

December - 17

## NATIONAL

### 6<sup>th</sup> Vande Bharat train

- ❖ Prime Minister flagged off the 6<sup>th</sup> Vande Bharat Express train connecting Nagpur to Bilaspur.
- ❖ Vande Bharat trains have already been running between Delhi-Varanasi, Delhi-Shri Vaishno Devi Mata Katra, Gandhinagar to Mumbai, New Delhi to Amb Andaura, and Chennai-Mysuru.
- ❖ The first all-vegetarian Vande Bharat train was launched by the Indian Railways on the Delhi-Vaishno Devi, Katra route.



### Centre of excellence for 3D bioprinting



- ❖ The Indian Institute of Science (IISc) of Bengaluru inaugurated the country's first 3D bioprinting Center of Excellence.



- ❖ It will focus on providing researchers tools to advance discoveries in tissue engineering, regenerative medicine and drug discovery.
- ❖ It will provide access to 3D bioprinting systems, enabling researchers to accelerate their work across critical applications.

## **Approval for 21 Greenfield Airports**

**MoCA has already approved the creation of 21 Greenfield airports, and eight are already operational.**

**The Airports Authority of India has earmarked 25 airports for asset monetisation between 2022-2035 under the National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP).**

**The RCS UDAN scheme now encompasses 393 routes connecting 62 unserved and underserved airports, including two water aerodromes and six heliports.**

- ❖ The Central Government has recently accorded “In Principle” approval for setting up 21 greenfield airports across India.
- ❖ Of these 21 greenfield airports, nine have been operationalized.
- ❖ A greenfield airport is one that is built from scratch on undeveloped land, where no work has been done in the past.
- ❖ This airport is built to minimize the congestion at the existing airports.
- ❖ Usually, it is at a greater distance from the city and constructed in a way that special consideration is given to the environmental impact.

## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **New Zealand’s tobacco law**

- ❖ New Zealand has adopted a measure that will prohibit the sale of cigarettes to anybody born on or after January 1, 2009.
- ❖ The restrictions will take effect in 2023.
- ❖ It is World’s first tobacco law to ban smoking.
- ❖ New Zealand is aiming to be "smoke-free" by 2025.

- ❖ It also, aims to bring down the number of retailers able to sell smoked tobacco products to 600 nationwide - down from 6,000.
- ❖ It also focuses on reducing the level of nicotine in products to make them less addictive.
- ❖ The smoking rate in New Zealand is extremely low, as only 8 per cent of adults are smoking on a daily basis.



## STATES

### New Himachal Pradesh CM



- ❖ Congress's Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu on December 11 took oath as the new Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh.
- ❖ Mr. Sukhu will be the first Congress leader from Lower Himachal to occupy the top post.



- ❖ He will be the second chief minister from Hamirpur district, after BJP's Prem Kumar Dhumal.
- ❖ The Congress party won 40 seats and BJP got 25 seats in the high-stakes electoral contest for the 68-member Legislative Assembly.

### **Kochi-Muziris Biennale**



# **KOCHI-MUZIRIS BIENNALE 2022**

- ❖ Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan inaugurated the fifth edition of Kochi Muziris Biennale.
- ❖ The Biennale will centre on the theme “In Our Views Flow Ink and Fire”.
- ❖ The four-month-long celebration of art is expected to attract tourists worldwide

### **New CM of Gujarat**



- ❖ Bhupendra Patel sworn in as 18<sup>th</sup> Chief Minister of Gujarat.
- ❖ Patel took oath as chief minister for the second time in a row.
- ❖ He was chosen as the chief minister in September 2021.

- ❖ The ruling BJP won a record seventh term in the recently concluded Gujarat assembly election.
- ❖ They winning 156 of the total 182 seats of the legislative assembly.
- ❖ The Congress won 17 seats and AAP won five.

### **Changing script of Newspapers - Manipur**

- ❖ Newspapers in Manipur are set to replacing the Bengali script that's currently in use with Meitei or the Manipuri script.
- ❖ The Meitei script was once patronised by Meitei rulers but which fell into disuse with the advent of Hinduism and eventually disappeared.
- ❖ The earliest epigraphic record of the script is a stone inscription from Khoibu village which was erected on the orders of Meidingu Kiyamba (1467-1508).
- ❖ With the advent of Hinduism, Bengali scripts became so popular that stone inscriptions in the 18th and 19th century were in Bengali script.

## **PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS**

### **India Internet Governance Forum (IGF) 2022**



- ❖ The Internet Governance Forum (IGF), a multi stakeholder platform, is held as a three-day hybrid event.
- ❖ It is an initiative associated with the UN Internet Governance Forum (UN-IGF).
- ❖ Theme for the event is 'Leveraging Techade for Empowering Bharat'.
- ❖ India is the largest 'connected' nation in the world with 800 million Indian users.

## **SPORTS**

### **Fastest double century**

- ❖ India batter Ishan Kishan hit the fastest double century in one-day international history by smashing a sublime 210 in victory over Bangladesh.
- ❖ Kishan took just 126 balls to reach 200.

- ❖ He was breaking the previous record for men's and women's cricket held by New Zealand's Amelia Kerr.
- ❖ Kerr reached the mark off 134 balls against Ireland in 2018.
- ❖ West Indies opener Chris Gayle held the previous men's record, taking 138 deliveries against Zimbabwe in 2015.
- ❖ It is only the ninth time a batter has hit a double ton in men's ODIs, with Kishan's the joint-fifth highest score.
- ❖ The 24-year-old is also the youngest man to achieve the feat.



### 65<sup>th</sup> National Shooting Championship Competitions



- ❖ Karnataka shooter Divya has secured her first women's 10m air pistol national title at the Competitions in Bhopal.
- ❖ Manu Bhaker has won the junior women's air pistol event.
- ❖ Rhythm Sangwan has won the gold medal in the Youth category.

### ICC player of month



- ❖ England's T20 World Cup-winning skipper Jos Buttler was awarded ICC Men's Player of the Month for the first time.
- ❖ Sidra Ameen of Pakistan has won the ICC Women's Player of the Month title for the second time in a row.

### Morocco in semifinal



- ❖ Morocco became the first African team to qualify for the semifinal of the FIFA World Cup.

- ❖ The Moroccan side outdid Cameroon (1990), Senegal (2002) and Ghana (2010) to enter the last four of the biggest footballing spectacles in the world.

## MISCELLANEOUS

### Restoration of Angkor Wat temple

- ❖ The Angkor Wat temple complex in Cambodia is being restored by India.
- ❖ Angkor Wat is a temple complex in Cambodia and one of the largest religious monuments in the world.
- ❖ It was originally constructed as a Hindu temple dedicated to the god Vishnu for the Khmer Empire.
- ❖ It was gradually transformed into a Buddhist temple towards the end of the 12th century.
- ❖ It was built by the Khmer King Suryavarman II in the early 12th century in Yaśodharapura.

