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18th and 19th December 2022

NATIONAL

1) 48th Goods and Service Tax Council meeting

- The 48th Goods and Service Tax 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.

2) 2022 Global Food Security Index

- The 2022 Global Food Security Index 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



3) UN Security Council

- 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.
- Jaishankar arrived at UN to preside over two signature events on counter-terrorism and reformed multilateralism held under India's current Presidency of the UN Security Council, before the curtains come down this month on the country's two-year tenure as elected member of the 15-nation top organ of the world body.

4) Jitendra Singh













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- 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. In a similar upward trend, the number of patents granted by the India Patents Office to Indian scientists has more than doubled in just the last four years.

5) US National Aeronautics and Space Administration

- The US National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the French space agency Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales have jointly launched the newest Surface Water and Ocean Topography 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.



STATE NEWS

1) 'Goa Liberation Day'

- '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 trifecta with the help of local resistance movements to eradicate European rule from the country.

APPOINTMENTS AND RESGINATIONS

1) Claudine Gay

- 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.























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 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.

2) Ashwini Vaishnaw

- Union Minister of Railways, Ashwini Vaishnaw has been appointed as the Chancellor of Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya, Vadodara, by President Smt. Draupadi Murmu.
- It is noteworthy to mention that Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw will be the first Chancellor of Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya.
- President also appointed Dr Manoj Chaudhary as the first Vice Chancellor of Gati Shakti University, Vadodara.
- As per the Central University Act, 2009, Dr Manoj Chaudhary will hold the position of Vice Chancellor of Gati Shakti University for five years from the date he assumes office.



3) Leo Varadkar

- Indian-origin Leo Varadkar has returned for a second term as Ireland's Prime Minister as part of a jobsharing 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.

BOOKS AND AUTHORS

1) 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.
- The author "shares the contents of her 'personal toolbox' the habits and practices, attitudes and beliefs, and even physical objects that she uses to overcome her feelings of fear, helplessness and self doubt."

























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SPORTS

1) FIFA World Cup 2022

- Messi's Argentina clinched their 3rd World Cup trophy from six final appearances in history, seeing off France 4–2 on penalties (3–3 after extra time) to win the biggest prize in men's football at the at Lusail Stadium in Lusail, Qatar.
- It had won two in 1978 and 1986 under Diego Maradona. Lionel Messi had come close to winning in 2014 but La Albiceleste lost the final 0-1 to Germany.
- The only similarity from Messi's 2014 campaign in Qatar was his Golden Ball award for Player of the Tournament award. He became the first player to win two World Cup Golden Balls.



2) Neeraj Chopra

- 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.

3) Captain Savita Punia

- 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. The inaugural FIH Nations cup was held in Valencia, Spain from 11-17 December 2022.
- India and Spain had played in the FIH women's Hockey Pro League 2021-22 season as replacement teams after pull-outs by Australia and New Zealand due to COVID-19 related issues.

























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AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

1) Sargam Koushal

- 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.

IMPORTANT DAYS

1) International Migrants Day

- International Migrants Day is observed annually on December 18 to bring attention to the social and economic realities of migrants around the world.
- This day is observed to guarantee that the rights of migrants are equally respected and not violated.
- The mobility of people is still influenced by a range of factors despite the world's rapid growth and change.

Currently, 281 million individuals are international migrants who reside in nations other than their own. - --

- International Migrants Day serves as a reminder that the challenges faced by migrants in every country remain unresolved, and policymakers must continue to develop constructive and comprehensive policies to address the issue.

2) National Minorities Rights Day

- National Minorities Rights Day is commemorated on December 18 every year in India.
- Its aim is to safeguard the individual rights of the religious, ethnic, racial, or linguistic minorities in the country.
- This day is a reminder about the rights of minorities and to raise awareness about it.
- Minority Rights Day in India is commemorated by conducting debates and seminars on topic related to minority communities.













