click here to read the article](#))

- The **Bulandshahr prison of Uttar Pradesh** was awarded a five-star rating and the tag '**Eat Right Campus**' by the **Food Safety and Standard Authority of India (FSSAI)**. The FSSAI team inspected the kitchen's food quality, storage and hygiene on stringent measures, based on which the Bulandshahr prison was given a five-star rating, the 'Eat Right Campus' tag in addition to the remark of 'Excellent' by the FSSAI. Bulandshahr Jail is the second prison after **Farrukhabad jail** to get this tag from Uttar Pradesh. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Ministry of Railways** has developed a new scheme to modernize over 1000 small stations over the coming year. The stations will be equipped with facilities inspired by the mega-upgradation of marquee stations. This scheme will be a part of the Ministry of Railways Station Redevelopment Drive and **Amrit Bharat Station Scheme.** ([Click here to read the article](#))
- On the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister **Atal Bihari Vajpayee**, which was marked as '**Good Governance Day**' across the country, the Aurangabad unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) named a star after the 'Bharat Ratna' recipient. The distance of the star from Earth is **392.01 light years**. It is the closest star to the Sun. The star with the coordinates 14 05 25.3 -60 28 51.9 has been registered in the International Space Registry on December 25, 2022. The star gets the name **Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji. Registration Number CX16408US.** ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **REC Limited**, a Maharatna Company under the Ministry of Power, Govt. of India organized '**Bijli Utsav**' in **Anandapur Gaon of Baksa district and adjoining villages in Assam.** The event witnessed speaker sessions by dignitaries and esteemed guests highlighting the consumer rights of electricity, benefits of electricity and the challenges faced during electrification in remote areas and how the quality of life improves with access to power. ([Click here to read the article](#))



Static Takeaways

- SBI Chairperson: Dinesh Kumar Khara.
- SBI Headquarters: Mumbai.
- SBI Founded: 1 July 1955.
- FIFA President: Gianni Infantino;
- FIFA Founded: 21 May 1904;
- FIFA Headquarters: Zürich, Switzerland.
- Fiji Capital: Suva;
- Fiji Currency: Fijian dollar;
- Fiji President: Wiliame Katonivere
- Kerala Capital: Thiruvananthapuram;
- Kerala Chief Minister: Pinarayi Vijayan;
- Kerala Governor: Arif Mohammad Khan
- Maharashtra Governor: Bhagat Singh Koshyari;
- Maharashtra Capital: Mumbai;
- Maharashtra Chief minister: Eknath Shinde.
- Isreal Currency: Israeli shekel
- Isreal Parliament: Knesset
- Isreal President: Isaac Herzog.
- RBI founded in: 1 April, 1935
- RBI Chairman: Shaktikanta Das
- RBI Headquarter: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Amazon CEO: Andy Jassy
- Amazon Headquarters: Seattle, Washington, USA
- Minister of Tribal Affairs: Arjun Munda.

- International Association of Chiefs of Police
Founded: May 1893;
- International Association of Chiefs of Police Formerly
called: National Chiefs of Police Union;
- International Association of Chiefs of Police
Headquarters: Alexandria, Virginia, United States;
- International Association of Chiefs of Police President:
Cynthia E. Renaud.
- Scotland Capital: Edinburgh
- Scotland Currency: GBP Pound (£)
- Scotland Prime Minister: Nicola Sturgeon.
- TuTr Co-founder CEO: R Balaji
- Tata Steel CEO: T. V. Narendran.

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