

**MAY 2023**

# **CURRENT AFFAIRS**

- TOPIC WISE CURRENT AFFAIRS
- 150 QUESTIONS FOR PRACTICE
- ANALYSIS OF IMPORTANT EVENTS



**The Eklavya IAS Academy**

**Our Branches - Ghatkopar (W), Chembur (E), Nerul (E), New Panvel**



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# PREFACE

This is our special edition of Current Affairs Magazine for various Central & State level Competitive Examinations, covering content from the month of May 2023.

**The Magazine is divided into three sections:**

## Section 1: Topic Wise Current Affairs in Short

The first section is dedicated to Topic Wise Current Affairs with a short description to provide information about all major happenings this month.

## Section 2: Practice Questions with Answers

The Second Section contains 150 Multiple Choice Questions based on daily current affairs.

## Section 3: Detailed Analysis of important Event

The Third Section covers some major happenings in this month along with analysis. The content has been covered from various online & offline sources including reputed newspapers like The Hindu, Indian Express etc. All the news topics have been explained keeping in mind their underlying issues. Every issue has been covered comprehensively. Some of the information provided may not be directly relevant for the examination. As the content is very wide, we have only covered a limited set of issues. You can utilize it smartly along with Daily Study of News Papers as well as other sources.



# INDEX

<b>1. Important Days</b>	<b>Page 04</b>
<b>2. Agreements</b>	<b>Page 09</b>
<b>3. Appointments</b>	<b>Page 13</b>
<b>4. Awards</b>	<b>Page 19</b>
<b>5. Banking</b>	<b>Page 24</b>
<b>6. Books and Author</b>	<b>Page 29</b>
<b>7. Defence</b>	<b>Page 32</b>
<b>8. Economy</b>	<b>Page 36</b>
<b>9. International</b>	<b>Page 42</b>
<b>10. Miscellaneous</b>	<b>Page 49</b>
<b>11. National</b>	<b>Page 55</b>
<b>12. Obituaries</b>	<b>Page 61</b>
<b>13. Ranks &amp; Reports</b>	<b>Page 64</b>
<b>14. Schemes &amp; Committee</b>	<b>Page 70</b>
<b>15. Science &amp; Technology</b>	<b>Page 74</b>
<b>16. Sports</b>	<b>Page 78</b>
<b>17. State</b>	<b>Page 85</b>
<b>18. Summits &amp; Conferences</b>	<b>Page 90</b>

## Section 1

Topic Wise Current Affairs

## Section 2

Question with Answers

- **QUESTIONS - Page 95**
- **ANSWERS - Page 109**

## Section 3

Detailed Analysis of Events

<b>1. Economics</b>	<b>Page 124</b>
<b>2. Environment &amp; Diversity</b>	<b>Page 134</b>
<b>3. Governance</b>	<b>Page 139</b>
<b>4. History</b>	<b>Page 143</b>
<b>5. International Relations</b>	<b>Page 146</b>
<b>6. Polity</b>	<b>Page 147</b>
<b>7. Science, Tech, Art &amp; Culture</b>	<b>Page 151</b>
<b>8. Security Issues</b>	<b>Page 160</b>
<b>9. Trivia</b>	<b>Page 162</b>

# SECTION 1

# Topic Wise Current Affairs in Short

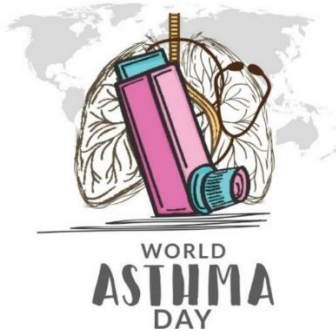


## 1: Important Days



### International Labour Day : 01 May :-

On May 1, the world celebrates International Workers' Day, also known as International Labour Day. Workers and labourers from all industries and sectors are celebrated on this day. The goal of the day is not simply to acknowledge employees' contributions, but also to educate them about their rights. The origins of Labour Day can be traced back to the nineteenth century in the United States of America. May 1 was chosen as the date to remember the countrywide strike for an eight-hour day in 1886, which began on May 1 and ended in the Haymarket affair in Chicago, United States.



### World Asthma Day (First Tuesday of May) : 02 May :-

Every year on the first Tuesday of May, World Asthma Day is observed. The Global Initiative for Asthma (GINA), a World Health Organisation collaborative organisation created in 1993, organises it. The day is observed to increase awareness about asthma and its management



### World Press Freedom Day : 3 May :-

On May 3, the world celebrates World Press Freedom Day to honour the fundamental values of press freedom and to safeguard the media from attacks on its independence. The day also honours journalists who have died in the line of duty. According to Reporters Without Borders' 2023 World Press Freedom Index, India ranks 161 out of 180 countries in terms of press freedom. This year's theme for the Day is "Shaping a Future of Rights: Freedom of expression as a driver for all other human rights".



### World Laughter Day (first Sunday of May) : 7 May:-

Every year on the first Sunday of May, World Laughter Day is observed to spread joy throughout the world. This year World Laughter Day will be observed on May 07. Every year on the first Sunday of May, more than 70 countries throughout the world commemorate World Laughter Day. The first World Laughter Day was observed on May 10, 1998, in Mumbai, India. Dr. Madan Kataria, the originator of the worldwide Laughter Yoga movement, organised the event. World Laughter Day is a positive manifestation of world peace that aims to raise global awareness of fraternity and friendship via laughter.



## World Athletics Day : 7 May :-

May 7 is designated as World Athletics Day each year to encourage sports participation around the world. The day, which was established in 1996, aims to raise sports awareness among youth. The International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) also promoted it as a social responsibility project titled 'Athletic for a Better World'. In 1996, IAAF president Primo Nebiolo established the day. IAAF was founded on July 17, 1912, in Sweden's Stockholm. The theme for this year is 'Athletics for All – A New Beginning.'



## World Red Cross Day : 08 May :-

On May 8, the world commemorates the birth anniversary of Henry Dunant, the founder of the Red Cross and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). He was born in Geneva on May 8, 1828, and was the laureate of the Nobel Peace Prize. The Red Cross society celebrates the day in all countries. The objective of the Red Cross Society is to inspire, encourage, and start humanitarian efforts at all times and in all forms in order to create a peaceful atmosphere. This year the theme of World Red Cross Day 2023 is "Everything we do comes from the heart".



## National Technology Day : 11 May :-

On May 11, India observes National Technology Day to recognise the country's scientific progress. India successfully tested nuclear bombs in Pokhran on May 11, 1998. 'Smiling Buddha' was the first nuclear test conducted at Pokhran in May 1974. The second test was Pokhran II, a sequence of five nuclear bomb explosion tests conducted by India in May 1998 at the Indian Army's Pokhran Test Range. The theme of the National Technology Day 2023 is 'School to Startups-Igniting Young Minds to Innovate.'



## International Nurses Day : 12 May :-

International Nurses Day is observed on May 12 to commemorate Florence Nightingale's birth anniversary and to recognise nurses for their tireless work and achievements. Nurses perform an important role in our medical facilities, such as providing safety and assisting patients in their recovery. This day has been observed by the International Council of Nurses (ICN) since 1965. Finally, in January 1974, the 12th of May was formally designated as 'International Nurses Day' because it was on this date that Florence Nightingale, the foundation of modern nursing, was born. The theme for International Nurses Day 2023 is - "Our nurses, our future."



## Mother's Day (Second Sunday of May) : 14 May :-

Mother's Day is celebrated annually in many nations as a day to honour mothers. Every year, the day is observed on the second Sunday in May. Mother's Day will be observed on Sunday, May 14 this year. The holiday is significant because it honours mothers and recognises the sacrifices they make for the children they raise. It pays tribute to moms, motherhood, maternal ties, and the social importance of mothers. Around the world, there are fantastic celebrations held in honour of this unique day.



## International Day of Families : 15 May :-

The International Day of Families is observed on May 15 every year. The primary objectives of the day are to develop understanding of all the other aspects that affect a family as a whole and to create awareness of the problems that families confront. Numerous events, such as workshops, seminars, policy discussions for public officials, exhibitions, etc., are organised at the local, national, and worldwide levels. The theme of International Day of Families 2023 is 'Demographic Trends and Families'.



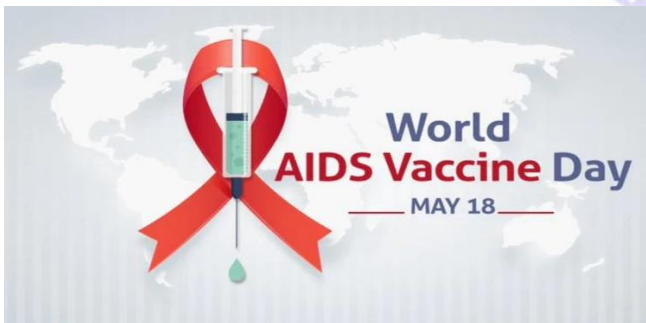
## World Telecommunication Day : 17 May :-

Every year, World Telecommunication Day is commemorated to increase public awareness of the advantages that the Internet and other information and communication technologies (ICT) can provide to economies and society, as well as attempts to close the digital divide. World Telecommunication Day commemorates the founding of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the signing of the first International Telegraph Convention in 1865. "Empowering the least developed countries through information and communication technologies" is the theme of this year's World Telecommunication and Information Society Day.



## World Hypertension Day : 17 May :-

Every year on May 17, World Hypertension Day is commemorated to raise awareness of hypertension and its impact on the human body. High levels of stress, obesity, poor dietary practises, and a sedentary lifestyle are some of the main causes of hypertension in young individuals. Long-term hypertension is also considered to increase the risk of developing a number of illnesses, such as chronic kidney disease, stroke, heart failure, etc. The World Hypertension League (WHL) observes World Hypertension Day on May 17 each year to raise awareness of the disease and its prevention, identification, and management. The theme for World Hypertension Day 2023 is "Measure Your Blood Pressure Accurately, Control It, Live Longer."



## World AIDS Vaccine Day : 18 May :-

World AIDS Vaccine Day, also known as HIV Vaccine Awareness Day (HVAD), is marked on May 18 and offers a chance to inform people about the significance of HIV vaccine research that is aimed at preventing the disease. The HIV pandemic can be stopped with the use of an efficient and secure preventive HIV vaccination. Additionally, it presents a chance to express gratitude to

everyone who assisted in the hunt for a safe and effective preventive HIV vaccine, including locals, volunteers, medical professionals, and researchers.



## International Museum Day : 18 May :-

The purpose of celebrating International Museum Day, which takes place on May 18, is to increase public awareness of museums as vital platforms for cultural exchange and the promotion of intercultural harmony, cooperation, and peace. May 18 was declared International Museum Day (IMD) in 1977 by the International Council of Museums (ICOM). On May 18, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will open a three-day international museum exhibition in New Delhi, the nation's capital. The International Council of Museums has chosen the theme for this year as "Museums, Sustainability & Well-being."

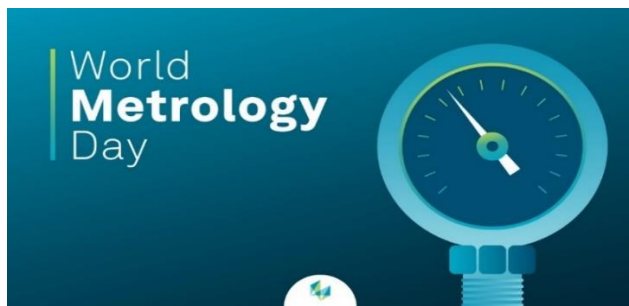


## National Endangered Species Day (Third Friday in May) : 19 May :-

National Endangered Species Day is commemorated every year on the third Friday in May, and this year it will



be observed on May 19. Animal welfare concerns were raised in the 1960s and 1970s. As a result, the Endangered Species Act was passed on December 28, 1973. The purpose of the act is to raise awareness about the importance of wildlife conservation and endangered species restoration. "Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Endangered Species Act!" is the theme of this year's National Endangered Species Day.



## World Metrology Day : 20 May :-

Every year on May 20, the World Metrology Day is commemorated to highlight the importance of accurate measurement units and the contributions of metrologists, organisations, and institutes to the scientific study of metrology. The annual occasion is celebrated in over 80 countries to highlight the importance and effect of measurement in our daily lives. Metrology is the scientific study of measuring, which is required to avoid drawing incorrect conclusions. Metrologists work to develop novel methodologies, devices, and procedures to improve the accuracy of high-speed measurements. The theme for World Metrology Day 2023 is 'Measurements supporting the global food system.'



## National Anti-Terrorism Day : 21 May :-

On May 21, India observes Anti-Terrorism Day. On this day in 1991, Rajiv Gandhi, India's seventh Prime Minister, was assassinated by an LTTE suicide bomber while campaigning for the Congress party in Sriperumbudur, Tamil Nadu. Following the assassination, the government declared May 21 to be Anti-Terrorism Day in order to promote public awareness about terrorism. Rajiv Gandhi became India's youngest Prime Minister when he was sworn in at the age of 40. Several government and social organisations arrange events on this day to promote people's solidarity and national pride.



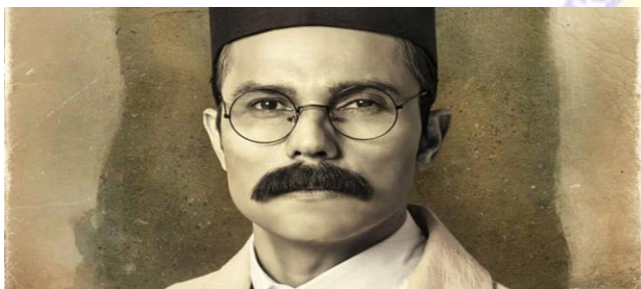
## International Day for Biological Diversity : 22 May :-

The term "biodiversity" refers to the diversity and variability of life on Earth. The ecological world's equilibrium is self-evidently essential for survival. The International Day for Biological Diversity is observed every year on May 22 to acknowledge the importance of biodiversity. In December 2000, the United Nations General Assembly declared May 22 to be International Day for Biological Diversity. The theme for International Day for Biological Diversity 2023 is "From Agreement to Action: Build Back Biodiversity."



## World Turtle Day : May 23 :-

Tortoises and turtles serve a vital function in the Earth's ecological design. These reptiles have been observed to survive and thrive in a wide variety of settings around the world. World Turtle Day is observed on May 23 to recognise the importance of these creatures on Earth. There would be no World Turtle Day if the American Tortoise Rescue (ATR) had not initiated it. This non-profit group was founded in 1990 and began commemorating World Turtle Day in 2001. This year's theme for World Turtle Day is 'I love Turtles.'



## Veer Savarkar's birth anniversary in 2023 :-

Veer Savarkar Jayanti is celebrated all over India to commemorate Vinayak Damodar "Veer" Savarkar. He is known as one of the Indian freedom fighters, Savarkar is

known for performing multiple activities for the development of the Hindu community across the country. Vinayak Damodar birthday celebrations are organized every year. He is a great Marathi legend who has advocated for the abolishment of the caste system and has requested the reconversion of those Hindus who accepted other religions.



## World No Tobacco Day : 31 May :-

World No Tobacco Day, also known as Anti-Tobacco Day, is observed yearly on May 31st. World No Tobacco Day is an annual event hosted by the World Health Organisation (WHO) to raise awareness of the dangers of tobacco use and to help people realise how second-hand smoke affects smokers, their families, and their communities. It is also critical to campaign for tobacco-reduction policies. Tobacco usage causes a variety of problems such as dental decay, cancer, cardiovascular disease, tooth discoloration, and so on. This year the theme for World No Tobacco Day is "We need food, not tobacco".

## 2: Agreements



## Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) To Open First Overseas Office In Abu Dhabi :-

The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) inked a host member agreement in Abu Dhabi to officially open the bank's first overseas office, an Interim Operational Hub (the Hub). AIIB's rapid growth is the impetus for constructing an

office that will allow the bank get closer to its clients and the front lines of its business. The Hub's closeness to global financial hubs and interaction with the international infrastructure ecosystem are critical to AIIB's growing momentum.



## Assam-Arunachal Pradesh Resolve Long-Standing Border Disputes With Landmark Pact :-

Assam and Arunachal Pradesh have struck an agreement to settle a decades-old border dispute involving 123 villages stretched over the 700-kilometer-long interstate border, taking a significant step towards achieving "long-lasting peace" in the northeast. In the presence of home minister Amit Shah, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu inked the border agreement. Sarma stated that Assam and Meghalaya will strive to resolve the remaining 40% disagreement in the next two to three months, and that talks with Mizoram are ongoing.



## India, UK Sign Agreement To Collaborate On Science And Innovation :-

To collaborate on science and innovation the United Kingdom and India has signed an agreement. The agreement was signed by Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology Jitendra Singh and UK Science Minister George Freeman following a meeting. According to George Freeman, the India-UK agreement is part of a programme to strengthen UK partnership with other "global superpowers" on innovation and research to assist address common global concerns.



## Cummins, Tata Motors Sign Deal To Produce Clean Tech Products In India :-

Cummins Inc., a global power leader, announced that it has signed a final agreement with Tata Motors Limited (TML) to produce a variety of low- to zero-emissions technology products in India over the next few years. The signing of this definitive agreement further strengthens their relationship and is a step forward from the MoU signed between the two organizations in November 2022 to collaborate on the design and development of low- and zero-emissions propulsion technology solutions for commercial vehicles in India.



## Arya.Ag Announces Partnership With Shivalik Small Finance Bank To Drive Farmers' Financial Inclusion :-

Arya.ag, a grain commerce platform, has established a strategic alliance with Shivalik Small Finance Bank, an Indian scheduled commercial bank. With this business correspondent model relationship, Arya.ag will advance its aim of driving financial inclusion for farmers and FPOs by offering warehouse receipt finance loans through Shivalik Small Finance Bank, according to a company statement. Arya.ag collaborates with numerous financial institutions to provide loans to small and marginal farmers, women included, who are underserved by traditional banking.



### Reliance General Becomes First Insurer To Accept CBDC In Tie-Up With YES Bank :-

Reliance General Insurance claimed to be the first general insurance provider in the nation to accept the RBI's Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) e-Rupee for payment of premiums. According to a statement, the company has partnered with Yes Bank to make it easier for premiums to be collected digitally via the bank's eRupee technology. e-Rupee is a digital token, equivalent to a banknote, and is legal tender or sovereign currency backed by the RBI. It removes all the issues of handling physical cash and offers the same anonymity as a banknote.

### Sri Lanka's Dialog Axiata And Bharti Airtel Sign Binding Term Sheet :-

The largest telecom company in Sri Lanka, Dialog Axiata, and Indian telecom giant Bharti Airtel have agreed to a binding term sheet for the merger of their Sri Lankan operations. Bharti Airtel will have access to a sizable subscriber base in the island country as a result of this transaction. Dialog Axiata, a Malaysian Axiata subsidiary, informed the Colombo Stock Exchange of the proposed merger. In the proposed deal, Airtel would receive a stake in Dialogue that would be equal to its fair market value in Airtel Lanka.



### Ministry of Railways signed an MoU with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for Project-SMART :-

In New Delhi, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) and Railways signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for 'Station Area Development along Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail' (Project-SMART). Project-SMART intends to develop the areas surrounding Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Railway (MAHSR) stations in order to improve commuter and other stakeholders' accessibility and convenience, as well as to boost economic activity in the station areas.





### MakeMyTrip Collaborates With Microsoft To Introduce Voice Assisted Booking In Indian Languages :-

MakeMyTrip announced a partnership with Microsoft to make trip planning more 'inclusive' and 'accessible' by delivering voice-assisted booking in Indian languages. The new in-platform tech stack, powered by Microsoft Azure OpenAI Service and Azure Cognitive Services, will converse with the user to provide personalised travel recommendations based on their preferences, curate holiday packages based on variable inputs such as occasion, budget, activity preferences, time of travel, and so on, and even assist in the booking of these holiday packages.



### Cashfree Payments Partners With YES Bank To Offer Global Collections Service For Exporters :-

Yes Bank has teamed with Cashfree Payments to provide an international payment collecting solution to its Indian account clients. The new programme, dubbed 'Global Collections,' will enable Indian exporters to receive payments in more than 30 foreign currencies. Within one business day after receiving the cash, they can be converted into rupees and deposited into their local bank account in India. According to Ajay Rajan, Country Head of Digital and Transaction Banking at Yes Bank, the

introduction of Global Collections will make it easier for Indian exporters to receive payments from all around the world.



### India, Canada Agree To Increase Discussions On Movement Of Skilled Professionals, Students :-

India and Canada have agreed to expand discussions on the movement of qualified professionals and students, as they contribute significantly to the two nations' economic connections. A joint statement was issued after the meeting between Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal and Canadian Minister of International Trade, export promotion, small business and economic development Mary Ng. Both the leaders emphasised on the importance of a comprehensive trade agreement.



### Government Signs Agreement With Six States To Start Digital Crop Survey :-

On the occasion, a manual for web portal and mobile application for digital crop survey was unveiled. The government signed an agreement with six states - Assam, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan and

Uttar Pradesh to begin the digital crop survey. The agreement was signed at a workshop organised by the Union agriculture ministry to discuss with state governments the implementation plan of the digital crop survey. Digital crop survey is part of the government's Agristack or India Digital Ecosystem for Agriculture (IDEA) that has been under development since 2020.



### Ministry Of Ayush And Ministry Of Health & Family Welfare Collaborate For “Integrative Health” Policy :-

In a landmark move, the Ministry of Ayush and the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) inked a Memorandum of Understanding to encourage and collaborate on integrative health research. This collaboration will concentrate on designated areas of national importance in healthcare in order to promote high impact research that will provide evidence using modern scientific methodologies. This Memorandum of

Understanding will also help to build research capability by training Ayush researchers.



## The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India

### Cabinet approves MoU between Institute of Chartered Accountants of India and The Chartered Accountants of the Maldives :-

The signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) and The Chartered Accountants of the Maldives (CA Maldives) has been authorised by the Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The ICAI and CA Maldives aim to foster collaborative efforts and cooperation in enhancing Accounting Knowledge, facilitating Professional and Intellectual Development, promoting the interests of their respective members, and having a positive impact on the advancement of the Accountancy Profession in both the Maldives and India.

## 3: Appointments



### HDFC Bank Appoints Kaizad Bharucha As Deputy Managing Director :-

For the next three years, HDFC Bank has chosen Kaizad Bharucha as deputy managing director and Bhavesh Zaveri as executive director. These appointments were made following approval from the Reserve Bank of India, according to a regulatory filing by HDFC Bank. It also authorised the appointment of Bhavesh Zaveri as the bank's executive director for a comparable period beginning April 19, 2023. It further stated that a meeting of the Board of Directors will be called in the near future to put the appointments into effect.



## Centre Appoints Arun Sinha As National Technical Research Organisation Chairman :-

The National Technical Research Organization's (NTRO) chairman has finally been named by the government after a long wait as Arun Sinha. For two years, Arun Sinha has served as an advisor for NTRO. He is a Kerala cadre class of 1984. The government is now likely to make selections for the heads of the border security force and the Indian Coast Guard too, as the position had been vacant for more than three to four months. The CRPF head Thaoson is currently in charge of the BSF.



## A Madhavarao Set To Be Next CMD Of Bharat Dynamics Ltd :-

A Madhavarao, who presently serves as the Director (Technical) of Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL), a Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) under the Ministry of Defence, has been proposed as the next Chairman and Managing Director (CMD). The recommendation was made by the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) panel after conducting interviews with five candidates, including two from Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL), and one each from BDL, Indian Navy, and Indian Air Force.



## Shantanu Roy To Become New CMD Of BEML Limited :-

BEML Limited, a Miniratna PSU under the Ministry of Defence, has recommended Shantanu Roy as the next Chairman and Managing Director (CMD). He was chosen for the role by the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) panel from a list of three candidates, all of whom were from BEML Limited. Roy is currently the Director (Mining & Construction Business) at the same organisation and has over 30 years of expertise in capital goods sectors for defence, mining & construction, transportation, transmission, renewable, and major power projects.



## Shreekant Bhandiwad Took Charge As Chairman Of KVGB :-

Shreekant M Bhandiwad has been appointed as the new chairman of Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank (KVGB). Outgoing chairman P Gopikrishna handed over the responsibilities to the new chairman. Shreekant M Bhandiwad has a master's degree in agriculture and is a registered associate of the Indian Institute of Bankers. Shreekant, a Dharwad native, brings 29 years of Canara

Bank expertise, having worked in various capacities across India (Haryana, Rajasthan, Bihar, and Karnataka).



## Microsoft India President Anant Maheshwari Appointed NASSCOM Chairperson :-

The National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM) has elected Microsoft India President Anant Maheshwari as its Chairperson for 2023-24, upgrading him from his previous position as vice-chairperson. He succeeds Krishnan Ramanujam, who leads Tata Consultancy Services' business and technology services. The National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM) has also named Rajesh Nambiar, Chairman and Managing Director of Cognizant India, as its Vice Chairperson for the coming year.



## Pankaj Singh Elected Unopposed As Cycling Federation President :-

Pankaj Singh, the son of Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and a BJP MLA from Noida, has been elected unopposed as Cycling Federation of India (CFI) president at the Annual General Body meeting in Nainital. Maninder Pal Singh was re-elected secretary general for the second consecutive time, and Sudeesh Kumar of

Kerala was elected treasurer. The Annual General Body meeting in Nainital was attended by 26 states and boards connected with the Cycling Federation of India (CFI).



## Hari Hara Mishra Takes Charge As CEO Of Association Of Asset Reconstruction Companies :-

Hari Hara Mishra has been appointed President of the Association of Asset Reconstruction Companies. The Association, which represents all Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARCs), has been in existence for over eight years. There are now 28 ARCs registered with the Reserve Bank of India. Mishra, who served as an officer with the State Bank of India from 1982 to 2004, Officer, has been associated with Asset Reconstruction Sector since those formative days (2004) till date, in various ARCs in executive and director level roles.



## Siddhartha Mohanty Appointed As Chairman Of LIC Until June 2024 :-

Siddhartha Mohanty will serve as the Life Insurance Corporation of India's (LIC) chairman till June 29, 2024, citing the government's appointment. He will then serve as the company's managing director and chief executive



officer until June 7, 2025, according to an announcement from LIC. Mohanty, the current Managing Director, has been serving as the interim Chairperson of the public sector life insurer since March 14. He replaced M R Kumar, who completed his term on March 13, 2023. Mohanty joined LIC in 1985 as an apprentice officer and has rich experience in the insurance sector.



## **Margherita Della Valle Named As CEO Of Vodafone**

:-

After Nick Read was fired from the struggling British telecommunications firm in December, there had been five months of uncertainty until Vodafone Group Plc named Italian Margherita Della Valle as its CEO. Since January 1, Della Valle, Vodafone's chief financial officer since 2018, has served as the organization's interim leader. She'll remain in her position as CFO until a replacement has been found externally. According to the firm, she impressed the board of directors with her "pace and decisiveness to begin the necessary transformation" of the mobile operator.



## **Vanessa Hudson Appointed As The New CEO Of Qantas Airways Ltd :-**

The leading airline in Australia, Qantas Airways Ltd (QAN.AX), has appointed finance chief Vanessa Hudson as its next CEO, making her the first woman to head the century-old company. Alan Joyce, a well-known personality in the international aviation business and one of the CEOs of a large Australian corporation who has served in his position for the longest (15 years), will be succeeded by Hudson in November. Hudson will be one of the few female executives leading a major company in Australia.



## **Polavarapu Mallikharjuna Prasad To Be Next Coal India Chief :-**

Polavarapu Mallikharjuna Prasad will be promoted to chairman and managing director of Coal India Limited after receiving approval from the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB). At the moment, Prasad is serving as chairman and managing director of Central Coalfields Ltd. (CCL), a Ranchi-based company. Prasad was one of seven applicants for the position who made the short list and were interviewed, according to the PESB. Executives from several businesses, including Eastern Coalfields Ltd (ECL), Central Mine Planning and Design Institute (CMPDIL), and NMDC, were also among the other contenders.



## Delhi HC Appoints Former Karnataka HC Judge As Basketball Federation Of India Administrator :-

P Krishna Bhat, a former judge on the Karnataka High Court, has been nominated by the Delhi High Court to serve as the Basketball Federation of India's (BFI) administrator with immediate effect in order to hold elections within the organisation. The administrator will continue to serve until a newly elected board assumes control of the BFI, according to Justice Purushendra Kumar Kaurav, who also instructed him to ensure that the election process is completed as soon as possible in accordance with the Sports Code. The court's decision was made in response to a number of petitions regarding the election of BFI's office holders and executive committee members for the period 2023–2027.

In a newly created position, Accenture said it named Ajay Vij as Country Managing Director and Sandeep Dutta as the head of its India Market Unit. Mr. Vij's present duties as the Corporate Services & Sustainability lead for India will be expanded as the country managing director, according to a statement from Accenture. He would be responsible for overall leadership and driving coordinated decision-making for important corporate initiatives. Previously serving as the company's India Sales Lead, Mr. Dutta would now be in charge of the country's operations and commercial development.



## Parminder Chopra Becomes First Woman To Become CMD Of India's Largest NBFC, PFC :-

The Public Enterprise Selection Board (PESB) has proposed Parminder Chopra as the next CMD of Power Finance Corporation (PFC), India's largest NBFC by networth (all reserves). Chopra will be the first woman to be named as the Maharatna company's Chairman and Managing Director (CMD). She has worked with the company since 2005 and has been the Director (Finance) and CFO since 2020, as well as a member of the board of directors, according to the power sector non-banking financial company (NBFC).



## Ajay Vij Appointed Accenture India Country Managing Director :-



## Karnataka DGP Praveen Sood Appointed Next CBI Director :-

According to a government order, Praveen Sood, the director general of police (DGP) of Karnataka, has been named the next chief of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). The 59-year-old has been selected to the role for a two-year term beginning on May 25, when outgoing CBI Director Subodh Kumar Jaiswal's tenure ends. A high-powered panel comprised of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud, and Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury met earlier to decide on Jaiswal's successor.



## Paytm Appoints Bhavesh Gupta As President And COO :-

Bhavesh Gupta has been named president and chief operating officer of One 97 Communications Ltd, the parent company of fintech business Paytm. Gupta was the company's CEO of lending and payments. Gupta formerly served as CEO of Clix Capital (formerly known as GE Capital) and as head of SME & business banking at IDFC Bank before joining Paytm in 2020. Gupta will be in charge of leading loans, insurance, payments (both online and offline), and consumer payments, as well as driving important objectives such as user growth, operations risk, fraud risk, and compliance.



## Manoj Soni Took Oath As UPSC Chairman :-

Manoj Soni, an eminent educationist, was recently sworn in as the chairman of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC). According to a statement issued by the Personnel Ministry, he was administered the oath of office and secrecy as chairman of the UPSC by Smita Nagaraj, the Commission's senior most member. The UPSC holds civil service examinations to select officers for the Indian Administrative Service (IAS), Indian Foreign Service (IFS), and Indian Police Service (IPS), among other positions. The Commission is led by a chairman and has a maximum of ten members.

## GoI Appointed Ravneet Kaur As CCI Chairperson :-

Ravneet Kaur has been named chairperson of the Competition Commission of India (CCI) by the government. Since Ashok Kumar Gupta's departure in October 2022, the CCI has been without a full-time chairperson for the past seven months. According to the decision dated May 15, Ravneet Kaur, a 1988 Punjab cadre IAS officer, shall be appointed for a period of five years from the date of taking charge or till the date of achieving the age of 65 years or until further orders, whichever is the earlier.



## **Karnataka Bank appoints Srikrishnan Hari Hara Sarma as MD and CEO :-**

Private sector lender Karnataka Bank on May 26 2023 appointed Srikrishnan Hari Hara Sarma as managing director and chief executive officer of the bank for a period of three years. With this appointment, there would be 11 directors on the board of the bank, it said. Of which, 8 are independent directors. At HDFC Bank, he was part of the founding management team, for over 9 years, and as the country head of transactional banking and operations, was involved in setting up the bank's corporate and retail banking, treasury, and capital markets infrastructure business.

## **KV Viswanathan, Prashant Mishra Took Oath As Supreme Court Judges :-**

A day after the Central government approved the nomination of the counsel, Justice Prashant Kumar

Mishra and senior advocate KV Viswanathan were sworn in as Supreme Court judges. The Supreme Court Collegium, led by Chief Justice of India (CJI) DY Chandrachud, recommended these names to the Centre. Justice Mishra served as the Chief Justice of the Andhra Pradesh High Court. Notably, Viswanathan would become Chief Justice of India upon the retirement of Justice JB Pardiwala on August 11, 2030, and will hold the position till May 25, 2031.



## **4: Awards**



## **Asha Bhosle Received Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar Puraskar :-**

The Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar award was given to legendary singer Asha Bhosle. The prize was established by the family and the trust in remembrance of Lata Mangeshkar, who died on February 6, 2022, as a result of multiple organ failure. Bhosle, Lata Mangeshkar's younger sister, earned the honour on April 24, the birthday of their father, theatre-music icon Deenanath Mangeshkar. Every year, the Lata Deenanath

Mangeshkar Puraskar is granted to an individual who has made a significant contribution to the nation, its people, and society.



## **Karnataka Bags National Award For Fasal Bima Yojana :-**

Karnataka has won the national award for the best Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) implementation in the fiscal year 2022-23. The PMFBY is a large-scale crop subsidy insurance scheme that was

aimed to safeguard the farmers, established in Karnataka in 2016. This scheme is being managed by the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers' Welfare, under the Ministry of Agriculture. In Karnataka, PMFBY is being implemented using its own portal, 'Samrakshane,' which was conceived and developed by the state under the National Informatics Centre (NIC).



### PM GatiShakti National Master Plan Wins Award For Excellence In Public Administration :-

Prime Minister Narendra Modi awarded an award for excellence in public administration-2022 to the PM Gati Shakti national master plan programme, which was launched in October 2021 for integrated and planned development of vital infrastructure projects to decrease logistics costs. The prime minister's awards for excellence in public administration were established to reward the remarkable and innovative work done for people's welfare by districts and organisations of the federal and state governments.



### Dalai Lama Gets 1959 Ramon Magsaysay Award In Person After 64 Years :-

The 1959 Ramon Magsaysay Award was presented personally to Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama at his residence by members of the award foundation after 64 years, according to his office. Susanna B Afan, head of the Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation, and Foundation Trustee Emily A Abrera met with the Dalai Lama, the Nobel Peace Prize recipient, to personally give the 1959 Ramon Magsaysay Award after 64 years. His elder brother Gyalo Thonden received the Magsaysay Award on his behalf in Manila, the Philippines in August 1959, according to the Tibetan spiritual leader's office.



### Breast Surgeon Dr Raghu Ram Honour With Telugu Association Of London Award :-

The Telugu Association of London has awarded leading surgeon Dr Raghu Ram Pillarisetti with a lifetime achievement award. Dr Raghuram is the founding director of AKIMS-Ushalakshmi Centre for Breast Diseases in Hyderabad. He is one of the youngest recipients of the award and the only person of Indian origin living outside of the UK to have been conferred the honour. The award was presented to him during the glittering Ugadi 2023 celebrations organised by the Telugu Association of London (TAL) in London.



## Tata Sons' Chairman Ratan Tata Awarded Australia's Highest Civilian Honour :-

Ratan Tata, Chairman Emeritus of Tata Sons, was awarded Australia's highest civilian honour, the Order of Australia, for his efforts to enhance India-Australia relations. The Order of Australia award comes just a month after the industrialist was named an Honorary Officer in the General Division of the Order of Australia (AO) for his efforts to strengthen Indo-Australia connections, particularly in commerce, investment, and philanthropy. According to Australia's High Commissioner to India, Barry O'Farrell, Ratan Tata has had a considerable impact on the island country.



## Shakira Receives Billboard's Inaugural Latin Woman Of The Year Award :-

Shakira, the famed Colombian singer, was honoured with the prestigious 'Latin Women of the Year' award at Billboard's inaugural Latin Women in Music event. Shakira has been dubbed the 'Queen of Latin Music' for her outstanding musical achievements spanning three decades. Shakira's award follows an amazing year in which she broke records with the largest Spanish-language debut of 2022 ("Monotona" with Ozuna). Her "Shakira: BZRP Music Sessions #53" debuted at No. 9 on Billboard's Hot 100 chart in January 2023.



## Alessandra Korap From Amazon Wins Goldman Environment Prize :-

Alessandra Korap, Munduruku leader, has received the prestigious Goldman Environmental Prize for her work battling illegal mining and large-scale projects aimed at facilitating soybean exports in the Tapajos River Basin. During the 1980s, Alessandra Korap, a member of the Munduruku community in the Amazon rainforest, observed the encroachment of roads, farms, and cities into her village. Settlers, loggers, and miners posed a threat to the 14,000 Munduruku people who lived near the Tapajos River. Korap, along with other women, organised rallies against these strangers.



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## Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. receives Global Gold Award :-

The Green Organisation has awarded the Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. (PGCIL), a Maharatna CPSU of the Indian Ministry of Power, the Global Gold Award. At the Green World Awards 2023 ceremony in Miami, Florida, USA, the award was presented. Dr. V. K. Singh, Director (Personnel), POWERGRID received the award on behalf of the organization. The award is a recognition of POWERGRID's CSR work for improving Agriculture Productivity and Rural Livelihood through watershed management, community participation and better crop management practices.



## Cochin Port Has Bagged The Sagar Shreshtha Sammaan Award 2023 :-

Cochin Port has received the Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways' Sagar Shreshtha Award for best performance among all Indian Major Ports for best turnaround time in the non-container port category during the fiscal year 2022-23. Sarbananda Sonowal, Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways, presented the award to M. Beena, Chairperson of the Cochin Port Authority, during a ceremony in New Delhi. The award recognises Cochin Port's outstanding performance in managing dry bulk and liquid bulk cargo vessels.



## South Asian Film Festival Of Montreal Honors 'Gauri' With 'Best Long Documentary Award' :-

"Gauri," a documentary directed by Kavitha Lankesh on journalist and activist Gauri Lankesh, has won the "Best Long Documentary Award" at the South Asian Film Festival of Montreal 2023. The prize citation reads according to a release: "A brave and uncompromising pulse-taking of the current crisis in Indian politics, focusing on the 2017 political assassination of trailblazing Bengaluru journalist Gauri Lankesh. A "J'accuse" docu-thriller directed and narrated with verve by Gauri's sister, Kavitha Lankesh".



## Dag Hammarskjöld Medal honour to three Indian peacekeepers :-

Three Indian peacekeepers who lost their lives serving under the UN flag last year, among 103 military, police, and civilian peacekeepers honoured posthumously with a prestigious medal for their service and supreme sacrifice in the line of duty. Border Security Force personnel Head Constables Shishupal Singh and Sanwala Ram Vishnoi, who both served with the Organisation Stabilisation Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) and Shaber Taher Ali, who served in a civilian capacity with the UN Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI), was honoured with the award,



## Damodar Mauzo, a Goan writer, has received the 57th Jnanpith Award. :-

Damodar Mauzo, a Goan short story writer, novelist, critic, and scriptwriter in Konkani, has been awarded the 57th Jnanpith Award, India's highest literary honor. Mauzo is the second Goan to receive the award, after Ravindra Kelekar in 2008. Mauzo's 25 books have been published in Konkani and one in English. Many of his books have also been translated in different languages. Mauzo's famous novel 'Karmelin' received the Sahitya Akademi Award in 1983. Renowned poet Gulzar was present during the function held at the Raj Bhavan near Goa capital Panaji.



## Cannes Film Festival 2023 awardee's list :-

The 2023 Cannes Film Festival has come to a close, with the 76th annual celebration of cinema awarding the coveted Palme d'Or to Justine Triet's crime drama Anatomy of a Fall. French director Justine Triet became the third female director to win the Cannes Film Festival's Palme d'Or for her film Anatomy of a Fall, beating out 20 other films in competition for the top prize at Cannes Film Festival 2023. Justine Triet, who had previously been nominated for Sibyl in 2019, won the prize over veteran directors like Hirokazu Kore-eda, Ken Loach and Wim Wenders, all of whom have at least one Palme d'Or under their belts.





Tata Group Chairman N. Chandrasekaran has been given France's highest civilian award Chevalier de la Legion d'honneur for his achievements to strengthening India-France trade relations. On behalf of the French President, French Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs Catherine Colonna presented the prize to Mr. Chandrasekaran. Earlier this year, Tata Group-owned Air India had inked a multi-billion dollar deal with Airbus to buy 250 aircraft from Airbus, which included 210 A320 neo planes and 40 A350 aircrafts.

**Tata Sons Chairman N Chandrasekaran Conferred With France's Highest Civilian Award :-**

## 5: Banking



**RBI Allows AU Small Finance Bank To Deal With Foreign Exchange :-**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has granted AU Small Finance Bank Limited (SFB) permission to act as an authorised dealer in foreign exchange, said AU Small Finance Bank. According to a regulatory filing by AU Small Finance Bank, the Reserve Bank has granted Licence to function as Authorized Dealer Category-I (AD-I) under Section 10 of FEMA, 1999 to deal in foreign exchange. The central bank also granted Equitas Small Finance Bank an Authorized Dealer Category-I (AD-I) Licence.



**Canara Bank Has Partnered With Reserve Bank Of India Innovation Hub :-**

Canara Bank has announced the launch of "Digitalised Submission of Form 15G/15H" in partnership with the Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH). Form 15G (Individual and HUF) and Form 15H (Individual-Senior Citizen) are self-declaration forms that a person submits to the bank to request that TDS on interest income not be deducted because their income is less than the basic exemption limit. It is necessary to provide PAN for this. Several citizens, particularly senior citizens, make their 15G & 15H submissions to their banks at the start of each fiscal year, particularly in the first few weeks of April.



## RBI Imposes Rs 44 Lakh Penalty On 4 Co-Op Banks :-

The Reserve Bank has fined four cooperative banks a total of Rs 44 lakh. A Rs 16 lakh penalty on Chennai-based The Tamil Nadu State Apex Co-operative Bank, Rs 13 lakh on Bombay Mercantile Co-operative Bank, Rs 13 lakh on Janata Sahakari Bank, Pune and Rs 2 lakh has been imposed on Baran Nagrik Sahkari Bank, Baran, Rajasthan. The Tamil Nadu State Apex Co-operative Bank has been fined for failing to transmit appropriate sums to the Depositor Education and Awareness Fund within the time frame specified.



## SBI's Fourth Startup Branch Opens In Mumbai :-

State Bank of India has inaugurated its fourth startup branch in Mumbai, bringing together all of the banking services required for startups under one roof. SBI Chairman Dinesh Khara officially opened the branch in

Mumbai's Bandra Kurla Complex. The startup branch has already signed memorandums of understanding (MoUs) with the Society for Innovation & Entrepreneurship (SINE) at IIT-Bombay, the Centre for Incubation and Business Acceleration (CIBA), and the S.P Jain Institute of Management & Research (SPJIMR). To promote the growth and transformation of startups in India, the branch would give prompt services to all of them.



## Airtel Payments Bank Introduces Face Authentication For Aadhaar-Enabled Payment System (AePS) :-

In partnership with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), Airtel Payments Bank, the fintech division of Bharti Airtel, said that it has implemented face authentication for Aadhaar-enabled Payment System (AePS) at 500,000 banking locations. According to the statement, Airtel Payments Bank is one of the four banks that provides face authentication for AePS. According to a press release from the Airtel Payments Bank, the new service would allow clients to confirm transactions using facial verification in addition to their Aadhaar number.



## GetVantage Secures NBFC Licence From RBI :-

GetVantage claimed to have obtained a non-banking financial company (NBFC) licence from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), and its NBFC subsidiary GetGrowth Capital will oversee the lending activities. GetVantage, which is backed by investors including Chiratae Ventures, Varanium, InCred, DMI, and Japanese investors like Sony and DI, will capitalise the NBFC with ₹50 crore and aims to raise Rs 200 crore in total to scale up its lending operations. "The NBFC licence reinforces our commitment to providing innovative and accessible financing solutions to the emerging SME sector in India," said Bhavik Vasa, founder & CEO of GetVantage.



## Visa Launches CVV-Free Payments For Tokenised Cards In India :-

Visa, a firm that provides card payments, has introduced a feature that, if the card has been tokenized, enables customers to conduct online transactions without having to enter the cardholder verification value (CVV). The CVV-free function, which was introduced in India, aims to simplify online transactions. The merchants who adopt this will not have to ask customers for their CVV every time they do a domestic transaction. They will be verifying this three-digit number on the back of the card only once, at the time of tokenising the card.



## HDFC Bank Launched Programme 'Vishesh' To Onboard 1 Lakh Customers :-

HDFC Bank has launched its retail banking programme 'Vishesh' for people in semi-urban and rural areas, with the goal of onboarding about 1 lakh new customers. As part of this, the bank intends to open more branches and offer tailored goods and financial solutions to this target niche. In FY24, HDFC Bank plans to build 675 branches in semi-urban and rural areas, bringing the total number to about 5,000. As of March 31, 52% of the bank's 7,821 branches were in rural or semi-urban areas.



## RBI Imposes Rs 1.73 Crore Penalty On HSBC Bank :-

The Reserve Bank of India announced a penalty of Rs 1.73 crore on HSBC for noncompliance with standards. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) stated in a statement that this action is based on regulatory compliance inadequacies and is not intended to pronounce on the legitimacy of any transaction or arrangement entered into by the bank with its customers. The RBI conducted the bank's Statutory Inspection for Supervisory Evaluation (ISE) with reference to its financial situation as of March 31, 2021, and it revealed the examination of the risk assessment report and other relevant correspondences pertaining to the same.



## Export Lender Exim Bank Plans To Raise Record \$4 Billion In FY24 For Trade Finance And Term Loans :-

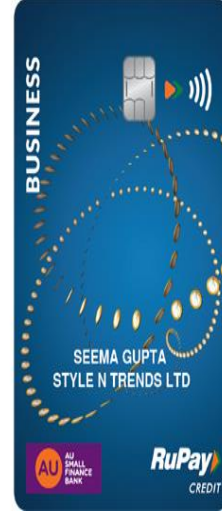
Export Import Bank of India (Exim Bank) intends to raise a record \$4 billion in fiscal year 2023-24 (FY24) for trade financing and term loans. The export credit agency's managing director, Harsha Bangari, stated that the financing will be dependent on market conditions. Exim, which raised \$3.47 billion in FY23, has a diverse investor base and would consider many currencies. Exim Bank raised \$1 billion in January 2023 through a sustainability bond under its environment, social governance (ESG) framework.



## RBI Launches 100 Days Campaign To Settle Unclaimed Deposits :-

Banks will be ordered to trace and settle the top 100 unclaimed deposits of every bank in every district of the country within 100 days as part of the RBI's '100 Days 100 Pays' campaign. The RBI will use this to supplement its existing efforts and measures to reduce the amount of unclaimed deposits in the banking system and return such deposits to their rightful owners/claimants. After identifying such dormant accounts, banks will send them

to the RBI's "Depositor Education and Awareness" (DEA) Fund. As of February 2023, the RBI had received over Rs 35,000 crore in unclaimed deposits.



## AU Small Finance Bank Introduces RuPay Credit Card For Self-Employed Customers :-

The AU Small Finance Bank has collaborated with RuPay to launch the Business Cashback RuPay credit card, an innovative solution designed to suit the financial needs of self-employed customers. This current offering is intended to provide a variety of benefits to small enterprises. With perks such as up to 2% cashback, 48 days interest-free credit, and quick loans, AU Small Finance Bank's Business Cashback RuPay Credit Card simplifies financial operations for businesses. It also provides fire, burglary, and housebreaking insurance, making it a one-stop shop for enterprises.



## RBI Expects Banks To Completely Stop Using LIBOR By July :-

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued an advisory to banks and other RBI-regulated organisations, requesting that they take the necessary preparations to guarantee a complete transition away from the London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) on July 1. Banks and financial institutions (FIs) have been urged not to rely on or price new transactions based on the US dollar LIBOR or the Mumbai Interbank Forward Outright Rate (MIFOR). According to the directive, Financial Benchmarks India Pvt. Ltd. (FBIL) will stop publishing MIFOR after June 30.



## RBI imposes ₹84.50 lakh penalty on Central Bank of India for non-compliance :-

The RBI on 26 May 2023 imposed a penalty of ₹84.50 lakh on Central Bank of India (the bank) for non-compliance with certain provisions of norms related to frauds classification and reporting. As per RBI, the penalty is based on the deficiencies in regulatory compliance and is not intended to pronounce upon the validity of any transaction or agreement entered into by the bank with its customers. The Reserve Bank had conducted statutory inspection for supervisory evaluation of the bank with reference to its financial position as on March 31, 2021.



## Bank Of Baroda Launches Electronic Bank Guarantee On Its Digital Platform :-

In collaboration with National E-Governance Services Limited (NeSL), the state-owned Bank of Baroda has just announced the implementation of electronic bank guarantees (e-BG) on its BarodaINSTA platform. The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) regulates NeSL under the terms of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (IBC), as India's first and only Information Utility. Bank of Baroda announced that with this introduction, it has joined a limited club of banks that provide electronic bank guarantees.



## PhonePe becomes First App to Link 2 Lakh Rupay Credit Cards to UPI:-

PhonePe, a Digital payment service provider announced that it has become the first digital payments app to enable the linkage of 2 lakh Rupay credit cards to the Unified Payments Interface (UPI). It has also processed a Total Payment Value (TPV) of Rs 150 crore through Rupay Credit on UPI. Linking the credit card to UPI simplifies the

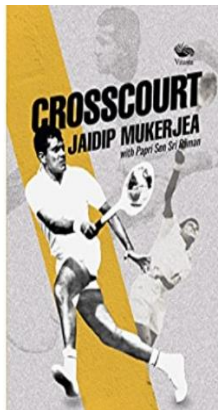
utilization of credit for customers by leveraging the flexibility and widespread acceptance of UP



## Paytm Launches Paytm SBI Card On RuPay Network With NPCI :-

Paytm, which is owned by One97 Communications Limited (OCL), has teamed with NPCI and SBI Card to launch Paytm SBI Card on the RuPay network, according to a stock exchange filing. Customers who sign up can receive benefits of up to Rs 75,000 in the form of a complimentary Paytm First Membership, which includes OTT platform membership and flight ticket discounts via the Paytm app. Cardholders receive cashback of 3% on Paytm SBI Card on booking movie and travel tickets on the Paytm app, 2% cashback on all other purchases on Paytm App.

## 6: Books and Author



### Tennis legend Jaidip Mukerjea launches his autobiography "Crosscourt" :-

Jaidip Mukerjea, a well-known tennis player, released his book "Crosscourt" in the presence of major Indian tennis players such as Ramesh Krishnan and Somdev Devvarman. The book follows Mukerjea's journey and gives readers an inside look at his life as a successful tennis player. Sharmin Mukerjea, Mukerjea's wife, was instrumental in encouraging and aiding him in writing the book. The book, she claims, is a collection of memories that will engage readers beyond the sport of tennis.



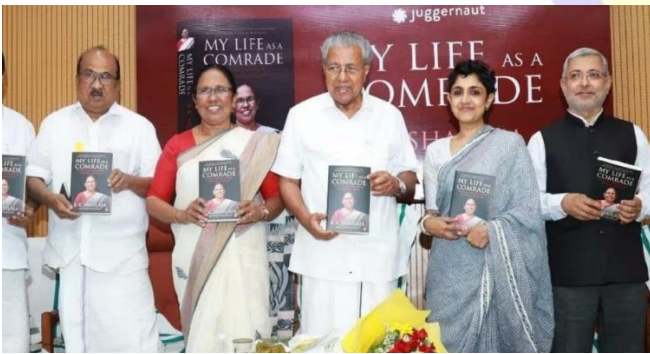
### Satinder Kumar Lambah's book 'In Pursuit of Peace' launched in New Delhi :-

The late Satinder Kumar Lambah's biography 'In Pursuit of Peace: India-Pakistan Relations Under Six Prime Ministers' was recently launched at The Lalit in New Delhi by his wife, Nina Lambah. Satinder Kumar Lambah served as Deputy Chief of Mission and High Commissioner in Pakistan twice; as Chairman of the National Security Advisory Board; as Special Representative for Afghanistan under Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, and later as Special Envoy for backchannel talks with Pakistan under Prime Minister Manmohan Singh for a decade.



## PM Modi launches 'Saurashtra-Tamil Sangamprashastih' book :-

During the concluding ceremony of the 'Saurashtra Tamil Sangamam', Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the book 'Saurashtra-Tamil Sangamprashastih' by Shree Somnath Sanskrit University. Prime Minister Modi spoke during the closing ceremony via video conference. According to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), the programme arose from PM Modi's aim of spreading the spirit of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat through initiatives that bring forth and help rediscover the country's age-old links amongst people from all sections of the country.



## Former Kerala Health Minister K.K. Shailaja Launches Her Memoirs :-

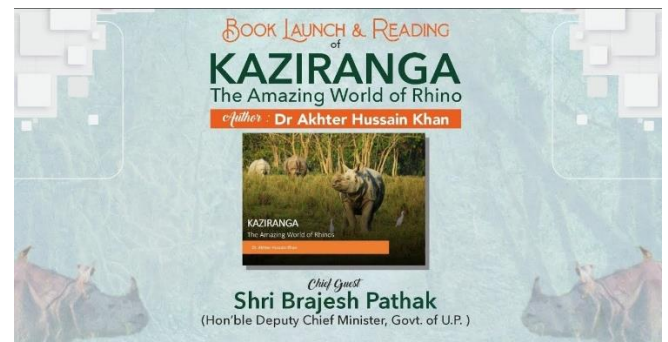
K. K. Shailaja, a former health minister for Kerala, launched her memoirs, "My Life As A Comrade," in Delhi. At the book launch, Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan praised Ms. Shailaja's work as a political activist and during the COVID-19 pandemic and her work as a political activist. According to Mr. Vijayan, the book contains in-depth information about the struggles faced

by women from generations before her fought. According to Mr. Vijayan, a politician's memoirs cover not only their own journey but also the development of society and the political history of the nation.



## Late author Ajay Khullar's book 'Ekarat: Stories He Left Behind' launched in Delhi :-

Brigadier DK Khullar (Ajay's father), his brother Sikandar, friends Aprurva Chamaria and Col HP Singh, along with politician Omar Abdullah and actor Nasir Abdullah, inaugurated the late author Ajay Khullar's book 'Ekarat: Stories He Left Behind' in New Delhi. The book was released on Ajay Khullar's birthday; the author committed suicide in February 2021. Ajay Khullar was the Editor of Discovery India magazine, and he published two collections of stories, 'The Nothing Man' and 'Book of Love' during his lifetime.



## 'Kaziranga-The Amazing World of Rhinos' Book Launched :-

The author's experiences and learnings from his 31 years of service in Assam have been turned into 'Kaziranga-The Amazing World of Rhinos,' a book for all ages that was launched at the Raj Bhawan in Lucknow. Deputy chief minister Brijesh Pathak was also present at the launch event, along with author Akhtar Hussain Khan, an India Forest Service official (retired). Khan, who was born and raised in Dibrugarh (Assam), constantly followed changes in the Kaziranga National Park (KNP) during his 31-year posting in Assam.



## Amitav Ghosh's New Non-Fiction Book 'Smoke And Ashes' To Release In July 2023 :-

Amitav Ghosh's book "Smoke and Ashes: A Writer's Journey Through Opium's Hidden Histories" will be published on July 15th by HarperCollins' Fourth Estate. The book is a biography, a journey, and a research study of the economic and cultural history of opium. Ghosh notes that the book is based on extensive research he undertook between 2005 and 2015 while writing his trilogy of novels. Overall, "Smoke and Ashes" delves into the often neglected and hidden facets of opium's impact on history and society.



## Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman Launched A New Book 'Reflections' :-

The book "Reflections," written by renowned banker Shri Narayanan Vaghul, was unveiled by Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman in Mumbai. Shri Vaghul's experiences over many years in India's financial industry are vividly described in the book. Shri Narayanan Vaghul was praised by Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman for his depth of banking knowledge and leadership abilities. She emphasised Shri Vaghul's viewpoints on women's empowerment, which are still relevant and important for India as more women hold executive positions in the financial services industry.



## A Book Titled "Droupadi Murmu: From Tribal Hinterlands To Raisina Hills" By Kasturi Ray :-

"Droupadi Murmu: From Tribal Hinterlands to Raisina Hills" is an uplifting narrative about a tribal girl who overcome adversity to become a symbol of tenacity, determination, and endurance. Murmu achieved several milestones by adopting an uncommon road, beginning with leaving her small hamlet in the Odisha region of Mayurbhanj and ending with becoming India's first



citizen. Kasturi Ray is the book's author. Kasturi Ray, a journalist, follows Murmu's life through interviews and careful analysis, following her from school to college, from teacher to social worker, councillor to minister, governor of Jharkhand to president.



### Hindi version of Uttarakhand DGP's book 'Cyber Encounters' released :-

The Hindi translation of "Cyber Encounters," a much-anticipated book about the challenges of cybercrime, was recently released. The book was co-written by Ashok Kumar, the Director General of Police in Uttarakhand, and O.P. Manocha, a former DRDO Scientist, and was released in a lavish ceremony at Dehradun's St. Joseph's Academy Auditorium. The book's author, Ashok Kumar, noted during the occasion that the rapid expansion of technology has brought life nearly exclusively online, a tendency hastened by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Cybercriminals provide a huge difficulty because they can operate thousands of kilometres away and without leaving a digital trail, he added..



### 'Supreme Court On Commercial Arbitration' Book By Dr. Manoj Kumar Released :-

The book named 'Supreme Court on Commercial Arbitration', written by Dr. Manoj Kumar and foreworded by Shri.R.Venkataramani, is a compilation of three volumes containing judgements running from 1988 to 2022 and covering the Arbitration Act 1940 and 1996. To gain a better understanding of how the law has evolved, it was necessary to compile all of the Apex Court's key Commercial Arbitration Judgements in a single place. This work, in the form of a three-volume compendium of judgements covering the Arbitration Act of 1940 and the Arbitration and Conciliation Act of 1996, tries to achieve the aforementioned goal.

## 7: Defence



### Deepika Misra becomes 1st Indian Air Force woman officer to get Gallantry Award :-

Wing Commander Deepika Misra became the Indian Air Force's first female officer to receive a gallantry award. Wing Commander Misra, a helicopter pilot from Rajasthan, was awarded the Vayu Sena Medal (Gallantry) for her "exceptional courage" during a flood rescue mission in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. Deepika Misra was awarded the Vayu Sena Medal by IAF Chief Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari. She assisted in the rescue of 47 people during last year's floods in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan.



## Indian Army And Tezpur University Sign MoU On Chinese Language Training For Army Personnel :-

The Indian Army and Tezpur University inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to train Indian Army personnel in the Chinese language. Lt Col Mahendra Rawat, Defence PRO of Guwahati said that the course will be for a duration of 16 weeks and will be conducted at Tezpur University. Tezpur University established in 1994 by an act of parliament as a central university is one the pioneers in the North East in the teaching of foreign languages including Chinese with highly qualified faculty.



## Air Marshal Sandeep Singh appointed Military Advisor to National Security Council:-

Air Marshal Sandeep Singh, a former Air Force vice chief and ace fighter pilot, has been named the next Military Advisor to the National Security Council. He takes over for General Anil Chauhan, who was named Chief of Defence Staff in October of last year. Singh, an alumni of the National Defence Academy and the National Defence College, retired from the IAF on January 31 after a long

career and is noted for his active role in the IAF's modernization. On December 22, 1983, he was commissioned into the IAF as a fighter pilot.



## Solar Industries to supply UAV 'Nagastra' to Indian Army :-

In order to supply the Indian Army with the unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) "Nagastra," Solar Industries Nagpur claimed triumph against rivals from Israel and Poland. According to a Solar Industries official, the first indigenous loiter munition (LM), Nagastra-1, has been designed and developed by Economics Explosives Ltd (EEL), a 100% subsidiary of Solar Industries Nagpur, in collaboration with Z-Motion, Bangalore, in response to the government's initiative to bring Atmanirbharta in ammunition and defence systems.



## "AJEYA WARRIOR – 2023" An Indo-UK Joint Military Exercise :-

The seventh edition of 'Ajeya Warrior 2023', a joint military exercise between India and the United Kingdom, which began on 27 April at the UK's Salisbury Plains is currently underway. The biennial training event will last through May 11th. The exercises are held alternately in the United Kingdom and India, with the most recent

iteration taking place in Chaubatia, Uttarakhand, in October 2021. The military drill includes soldiers from the UK's 2 Royal Gorkha Rifles and Indian Army troops from the Bihar Regiment.



## DRDO, Indian Navy conduct successful trial of indigenous air droppable container :-

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Indian Navy successfully tested an air droppable container with a payload capacity of 150 kg. According to the defence ministry, the container was dropped from an IL 38SD aircraft. Three DRDO laboratories - Naval Science and Technological Laboratory (NSTL), Visakhapatnam; Aerial Delivery Research & Development Establishment (ADRDE), Agra and Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE), Bengaluru have been involved in the development of the container.



## India Ranks Fourth In Global Military Expenditure: SIPRI Report :-

According to a survey by the Swedish think tank Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), India was the world's fourth largest military spender in 2022, with defence spending increasing by roughly 6% during 2021. According to the military expenditure report, over 23% of India's total spending went towards funding equipment and infrastructure, particularly that along the China border, where tensions remain. However, salaries and pensions accounted for a sizable portion of the budget.



## India's First female Rafale pilot, Shivangi Singh part of exercise in France :-

Shivangi Singh, the Indian Air Force's first female fighter pilot, was part of the IAF squad that participated in the global Exercise Orion in France. She is the first female fighter pilot in the Rafale squadron, and she made history by piloting the multi-role air supremacy aircraft. In 2020, she was chosen as a Rafale pilot after a rigorous selection process. Shivangi Singh was commissioned into the Indian Air Force's second class of female fighter pilots in 2017. Shivangi formerly piloted the MiG-21 Bison in addition to the Rafale.



## Rajnath Singh Initiates Construction Of Coast Guard Establishment In Maldives :-

At a time when China is attempting to increase its presence in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) by sending more warships on deployments and undertaking projects in the region, Defence minister Rajnath Singh and his Maldivian counterpart Mariya Didi recently laid the foundation of a harbour for the coast guard at Sifavaru to increase its maritime security capabilities. India and the Maldives signed a pact for the development of the coast guard facility in 2021 when New Delhi also extended a \$50 million line of credit to the Maldives for defence projects.



## INS Magar – Indian Navy's Landing Ship Decommissioned After 36 Years Of Service :-

INS Magar, the Indian Navy's oldest landing ship, was recently decommissioned after 36 years of distinguished service to the country. The ship, commanded by Cdr Hemant V Salunkhe, was decommissioned at the Naval Base in Kochi during a sunset ceremony. The Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Southern Naval Command (SNC), Vice Admiral, M A Hampiholi, who had helmed the ship from 2005-06, was the Chief Guest for the ceremony, Navy said. During the occasion, the ship's timeline and a special postage cover were also unveiled.



## Buland Bharat: Armed Forces Test Integrated Surveillance And Firepower Capabilities :-

In the recently operationalized longest high-altitude artillery ranges of the eastern theatre, an integrated surveillance and firepower training exercise called "Buland Bharat" was undertaken. The exercise comprised the coordinated application of the artillery's and infantry's firepower and observation capabilities in close cooperation with the special forces, the aviation, and the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) stationed in Arunachal Pradesh's West Kameng and Tawang districts. The ability to communicate uninterruptedly through various mediums over great distances was also evaluated.



## Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit Takes Over As Deputy Chief Of Air Staff :-

According to the Minister of Defence, Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit has assumed the role of Deputy Chief of the Air Staff. Ashutosh Dixit, a National Defence Academy alumnus, was commissioned in the fighter stream on December 6, 1986. "He is a graduate of the Staff Course, Bangladesh and National Defence College, New Delhi," according to the ministry. Mr Dixit is a

certified flight instructor and experimental test pilot with over 3,300 hours of flight time in fighter, training, and transport aircraft.



## India And Indonesia Bilateral Naval Exercise Samudra Shakti-23 :-

On May 23, the fourth edition of the Indo-Indonesia bilateral exercise Samudra Shakti-23 concluded. The ASW corvette INS Kavaratti, together with an integrated Chetak helicopter and a Dornier Maritime Patrol Aircraft, took part in the sea phase, which took place from May 17 to 19, 2023. The successful completion of Exercise Samudra Shakti-23 demonstrated India and Indonesia's strong alliance and underlined both fleets' commitment to maintain peace and stability in the area via cooperative engagements.



## Indian Army's Gajraj Corps Conducts Joint Flood Relief Exercise 'Jal Rahat' In Assam :-

The Indian Army's Gajraj Corps held a collaborative Flood Relief 'Exercise Jal Rahat' at Hagrama Bridge on the Manas River in Assam to validate collaborative drills and coordinate readiness by multi-agency flood relief columns. Aside from the Indian Army-SSB, members from the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), and police were there as well. The programme includes coordination and preparations for a rescue mission of people from submerged areas by specialist teams from the Army, NDRF, and SDRF working together.

## 8: Economy



## Sebi Introduces ASBA-Like Facility For Secondary Market Trading In India :-

The board of market regulator Sebi approved an ASBA-like facility for trading in the secondary market for investors. Under the proposed framework, stock brokers will be able to directly settle brokerage payments with UPI clients, or they can use CC's capacity to have the standard rate of brokerage taken from the clients' UPI block. The ASBA-like feature, according to SEBI, will be optional for both investors and stock brokers. According to SEBI, the framework would be implemented in stages to ensure a smooth transition in the market.



## RBI Harmonises Provisioning Norms For Urban Cooperative Banks :-

The Reserve Bank has harmonised the provisioning guidelines for standard assets that apply to all types of urban cooperative banks (UCBs). For regulatory purposes, the RBI classified UCBs into four tiers in December last year: tier 1, 2, 3, and 4. Previously, such banks were only classified as tier 1 or tier 2. "On a review, it has been decided to harmonise the provisioning norms for standard assets applicable to all categories of UCBs, irrespective of their tier in the revised framework," the central bank said in a circular.



## NPCI Bharat BillPay Launches NOCS Platform To Process ONDC Transactions :-

The NOCS platform has been launched by NPCI Bharat BillPay Ltd (NBBL) to provide reconciliation and settlement services for transactions conducted on the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) network. The services, which will be supplied under RBI supervision, will serve as the foundation for the ONDC

network, allowing for the easy, secure, and timely transmission of payments to network participants. The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) established NBBL as a wholly-owned subsidiary in April 2021.



## Indian Economy Would Expand Near By 6% This Fiscal Year, IMF Forecasts :-

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) projected that India would be the world's fastest-growing economy in its flagship World Economic Outlook report, despite significant challenges such as financial sector turmoil, inflationary pressures, the effects of the Russia-Ukraine war, and the ongoing impact of the Covid-19 pandemic over the past three years. According to the IMF's latest World Economic Outlook report, the Indian economy would grow by 5.9 percent in the current fiscal year, making it the world's fastest-growing economy.



## ITC Overtakes Infosys To Become India's Sixth Most Valuable Company :-

The market capitalization of FMCG behemoth ITC has now surpassed that of Infosys, making it India's sixth most valuable firm on the stock exchanges. ITC accomplished this after its share increased by 59% in the previous year. ITC shares have increased by 24% thus far in 2023, outpacing the benchmark Nifty50. On the other side, Infosys stock is under a lot of pressure after its March quarter earnings came in below expectations. Infosys shares have lost 20% of their value so far in 2023, costing investors around Rs 1.80 lakh crore.



## Microsoft Launches Two New Initiatives To Support Indian SMBs :-

Microsoft India is taking support for small and medium businesses (SMBs) to the next level with the launch of two innovative initiatives: Microsoft for Small and Medium Businesses, the newly launched SMB-focused website and a dedicated Digital Transformation helpline available at 1800-102-1147. As they begin their travels towards digital transformation, these initiatives seek to assist Indian business owners and entrepreneurs in networking with peers, developing their skills, and achieving holistic growth.



## Adani Ports Completes Sale Of Myanmar Port For \$30 Million :-

The sale of its Myanmar port Coastal International Terminals Pte Limited for \$30 million has been completed, according to Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd (APSEZ). In May 2022, APSEZ announced signing of a Share Purchase Agreement (SPA) for the sale of its Myanmar port after a military coup in Myanmar and an ensuing crackdown on mass protests drew international ire and US sanctions. The SPA had a number of Condition Precedents (CPs), including the project's completion and the buyer's ability to do business as usual.



## RBI Mandates Complete Information For Money Transfers To Curb Money Laundering And Terrorism Financing :-

To prevent wire transfers from being used as a platform for money laundering and terrorism financing, the RBI has asked all banks and financial institutions in the nation to make sure that all wire transfers—both domestic and international—contain complete information about the originator and beneficiary. The Reserve Bank of India has recently updated his instructions in the Master Direction on Know Your Customer (KYC) related to wire transfers and also aligned the same with the relevant recommendation of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).



## SEBI Has Introduced The Legal Entity Identifier (LEI) System :-

Sebi, the capital markets regulator, has implemented the Legal Entity Identifier (LEI) system for issuers who have listed or propose to list non-convertible securities, securitized debt instruments, and security receipts. LEI, a unique global identifier for legal entities involved in financial transactions, is intended to build a global reference data system that uniquely identifies every legal entity involved in a financial transaction in any jurisdiction. It is a one-of-a-kind 20-character code used to identify legally different companies that conduct financial transactions.



## India Operationalized Sittwe Port In Myanmar :-

With the departure of the initial consignment, the MV-ITT LION (V-273), from Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port in Kolkata, India has officially opened the Sittwe Port in Myanmar. The project is part of the Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport Project. The port was established with

grant support from the Indian government and is part of a framework agreement between India and Myanmar for the building and operation of a multimodal transit transport facility on the Kaladan River. When fully operational, the KMTTP will provide alternate connectivity from India's eastern coast to the northeastern states via the Sittwe port.



## Reserve Bank's Gold Reserves Rose 4.5% To 794.64 Metric Tonnes In 2022-23 :-

In the fiscal year that ended March 31, 2023, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) added 34.22 metric tonnes of gold, bringing total gold reserves to 794.64 metric tonnes. RBI had 760.42 metric tonnes as of March 31, 2022, up from 695.31 metric tonnes the previous year. According to the RBI's half-yearly report on Management of Foreign Exchange Reserves-October 2022-March 2023, gold deposits were 56.32 metric tonnes as of March 31, 2023. According to a recent World Gold Council (WGC) report, the RBI added 7 metric tonnes of gold between January and March 2023.



## BharatPe Rebrands PAYBACK India As 'Zillion' :-



The BharatPe Group has announced the rebranding of Payback India, a multi-brand loyalty programme, to Zillion. This new brand identity aligns with the company's objective of making Zillion synonymous with loyalty and rewards throughout the country. The new brand identity is intended to target customers of all ages and to offer a new dimension to their overall shopping experience across categories and brands. Customers will be able to earn and redeem Zillion points at a variety of partners across the country.



## India's IIP Growth Falls To 5-Month Low Of 1.1% In March On Poor Manufacturing Performance :-

According to official figures, India's industrial production growth slowed to 1.1 percent in March from 5.8 percent in February 2023, owing primarily to weak performance in the electricity and manufacturing sectors. The previous lowest level of growth was recorded in October 2022, when it was 4.1%. In March 2022, industrial output growth as assessed by the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) was 2.2 percent. According to the National Statistical Office's (NSO) IIP data, the manufacturing sector's output increased by 0.5% in March 2023, compared to 1.4% the previous year.



## Retail Inflation Sees Significant Drop In April, Hits 4.7% :-

Retail inflation in India decreased from 5.66 percent in March to 4.7 percent in April, the lowest level since November 2021. Food inflation fell to 3.8 percent in April, down from 4.7 percent in March. The considerable drop in inflation is being driven by a comparable drop in food and beverage prices, which account for 54% of the overall rate. For the second month in a row, consumer price index (CPI)-based inflation remained below the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) comfort zone of 6%.



## Anti-Dumping Duty On Optical Fiber Imports Proposed By DGTR :-

To defend domestic industry from cheap inbound shipments, the commerce ministry's arm, DGTR, has recommended imposing anti-dumping duties on imports of a certain type of optical fibre from China, Korea, and Indonesia. Following an examination into dumped imports of 'Dispersion Unshifted Single-mode Optical Fibre' from these nations, the Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) recommended the duty. The product is primarily used for high-data-rate, long-distance, and access network transmission.



## India's Foreign Exchange Reserve Soar To An 11-Month High Of \$595.9 Billion:-

In the week ending May 5, the Reserve Bank of India's foreign exchange reserves increased by \$7.2 billion to an eleven-month high of \$595.98 billion. The central bank's reserves are currently at the highest level since June 10, 2022. According to analysts, the Reserve Bank of India took advantage of the weakening of the US dollar, which relieved pressure on developing market currencies such as the rupee. The central bank intervenes in the foreign exchange market to limit excessive currency volatility.



## World Bank Approves \$82 Million Loan For Controlling Zoonotic Diseases In India :-

The World Bank has authorised a USD 82 million loan for India to implement worldwide best practises for animal health management as well as to prevent, detect, and respond to endemic zoonotic illnesses. The loan matures in 11.5 years with a 4.5-year grace period. A zoonotic infection or disease is one that can be transmitted from animals to people under natural conditions. Animal disease outbreaks continue to endanger public health systems and impose tremendous economic costs around the world.



## METRO Sells its Indian cash & Carry business To Reliance Retail For Rs 2,850cr :-

METRO AG, a German retailer, has completed the sale of its Indian cash and carry business to Reliance Retail Ventures Ltd (RRVL), which owns Reliance Industries Ltd's retail empire. Metro AG said in a statement that the transaction comprises all 31 wholesale stores operated by METRO Cash & Carry India as well as the whole real estate assets (6 store-occupied premises). The transaction will help Reliance Retail maintain its leading position in India's massive retail sector, which is one of the world's fastest-growing sectors.



## Government Establishes The Centre for Processing Accelerated Corporate Exit :-

The government announced the establishment of the Centre for Processing Accelerated Corporate Exit (C-PACE) to ensure the timely and process-bound deregistration of firms from records, as well as to supply stakeholders with more useful data. According to the ministry, the hub was formed as part of a series of steps to increase the ease of doing business and the ease of leaving for businesses. The corporate affairs ministry established the centre. The centre is located in Manesar, Haryana, within the Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA).



### **Amazon Web Services Announces \$12.7 Billion Investment In India's Cloud Infrastructure By 2030**

**:-**

Amazon Web Services (AWS) has announced plans to invest Rs 1,05,600 crore (USD 12.7 billion) in cloud infrastructure in India by 2030 in order to accommodate the country's increasing customer demand for cloud services. This comes on the heels of AWS's Rs 30,900 crore (USD 3.7 billion) investment between 2016 and 2022. The planned investment in data centre infrastructure in India will support an estimated average of 1,31,700 full-time equivalent (FTE) employment in Indian enterprises per year, according to a statement from Amazon's cloud computing company AWS.

## **9: International**



### **Cuba's President Miguel Diaz-Canel wins a second term :-**

Despite the communist-run island's dire economic situation, Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel has been re-elected for a second five-year term by the country's National Assembly. The reelection of Diaz-Canel by the 470-member Assembly was widely anticipated. In 2018, he succeeded Raul Castro as president, and in 2021, he took over as First Secretary of the Cuban Communist Party. Since becoming president, Diaz-Canel, a 62-year-old electrical engineer by training, has encountered a string of disasters that have brought Cuba even closer to economic catastrophe.



### **New York Senate Appoints Rowan Wilson As State's First Black Chief Judge :-**

Rowan Wilson was confirmed as New York's first Black chief judge by the state's Senate. His nomination comes two months after lawmakers rejected Governor Kathy Hochul's initial nominee for the office. Since 2017, Mr. Wilson has served as an associate judge on the Court of Appeals, New York's highest court. Ms. Hochul had initially chosen Hector LaSalle for the highest court job, but he was opposed by liberal senators and supporters who criticised his rulings as an appeals judge.



## British Deputy Prime Minister Dominic Raab Resigns Following Investigation :-

Dominic Raab, the UK's Deputy Prime Minister, resigned after an independent review determined that he mistreated public staff. Raab's announcement came the day after Prime Minister Rishi Sunak received findings in eight formal complaints alleging that Raab, who is also the justice secretary, was abusive to staff members during his former tenure in that office, as well as when serving as Britain's foreign secretary and Brexit secretary. The report is the latest ethics headache for Sunak, who vowed to restore order and integrity to government after three years of instability under predecessors Boris Johnson and Liz Truss.



## Mongolia Refinery To Be Built By India By 2025 :-

Mongolia's first oil refinery, developed and funded by India, would be completed by 2025, according to Ambassador Dambajav Ganbold. Ganbold stated in an interview that the first stage of the Mongol Oil Refinery, which is being built with a \$1.2 billion Indian soft loan, will be completed by the end of this year. The

development has geopolitical consequences because Mongolia is fully reliant on Russia for energy imports. Ganbold stated that the refinery would enable Mongolia meet 70% of its local demand.



## India And Ukraine Chamber Of Commerce To Be Set Up :-

According to people familiar with the situation, an India-Ukraine Chamber of Commerce would be established in the coming months to strengthen economic connections. The Chamber will work with the Ukrainian government to expand opportunities for investment and partnership in sectors such as infrastructure and power. The Ukrainian Embassy in India says that bilateral commerce between India and Ukraine reached \$3.45 billion in 2021. While Ukraine exported \$2.49 billion in vegetable oils and fertilisers to India, it imported \$961.2 million in goods from India.



## Zimbabwe To Introduce Gold-Backed Digital Currency :-

Zimbabwe's central bank intends to sell a gold-backed digital currency to the general people in an effort to stabilise the country's plummeting currency and provide an alternative to the US dollar. The tokens, which will be traded in local and foreign currency through banks at a 20% margin above the interbank mid-rate, will be introduced in two stages. In the first phase of deployment, gold-backed digital tokens with a 180-day vesting time would be issued for investment reasons. The currency will be utilised for investment first, and afterwards for transactions.



## Pakistan Becomes Largest Recipient Of ADB Funded Programmes In 2022 :-

Pakistan has been the greatest receiver of Asian Development Bank (ADB)-funded programs/projects in 2022 as a result of the economic crisis caused by political and geopolitical concerns. According to the ADB Annual Report 2022, Pakistan received \$5.58 billion in loans out of a total distribution of about \$31.8 billion to 40 countries. Pakistan is in a grave economic crisis, and Pakistan received USD 2.67 billion in concessional loans from the bank last year, out of a total lending of USD 5.58 billion.



## US State Pennsylvania Recognizes Diwali As An Official State Holiday :-

The Hindu festival of Diwali has been granted an official holiday in the US state of Pennsylvania. Nikil Saval, a Senator from Pennsylvania, said this in a tweet. This comes after state Senator Greg Rothman and Saval introduced legislation in February earlier this year to make Diwali an official state holiday in Pennsylvania. Rothman remarked that Diwali is celebrated by hundreds of thousands of Pennsylvanians each year, including many people of the 34th Senate District, and that making Diwali an official state holiday preserves and honours our Commonwealth's unique cultural variety.



## 'NET Zero' Innovation Virtual Centre To Be Jointly Created By India-UK :-

India and United Kingdom will jointly create India-UK 'NET Zero' Innovation Virtual Centre, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology Jitendra Singh announced this while chairing the India-UK Science & Innovation Council meeting in presence of his British counterpart George Freeman. Jitendra Singh, speaking on India's net zero journey, stated that energy

efficiency and renewable energy are essential pillars, where India has already taken the lead through different programmes such as the India Solar Alliance and the Clean Energy Mission.



## Indian Origin Ajay Banga Confirmed As The 14th President Of World Bank :-

The World Bank has named Ajay Banga, an Indian-American and former CEO of Mastercard, as its 14th president. He will be in office for the next five years starting on June 2. Banga was appointed to the position by a 25-member executive board after being chosen by a selection process created by shareholders in 2011. Banga had impressed shareholders in recent weeks as a “true change maker” who will help accelerate reforms at the global development bank, which is under pressure to increase its lending to help developing countries address global challenges.



## Neera Tandon, Indian-American, Appointed As Domestic Policy Advisor In Biden Administration :-

Neera Tanden, an Indian-American public policy specialist, has been selected as US President Joe Biden's

Domestic Policy Advisor to assist him in crafting and implementing his domestic policy agenda, making her the first Asian-American to oversee any of the three key White House policy councils in history. Tanden, 52, takes over as Biden's Domestic Policy Advisor from Susan Rice. Tanden, a Democrat, is now President Biden's Senior Advisor and Staff Secretary. She had positions in the Obama and Clinton administrations, as well as presidential campaigns and think tanks.



## India Extends \$1 Billion Credit Line To Sri Lanka Amid Economic Crisis :-

Following extensive talks between the two countries, India has opted to extend Sri Lanka's \$1 billion credit line, which is in the midst of an economic crisis. India opted to extend the credit line for a further year, providing the neighbour with much-needed back-up funds to pay for critical imports. The credit line is part of India's \$4 billion emergency aid package, which was extended during Sri Lanka's peak crisis last year and was set to expire in March. The credit line has been extended till March 2024, according to Sri Lanka's Deputy Treasury Secretary Priyantha Rathnayake.



## Santiniketan In Tentative List For UNESCO World Heritage List :-

The residence of Nobel laureate Rabindra Nath Tagore, Santiniketan, has been proposed for inclusion on the UNESCO World Heritage List. The beautiful city in West Bengal's Birbhum region is also home to Tagore's Visva-Bharti University, which he founded about a century ago. The International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), the UNESCO World Heritage Centre's advisory body, made the proposal based on a dossier moved by the Indian government. ICOMOS is an organisation dedicated to the preservation and enhancement of the world's architectural and landscape heritage.



## China And Pakistan Agree To Extend CPEC To Afghanistan :-

Pakistan, China, and Afghanistan have agreed to strengthen economic connections by extending the Beijing-backed China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) to Afghanistan, allowing the country to fully realise its potential as a regional connectivity centre. The 5th China-Afghanistan-Pakistan Foreign Ministers' Dialogue was held in Beijing by Pakistan Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, his Chinese counterpart Qin Gang, and Afghanistan's Taliban-appointed acting Foreign Minister Mawlawi Amir Khan Muttaqi, who also emphasised the importance of preventing any group from using their territories for terrorist activities against any nation.



## Ex-NBCUniversal Ad Chief Linda Yaccarino Named As New Twitter CEO :-

Elon Musk has appointed Linda Yaccarino, former NBCUniversal advertising executive, as Twitter's next CEO. Yaccarino joined NBCU in 2011, following 15 years at Turner Entertainment, and is credited with transitioning the network's ad sales division into the digital era. Yaccarino modernised the advertising business of Comcast Corp's entertainment and media division and had been in talks for the post before NBC announced her departure. Musk admitted earlier this year that Twitter's ad revenue had plummeted dramatically.



## WHO Declares An End To Global Health Emergency For Mpx :-

The World Health Organisation (WHO) announced the end of a nearly year-long global health emergency for mpox, a viral disease that has been diagnosed in over a hundred nations. In July 2022, the organisation labelled mpox a public health emergency of international concern, and it backed down in November and February.

The WHO's director-general, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, pronounced the disease no longer an emergency on the suggestion of the organization's emergency committee, which met on May 11.



## Pasang Dawa Sherpa Becomes 2nd Person To Scale Everest 26 Times :-

According to local media, Nepali Sherpa Pasang Dawa became the world's second person to scale Mount Everest 26 times on May 14. "Born in Pangboche, Dawa grew up seeing Everest everyday. He has made it to the summit of Mt Everest for 26 times at 0906 a.m. today," The Himalyan Times quoted Mingma Gyalje Sherpa, Managing Director of expedition organiser Imagine Nepal Treks, as saying. "His Everest Summits are in 1998, 1999, 2002, 2003, 2004, twice in 2006, twice in 2007, 2008, 2009, twice in 2010, 2011, 2012, twice in 2013, 2016, 2017, twice in 2018 and twice in 2019 and twice in 2022," Gyalje said.



## Mahatma Gandhi Bust Unveiled By Prime Minister In Hiroshima :-

On May 20, 2023, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi unveiled a bust of Mahatma Gandhi in Hiroshima, Japan. The Government of India presented the Mahatma Gandhi bust to the city of Hiroshima as a symbol of friendship and goodwill between India and Japan. Padma Bhushan recipient Shri Ram Vanji Sutar sculpted the 42-inch bronze bust. The bust site, which is adjacent to the Motoyasu River, is close to the famed A-Bomb Dome, which is visited by thousands of people every day, both locals and tourists.



## India Begins "Operation Karuna" To Assist Myanmar :-

'Operation Karuna' was started by India to assist Myanmar, which had been ravaged by Cyclone Mocha. Vinay Kumar, India's Ambassador in Myanmar, handed over the first batch of Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) material to Yangon Region Chief Minister. All items were immediately dispatched to Rakhine state for distribution to impacted areas, according to the Indian Embassy. Over the weekend, super storm Mocha wreaked havoc on Bangladesh and Myanmar, killing hundreds.





## Geeta Rao Gupta Appointed As US Ambassador At Large For Global Women's Issues :-

Geeta Rao Gupta, an Indian American, has been confirmed by the US Senate as the State Department's Ambassador at Large for Global Women's Issues. In a tweet, the department stated that it looks forward to her work to advance women's and girls' rights via US foreign policy. She was the Executive Director of the United Nations Foundation's 3D Programme for Girls and Women. She also advises the UNAIDS Global Coalition on Women and AIDS and was co-chair of the UN Millennium Project Task Force on Education and Gender Equality.



## EU Regulators Approve Microsoft's \$69 Billion Acquisition Of Activision Blizzard :-

Microsoft's proposed \$69 billion acquisition of gaming company Activision Blizzard has been authorised by European Union regulators. This European Union approval is a big victory for Microsoft, especially given that the transaction was earlier banned by the United Kingdom's Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) last month. One of the most important remedies provided by Microsoft is the assurance that players will be able to stream Activision games they purchase on any cloud streaming platform, rather than being restricted to Microsoft's platforms only.



## Ludovit Odor Assumes Office As Slovakia's Caretaker Prime Minister :-

After months of political infighting brought down the previous centre-right government, respected economist Ludovit Odour was appointed temporary prime minister and will rule the country until early elections in September. Slovakia, a member of the European Union, the eurozone, and NATO, has battled with high inflation caused mostly by the war in nearby Ukraine, as well as political uncertainty following the resignation of previous Prime Minister Eduard Heger's cabinet in December.



## Brazil, Top Chicken Exporter, Confirms First Ever Avian Flu Cases In Wild Birds :-

Brazil, the world's largest chicken exporter, has verified Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) for the first time, according to the Agriculture Ministry. According to the Brazilian government, two instances were found in wild birds and should not result in a ban on importation of Brazilian poultry products under World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) rules. The Brazilian government confirmed the presence of the H5N1 subtype of the influenza virus in two birds flying off the coast of Espirito Santo, Brazil's southeastern state.



## India & Bangladesh Launch '50 Start-Ups Exchange Programme' :-

After a successful five-day visit to India from May 8 to 12, the first group of ten start-up enterprises under the 50 start-ups exchange programme between India and Bangladesh returned to Dhaka. These start-ups are from industries like e-commerce, health, transportation and logistics, energy, education, and skill development. Under this plan, 50 Bangladeshi startups and 50 Indian startups will exchange trips to each other's countries to explore partnerships, establish business contacts, share expertise and knowledge, and expand youth and entrepreneurial cooperation.

## Dr. L Murugan Inaugurated India Pavilion At 76th Cannes International Film Festival :-

Dr. L Murugan, Union Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting, recently inaugurated the India Pavilion

at the Marché du Film at the 76th Cannes International Film Festival in France. He inaugurated the Pavilion in the presence of Indian Ambassador to France Jawed Ashraf, Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Prithul Kumar, and Bollywood stars. The occasion also saw the debut of the poster and video for the 54th Indian Film Festival of India, which will take place in Goa in November 2023.



## 10: Miscellaneous



## NE's Largest Multipurpose Indoor Stadium Being Built In Shillong :-

According to Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma, a multifunctional indoor stadium is being built in Shillong, which will be the largest multipurpose indoor stadium in the northeastern area. He stated that the indoor stadium would offer amenities for various sports such as basketball, squash, badminton, table tennis, and volleyball. He emphasised the quality of the building, saying that the highest quality standards are being kept

and that once completed, it will be suitable for hosting international athletic events.



## India Captain Rohit Sharma Announced As JioCinema's Brand Ambassador :-

India's men's cricket team captain Rohit Sharma has joined JioCinema, owned by Mukesh Ambani's Viacom18, as its brand ambassador. According to the firm, the cricketer will advance the OTT platform's goal of making sports viewing synonymous with digital.

Sharma will collaborate on the OTT platform's objective of making sports viewing synonymous with digital through efforts with the team there. He will take its digital-first proposition for all premium sports properties expanding the fan base, the company added.



## HSBC Signs Up Virat Kohli As Their Brand Influencer :-

HSBC India has announced the signing of Indian cricketer Virat Kohli as a marketing influencer. According to the corporation, Kohli will serve to highlight HSBC's goal of 'Opening up a World of Opportunity' as it tries to support the ambitions of an ambitious India going global. Hitendra Dave, chief executive officer, HSBC India said "We're thrilled to have Virat Kohli as our Brand Influencer and see him as a perfect fit for our values of taking responsibility, collaborating and succeeding together as a team as well as getting things done."



## Star Sports Signs Rishabh Pant As Brand Ambassador :-

Star Sports, the official television broadcaster of the IPL 2023, selected India cricketer Rishabh Pant as its latest 'Believe Ambassador'. Other current cricketers named as 'Believe Ambassadors' by the Network include Hardik Pandya, Ravindra Jadeja, KL Rahul, and Shreyas Iyer. Star Sports' ambassador roster has grown from two in 2017 to six now. The ambassadors represent diverse sections of the country as well as different IPL teams, according to the organisation, and it will work closely with them to increase the popularity of the sport.



## Sachin Tendulkar, Brian Lara Named Gates Unveiled At Iconic SCG :-

The Sydney Cricket Ground (SCG) used renowned Indian cricketer Sachin Tendulkar's 50th birthday occasion to unveil gates named after the India legend and fellow West Indian cricketing great Brian Lara. All visiting players will now enter the pitch through the newly named Lara-Tendulkar Gates, which were named in honour of Mr Tendulkar's 50th birthday. Mr. Tendulkar has scored 1,100 runs at an average of 100 in 13 international matches at the SCG, including four hundreds, four fifties, and a top score of 241 not out.



## Belgium Firm To Launch Biodiesel Project In Ayodhya Soon :-

Vito, a Belgian company, is set to establish a waste-to-biodiesel project in Ayodhya soon. The two-year trial project has been chosen for the temple town. Earlier, Vito's Asia-Pacific head Hafeez Rehman and other officials held the first round of meetings with the Ayodhya administration officials. In addition, they held a workshop for Ayodhya Municipal Corporation officers. The company, whose representatives have begun working on the project, specialises in 'cleantech' and sustainable development.



## IIT Madras To Set Up Its First International Campus In Tanzania :-

The first Indian Institute of Technology in Africa will open in Tanzania in October. IIT Madras will open its first international campus in Zanzibar, Tanzania, with classes slated to begin in October 2023. In February, a delegation of five IIT Madras professors visited Tanzania and met with various officials about establishing the campus. "This would be the first IIT to be set up in Africa and can be instrumental in growth and nation building of not only Tanzania but of the continent," Binaya Pradha, High Commissioner of India, Tanzania, tweeted in February.



## PM To Inaugurate National Games In Oct: Goa CM :-

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will officially launch the National Games in Goa in October 2023, according to Chief Minister Pramod Sawant. He was speaking to media after assessing preparations for the Games with Indian Olympic Association chairperson P T Usha. Govind Gaude, the state's sports minister, also attended the conference. "Tentatively, the inauguration will be held on October 23 or 24, depending on the appointment of the PM," the chief minister later told reporters. The Games will continue till November 10, he added.



## Fit India Champion Arjun Vajpai Summits Mt. Annapurna :-

Arjun Vajpai, an Indian professional mountaineer who was named a Fit India Champion earlier this year, has been the first Indian man to summit Mt. Annapurna 1, the world's 10th highest mountain at 8,091 metres (26,545 feet) above sea level in Nepal. Arjun, who was named a Fit India Champion, has already set a record by being one of the youngest mountaineers to summit Mount Everest. Arjun has already climbed Mt. Everest, Mt. Lhotse, Mt. Makalu, Mt. Kanchenjunga, Mt. Manaslu, and Cho-Oyu, setting multiple world records in the process.



## South Africa Fast Bowler Shabnim Ismail Quits International Cricket :-

Shabnim Ismail, a fast bowler from South Africa, recently declared her retirement from international cricket. Ismail participated in total 241 international games and claimed 317 wickets in all formats. Ismail, 34, came in second on the all-time record for ODI wickets after India's Jhulan Goswami (255). Ismail, who last played in February's World Cup final loss to Australia at Newlands, broke the record for the fastest ball recorded in women's cricket during that tournament when she was clocked at 128 kph (80 mph) against England in the semi-finals.



## Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Statue Unveiled By Devendra Fadnavis In Mauritius :-

In Mauritius, the statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj was recently unveiled by Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis in the presence of Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth. Later, at the Indo-Mauritius Business Forum, Fadnavis showcased Maharashtra's potential as the leading industrial and most favoured investment destination in India. An MoU to promote the trade

between Maharashtra and Mauritius was signed between Economic Development Board, Mauritius and Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation.



## RBI, BIS Launch Fourth Edition Of G20 TechSprint Competition :-

G20 TechSprint an international technology competition has been launched by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Bank for International Settlements (BIS). According to RBI, the 2023 TechSprint would concentrate on creating cutting-edge technological solutions for international payments. Developers from all across the world are welcome to enter the competition through June 4th. Each team that is shortlisted will be given six weeks to design their solutions and be eligible for a stipend of eight lakh rupees, or 10,000 dollars, approximately.



## First Border Haat Inaugurated At Bholaganj In Sylhet Division Between India And Bangladesh :-

Recently, a new Border-Haat between India and Bangladesh was opened in Bholaganj, which is part of Sylhet's Companiganj upazila. Imran Ahmed, the minister of Bangladesh responsible for expatriates' welfare and overseas employment, and Niraj Kumar Jaiswal, the assistant high commissioner of India, jointly opened the Border-Haat. People on both sides of the border enthusiastically hailed the opening of the Border Haat at Bholaganj, which is located on the border between Sylhet, Bangladesh and East Khasi Hills, Meghalaya.



## 5th Edition Of Global Ayurveda Festival To Focus On Health Challenges :-

The fifth edition of the Global Ayurveda Festival (GAF-2023) will be held from December 1 to 5 in Kerala's Thiruvananthapuram region. The festival will emphasise Ayurveda's enormous potential in addressing today's health concerns, as well as providing a venue for global networking of Ayurveda practitioners and stakeholders. The Chairman of the Organising Committee, Minister of State for External Affairs and Parliamentary Affairs V Muraleedharan, stated that the topic of the GAF 2023 is "Emerging Challenges in Healthcare & A Resurgent Ayurveda."



## Wakefit Signs Bollywood Actor Ayushmann Khurrana As Brand Ambassador :-

Wakefit Innovations Private Limited, a mattress manufacturer, has appointed actor Ayushmann Khurrana as Wakefit.co's brand ambassador. The actor was hired by the corporation to build resonance with the local population, according to the company. Aside from being the brand's face and spearheading upcoming advertisements, the actor will also assist the brand in raising awareness about sleep health and its importance in today's world. In the digital commercial videos, Khurrana provides commentary on sleep deprivation in the country, titled 'Sleep India Sleep'.



## Ayushmann Khurrana Joins Indian Team as Ambassador for Special Olympics Journey to Berlin :-

Ayushmann Khurrana, a Bollywood actor, has been tapped to rally the Indian team and cheer on the athletes competing in the Special Olympics for individuals with intellectual disabilities, which will be held in Berlin from June 16 to June 25. Germany will host the prestigious

tournament for the first time in June 2023. Furthermore, Ayushmann Khurrana, an all-rounder actor best renowned for his socially conscious films, was named UNICEF's National Ambassador in February 2023.



## Duroflex Appoints Virat Kohli As Brand Ambassador :-

Duroflex has named cricket legend Virat Kohli as its new brand ambassador, furthering its objective of emphasizing the importance of good sleep in living a long and healthy life. According to a press announcement, Virat Kohli's strong synergy with the brand's objective has motivated him to accept the job of Duroflex brand ambassador. Duroflex's dedication to raising awareness about the link between quality sleep and a healthier, more happy life will be highlighted by this collaboration. Kohli also unveiled Duroflex's newest product, the 'Neuma,' a firmness-adjustable mattress.



## New ₹75 Coin launched to Mark New Parliament Inauguration :-

The Ministry of Finance has announced the launch of a special ₹75 coin to commemorate the inauguration of India's new parliament building, coinciding with the celebration of India's 75 years of independence. The newly minted ₹75 coin will feature the iconic Lion Capital of the Ashoka Pillar on one side, with the words "Satyamev Jayate" below it. The coin will bear the inscription "Bharat" in Devanagari script on the left side and "India" in English on the right. On the reverse side, an image of the parliament complex will be depicted, with "Sansad Sankul" written in Devanagari script.



## The meeting of the Atal Bhujal Yojana is chaired by the Department of Water Resources. :-

The fourth meeting of the Atal Bhujal Yojana's National Level Steering Committee (NLSC) was held in New Delhi under the chairmanship of the Secretary, Department of Water Resources, RD & GR, Ministry of Jal Shakti. Since April 2020, the Atal Bhujal Yojana (ATAL JAL) has been implemented as a Central Sector Scheme in 8220 water-stressed Gramme Panchayats of 229 administrative blocks/Talukas in 80 districts of seven states: Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh.

**11: National**



**Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar Launches SATHI Portal & Mobile App :-**

Narendra Singh Tomar, Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, has unveiled the SATHI (Seed Traceability, Authentication, and Holistic Inventory) Portal and Mobile App to address the difficulties of seed production, quality seed identification, and seed certification. It was created around the theme of Uttam Beej - Samridh Kisan. According to Mr. Tomar, seeds, insecticides, fertilisers, and irrigation all play important roles in agriculture. Poor quality or forged seeds have a negative impact on agricultural growth and production.



**Russia Now The Biggest Oil Supplier To India :-**

Despite the Western price cap of \$60 per barrel, Russia was the largest value exporter of crude oil to India in February, according to official data. In February, Russia imported \$3.35 billion in crude oil, followed by Saudi Arabia (\$2.30 billion) and Iraq (\$2.03 billion). Between April and February, Indian imports of Russian oil increased to \$27 billion, trailing only Iraqi imports of \$30

billion, making Moscow the second largest crude exporter to New Delhi in FY23. Saudi Arabia was the leading exporter with \$26.8 billion, followed by the UAE with \$15.6 billion.



**NHAI To Develop 10,000 Km Of Optic Fibre Cables Across India By FY 2025 :-**

According to an official release, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) plans to build over 10,000 kilometres of Optic Fibre Cables (OFC) infrastructure across India by fiscal year 2025. National Highways Logistics Management Limited (NHLML), a special purpose vehicle of the state-owned NHAI, would be in charge of establishing the network of "digital highways" by developing integrated utility corridors along national highways to develop Optic Fibre Cables infrastructure.



**Labour Minister Launches New Features On EShram Portal For Migrant Workers' Welfare :-**

Union Labour Minister Bhopender Yadav has inaugurated new features on the eShram platform,

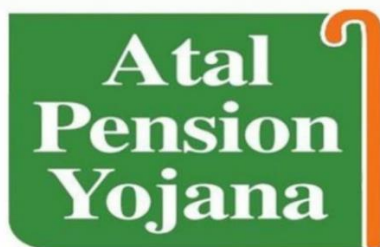


including one that would aid in the collection of family information from migrant workers in order to provide the advantage of child education and women-centric initiatives. According to a labour ministry release, registered workers can now connect with employment prospects, skilling, apprenticeship, pension scheme, digital skilling, and state schemes via the eShram portal. It was explained that this feature can aid in the provision of child education and women-centric initiatives to workers who have migrated with their families.



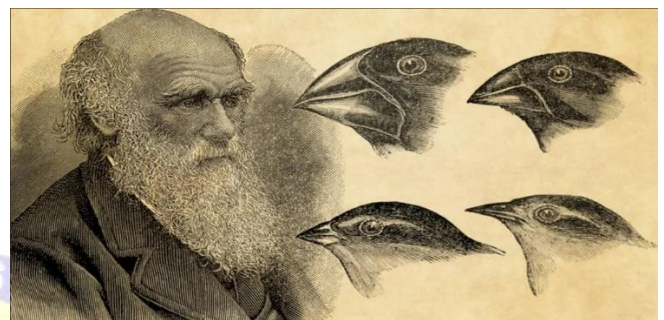
### Rail Vikas Nigam Limited Now A Navratana :-

Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL), a Ministry of Railways Central Public Sector Enterprise, has been awarded Navratna status. RVNL was established as a PSU on January 24, 2003. With the appointment of a Board of Directors in 2005, the corporation began operations. In September 2013, the company was granted Mini-Ratna status. The awarding of 'Navratna' status to RVNL results in increased delegation of authorities, greater operational independence, and financial autonomy, all of which will greatly accelerate its advancement.



### Atal Pension Yojana (APY) Surpasses 5.20 Crore Enrollments :-

Enrollment within the Atal Pension Yojana (APY) has surpassed 5.20 crore as of March 31, 2023, a key milestone for the scheme. The APY enrolled over 1.19 crore new subscribers in the financial year 2022-23, reflecting a more than 20% growth compared to the previous financial year. The total assets under management (AUM) in APY, which was launched in 2015, are now over Rs. 27,200 crores, and the scheme has generated an investment return of 8.69% since its inception.



### Scientists Protest The NCERT's Decision To Eliminate Darwin's Theory Of Evolution:-

More than 1800 scientists, educators, and scientific enthusiasts from throughout India expressed disappointment to the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) eliminating Darwin's theory of evolution from science textbooks for classes 9 and 10. The scientific society considers that eliminating Darwin's Theory of Evolution is a 'travesty of education,' and that students will be hampered in their mental processes if they are unaware of this significant scientific finding.



## Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar Launches 'Millets Experience Centre' At Dilli Haat :-

In New Delhi's Dilli Haat, Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar inaugurated the first facility of its type, the "Millets Experience Centre (MEC)". Together with the Agriculture Ministry, the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED) founded the Millets Experience Centre. It aims to raise awareness of Millets and encourage its adoption among the general public. The ministry-led initiative of establishing a consumer-oriented 'Millets Experience Centre' would not only promote the dietary benefits of millets but also popularize Shree Anna as a nutritional powerhouse.



## First Airbus C295 For India Successfully Completes Its Maiden Flight :-

The first C295 for India successfully completed its maiden flight in Seville, Spain, marking an important step towards delivery in the second part of 2023. The first 16 planes will be built in Seville, Spain, and delivered to the customer in 'fly-away' condition. Tata Advanced Systems Ltd. (TASL) in India will manufacture and assemble the following 40 aircraft as part of the two firms' industrial collaboration. The C295 Final Assembly Line, which is being built in Gujarat, is the private sector's first concrete, large-scale Make-in-India defence venture.



## Kiren Rijiju Launched The Trailer Of The First Tagine Language Film :-

Films are the most effective way to promote a culture or a location, according to Union Minister Kiren Rijiju, who unveiled the trailer for the "first ever" movie in his native state of Arunachal Pradesh's Tagin language. He stated that the film 'Love in the 90s' will be tax-free and that he will request that the state government promote it in other ways as well. Rijiju urged people to see the film in order to showcase the Tagin community's culture to the rest of the country and the world. Mohit Chauhan, a well-known Bollywood playback singer, was also present for the event at the National Media Centre.



## Union Health Ministry Launched SAKSHAM Learning Management Information System :-

The Union Health Ministry has launched SAKSHAM (Stimulating Advanced Knowledge for Sustainable Health Management), a Learning Management Information System (LMIS). This digital learning platform, developed by the National Institute of Health and Family Welfare (NIHFW), will ensure inclusive capacity building of health

professionals from primary health care centres in rural and remote areas all the way up to tertiary care and corporate hospitals in metropolitan cities. Rajesh Bhushan, Union Health Secretary, presided over the ceremony.



## Govt Panel Recommends Banning Diesel 4-Wheeler Vehicles By 2027 :-

To reduce pollution, India should limit the use of diesel-powered four-wheeler vehicles by 2027 and transition to electric and gas-powered vehicles in cities with more than a million people and polluted towns, according to a panel constituted by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. The panels recommended that new registrations of only electric-powered city delivery vehicles be permitted beginning in 2024, as well as increased usage of railways and gas-powered trucks for cargo movement. The railway network will be entirely electric in two to three years.



## National Medical Commission Makes Unique ID Mandatory For Doctors :-

The government has made a unique Unique Identification Number (UID) mandatory for all doctors in India. Doctors in India will now require a unique ID under the new legislation. The National Medical Commission (NMC) ethics board will generate the UID centralised. According to the National Medical Commission's (NMC) new notification, a common medical registry will be kept for all registered medical practitioners in the country. The NMC's Ethics and Medical Registration Board (EMRB) will keep track of this.



## Tungnath Temple Built By Pandavas To Declared National Monument :-

In a recent inspection, the Archaeological survey of India (ASI) discovered that the Tungnath shrine in Uttarakhand is tilting five to six degrees, and the smaller structure within the complex has leaned nearly ten degrees. The development has occurred during the current tourist season. Officials from the ASI have also advised that the shrine be designated as a protected monument by the Central Government. Taking note of the situation, the government is said to have began the process of designating the shrine as a national monument.



## Amit Shah Inaugurates Training Program On Legislative Drafting In New Delhi :-

Union Home Minister Amit Shah has launched a legislative drafting training workshop in the national capital, emphasising the importance of drafting a "simple and clear law." The Institute of Constitutional and Parliamentary Studies (ICPS) organised the Programme in collaboration with the Parliamentary Research and Training Institute for Democracies (PRIDE) with the goal of increasing understanding of legislative drafting principles and practises among officers of Parliament, State Legislatures, and various ministries, statutory bodies, and other government departments.



## UGC Launches New Website, UTAH And PoP Portals To Promote Quality Education :-

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has taken an important step towards the effective implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 by launching two user-friendly portals, UTAH (Undertaking Transformative Strategies and Actions in Higher Education), which can be accessed at [utah.ugc.ac.in](http://utah.ugc.ac.in), and PoP (Professors of Practise). These portals aspire to

transform the higher education sector by providing full support and making it easier to hire skilled employees.



## Shri Bhupender Yadav Launches Meri LiFE App :-

Bhupender Yadav, Union Minister for Environment, Forests, and Climate Change, has inaugurated the Meri LiFE App. The software will aid in the development of an organised method for tracking the progress of Mission LiFE. It is a global mass movement to urge individual and community action to safeguard the environment, which appears to be taking a dangerous turn and creating enormous trouble in a variety of ways. In anticipation of World Environment Day on June 5, Yadav unveiled "Meri LiFE," a mobile application to catalyse young action for climate change.



## Sanchar Saathi Portal Launched By Union Minister Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw :-

At an event in New Delhi, Union Minister for Communications Ashwini Vaishnaw unveiled a Citizen Centric Portal called Sanchar Saathi Portal. The Sanchar Saathi Portal, a Department of Telecommunications effort, empowers residents by allowing them to see the mobile connections provided in their names, disconnect

those that are no longer needed, and block and trace lost mobile phones. The Union Minister stated on the occasion that three significant modules have been introduced to this portal to protect mobile users from fraudulent activity.



## Prime Minister inaugurated new Parliament Building :-

On May 28, 2023, Prime Minister Narendra Modi officially opened the new Parliament building. Modi led a procession carrying the "Sengol". The new building is located in the Central Vista area of New Delhi and is designed to accommodate the growing size and needs of the Indian Parliament. The new Parliament building has been designed to accommodate future requirements, with seating for 888 members in the Lok Sabha and 384 members in the Rajya Sabha.



## Kiren Rijju Exits As Union Law Minister And Replaced By Arjun Ram Meghwal:-

In a shocking decision barely a year before the national election, Kiren Rijju was replaced as Union Law Minister by Arjun Ram Meghwal. Mr Rijju, known as a troubleshooter and one of the government's most high-profile ministers, has been transferred to the relatively low-key Ministry of Earth Sciences, less than a year after being appointed to the Law Ministry with cabinet position. Arjun Ram Meghwal, Minister of State in charge of Parliamentary Affairs, will now also be in charge of the Law Ministry on an independent basis.



## No TDS On Interest From Mahila Samman Savings Certificate: Finance Ministry :-

According to a CBDT notification, interest earned through the Mahila Samman Certificate programme would not be subject to TDS and will instead be taxed based on the account holder's appropriate tax band. Earlier, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) issued a statement on the subject. The plan, which was launched in FY23, allows for a maximum deposit of Rs. 2 lakh and a monthly interest rate of 7.5%. The Mahila Samman Certificate scheme has a two-year maturation period.

**12: Obituaries**



**Veteran Malayalam actor Mamukkoya passes away at 76 :-**

Mamukkoya, a popular Malayalam actor, died on Wednesday, April 26, in a private hospital in Kozhikode. He was 76 years old. In 1979, Mamukkoya made his theatrical debut. He formerly worked in a lumber factory in Kozhikode. Mamukkoya appeared in nearly 450 Malayalam films over his four-decade career. He also appeared in Flammens of Paradise, a French film. For his roles in Perumazhakkalam and Innathe Chintha Vishayam, he received two Kerala State Film Awards.



**South African cheetah, Uday, translocated to Kuno National Park dies :-**

One of the cheetahs relocated from South Africa to Madhya Pradesh's Kuno National Park (KNP) died. The cheetah 'Uday' was six years old. This is the KNP's second similar event in less than a month. Sasha, a female Cheetah translocated from Namibia, died on March 28. Sasha's death was attributed to a pre-existing kidney condition, which is common in confined Cheetahs. The deaths of two critically endangered Cheetahs within a month have raised major concerns about the long-term viability of the ambitious and unprecedented restoration initiative.



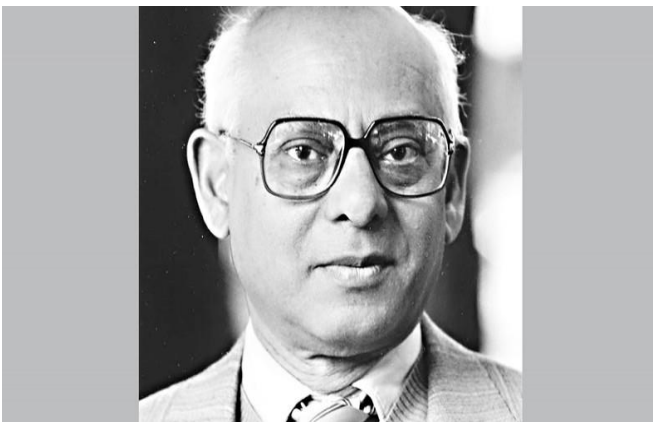
**Boxing champion Kaur Singh passes away after multiple health problems :-**

On April 27, Kaur Singh, a boxer who won a gold medal at the Asian Games and was the only Indian to ever compete against legendary Muhammad Ali, passed away. He was 74. Kaur Singh, a member of a farming family from the Sangrur area of Khanal Khurd, enlisted in the Army in 1971. During the war against Pakistan in 1972, he was in the front lines in Rajasthan's Barmer area, and he later received the Sena Medal. Kaur Singh's boxing career started when he was serving in the Army. In 1979, he made his senior national boxing championship debut and took home the gold.



## **Jerry Springer, former Cincinnati mayor and talk show host, dead at 79 :-**

At the age of 79, Jerry Springer, a television legend and former mayor of Cincinnati, passed at his suburban Chicago home. His controversial daytime talk show "The Jerry Springer Show," which had a big influence on American culture, was well-known. Jerry Springer moved to Cincinnati and got interested in local politics after engaging in anti-war rallies and supporting Robert Kennedy's campaign in 1968. In 1977, he presided as mayor of the city. The controversial talk show "The Jerry Springer Show," which ran for 27 years, was developed and hosted by him.



## **Historian Ranajit Guha Passes Away :-**

Ranjit Guha, a well-known historian, died of old age-related diseases, according to West Bengal Chief

Minister Mamata Banerjee. Guha, who was 100 years old, died on April 28th at his home in Austria. Guha's family moved to Kolkata after he was born on May 23, 1923 in Barisal, Bangladesh. Guha retired from the Australian National University in 1988 after previously working at several prestigious universities. 'Elementary Aspects of Peasant Insurgency in Colonial India' is one of his best-known books.



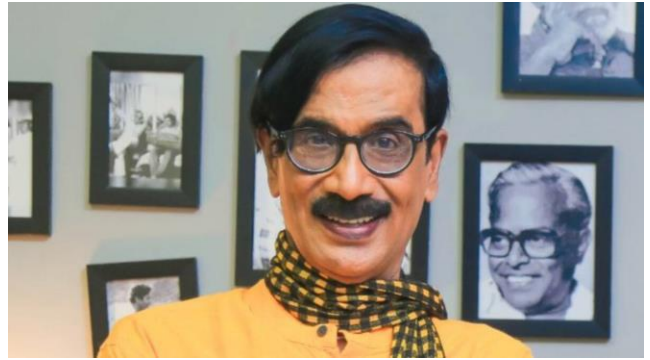
## **MasterChef Australia judge and celebrated chef Jock Zonfrillo passes away at 46:-**

Jock Zonfrillo, an award-winning chef and MasterChef Australia judge, died at the age of 46. There was no mention of a cause of death. A spokesperson for Victoria Police stated that the death was not being investigated as suspicious. A report for the coroner will be drafted. Barry Zonfrillo was born in Glasgow in 1976 and began working in kitchens as a dishwasher at the age of 13. He dropped out of school at the age of 15 and began an apprenticeship at the Turnberry hotel, becoming one of the establishment's youngest apprentices. He was only 22 when he was appointed head chef at Cornwall's Tresanton hotel.



## **Mahatma Gandhi's grandson Arun Gandhi passes away at 89:-**

According to family reports, Mahatma Gandhi's grandson Arun Gandhi died in Kolhapur, Maharashtra, following a brief illness. Kolhapur hosted the funeral for the 89-year-old novelist and sociopolitical activist. Arun Gandhi, born on April 14, 1934, in Durban to Manilal Gandhi and Sushila Mashruwala, followed in his grandfather's footsteps as an activist. He penned books like 'Kasturba, The Forgotten Woman', 'Grandfather Gandhi, with Bethany Hegedus and illustrated by Evan Turk, 'The Gift of Anger: And other lessons from my grandfather Mahatma Gandhi', etc.



## **Veteran Kollywood Actor Manobala Passed Away:-**

Manobala, a veteran actor-director, died on May 3 in Chennai. He was well-known for his comic timing and self-deprecating humour. He appeared in almost 900 films during his 35-year career. Manobala made his acting debut in Bharathiraja's Puthiya Vaarpugal in 1979. He made his directorial debut with Agaya Gangai in 1982 and has since directed approximately 25 films. To name a few, Pillai Nila, Oorkaavalan, En Purusshanthaan Enakku Mattumthaan, Karuppu Vellai, Mallu Vetti Minor, and Paarambariyam are among his most popular flicks.



## **Uttarakhand Minister Chandan Ram Dass Passes Away :-**

A police official reported that Uttarakhand minister Chandan Ram Dass died at the state's Bageshwar district hospital. He was 65-year-old. Dass, MLA from Bageshwar, was in charge of social welfare and transportation. Pushkar Singh Singh, the chief minister, expressed his sympathies on the tragic death of his cabinet colleague. Dhama said, "I am stunned to know the news of the sudden death of my senior colleague in my cabinet Chandan Ram Dass. It's an irreparable loss to politics and social service."



## **25-Year-Old Youtuber, Agastya Chauhan Passed Away In Bike Accident :-**

Agastya Chauhan, a well-known YouTuber and bike rider, tragically passed away while going back to Delhi at a pace of 300 kilometres per hour on the Yamuna expressway. Agastya Chauhan had more than 12 lakh subscribers on YouTube and he used to enjoy a huge fan base among youngsters. The accident took place when Agastya's Kawasaki bike crashed after it hit a divider. After the



mishap, Aligarh Police appealed to motorists to drive responsibly and with utmost care. The police also asked the two-wheeler drivers to avoid overspeeding.



### Legendary rock'n'roll singer Tina Turner dies aged 83:-

Turner who initially found fame in a turbulent musical partnership, became one of the biggest acts in the world as a solo artist and one of the defining pop icons of the 1980s. She had suffered ill health in recent years, being diagnosed with intestinal cancer in 2016 and having a kidney transplant in 2017. Turner affirmed and amplified Black women's formative stake in rock'n'roll, defining that era of music to the extent that Mick Jagger admitted to taking inspiration from her high-kicking, energetic live performances for his stage persona.



### Hinduja Group Chairman SP Hinduja Passes Away :-

Srichand Parmanand Hinduja, the eldest of the four Hinduja brothers and the chairman of the Hinduja Group, died in London recently. He had been ill for some time. He was 87. Hinduja was the head of the eponymous business group, which controls publicly traded companies in the banking, chemicals, information technology, and commercial vehicle sectors in India. With an estimated net worth of 28.5 billion pounds (\$36 billion), Hinduja and his younger brother Gopichand, 83, topped The Sunday Times Rich List for the fourth time in 2022.

## 13: Ranks & Reports



### Bengaluru Tops In Digital Payment Transactions In 2022: Report :-

According to Worldline India, Bengaluru had the largest number of digital transactions in the country, with 29 million transactions valued at Rs. 6,500 crore. The other top five cities on the list were Mumbai, New Delhi, Pune, and Chennai. Digital payments using UPI were at an all-time high in 2022. In 2022, popular payment instruments like as UPI, cards, and PPIs processed over Rs. 149.5 lakh crore in digital transactions. Bengaluru took the lead with 29 million transactions totaling USD 65 billion, followed by New Delhi with 19.6 million transactions totaling USD 50 billion.



## MGNREGA: Rajasthan Tops In Persondays Generation For 4th Year :-

Rajasthan led the country in terms of persondays generated under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGA) for the fourth year in a row. Rajasthan created 35.61 crore persondays at a cost of Rs 10,175 crore under the plan in 2022-23. According to the MGNREGA MIS report, Rajasthan is followed by Tamil Nadu (33.45 crore), Uttar Pradesh (31.18 crore), Andhra Pradesh (23.96 crore), and Bihar (23.69 crore) in terms of persondays generation. In terms of the number of households completing 100 days of labour, Rajasthan ranked third in the country.



## Global Unicorn Index 2023: India Emerges As Third-Largest Hub With 68 Unicorns :-

According to Hurun's Global Unicorn Index 2023, India has held its third place as the country with the most unicorns worldwide, trailing only the United States and China. India behind the United States and China, which have 666 and 316 new unicorns, respectively. Since the pandemic began, India has added 14 new unicorns.

Despite their success, none of the start-ups entered the top ten. According to the survey, BYJU's valuation is the highest in India, at \$22 billion, followed by Swiggy and Dream11, both valued at \$8 billion.



## Rural Housing Under Flagship Scheme Rises 25% In FY23 :-

In FY23, India built a record 5.28 million houses under the flagship rural housing scheme, a 25% increase over the previous year. According to a rural development ministry official, the country plans to build 5.73 million homes under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Gramin), which will allow it to meet the scheme's total aim of building 29.5 million houses to achieve "housing for all" by FY24. Madhya Pradesh has benefited the most from the scheme overall, with 3.42 million residences built in the state thus far.



## New York City Tops The List Of World's Wealthiest Cities 2023 :-

New York City topped a new list of the world's wealthiest cities in 2023, with Tokyo, Japan, and Silicon Valley's Bay

Area coming in second and third place, respectively. Mumbai was ranked 21st, while Delhi, Bengaluru, Kolkata, and Hyderabad were also included. The list, compiled by London-based consultancy Henley & Partners, ranked the cities by taking into account the number of resident millionaires as of December 31, 2022. With the exception of London, it was dominated by cities in the United States and China, with no European cities appearing in the top ten.



## India Jumps 6 Places On World Bank's Logistic Performance Index, Ranks 38 :-

According to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, India has risen six places to 38th place out of 139 nations in the 7th edition of the World Bank's Logistics Performance Index 2023. The government attributed the recent update to the PM GatiShakti National Master Plan, which was launched in October 2021. It goes on to say that PM GatiShakti addresses the rising needs of reshaping the logistics landscape as a result of factors such as rapid urbanisation, changing energy options, e-commerce, the need to establish resilient supply chains, and so on.



## First-Ever Waterbody Census: West Bengal Tops List Among States, Sikkim At The Bottom :-

The country's first census of water bodies, conducted by the Ministry of Jal Shakti, found that Bengal had the most water bodies and Sikkim had the fewest. According to the research, Bengal has 7.5 lakh water bodies out of 24.2 lakh. South 24 Parganas was named the district with the most water bodies (3.5 lakh) in the country. Bengal has the most lakes and reservoirs, whereas Andhra Pradesh has the most tanks, Tamil Nadu has the most lakes, and Maharashtra is the state with the most water conservation projects.



## India's Merchant Payments Through UPI Anticipated To Reach \$1 Trillion By FY26 :-

According to Bain & Company's "Future of India Retail Payments" research, merchant payments via UPI are anticipated to reach \$1 trillion by FY26, with a growth rate of 40 to 50%. The increase in merchant payments will be fueled by greater awareness, improved merchant adoption of UPI, new payment capabilities like UPI Lite and UPI 123 Pay, as well as the introduction of international payment lanes on the domestic payment railroad. Approximately \$40 billion in merchant transactions were settled by UPI in March 2023 alone, according to data from the NPCI.



## **National Manufacturing Innovation Survey: Karnataka Ranked The Most 'Innovative' State :-**

Karnataka, overall, is the most "innovative" State, followed by Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu (DNH&DD), Telangana, and Tamil Nadu, according to a poll on the level of innovation among manufacturing enterprises. The findings are part of the National Manufacturing Innovation Survey (NMIS) 2021–22, a collaboration between the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO), aims to assess how well manufacturing companies in India perform in terms of innovation.



## **India's Unemployment Rate In April Rises To 8.11% From 7.8% In March :-**

The national unemployment rate increased from 7.8% in March to 8.11% in April, which is the highest level since December. According to data from research firm Centre for Monitoring India Economy (CMIE), rural unemployment decreased slightly to 7.34% in April from 7.47% a month earlier, while urban unemployment increased to 9.81% from 8.51% in the same period.

According to CMIE data, rural areas created more jobs than urban areas. Only 54.8% of job searchers in metropolitan regions found employment, compared to 94.6% of those who entered the labour force in rural areas.



## **Everest Annual ITS Rankings: Accenture Tops Everest Annual ITS Rankings For Seventh Consecutive Year :-**

Accenture has topped Everest 2023 PEAK Matrix Service Provider of the Year Awards for Information Technology (IT) services for the eighth year in a row. Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), Capgemini, and Wipro have advanced in the rankings to claim the second, third, and fourth positions, respectively. TCS has been in the top five since the rankings were created in 2016 by Everest Group, a worldwide IT research group, and this year it has risen to second place. Capgemini and Wipro both climbed three spots in the standings from the previous year.



## **India Leads As Top Source Market For Sri Lanka's Tourism For April 2023 :-**

For the month of April 2023, India was the leading source market for Sri Lanka's tourism sector. India reclaimed first place after a six-month absence, with over 20,000 Indian tourists visiting the island nation last month. According to the Sri Lanka Tourism Authority, 19,915 Indians visited the island in April, compared to 14,656 Russian visitors. Tourist arrivals from India were 1.23 lakh in 2022, accounting for 17.1% of total arrivals. Arrivals surpassed 100,000 for the fourth consecutive month in April, bringing the total for the first four months to more than 4.4 lakhs.



## India Edges Past China To Send More Students To US In 2022 :-

According to a recent study, more Indian students travelled to the United States in 2022 than the year before, and Asia became the most common region of origin. "The number of students from China and India made Asia the most popular continent of origin. Comparable to the drop from the calendar year 2020 to 2021, China sent fewer students in 2022 compared to 2021 (-24,796), while India sent more students (+64,300)," the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement said in its annual report.



## India Leads List Of 10 Countries With 60% Of Global Maternal Deaths, Stillbirths, Newborn Deaths: UN :-

According to a United Nations assessment, India tops a group of ten nations that account for 60% of global maternal deaths, stillbirths, and neonatal deaths, as well as 51% of live births worldwide. The latest published estimate in the progress tracking report by the WHO, UNICEF, and the UNFPA was launched at the 'International Maternal Newborn Health Conference' (IMNHC 2023) at Cape Town. India saw 7,88,000 maternal deaths, stillbirths and neonatal deaths in 2020, of the total 4.5 million deaths globally.



## MoPSW Ranked 2nd In The Survey Report On Data Governance Quality Index :-

The Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways (MoPSW) has placed second out of 66 ministries in the extremely influential Data Governance Quality Index (DGQI) assessment for the fiscal year 2022-2023 Q3. The ministry received an exceptional score of 4.7 out of 5, demonstrating its dedication to data governance excellence. Conducted by the Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO), NITI Aayog, the DGQI survey aims to measure the maturity level of administrative data systems and their use in decision-making of various ministries and departments on the implementation of Central Sector Schemes (CS) and Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS).



**India Supplied Arms Worth ₹422 Crore to Myanmar Junta, UN Report Reveals :-**

According to a United Nations report, India has supplied the Myanmar military with \$51 million (₹422 crore) in guns and related materials since the February 2021 coup. According to UN Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in Myanmar, Tom Andrews, Russia, China, Singapore, and Thailand all offered military support to the Myanmar junta. The report recommends penalties against a number of Myanmar entities, including Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise and Myanmar Foreign Trade Bank, as well as economic sanctions against the military.



**Uttar Pradesh Now Holds 2nd Position In GI Tagged Products :-**

After getting GI tags for three more crafts, Uttar Pradesh currently ranks second in the country in terms of the quantity of Geographical Indication-tagged commodities. Mainpuri tarkashi, Mahoba Gaura stone craft, and Sambhal horn craft are among the crafts that have acquired GI tags. Handicrafts account for 18 of the

23 GI-tagged commodities in the Varanasi region alone. While Tamil Nadu has the most GI-tagged items (55), UP and Karnataka are close behind with 48 and 46 GI products, respectively.



**India To Contribute 16% To Global GDP Growth Over 2023-24: Morgan Stanley :-**

With the Indian economy being a crucial contributor to Asian economic growth outperformance, Morgan Stanley said in a study that the broad-based recovery in demand runs counter to the downturn experienced outside Asia. According to Morgan Stanley, India is benefiting from a combination of cyclical and structural tailwinds and is predicted to contribute 16% of global GDP growth between 2023 and 2024. A strong domestic demand and export of services will offset the decline in goods export. Domestic demand is backed by strong balance sheets, according to the report.



**Indian Economy Expected To Grow 6.7% In 2024: United Nations :-**

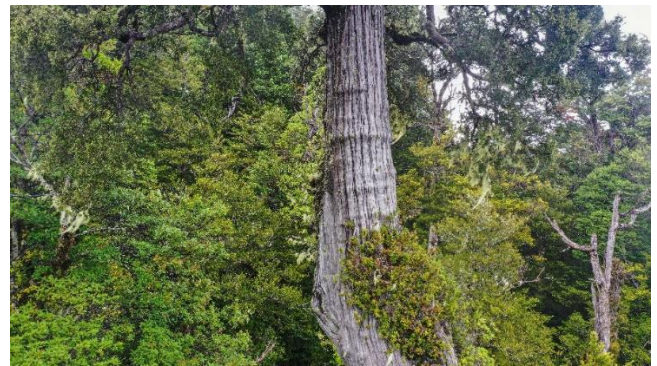
According to a UN report, India's economy is predicted to grow by 6.7% in calendar year 2024, driven by solid internal demand. However, rising interest rates and lower external demand would continue to weigh on the country's investment and exports this year. According to the World Economic Situation and Prospects report published in mid-2023, India's economy, the largest in the South Asian area, is anticipated to grow by 5.8 percent in 2023 and 6.7 percent in 2024 (on a calendar-year basis), underpinned by solid domestic demand.



### Mumbai Ranks Sixth In Annual Housing Price Growth Among 46 Cities Globally :-

According to Knight Frank, Mumbai ranks sixth among 46 cities worldwide in terms of yearly price rise of high-end residential properties, with a 5.5% increase. Real estate consultant Knight Frank India in its report 'Prime Global Cities Index Q1 2023' said that Mumbai, Bengaluru and New Delhi have registered an increase in average annual

prices in January-March 2023. Bengaluru and New Delhi also witnessed an upward movement in index ranking to 16th and 22nd ranks from their previous 37th and 39th ranks, respectively.



### 5,000-Year-Old 'Great Grandfather' Tree Is Officially The World's Oldest :-

A gigantic tree in southern Chile has endured for thousands of years and is on its way to being recognised as the world's oldest. The trunk of this tree, known as the "Great Grandfather," measuring four metres (13 feet) in diameter and 28 metres tall, is also thought to contain scientific knowledge that could offer light on how the globe has adapted to climate changes. It is believed to be more than 5,000 years old and is on the verge of displacing Methuselah, a 4,850-year-old Great Basin bristlecone pine discovered in California, USA, as the world's oldest tree.

## 14: Schemes & Committees



### Wrestling Federation of India (WFI), IOA forms a two-member Ad Hoc committee :-

The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) has constituted a two-member ad hoc committee, comprised of executive council (EC) member Bhupender Singh Bajwa and sportsperson of outstanding merit (SOM), Suma Shirur, to oversee the day-to-day operations of the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI). The committee will also organise elections for the IOA's new executive

committee (EC) in the aftermath of the wrestling body's underfire president, Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, being accused of sexual harassment by the country's top female wrestlers.



## Kerala Launches 'One Panchayat, One Playground' To Revive Sports Culture :-

The Kerala government has undertaken an initiative to revitalise the state's sports culture by establishing quality playgrounds in each panchayat throughout the southern state. Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan launched the 'One Panchayat, One Playground' project in Kallikkad, saying that a healthy and happy community requires a strong sports culture. The playgrounds will be completed in three years, and a list of 113 panchayats has been compiled for the first phase of the project, according to the Chief Minister.



## Ministry Of Health Plans To Launch 100 Food Streets Nationwide :-

In conjunction with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, the Health Ministry has encouraged states and union territories to create 100 food streets in 100

districts around the country. According to the Health Ministry, the goal of this project is to promote safe and healthy practises in order to prevent food-borne infections and enhance overall health outcomes. The programme is being implemented as a pilot project to serve as a model for best practises in the food industry. Other advantages include increased local employment opportunities, increased tourism potential, and a boost to the economy.



## UDAN 5.0 Launched By Civil Aviation Ministry To Further Enhance Connectivity To Remote Areas :-

The government has begun the fifth phase of the Regional Connectivity Scheme — UDAN — to provide connection to the country's rural and regional communities. By releasing a bid document, the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) began the process of accepting proposals from airlines for various routes under the fifth round of bidding for its regional connectivity scheme UDAN. Some of the key features were the earlier stage length cap of 600 km is waived off and there is no restriction on the distance between the origin and destination of the flight.





## Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot launched his government's flagship initiative 'Mehangai Rahat' camps:-

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot recently launched his government's flagship initiative, the 'Mehangai Rahat' camps, from Mahapura village in Sanganer district. From April 24 to June 30, these camps will be held across the state to ensure that the benefits of the state government's numerous welfare initiatives reach the recipients. On this occasion, Gehlot stated that inflation is having a negative impact on people, which is why the state government is providing relief by offering LPG cylinders at Rs 500 under the Ujjwala Yojna. People are unable to refill cylinders due to the high cost, so the Centre should step in to help.



## National Medical Devices Policy Approved By Union Cabinet :-

The Union Cabinet has approved the National Medical Devices Policy, 2023, which is expected to enable the medical device sector's orderly expansion in order to satisfy public health objectives of access, affordability, quality, and innovation. It will help the sector develop from \$11 billion to \$50 billion in the next five years, according to Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya. He stated that the Union government's objective was to accelerate growth with a patient-centric approach and to emerge as a global leader in medical device manufacture and innovation.



## Uttar Pradesh On Track To Be First Indian State With 100% EVs In Govt Depts :-

In a major drive to promote the sales and use of electric vehicle (EVs) in the state of Uttar Pradesh, the state government has set a target and put plans in place to gradually convert vehicles used in all government agencies to EVs by 2030. For this, instructions have been issued that all government agencies can purchase EVs on the basis of nomination, even without a tender, and that EV purchases can exceed the maximum limit set by the law. On October 14, the government published the Uttar Pradesh Electric Vehicle Manufacturing and Mobility Policy 2022.



## Telangana Govt To Implement Insurance Scheme For Toddy Tappers :-

Along with the Rythu Bhima for farmers, Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao plans to introduce the "Geetha Karmikula Bhima" (insurance for toddy tappers). In the event that a toddy tapper inadvertently dies while gathering toddy from palm trees in the fields, the chief minister's office stated that insurance money in the

amount of Rs. 5 lakh would be instantly put into the bank accounts of the corresponding family members. The state's finance minister and the excise minister have been tasked by the chief minister to write regulations for a new insurance programme.



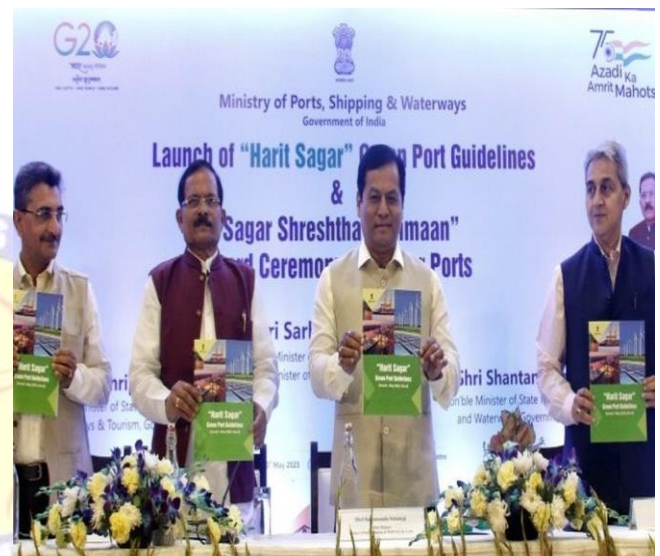
### Himachal Cabinet Approves Monthly Incentive Of Rs 1,500 For Women Of Spiti :-

All eligible women in the Spiti Valley, including Buddhist nuns, who are at least 18 years old will receive Rs 1,500 per month as part of the Indira Gandhi Mahila Samman Nidhi, according to the Himachal Pradesh Cabinet, which is chaired by Chief Minister Sukhvinder Sukhu. In order to facilitate business, the cabinet also approved the use of electronic stamping for the collection of stamp duty. It decided to stop printing of physical stamp papers with immediate effect and to authorise stamp vendors as authorised collection centres.



### Telangana Govt Launches First Of Its Kind State Robotics Framework :-

The Telangana government has announced the State Robotics Framework, a first-of-its-kind strategy in India, with the goal of developing a sustainable robotics ecosystem and positioning the state as a robotics leader. The framework was created by the Telangana ITE&C Department's Emerging Technologies Wing in partnership with the All India Robotics Association and with input from academia, industry professionals, and stakeholders. The framework is a thorough roadmap outlining the state's goal for the growth of the state's robotics ecosystem.



### Ministry Of Ports, Shipping & Waterways Launches 'Harit Sagar' Green Port Guidelines 2023 :-

To achieve the larger goal of meeting the Zero Carbon Emission Goal, the Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways has introduced "Harit Sagar," the Green Port Guidelines. Sarbananda Sonowal, Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways, and AYUSH, officially launched the guidelines. It emphasises the use of clean and environmentally friendly energy in port operations, as well as the development of port capabilities for storing, processing, and bunkering greener fuels such as green hydrogen, green ammonia, green methanol, and green ethanol.



smart

cities.



**Uttar Pradesh Introduces "School Health Program" Digital Health Cards For Children :-**

The government of Uttar Pradesh has introduced an innovative project known as the "School Health Program." This pilot initiative has begun in three schools in Lucknow Smart City. The project also includes the creation of a digital health report card for the total physical and mental well-being of 1,765 municipal school children. In addition, these youngsters would receive a health insurance policy of Rs 25,000. Following the successful conclusion of the pilot project, the plan is expected to be implemented in the state's other nine

**Online Education Program 'Pahal' For Rural Children Launched :-**

Chief Secretary Durga Shankar Mishra launched the 'Pahal' online rural education scheme at the Government UP Sainik Inter College in Sarojini Nagar. The department of secondary education developed this programme in partnership with IIT Kanpur. In the first phase of this plan, free online education will be delivered to 10 government secondary schools throughout the state. Students from rural areas will benefit from these classes by learning the most recent science and maths material.

**15: Science & Technology**



**City Union Bank Launches India's 1st Voice Biometric Authentication Banking App :-**

City Union Bank Limited (CUB) has announced the availability of Voice Biometric authentication for users logging into the mobile banking app. "Now customers of City Union Bank will be protected from fraudsters since Voice Biometric cannot be compromised like PIN / OTP. Recorded Voice and Mimicked Voice will be rejected (sic)," the bank stated in its release. The bank mentioned

that the feature of voice biometric login will shortly be extended for net banking users, the process is under development.



**Kenya Launched Its First Operational Earth Observation Satellite "Taifa-1" :-**

Kenya launched its first operational earth observation satellite, 'Taifa-1,' on a SpaceX rocket from the United

States. The satellite, designed by nine Kenyan engineers, will collect agricultural and environmental data, such as floods, droughts, and wildfires, for use in disaster management and combating food shortages. The satellite was put together with the help of Bulgarian aerospace company Endurosat at a cost of 50 million Kenyan shillings (\$372,000) over two years, the space agency said.



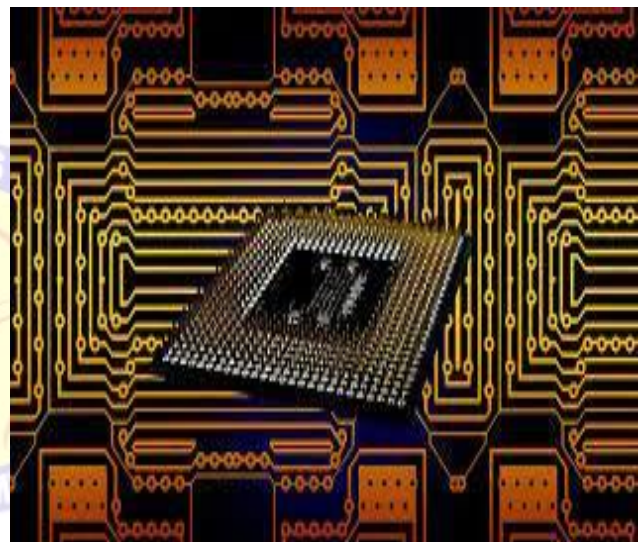
## ISRO Launched Two Satellites Of Singapore:-

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully launched two customer satellites using Polar Satellite Launch Vehicles. On its 57th mission, the 228-ton PSLV launched off from Sriharikota's Satish Dhawan Space into an eastward low inclination orbit. The two Singaporean satellites weighed a total of 757 kilogrammes. This was the third major launch of the year for India's space agency, which is currently preparing for larger projects such as Chandrayaan-3 and the country's first solar mission, Aditya L-1.



## Himachal Pradesh Has Become The First Indian State To Develop A DNA Database For Unidentified Bodies :-

According to media reports, Himachal Pradesh has become the first Indian state to create a DNA database for unidentified dead bodies. The creation of this database had begun in April 2022. So far, the database contains information on 150 DNA samples from unidentified bodies. According to reports, in 2022, the Directorate of Forensic Services, Janga purchased DNA profile databasing and matching technology (Smallpond TM software from the United States) for Rs. 55 lakh. The database is still being prepared and filled.



## India Launches Quantum Technology Mission With Rs. 6003.65 Crore Budget Allocation :-

Anurag Singh Thakur, Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Youth Affairs and Sports, announced the beginning of the National Quantum Mission with a budget of Rs 6,003 crore. The mission will strive to seed, foster, and scale up scientific and industrial resource and development initiatives, as well as to create a lively and innovative quantum technology ecosystem. The mission's schedule is 2023-24 to 2030-31, he noted. Quantum technology can also be used in medical, the healthcare industry, pharmaceuticals, security, job creation, and navigation.



## Japan's Health Ministry Approves First Abortion Pill In Its History :-

The sale of an oral abortion pill has been authorised by the health ministry, providing women in early pregnancy with an option to surgical abortion. Abortion is permitted in Japan up to 22 weeks, but approval from a spouse or partner is normally necessary. The ministry said in a notification to healthcare officials that it had approved a drug made by Linepharma. After the health ministry approved the medicine used to terminate early-stage pregnancy, the abortion pill will be made available in Japan for the first time. France was the first country to legalise the abortion pill in 1988, and it has been available in the United States since 2000.



## NASA Successfully Extracts Oxygen From Lunar Soil Simulant :-

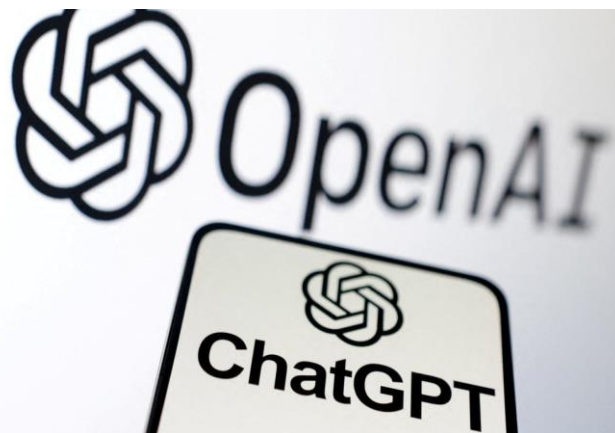
NASA researchers at Houston's Johnson Space Centre have successfully extracted oxygen from simulated lunar soil in a vacuum environment, opening the door for

future lunar colonisation and establishing a human presence on the lunar surface for an extended period of time. In addition to being essential for providing personnel with breathable air on the moon, the ability to extract oxygen from lunar soil also opens up the possibility of using the gas as a propellant for travel and further space exploration.



## Emirates Introduces First Robotic Check-In Assistant In The World :-

Emirates, a Dubai-based airline, introduced Sara, the world's first robotic check-in helper. The system is a component of a brand-new City Check-in and Travel Store that will open in Dubai's financial district. Sara will check guests in, scan their passports to match their faces, direct them to the luggage drop area and check their bags. The facility allows customers to drop their luggage as early as 24 hours and up to 4 hours before their flight, arriving at the airport at their convenience. Passengers can check in via self-check-in kiosks, at dedicated desks with Emirates agents, or with the help of Sara.



## 'Gigachat' Russia's Sberbank Launches AI To Compete With ChatGPT :-

In response to OpenAI's ChatGPT, the state-owned Russian corporation Sberbank has introduced its own AI chatbot, GigaChat. Sberbank criticised ChatGPT by claiming that, "Unlike the foreign-made neural network, GigaChat was initially designed to support multimodal interaction and communicate in Russian more intelligently." According to the company, GigaChat will be accessible in a test mode. Within a single environment, it is capable of providing answers, maintaining dialogue, writing programme code, and producing words and images from descriptions.



## Pune: Asia's First Subsea Research Lab At MIT-World Peace University :-

The MIT-World Peace University (WPU) has created Asia's first subsea research lab, with the goal of developing multidisciplinary talent for the global oil and gas business, according to the institute. Called the Centre for Subsea Engineering Research (CSER), the lab showcases a working prototype of deep-water offshore petroleum operations, revolutionising the way in which future workforce can be trained for the energy sector. The state-of-the-art laboratory is the brainchild of the Department of Petroleum Engineering (PE) at MIT-WPU, and was built in partnership with Aker Solutions.



## ISRO Launches Space Science And Technology Awareness Training Programme :-

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has announced the launch of Space Science and Technology Awareness Training (START), a new introductory-level online training programme. START is designed for postgraduate and final-year undergraduate students majoring in Physical Sciences and Technology. Academic institutions can apply for the programme through the Jigyasa site until May 20. The programme will include a variety of Space Science topics, such as astronomy and astrophysics, heliophysics and the Sun-Earth relationship, instrumentation, and aeronautics.



## India received permission to establish a second hydroelectric project in Nepal :-

Nepal has made the decision to permit Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam (SJVN) Limited of India to build a second hydropower project there. Currently, SJVN is working on a 900 MW run-of-river hydroelectric project called Arun-

III, which is expected to be finished in 2024 and is situated on the Arun River in Eastern Nepal. The Lower Arun Hydropower Project in eastern Nepal, with a capacity of 669 megawatts (MW), was approved at a meeting of the Investment Board Nepal (IBN), which was presided over by Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal alias Prachanda.



## Improving Research and Innovation for a Technologically Advanced Country (IMPRINT India) :-

The Department of Science and Technology and the Ministry of Human Resource Development of India joined forces to create the IMPRINT India scheme, which stands for "Impacting Research Innovation and Technology." By tackling significant technical and technological challenges across ten essential fields, the programme seeks to strengthen research and innovation in the nation. IMPRINT India aims to increase national self-sufficiency and lessen reliance on foreign technology by encouraging domestic research and development. The IMPRINT India scheme's goals, traits, capabilities, advantages, and vision are examined in this article.

## 16: Sports



### Football : Odisha's Bhubaneswar To Host 2023 Intercontinental Cup In June :-

After successfully hosting the hockey World Cup for the second time this year, as well as the U-17 Women's World Cup last year, Bhubaneswar is poised to welcome India's senior men's national football team for the first time in June this year when they compete in the Intercontinental Cup. Lebanon, Vanuatu, and Mongolia are the other three teams who will compete in the four-nation competition, which will take place during the FIFA international window from June 9 to June 18. The

tournament will be held for the third time, with the previous two taking place in Mumbai (2018) and Ahmedabad (2019).



### 2023 Men's Hockey Asian Champions Trophy to be Held in Chennai :-

The Asian Champions Trophy 2023 hockey event will be hosted in Chennai, India, from August 3 to August 12, according to Hockey India (HI). For the first time, the Asian Champions Trophy, now in its seventh edition, will be held in Chennai. It will also be the first international hockey tournament staged in Chennai since the Asia Cup

in 2007. The tournament will also act as a warm-up for the Indian men's hockey squad ahead of the Asian Games, which will be held in Hangzhou, China, in September and October.



## Gary Ballance Retires From All Forms Of Cricket :-

Gary Ballance recently declared his retirement from all kinds of cricket. After signing a two-year contract with Zimbabwe, the left-handed hitter made his debut. Ballance represented Zimbabwe in one Test, one Twenty20 International, and five One-Day Internationals. In addition, he has five Test hundreds, one of which (137) came against the West Indies. Ballance made his Test debut in 2014 and has since appeared in 23 Tests for England. However, his career began to decline after 2017. Ballance was accused of using racist comments at Azeem Rafiq, a player from Yorkshire. Ballance relocated to Zimbabwe in order to resurrect his career.



## FIFA: Argentina To Replace Indonesia As Under-20 World Cup Host :-

Following the decision to remove Indonesia of the right to host the under-20 World Cup, FIFA announced that

Argentina will host the tournament. On March 29, FIFA announced the decision to remove Indonesia as the host country after the country's FA cancelled the draw scheduled for Bali due to the governor's refusal to accept Israel's team. Argentina hosted the Under-20 World Cup in 2001, winning the fourth of its six titles. It is also attempting to co-host the 2030 World Cup finals with Uruguay, Chile, and Paraguay.



## IPL 2023 : Rohit Sharma becomes 4th batter to score 6000 runs in the IPL:-

Mumbai Indians captain Rohit Sharma made history by becoming only the fourth batsman in Indian Premier League history to score 6000 runs. Rohit reached the milestone during the IPL 2023 match between Sunrisers Hyderabad at Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium in Hyderabad. Rohit currently has 6014 IPL runs from 231 matches, including one century and 41 half-centuries. Former RCB skipper Virat Kohli leads the leaderboard with 6844 runs in 228 matches. In addition, he made five hundreds and 47 fifties.





## IPL 2023: David Warner Becomes Most Capped Overseas Captain In IPL, Surpasses Adam Gilchrist :-

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When David Warner stepped out for the toss for Delhi Capitals versus Kolkata Knight Riders during an IPL 2023 game in Delhi, he became the most capped overseas skipper in IPL history. The 36-year-old Warner surpassed compatriot Adam Gilchrist with his 75th appearance as captain in the IPL. Warner first captained in the IPL during his previous stint with the Delhi Capitals (then Daredevils) in 2013, when he stood as the stand-in captain for Mahela Jayawardena. Warner was then roped in by Sunrisers Hyderabad in 2014.



## Doha Diamond League: Neeraj Chopra wins gold :-

Neeraj Chopra kicked off the season with a world-leading throw of 88.67m, winning the Diamond League competition in Doha on Friday, May 5. Jakub Vadlejch, who had the season's best performance before Chopra, kept everyone on their toes and finished second with throws of 88.63m and 88.47m. Anderson Peters finished third with a throw of 85.88m. Chopra, 25, will go into the World Championships (August) and Asian Games (September) with confidence after winning his first match of the season against a strong field.



## Kenya's Kiptum Wins London Marathon In 2nd Fastest Time :-

Kenyan Kelvin Kiptum won the London Marathon in the second-fastest time in history, just minutes after Sifan Hassan won the women's race, extending her famous distance-running career. Kiptum took first place in the men's race in 2 hours, 1 minute, and 25 seconds. Only Eliud Kipchoge's world record of 2:01:09 from the Berlin Marathon last September is faster. Kiptum, 23, also won his marathon debut in Valencia, Spain, in December in 2:01:53, becoming the third-fastest man in history at the time.



## Odisha FC Clinch Hero Super Cup 2023 With A 2-1 Victory Over Bengaluru FC :-

Odisha FC, led by Indian Head Coach Clifford Miranda, defeated Bengaluru FC 2-1 to win the Hero Super Cup 2023 Final. Diego Mauricio scored both Odisha FC goals, the first one from a free kick in the 23rd minute and the second in the 37th. Despite Bengaluru FC's efforts, Odisha FC maintained their lead and did not face any major challenge. Bengaluru FC managed to score a goal through a penalty taken by Sunil Chetri in the 85th

minute, but it was not enough to make a comeback in the game.



## Odisha Extends Indian Hockey Team Sponsorship Till 2033 :-

The senior and junior Indian hockey teams will continue to be sponsored by the state of Odisha for an additional ten years, from 2023 to 2033. The Cabinet meeting this regard was presided over by chief minister Naveen Patnaik. Odisha has been the official sponsor of both the Men's and Women's National Hockey Teams since 2018, and P.K. Jena, chief secretary, stated following the cabinet meeting that this assistance will be a crucial step towards the growth and development of Hockey in India..



## Argentina's Lionel Messi Wins Laureus Sportsman Of The Year 2023 :-

Lionel Messi, Argentina's World Cup-winning captain, has been named the 2023 Laureus World Sportsman of the Year. Messi received the honour after leading Argentina to a historic World Cup victory last year. Messi

received the Laureus Sportsman of the Year title for the second time. Lionel Messi and Argentina's World Cup-winning team were voted Sportsman and Team of the Year at the Laureus World Sports Awards. He is the first athlete in history to receive both the team and individual accolades in the same year.



## Fakhar Zaman, Naruemol Chaiwai Crowned ICC Players Of The Month For April :-

After producing match-winning performances for their respective countries in ODIs, Pakistan batter Fakhar Zaman was named the ICC Men's Player of the Month for April, while Thailand skipper Naruemol Chaiwai was voted best in the women's section. Both batters were identified as April's outstanding performers following a vote conducted among a specialist panel comprising ICC Hall of Famers, former international players, and media representatives, who, in combination with global cricket fans registered at [icc-cricket.com](http://icc-cricket.com).



## Badminton Asia Appoints Omar Rashid As Chair Of Technical Officials Committee :-

The Badminton Association of India (BAI) announced that Omar Rashid, its Joint Secretary, will be appointed as the Chair of the Badminton Asia Technical Officials Committee for the year 2023-2025. Rashid will oversee the development and execution of rules and regulations as Chair of the Technical Officials Committee, raising the standard of officiating in badminton competitions across the country. Rashid, who is also the General Secretary of the Assam Badminton Association, has been involved in badminton administration for over two decades.



## Telangana's Vuppala Praneeth Became India's 82nd Grandmaster :-

Vuppala Praneeth of Telangana became India's 82nd Grandmaster after defeating GM Hans Niemann of the United States in the penultimate round of the Baku Open 2023. Praneeth now holds the GM title after crossing the 2500 Elo live ratings mark. Praneeth, who began playing at the age of six, obtained his first GM norm at the First Saturday tournament in March of last year and his second GM norm four months later at the Biel MTO tournament. Praneeth received his third and final GM-norm earlier this year at the second Chessable Sunway Formentera Open in Spain.



## FC Barcelona Lifts 27th La Liga Title, First La Liga Since 2019 :-

Barcelona earned its first Spanish league title since Lionel Messi's departure with a 4-2 triumph over Espanyol. The Catalan club won its first league title since 2019 thanks to two goals from Robert Lewandowski. The title was won with four rounds to go, two years after Lionel Messi departed the club due to financial difficulties. Barcelona now has 27 league titles, eight fewer than Real Madrid. Alejandro Balde and Jules Koundé also scored. Barcelona has won 27 of its 34 games this season.



## Gatka Martial Art To Feature In 37th National Games :-

The traditional game of 'Gatka' is about to receive a big boost across the country, as the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) has officially included it in the 37th National Games-2023, which will be held in Goa in October of this year. Harjeet Singh Grewal, President of the National Gatka Association of India (NGAI) and a State Awardee, thanked IOA President and Rajya Sabha member PT Usha and other members in a statement for including the martial art Gatka in the national games for the first time.



## Magnus Carlsen won Superbet Rapid and Blitz Poland 2023 :-

World Chess Champion Magnus Carlsen won Superbet Rapid & Blitz Poland, the second leg of the Grand Chess Tour (GCT). Carlsen is Five-time World Chess Champion. 2023. The Norwegian Grandmaster, the World No.1, finished with a score of 24/36, taking home the \$40,000 1st place prize. Placed second was local favourite and defending champion Jan-Krzysztof Duda, who led until the final day and ended just a point behind with 23/36. GM Wesley So and GM Maxime Vachier-Lagrave tied for third and fourth places with 21.5 points to pocket \$22,500 and 7.5 GCT each.



## Purple Cap IPL 2023 Winner :-

With 28 wickets in 16 games, Mohammed Shami of the Gujarat Titans took home the Purple Cap in the IPL 2023. The most of any bowler in the competition, he got 11 wickets during the powerplay. Throughout the competition, Shami was in excellent shape, bowling quickly and precisely. With 17 wickets in his final 8 games, he stood out in the second half of the campaign. The top three bowlers competing for the IPL 2023 Purple

Cap are all members of the Gujarat Titans. The Purple Cap is an award given to the leading wicket-taker of the Indian Premier League (IPL) season. The bowler with the most wickets in the tournament during the season is allowed to wear the Cap in the field.



## Orange Cap IPL 2023 Winner :-

Shubman Gill of the Gujarat Titans won the Orange Cap in the IPL in 2023 with 890 runs in 17 games. He recorded 3 century and 4 fifty-sevens. Throughout the competition, Gill was in excellent form, scoring runs at a 157.80 strike rate. He performed very well in the second half of the competition, scoring 600 runs in his final 8 games. The young batsman experienced a significant turnaround after Gill's Orange Cap victory. He had a forgettable 2022 campaign, scoring only 293 runs in 14 games. He made a strong comeback in 2023 though, demonstrating his skill as one of the world's best batsmen.



## Max Verstappen wins Monaco Grand Prix 2023 :-

Red Bull's Max Verstappen won the 2023 Monaco Grand Prix, leading all 78 laps from pole position. The victory was Verstappen's fourth of the season and extended his lead in the Drivers' Championship to 39 points. The race was held in wet conditions, and Verstappen made the most of it, starting well and pulling away from the rest of the field. He never looked back, and cruised to victory. Fernando Alonso finished second, with Esteban Ocon in third. Charles Leclerc retired from the race after a collision with Carlos Sainz.



## IPL 2023 Final: Chennai Super Kings Beats Gujarat Titans :-

Chennai Super Kings won their record sixth Indian Premier League title with a five-wicket victory against Gujarat Titans in a rain-affected but entertaining final clash. Gujarat Titans posted 214 for four after being asked to bat first, thanks to B Sai Sudharsan's 96 in 47 balls. After rain stopped play at the start of the second innings of a final, a revised target of 171 in 15 overs was set. CSK completed the assignment on the final ball at a crowded Narendra Modi Stadium in what could be the great Mahendra Singh Dhoni's final T20 league appearance.



## Ambati Rayudu Retires From IPL Ahead of CSK vs GT Finals :-

Ambati Rayudu, the Chennai Super Kings' star batter, announced his retirement from the Indian Premier League, confirming that the final of the 2023 edition against Gujarat Titans will be his last match in the tournament. Ambati Rayudu has been part of the Chennai Super Kings since 2018, and won two titles with the franchise; he had begun his IPL career with Mumbai Indians in 2010. Ambati Rayudu took to Twitter to share his thoughts and wrote in his tweet "2 great teams MI and CSK, 204 matches, 14 seasons, 11 playoffs, 8 finals, 5 trophies. Hopefully 6th tonight. It's been quite a journey. I have decided that tonight's final is going to be my last game in the IPL. I truly enjoyed playing in this great tournament. Thank you all. No u-turn."



## South Asian Youth TT Championship 2023: India Bags 16 Gold Medals :-

A three-day international event, the South Asian Youth Table Tennis Championship 2023, was recently conducted in Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh. The event drew around 100 athletes from six nations, including Bhutan, Bangladesh, India, the Maldives, Sri Lanka, and

Nepal. The Governor of Arunachal Pradesh, Lt. General KT Parnaik (Retd.), was the Chief Guest at the concluding ceremony at the Dorjee Khandu Indoor Stadium in

Itanagar. On the final day, India accomplished a historic accomplishment by capturing all 16 gold medals during the competition.

## 17: State



### Andhra Pradesh CM Lays Foundation Stone For Mulapeta Port :-

Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy, Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, has laid the groundwork for the Rs 4,362 crore Mulapeta greenfield port in Srikakulam district. In addition to the port, the Chief Minister lay the groundwork for a fishing harbour at Budagatlapalem, a life irrigation project from Gotta barrage to Hira Mandalam reservoir, and the continuation of Mahendra Tanaya river works. Reddy stated that the Mulapeta Port in Sonthabommali mandal would be finished in 24 months and that the seaport has the ability to directly and indirectly employ 35,000 people.

The National Medical Commission (NMC) has approved the establishment of the 100-seat Nagaland Institute of Medical Sciences and Research, the northeastern state's first medical college since its statehood 60 years ago in 1963. Announcing the NMC's approval to set up Nagaland Institute of Medical Sciences and Research in Kohima, Health and Family Welfare Minister P. Paiwang Konyak said that the academic session of the new medical college would begin from 2023-24.



### Maha Govt Has Announces 4% Reservation For Divyang Employees In Promotions :-

The Maharashtra government has announced a 4% reservation in promotions for Divyang personnel. The state cabinet has agreed that this reservation will apply to cadres where the share of direct service recruitment is less than 75 percent. The state cabinet has also decided to clear all pending dues as per the Seventh Pay Commission for non-teaching staff serving across all non-agricultural universities. The arrears will be paid in five installments on 1st July every year, over the next five years.



### Nagaland Gets Approval From NMC For Setting Up Its First Medical College :-



## Tamil Nadu Scrapes Bill Allowing 12-Hour Work Days :-

Following protests from several political parties and labour unions, Tamil Nadu has put on hold a bill that would allow a 12-hour workday instead of the mandatory eight hours in the state's factories. Chief Minister M K Stalin stated that the process of enacting the bill passed by the Assembly on April 21 had been halted based on the views voiced by various trade union representatives and political parties. The ruling DMK party's allies included Congress, the Left parties, and Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi (VCK) staged a walkout from the Assembly when the bill was taken up for discussion.



## BRO Puts Up Signboard Describing Mana As 'First Indian Village' :-

The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has put a signboard reading 'First Indian Village' near the border village of Mana. Mana, a village in Uttarakhand's Chamoli district that was previously known as the "last Indian village," will now be known as the "first Indian village." The move comes after Prime Minister Narendra Modi

approved Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama's remark in October last year that Mana was the country's first village and that every border village should be the first village.



## Union Minister Sonowal Inaugurates The Technology Arm Of Shipping Ministry In TN :-

Union Minister for Ports, Shipping, and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal has opened the National Technology Centre for Ports, Waterways, and Coasts (NTPCWC) at IIT Madras' Discovery Campus. The Union Shipping Ministry's technology arm, the NTPCWC, will be enlarged to include world-class multifunctional maritime laboratories in climate change, marine robotics, marine informatics and analytics, smart modelling and simulation. He stated that centres of excellence in accordance with the NTPCWC would be developed in the near future.



## 3 New Conservation Reserves Declared In Rajasthan :-

The grasslands that house the Great Indian Bustard in Sorsan in Baran and the winter habitat of Demoiselle Cranes in Khichan in Jodhpur were among three new

wildlife conservation areas established by the Rajasthan forest department, the third being Hamirgarh in Bhilwara. The total number of conservation reserves in the state is presently 26. Conservationists and animal campaigners have long advocated for the protection of the Great Indian Bustard (GIB) habitat in Sorsan and the home of migrating birds and demoiselle cranes in Kichan, both of which face numerous dangers.



## **Karnataka election results: Congress wins by biggest vote share in 34 years :-**

The Congress wrested Karnataka from the BJP with an overwhelming victory on May 13, earning a majority on its own with victories in 136 of the state's 224 seats. The result is a significant boost for the Congress Party, which now controls four states ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. The party's election plan was to keep the campaign focused on local issues. The distribution of tickets was also closely regulated. As a result, 35 elected Congress MLAs are first-timers. Siddaramaiah, along with Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) chief DK Shivakumar, remains the leading CM contender.



## **Dawki Land Port In Meghalaya Inaugurated By Union Minister Nityanand Rai :-**

The Dawki Land Port in Meghalaya's West Jaintia Hills district was launched by Union Minister Nityanand Rai to enhance trade and commerce between India and Bangladesh. The Union Minister of State for Home Affairs inaugurated the land port in the presence of Meghalaya Deputy Chief Minister Sniawbhalang Dhar. The Dawki Land Port will serve as an important economic and transportation hub between India and Bangladesh, easing the passage of products, persons, and vehicles across the border. It will also make crossing the border easier for passengers.



## **Telangana CM Lays Foundation For Hare Krishna Heritage Tower In Hyderabad :-**

Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao has laid the groundwork for the Hare Krishna Movement's Heritage Tower in Hyderabad, and has pledged a Rs 25 crore donation to its construction. Speaking on the event, Rao praised the Hare Krishna Heritage Tower project and expressed his delight at being a part of the programme. He stated that the firm has maintained high service quality and has worked tirelessly to assist the government during the Covid-19 pandemic and other calamities.





## New Lithium Deposits Discovered In Rajasthan After J&K :-

Months after discovering India's first lithium reserves in Jammu and Kashmir, the Geological Survey of India (GSI) has identified another reserve of the critical mineral in Degana, Rajasthan's Nagaur district. It is estimated that these reserves are far larger than those found in the Union Territory and can fulfil 80% of total country demand. Lithium is generally utilised to make rechargeable batteries, specifically those used in electric cars, portable electronic gadgets, and power equipment.



## London Stock Exchange Group To Set Up Technology Centre In Hyderabad :-

The London Stock Exchange Group (LSEG), a provider of global financial markets infrastructure and data, will open a technological centre of excellence (CoE) in Hyderabad. The proposed facility was announced after Minister for Industries and IT K. T. Rama Rao met with Group's CIO Anthony McCarthy in London during an official tour. The establishment of the CoE will provide a huge boost to the city's BFSI (banking, financial services, and insurance) sector and is predicted to produce numerous job opportunities.



## Varanasi's Lal Bahadur Shastri International (LBSI) Airport Gets India's First Reading Lounge :-

Varanasi's Lal Bahadur Shastri International (LBSI) Airport is the first in India to have a reading lounge. The lounge's library, in addition to books about Kashi, contains a variety of literature and novels in many worldwide languages, as well as books by young authors published under Prime Minister Yuva Yojana. Apart from India's culture, history, traditional knowledge systems, health and wellness, literature in Hindi, French, Spanish, English and many other Indian languages, the reading lounge also celebrates literary icons of Varanasi through their works, iconic places and unknown facts and connections with the city.



## New Karnataka CM, Siddaramaiah, Sworn In As Chief Minister :-

On 20 May, Siddaramaiah was sworn in as Karnataka chief minister for the second time, along with state

Congress President D K Shivakumar as deputy CM and eight lawmakers as ministers, a week after the party swept the Karnataka Assembly elections. The new ministry took the oath in front of thousands of people at Bengaluru's Kanteerava stadium. The new ministers are: G Parameshwara, Priyank Kharge, KH Muniyappa, MB Patil, Satish Jarkiholi, Ramalinga Reddy, KJ George and BZ Zameer Ahmed Khan.



## HPCL To Set Up Rs 500 Cr Ethanol Plant In Una :-

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Sukhu said that a Rs 500 crore ethanol facility would be built on 30 acres of land in Una district by Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL). The CM was presiding over a meeting to discuss the many issues of the projected ethanol plant's construction. The CM stated that the government is willing to contribute 50% of the project's equity and would work with the enterprise to establish the facility. HPCL promised the Chief Minister that the government's proposal will be discussed with the company's Board of Directors.



## Kerala becomes India's first e-governed state:-

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan announced that Kerala has achieved the distinction of becoming India's first fully e-governed state. The southern state has successfully digitized an extensive range of government services, ensuring prompt and transparent delivery to its citizens. Under this comprehensive e-governance initiative, the Kerala government aims to bring services directly to the masses, eliminating the need for citizens to visit government offices in person.

# SDGs

Sustainable  
Development  
Goals



## Bhopal Becomes 1st City To Measure Sustainable Development Goals Progress :-

Following the release of its Voluntary Local Review (VLR), Bhopal has become the first city in India to join the expanding global effort to localise the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The United Nations' 193 member-states adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in 2015, which includes 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 goals as a plan of action for "people," "the planet," and "prosperity." As a measure of accountability to the people, the resolution defines systems for progress monitoring, review, and reporting.



**Tamil Nadu CM Stalin Inaugurated One Of India's Biggest Skywalk Bridge :-**

MK Stalin, the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, has inaugurated a 570-meter-long and 4.2-meter-wide skywalk bridge that connects the Mambalam railway station and the T Nagar bus terminal. The skywalk, built by the Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) for Rs 28.45 million from Smart City funds, intends to relieve traffic congestion on Ranganathan Street, Madley Road, and Market Street. It is predicted that approximately one lakh individuals will use it on a daily basis. It has an escalator and elevator, as well as CCTV cameras placed to safeguard public safety.

## 18: Summits & Conferences



**Food Conclave-2023 held in Hyderabad:-**

The Food Conclave 2023, the State Government's annual brainstorming event for the agri-food sector, was held on April 28-29 in Hyderabad. The event brought together the top 100 agri-food industry thought leaders, who engaged in deep deliberations on identifying significant problems and prospects for the Indian agri-food sector's growth in this decade. The event was based on predominantly five thematic tracks revolving around Agriculture (green), Edible Oil (Yellow), Dairy (White), Meat & Poultry (Pink) and Aquaculture (Blue).



**3rd Education Working Group Meeting Held In Bhubaneswar :-**

The third Education Working Group meeting under G20 was held in Bhubaneswar, Odisha from April 27-28, 2023. The meeting was a follow-up of the previous two working group meetings, which were conducted in Chennai and Amritsar earlier this year, with the goal of exploring and implementing creative ideas and strategies to globalise the field of education. The three-day summit was attended by about 60 participants from G20 member countries, invitee countries, and International Organisation countries. Delegates also viewed cutting-edge technologies and new concepts that are changing the way we work and learn at the G20 Future of Work Exhibition.



## 8th India-Thailand Defence Dialogue held in Bangkok :-

Bangkok hosted the 8th India-Thailand Defence Dialogue. Nivedita Shukla Verma, Special Secretary in the Ministry of Defence, co-chaired the meeting with General Nuchit Sribunsong, Thailand's Deputy Permanent Secretary for Defence. During the dialogue, they reviewed the defence cooperation between the two countries and explored new initiatives to further strengthen bilateral engagements. Both sides also exchanged views on regional and global issues of shared interest. India and Thailand share a strategic partnership and defence is a key pillar of this cooperation.



## Australia Will Host The Third In-Person Quad Summit On May 24 :-

According to Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, the third physical Quad Summit will take place on May 24 in Sydney. US Vice President Joe Biden, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, and Indian Prime

Minister Narendra Modi will all be present. According to him, the Quad is dedicated to fostering an Indo-Pacific region that is open, secure, and affluent, respects national sovereignty, and ensures progress and security for all. This will be the third in-person Quad Leaders' Summit and Australia will serve as the event's host for the first time.



## Goa Organised Three-day heritage festival at Saligao :-

Hosted by the state's tourism department, a three-day Goa Heritage Festival 2023 with performances, culinary delights and exhibitions was held at Saligao from 28 April. The festival aims to promote cultural tourism in Goa and to honour the state's creative past. The festival was launched by Goa's tourism minister, Rohan Khaunte, and Union Minister of State for Tourism, Shripad Naik. A craft mart was put up in addition to cultural activities to provide a forum for local companies and artists to display and sell Goa's unique handicrafts, art, and traditional products.



## India, Iran And Armenia Forms New Trilateral To Deepen Regional Relations :-

In order to boost regional collaboration, the Foreign Ministries of India, Armenia, and Iran met in Yerevan for the first trilateral consultations. The delegations were led by Mnatsakan Safaryan, Armenia's deputy foreign minister, Seyed Rasoul Mousavi, Iran's assistant foreign minister, and JP Singh, India's joint secretary of the ministry of external affairs. During the meeting, the three countries discussed a wide range of topics, including economic issues and regional communication.



## SCO Summit: India Will Host Summit In New Delhi On July 3-4 :-

On July 3-4, India will host the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit in New Delhi on July 3-4 that would see Russian President Vladimir Putin travelling to India for the first time since the Ukraine war. While Putin is likely to attend the Summit, there is no word on whether Chinese President Xi Jinping would attend in person. China's refusal to restore the status quo along the Line of Actual Control has dampened India-China relations. Xi may address the Summit virtually in case he does not attend the Summit physically.



## Third G20 Development Working Group Meeting held in Goa :-

The vibrant state of Goa hosted the third meeting of the G20 Development Working Group (DWG) from May 8–11, 2023. The summit was attended by more than 80 delegates from G20 Members, 9 invited nations, and numerous international and regional organisations. On May 8, 2023, a side event on women-led development was held before to the regular DWG meeting. Shri. Dammu Ravi, Secretary (Economic Relations) of the Ministry of External Affairs, began the formal portion of the DWG meeting on May 9 through May 11, 2023, through a video message.



## Kashmir University Hosted Y20 Meet :-

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on May 11 inaugurated the Youth20 (Y20) consultation meeting on 'Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction: Making Sustainability a Way of Life' at the University of Kashmir (KU). The meeting was attended by delegates from ten nations, including the host country, India. Four panel talks on significant topics connected to the theme of climate change were held throughout the event. The gathering gave the youngsters a chance to speak up and share their suggestions for how they could help address and lessen the effects of climate change.

**Bastille Day Celebration In Paris, PM Modi Accepts French Invite For The Celebration :-**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has accepted French President Emmanuel Macron's invitation to be the Guest of Honour at the Bastille Day Parade in Paris on July 14, according to the Ministry of External Affairs. According to an official press release, a detachment of the Indian armed forces will take part in the march, which celebrates "liberty, equality, and fraternity." Mr. Modi's visit to Paris has been regarded as a particular gesture

because India and France are commemorating the 25th anniversary of their strategic cooperation, which began in 1998.

**PM Modi Visited Japan, Papua New Guinea, And Australia For G7 And Quad Summits :-**

Prime minister Narendra Modi recently went on a six-day visit to Japan, Papua New Guinea, and Australia to attend three key multilateral summits including the Group of Seven (G7) and the Quad, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said in a statement. At the invitation of Japan's prime minister Fumio Kishida, PM Modi visited Hiroshima from 19-21 May to attend the G7 Summit under Japan's presidency. On the sidelines of the summit, he also conducted bilateral meetings with prime minister Fumio and other participating leaders.

# SECTION 2

# Practice Questions with Answers



**PRACTICE QUESTIONS**

**1. To settle the long-pending border dispute, along with the Assam state government which of the following state has signed a memorandum of Understanding (MoU)?**

- A) Arunachal Pradesh
- B) Meghalaya
- C) Nagaland
- D) Sikkim

**2. For pursuing research in advanced technologies for energy security, along with the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) which company has signed an MoU recently?**

- A) Coal India Limited
- B) Indian Oil Corporation Limited
- C) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation
- D) Oil India Limited

**3. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has granted a Certificate of Registration (COR) to which of the following company to operate as a Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC)?**

- A) ZestMoney
- B) Volopay
- C) MoneyTap
- D) InPrime Finserv

**4. To launch its conversational AI chatbot 'LIC Mitra' the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has collaborated with which of the following company?**

- A) Builder.ai
- B) CoRover
- C) NineHertz
- D) Tata Elxsi

**5. In which of the following city the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) is set to open its first overseas office?**

- A) Gujarat, India
- B) Manila, Philippines
- C) Abu Dhabi, UAE
- D) Tokyo, Japan

**6. Who among the following was appointed as the Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of Tata Electronics?**

- A) Natarajan Chandrasekaran
- B) Noel Naval Tata
- C) Rajesh Gopinathan
- D) Randhir Thakur

**7. Who among the following was named as the brand ambassador for JioCinema?**

- A) MS Dhoni
- B) Rohit Sharma
- C) Shikhar Dhawan
- D) Virat Kohli

**8. Which of the following state government recently suspended its 12-hour workday bill for factory workers?**

- A) Karnataka
- B) Maharashtra
- C) Tamil Nadu
- D) Uttar Pradesh

**9. Which of the following state is set to become the first Indian state to have 100% electric vehicles (EVs) in government departments?**

- A) Uttar Pradesh
- B) Tamil Nadu
- C) Maharashtra
- D) Karnataka

**10. Who among the following was appointed as the Chairman of the National Technical Research Organisation (NTRO)?**

- A) Rajesh Pant



- B) Pankaj Saran
- C) Arun Sinha
- D) Ajit Doval

**11. In the Indian Premier League (IPL) who among the following became the fourth batsman to score 6000 runs?**

- A) K L Rahul
- B) Mahendra Singh Dhoni
- C) Rohit Sharma
- D) Virat Kohli

**12. Who among the following was appointed as the new Military Advisor to National Security Council?**

- A) Ajay Kapoor
- B) Anil Chauhan
- C) Sandeep Singh
- D) Sunil Kumar

**13. The 3rd Hero Intercontinental Cup football tournament will be organized in which of the following city?**

- A) Bhubaneswar
- B) Chennai
- C) Kolkata
- D) Mumbai

**14. The US has appointed who among the following as the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense?**

- A) Shilpa Yashvardhan
- B) Radha Iyengar Plumb
- C) Neha Singh
- D) Kirti Khanna

**15. SATHI Portal and Mobile App is associated with which of the following ministry?**

- A) Foreign Ministry
- B) Home Ministry
- C) Ministry of Agriculture
- D) Ministry of Education

**16. When the National Civil Services Day was observed?**

- A) 23 April
- B) 22 April
- C) 21 April
- D) 20 April

**17. The Deputy Prime Minister of Britain \_\_\_\_\_ resigned from his post following an independent investigation into formal complaints about his behaviour.**

- A) Dominic Raab
- B) George Brown
- C) Michael Heseltine
- D) Therese Coffey

**18. Who among the following assumed the charge as the Secretary of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)?**

- A) Ashok Khemka
- B) Nripendra Mishra
- C) Rajesh Kumar Singh
- D) Sanjay Sinha

**19. The Sydney Cricket Ground has recently unveiled a gate named after which of the following great sportsperson?**

- A) Shane Warne
- B) Sachin Tendulkar
- C) Mahendra Singh Dhoni
- D) Kapil Dev

**20. When the National Panchayati Raj Day was observed?**

- A) 20 April
- B) 23 April
- C) 24 April
- D) 25 April

**21. Log9 Materials has launched its first lithium-ion cell manufacturing facility in which of the following city?**

- A) Ahmedabad, Gujarat
- B) Bengaluru, Karnataka

- C) Chennai, Tamil Nadu
- D) Hyderabad, Telangana

**22. Competition Commission of India (CCI) gave its approval for the stake acquisition in climate technologies' business of Emerson Electric Co by which of the following company?**

- A) BCP Emerald Aggregator LP
- B) Capital Group
- C) JP Morgan Chase & Co.
- D) Putnam Investments

**23. Which of the following company bagged an order to supply Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) 'Nagastra – I' to the Indian Army?**

- A) Bharat Electronics Limited
- B) Solar Industries India Limited
- C) Economic Explosives Limited
- D) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited

**24. Which of the following company is planning to set up the First green hydrogen microgrid project in Leh Region?**

- A) Adani Green Energy Limited
- B) Larsen & Toubro Limited
- C) Reliance Industries Limited
- D) Unecops Technologies Limited

**25. Which of the following bank is set to acquire up to a 9.94 per cent stake in insurtech startup Go Digit Life Insurance?**

- A) Axis Bank
- B) HDFC Bank
- C) SBI
- D) Both A & B

**26. Who among the following was elected as the President of the Cycling Federation of India?**

- A) Bajrang Punia
- B) Pankaj Advani
- C) Pankaj Singh
- D) Pullela Gopichand

**27. To offer insurance products through their technology platform, which of the following insurance company has partnered with actyv.ai?**

- A) Bajaj Allianz General Insurance
- B) Future Generali India Insurance
- C) HDFC ERGO General Insurance
- D) ICICI Lombard General Insurance

**28. How many environmental activists won the Goldman Environmental Prize 2023?**

- A) 01
- B) 02
- C) 06
- D) 09

**29. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has given its in-principle approval to Hinduja Group to increase its stake in which of the following banks?**

- A) Axis Bank
- B) IndusInd Bank
- C) ICICI Bank
- D) YES Bank

**30. When the World Malaria Day was observed?**

- A) 25 April
- B) 23 April
- C) 22 April
- D) 21 April

**31. In partnership with YES Bank which of the following became the first general insurance company in the country to accept the RBI's Central Bank Digital Currency e-Rupee for premium payments?**

- A) Bajaj Allianz General Insurance
- B) Cholamandalam MS General Insurance
- C) Reliance General Insurance
- D) SBI General Insurance

**32. Who among the following was appointed as the Chairperson of the National Association of**

**Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM) recently?**

- A) Sanjeev Malhotra
- B) Sangeeta Gupta
- C) Krishnan Ramanujam
- D) Anant Maheshwari

**33. Veteran politician Parkash Singh Badal has passed away recently. He was the former chief minister of which of the following state?**

- A) Punjab
- B) Maharashtra
- C) Madhya Pradesh
- D) Haryana

**34. Along with India which of the following country will jointly create the 'Net Zero' Innovation Virtual Center?**

- A) Brazil
- B) Japan
- C) UK
- D) USA

**35. European countries have organized the second North Sea summit in which of the following country?**

- A) Portugal
- B) Germany
- C) France
- D) Belgium

**36. Union home and cooperation minister Amit Shah has launched the world's first liquid Nano DAP (Diammonium phosphate) which is developed by \_\_\_\_\_.**

- A) Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited
- B) IFFCO
- C) National Fertilizers Limited
- D) Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers Limited

**37. Which of the following company won Steel Ministry's "Ispat Rajbhasha Samman" First Prize for the year 2021-22?**

- A) ESL Steel Limited
- B) JSW Steel Limited
- C) Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited
- D) Tata Steel Limited

**38. N Kamakodi has been re-appointed as the MD and CEO of which of the following bank?**

- A) Tamilnad Mercantile Bank
- B) South Indian Bank
- C) RBL Bank
- D) City Union Bank

**39. At the Filmfare Awards 2023 who among the following won the Best Actress Award?**

- A) Alia Bhatt
- B) Kiara Advani
- C) Kriti Sanon
- D) Sheeba Chadha

**40. Dr N. Gopalakrishnan has passed away at 67, he was \_\_\_\_\_.**

- A) Journalist
- B) Politician
- C) Scientist
- D) Cricketer

**41. In which of the following city the Global Education & Training Exhibition (GETEX) was held?**

- A) Beijing, China
- B) Dubai, UAE
- C) Mumbai, India
- D) New York, USA

**42. Which of the following state will host the 37th National Games in October 2023?**

- A) Kerala
- B) Gujarat
- C) Goa
- D) Punjab

**43. Who among the following was appointed as the CEO of the Association of Asset Reconstruction Companies?**

- A) Hari Hara Mishra
- B) Neeli Bendapudi
- C) Satya Nadella
- D) Sundar Pichai

**44. TeLEOS-2 and Lumelite-4 satellites of which of the following country was launched by ISRO recently?**

- A) Bhutan
- B) Singapore
- C) Indonesia
- D) Myanmar

**45. In which of the following country the 2023 Locked Shields cyber defense exercise was held?**

- A) Spain
- B) Estonia
- C) France
- D) Belgium

**46. To offer Solar Loans of up to Rs 5 crore, which of the following bank has partnered with the Redington Limited?**

- A) Bank of Baroda
- B) HDFC Bank
- C) ICICI Bank
- D) State Bank of India

**47. Which of the following company has surpassed Infosys Limited to become India's 6th largest company?**

- A) Hindustan Unilever Limited
- B) ITC Limited
- C) Vedanta Limited
- D) Wipro Limited

**48. A Madhavarao was named as Chairman and Managing Director of which of the following company?**

- A) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited
- B) Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited
- C) Bharat Electronics Limited
- D) Bharat Dynamics Limited

**49. When the World Day for Safety and Health at Work was observed?**

- A) 24 April
- B) 25 April
- C) 27 April
- D) 28 April

**50. National Conference on Water Sufficient Panchayat, Clean & Green Panchayat and Healthy Panchayat was held in which of the following city?**

- A) Chennai
- B) Guwahati
- C) New Delhi
- D) Pune

**51. Which of the following has released 'Sectoral Deployment of bank Credit- March 2023'?**

- A) SBI
- B) RBI
- C) SEBI
- D) None of the above

**52. To finance small farmers against warehouse receipt, which of the following small finance bank has partnered with the Arya.ag?**

- A) Utkarsh Small Finance Bank
- B) Ujjivan Small Finance Bank
- C) Shivalik Small Finance Bank
- D) Capital Small Finance Bank

**53. Which of the following country is the largest recipient of ADB-funded programs/projects in 2022 according to the Annual Report 2022 by the Asian Development Bank (ADB)?**

- A) India
- B) Indonesia
- C) Pakistan

D) Sri Lanka

**54. Rajneesh Karnatak has been appointed as the MD & CEO of which of the following Bank?**

- A) SBI
- B) Canara Bank
- C) Bank of Maharashtra
- D) Bank of India

**55. Who among the following won the Men's singles title at the 2023 Barcelona Open?**

- A) Stefanos Tsitsipas
- B) Novak Djokovic
- C) Daniil Medvedev
- D) Carlos Alcaraz

**56. Who among the following has launched the first ever 'Millets Experience Centre' (MEC) at Dilli Haat, New Delhi?**

- A) Rajnath Singh
- B) Narendra Singh Tomar
- C) Amit Shah
- D) None of the Above

**57. Which of the following country hosted a multi-national air exercise INIOCHOS-23?**

- A) Greece
- B) Indonesia
- C) Singapore
- D) Thailand

**58. "Shubh Arambh Deposit" retail term deposit scheme for senior citizens was launched by which of the following bank?**

- A) Canara Bank
- B) Bank of Maharashtra
- C) Bank of India
- D) Bank of Baroda

**59. Who among the following was appointed as the Chairperson of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)?**

- A) Anil Kumar

B) Siddhartha Mohanty

C) Suchindra Mishra

D) Vinod Kumar Verma

**60. When the World Asthma Day 2023 was observed?**

- A) 01 May
- B) 02 May
- C) 03 May
- D) 04 May

**61. Who among the following won the 2023 Paraguay presidential election?**

- A) Efrain Alegre
- B) Horacio Cartes
- C) Mario Abdo Benitez
- D) Santiago Pena

**62. The International Year of Millets 2023 was declared by the UN following a proposal by which of the following country?**

- A) Brazil
- B) China
- C) India
- D) USA

**63. According to data from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), which of the following state has emerged as the state with the highest market borrowings?**

- A) Kerala
- B) Maharashtra
- C) Punjab
- D) Tamil Nadu

**64. Who among the following was appointed as the chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission?**

- A) Ratan Tata
- B) N. Chandrasekaran
- C) General Manoj Pande
- D) Ajit Kumar Mohanty

**65. Who among the following was appointed as the new Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court?**

- A) Justice AK Goel
- B) Justice AK Sikri
- C) Justice Dipak Misra
- D) Justice TS Sivagnanam

**66. What is the rank of India in the 2023 World Press Freedom Index?**

- A) 133
- B) 152
- C) 161
- D) 163

**67. Indian Air Force's first Rafale woman pilot Shivangi Singh of which of the following state participated in Orion Military Exercise 2023?**

- A) Rajasthan
- B) Kerala
- C) Bihar
- D) Uttar Pradesh

**68. Which of the following country is set to host the first franchise-based Global Chess League?**

- A) Turkey
- B) Egypt
- C) UAE
- D) Australia

**69. Who among the following announced her retirement from International Cricket recently?**

- A) Lia Sthalekar
- B) Meg Lanning
- C) Sarah Taylor
- D) Katherine Sciver-Brunt

**70. Along with the Reserve Bank of India which of the following organization has launched the global technology competition 'G20 TechSprint'?**

- A) Bank for International Settlements
- B) State Bank of India
- C) World Bank

D) World Economic Forum

**71. Who among the following was conferred a BAFTA Fellowship recently?**

- A) Meera Syal
- B) Mindy Kaling
- C) Naveen Andrews
- D) Sendhil Ramamurthy

**72. Who among the following has won the men's singles title at the 2023 Roma Garden Open held in Italy?**

- A) Arjun Kadhe
- B) Prajnesh Gunneswaran
- C) Sumit Nagal
- D) Yuki Bhambri

**73. Which of the following author has authored a new book titled "Made In India: 75 Years of Business and Enterprise"?**

- A) Amitabh Kant
- B) B. V. R. Subrahmanyam
- C) Suman K Bery
- D) Urvashi Prasad

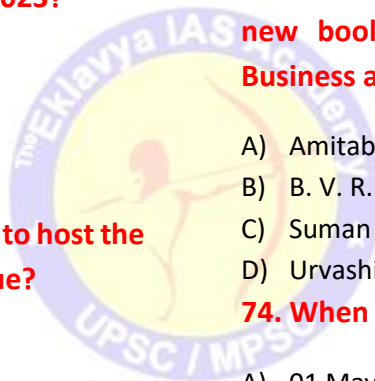
**74. When the World Tuna Day was observed?**

- A) 01 May
- B) 02 May
- C) 03 May
- D) 04 May

**75. To offer gold loans, which of the following small finance bank has announced a strategic partnership with the Dvara SmartGold Private Limited?**

- A) Capital Small Finance Bank
- B) ESAF Small Finance Bank
- C) Jana Small Finance Bank
- D) Ujjivan Small Finance Bank

**76. Which of the following state has topped the Indian Manufacturing Innovation Index (IMII) Rankings 2022?**



- A) Kerala
- B) Odisha
- C) Karnataka
- D) Telangana

**77. What was India's unemployment rate in April 2023?**

- A) 8.11%
- B) 8.02%
- C) 7.96%
- D) 7.50%

**78. How much India's services exports were increased in 2022-23 as per the data by Reserve Bank of India (RBI)?**

- A) 32.4%
- B) 26.6%
- C) 23.6%
- D) 18.3%

**79. To offer international payment collection service to Indian exporters which of the following bank has partnered with the Cashfree Payments?**

- A) YES Bank
- B) State Bank of India
- C) ICICI Bank
- D) HDFC Bank

**80. Who among the following was appointed as the president of the World Bank?**

- A) Sanjay Kulshrestha
- B) Ritesh Kumar
- C) Ajay Banga
- D) Anuj Tyagi

**81. Union Minister Nityanand Rai inaugurated the Dawki Land Port in which of the following state?**

- A) Mizoram
- B) Meghalaya
- C) Assam
- D) Arunachal Pradesh

**82. To offer life insurance, which of the following small finance bank has partnered with the Max Life Insurance Company Limited?**

- A) Capital Small Finance Bank
- B) ESAF Small Finance Bank
- C) Jana Small Finance Bank
- D) Ujjivan Small Finance Bank

**83. Which of the following bank has launched a customised retail banking programme 'Vishesh'?**

- A) Axis Bank
- B) HDFC Bank
- C) ICICI Bank
- D) YES Bank

**84. To manufacture and develop electro-mechanical bollards, along with Emjay Control Systems Pvt Ltd which of the following company has signed an MoU?**

- A) Bharat Dynamics Limited
- B) Bharat Electronics Limited
- C) Engineers India Limited
- D) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited

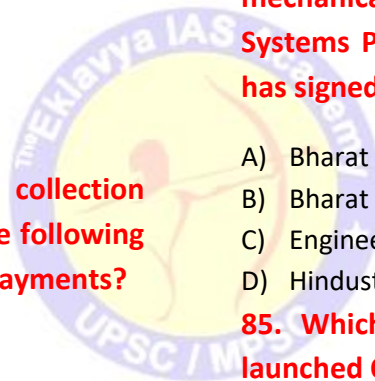
**85. Which of the following metro service has launched QR code paper tickets?**

- A) Bengaluru Metro
- B) Delhi Metro
- C) Kolkata Metro
- D) Lucknow Metro

**86. Which of the following state has launched digital health cards for children?**

- A) Bihar
- B) Gujarat
- C) Uttar Pradesh
- D) West Bengal

**87. India's first-of-its-kind Indian Air Force (IAF) Heritage Centre was inaugurated by Union Minister of Defence, Rajnath Singh in which of the following state/UT, recently?**



- A) Assam
- B) Chandigarh
- C) Punjab
- D) Uttarakhand

**88. Which of the following airline became the first Indian airline to operate a commercial domestic flight with Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF)?**

- A) Akasa Air
- B) Vistara
- C) IndiGo
- D) SpiceJet

**89. For tokenized cards in India which of the following company has launched a CVV (Cardholder Verification Value) free feature?**

- A) American Express
- B) Capital One
- C) Mastercard
- D) Visa

**90. After 36 years of service which of the following Indian Naval Ship (INS) was decommissioned by the Indian Navy in Kochi?**

- A) INS Guldar
- B) INS Kesari
- C) INS Kumbhir
- D) INS Magar

**91. For Project-SMART which of the following ministries has signed an MoU with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)?**

- A) Ministry of Railways
- B) Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs
- C) Ministry of Home Affairs
- D) Both A & B

**92. On 09 May 2023, which of the following centre's flagship programmes, along with Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana have observed the 8th anniversary?**

- A) Atal Pension Yojana
- B) Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana
- C) Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana
- D) Both A & B

**93. To offer cashback RuPay credit cards, which of the following small finance bank has partnered with RuPay?**

- A) Capital Small Finance Bank
- B) AU Small Finance Bank
- C) Jana Small Finance Bank
- D) Ujjivan Small Finance Bank

**94. What is the 2023-24 GDP growth forecast for India as per the Fitch Ratings?**

- A) 6.0%
- B) 5.9%
- C) 5.7%
- D) 5.6%

**95. Which of the following company has acquired the mutual fund business of Indiabulls Housing Finance Loans (IBHFL) for Rs 175.6 crore?**

- A) Axis Bank
- B) Groww
- C) ICICI Bank
- D) Kotak Mahindra Bank

**96. To promote the robotic ecosystem, which of the following state government has launched country's first State Robotics Framework?**

- A) Andhra Pradesh
- B) Telangana
- C) Karnataka
- D) Maharashtra

**97. Which of the following became the first Indian state to implement the "Right to walk"?**

- A) Gujarat
- B) Kerala
- C) Madhya Pradesh
- D) Punjab



**98. To offer financial assistance to MSME manufacturers which of the following bank has launched a solar financing scheme?**

- A) Axis Bank
- B) YES BANK
- C) ICICI Bank
- D) IndusInd Bank

**99. To convert satellite data into high resolution maps, which of the following company has partnered with NASA?**

- A) Accenture
- B) Google
- C) IBM
- D) Oracle Corporation

**100. In which of the following city the 6th Indian Ocean Conference (IOC) was held?**

- A) Colombo
- B) Dhaka
- C) Kathmandu
- D) New Delhi

**101. Who among the following has won a bronze medal in the women's 10-metre air pistol event at the ISSF World Cup 2023?**

- A) Apurvi Chandela
- B) Manu Bhaker
- C) Priyanka Singh
- D) Rhythm Sangwan

**102. Antonio Carbajal, legendary footballer of which of the following country has passed away recently?**

- A) Mexico
- B) France
- C) England
- D) Brazil

**103. Who among the following was appointed as the interim MD and CEO of the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF)?**

- A) Ajay Sinha
- B) Anand Mahindra
- C) Rajeev Dhar
- D) Rajiv Agarwal

**104. To research in the field of integrated medicine, the Ministry of AYUSH has signed an agreement with \_\_\_\_\_.**

- A) AIIMS
- B) ICMR
- C) Ministry of Health
- D) UGC

**105. When was the Namami Gange Programme established?**

- A) 2014
- B) 2011
- C) 2009
- D) 1985

**106. On behalf of the Government of India which of the following bank has gone live with 'Direct Tax Collections' through the new Tax Information Network (TIN2.0) portal?**

- A) HDFC Bank
- B) ICICI Bank
- C) RBL Bank
- D) South Indian Bank

**107. In which of the following city the first Ministerial meeting of India- European Union Trade and Technology Council (TTC) was held?**

- A) Austin
- B) Brussels
- C) Geneva
- D) Vancouver

**108. Indian Wushu athletes clinched how many medals in the Moscow Wushu Stars Championship 2023?**

- A) 17

- B) 15
- C) 12
- D) 10

**109. Who among the following was named as the new CEO of Twitter?**

- A) David Zaslav
- B) Ed Bastian
- C) Linda Yaccarino
- D) Shantanu Narayen

**110. A premium banking programme 'Privy League' was launched by which of the following bank?**

- A) Axis Bank
- B) Kotak Mahindra Bank
- C) ICICI Bank
- D) Yes Bank

**111. From which Indian Navy Ship (INS) the 'BrahMos Supersonic Missile' was launched recently?**

- A) INS Visakhapatnam
- B) INS Vikrant
- C) INS Vikramaditya
- D) INS Mormugao

**112. According to the Commerce Ministry's data, which of the following country became India's third largest exports destination during 2022-23?**

- A) US
- B) UK
- C) UAE
- D) Netherlands

**113. Which of the following team bags the 13th Hockey India Sub Junior Women National Championship?**

- A) Hockey Haryana
- B) Hockey Jharkhand
- C) Hockey Odisha
- D) Hockey Uttar Pradesh

**114. Who among the following was awarded the first Astronomical Society of India (ASI) Govind Swarup Lifetime Achievement Award 2022?**

- A) Ajit Kembhavi
- B) Durgesh Tripathi
- C) Jayant Narlikar
- D) Thanu Padmanabhan

**115. For his debut book 'God's Children Are Little Broken Things' who among the following has won the 2023 Swansea University Dylan Thomas Prize?**

- A) Dima Alzayat
- B) Patricia Lockwood
- C) Arinze Ifeakandu
- D) Raven Leilani

**116. IRDAI constituted a 5-member expert committee under the chairmanship of which of the following to provide advice related to mental health and insurance?**

- A) B.N. Gangadhar
- B) G. Gururaj
- C) Pratima Murthy
- D) Satish Chandra Girimaji

**117. Who among the following was appointed as the director of the CBI?**

- A) Alok Kumar Verma
- B) Praveen Sood
- C) Rishi Kumar Shukla
- D) Subodh Kumar Jaiswal

**118. Who among the following has launched the 'Meri LiFE' mobile app?**

- A) Amit Shah
- B) Bhupender Yadav
- C) Mansukh L. Mandaviya
- D) S. Jaishankar

**119. Who among the following became 82nd Grandmaster (GM) of India recently?**

- A) Pranesh

- B) Sayantan Das
- C) Vignesh NR
- D) Prraneeth Vuppala

**120. Who is the Managing Director of the Export-Import Bank of India (EXIM Bank)?**

- A) Aditya Puri
- B) Chanda Kochhar
- C) Harsha Bangari
- D) Raghuram Rajan

**121. A welfare fund for the Mahatma Gandhi Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) workers was launched by which of the following state government?**

- A) Andhra Pradesh
- B) Kerala
- C) Maharashtra
- D) Tamil Nadu

**122. Who among the following was appointed as the first woman chairperson of the Competition Commission of India (CCI)?**

- A) Poonam Kohali
- B) Ravneet Kaur
- C) S. Jayashree
- D) Sangeeta Verma

**123. Who among the following was appointed as the Chairman of the Petroleum & Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB)?**

- A) Arun Ross
- B) Dinesh Kumar Sarraf
- C) Gajendra Singh
- D) A K Jain

**124. Who among the following was elected as the first woman director general of the International Organization for Migration (IOM)?**

- A) Amy Pope
- B) Jacinda Ardern
- C) Ruth Bader Ginsburg

- D) Sandra Day O'Connor

**125. The Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) has signed its 250th contract with which of the following company?**

- A) INI Technologies Private Limited
- B) Orient Technologies Pvt. Ltd
- C) Siliconia Technologies Pvt Ltd
- D) InspeCity Space Laboratories Pvt Ltd

**126. Which of the following city became the first Indian city to adopt the localisation of the United Nations-mandated sustainable development goals (SDG)?**

- A) Bengaluru, Karnataka
- B) Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh
- C) Bhubaneswar, Odisha
- D) Chennai, Tamil Nadu

**127. To introduce the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) service named 'Zomato UPI' for select users, which of the following bank has partnered with Zomato?**

- A) YES Bank
- B) ICICI Bank
- C) HDFC Bank
- D) Axis Bank

**128. In 2024 India's economy is expected to grow by \_\_\_\_\_, as per the report 'World Economic Situation and Prospects' released by the United Nations (UN).**

- A) 5.9%
- B) 6.2%
- C) 6.5%
- D) 6.7%

**129. Ludovit Odor was recently appointed as the Interim Prime Minister of which of the following country?**

- A) Estonia
- B) Hungary
- C) Romania

D) Slovakia

**130. Who among the following was appointed the MD & CEO of Raheja QBE General Insurance Company Limited?**

- A) Abhijit Kedia
- B) Arup Das
- C) Chandraprakash Jain
- D) Rajeev Dogra

**131. The Reserve Bank of India has approved how much surplus transfer to the government for the financial year 2022-23?**

- A) Rs 87,416 crore
- B) Rs 48,000 crore
- C) Rs 30,307 crore
- D) Rs 58,000 crore

**132. Who among the following was conferred with France's highest civilian honour, Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur?**

- A) Banmali Agrawala
- B) N. Chandrasekaran
- C) Shapoor Mistry
- D) T. V. Narendran

**133. Chairman of the Hinduja Group \_\_\_\_\_ has passed away recently. He was 87.**

- A) Ashok Parmanand Hinduja
- B) Gopichand Parmanand Hinduja
- C) Prakash Parmanand Hinduja
- D) Srichand Parmanand Hinduja

**134. When the World AIDS Vaccine Day was observed?**

- A) 14 May
- B) 15 May
- C) 17 May
- D) 18 May

**135. Which of the following state government has announced a scheme named 'Mukhyamantri Sikho**

**Kamao Yojana' (Chief Minister Learn and Earn Scheme)?**

- A) Madhya Pradesh
- B) Maharashtra
- C) Odisha
- D) Uttar Pradesh

**136. Which of the following banks has collaborated with the Manipal Global Academy of BFSI to launch its Future Banker 2.0 programme?**

- A) HDFC Bank
- B) ICICI Bank
- C) State Bank of India
- D) Axis Bank

**137. Which of these organizations will provide loan for the industrial corridor development in Andhra Pradesh?**

- A) World Bank
- B) Asian Development Bank
- C) TATA Trusts
- D) Reserve Bank of India

**138. New Parliament Building, which is inaugurated on 28 May 2023, has been constructed by which company?**

- A) Larsen & Toubro Ltd.
- B) GMR Group
- C) IRCON International Limited.
- D) Tata Projects Ltd

**139. Which of the following states has become the first state in the country to approve the Good Governance Regulations??**

- A) Gujarat
- B) Karnataka
- C) Uttar Pradesh
- D) Maharashtra

**140. Who was appointed as the caretaker Prime Minister of Greece in May 2023?**

- A) Ioannis Sarmas

- B) Sakellaropoulou
- C) Alexis Tsipras
- D) Syriza

**141. Colorado River flows through which country?**

- A) USA
- B) India
- C) UK
- D) Canada

**142. Which institution released the report titled “Thriving: Making Cities Green, Resilient, and Inclusive in a Changing Climate”?**

- A) UNEP
- B) World Bank
- C) WTO
- D) WMO

**143. Which country has proposed the ‘G20 High-Level Principles on Hydrogen’?**

- A) Nepal
- B) Japan
- C) Pakistan
- D) India

**144. Which institution released the ‘Atlas of Mortality and Economic Losses from Weather, Climate and Water-related hazards’?**

- A) World Bank
- B) UNEP
- C) WTO
- D) WMO

**145. Which country announced the ‘12-point development plan for the Pacific Island nations’?**

- A) India
- B) Myanmar
- C) Bangladesh
- D) China

**146. Which of the following state government has signed an agreement with the Inland Waterways**

**Authority of India (IWAI) for a ‘Riverine based Tourism Circuit’ along the Brahmaputra River?**

- A) West Bengal
- B) Assam
- C) Meghalaya
- D) Arunachal Pradesh

**147. To establish the Center of Water Technology (CoWT) which of the following country has signed a Letter of Intent (LoI) with Indian Institute of Technology Madras?**

- A) Sri Lanka
- B) Israel
- C) Indonesia
- D) Bangladesh

**148. Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Parshottam Rupala has launched the “Sagar Parikrama Yatra Phase-V” in which of the following state?**

- A) Gujarat
- B) Maharashtra
- C) Odisha
- D) West Bengal

**149. To launch a co-branded RuPay credit card, which of the following fintech company has partnered with the SBI Card and National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)?**

- A) Paytm
- B) PhonePe
- C) Mobikwik
- D) Freecharge

**150. Which of the following bank has partnered with Godrej Agrovet Ltd (GAVL) to introduce a new finance offering for oil palm farmers?**

- A) YES Bank
- B) State Bank of India
- C) ICICI Bank
- D) HDFC Bank

**ANSWERS****1. Correct Answer: A**

Assam and Arunachal Pradesh governments on April 20 signed a deal in the presence of Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi ending decades-long border disputes along their boundaries. The memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed by Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma and his Arunachal counterpart Prema Khandu.

**2. Correct Answer: D**

The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), New Delhi and Oil India Limited (OIL) inked an umbrella Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to pursue technological partnership in select domains across the Energy value chain. This will be a collaborative arrangement between labs of CSIR and OIL.

**3. Correct Answer: D**

Bangalore-based InPrime Finserv (legal name – STK credit private limited), a financial services start-up catering to the informal economy, has achieved a milestone by obtaining a Certificate of Registration (COR) from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to operate as a Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC).

**4. Correct Answer: B**

CoRover, a Bengaluru-based startup has collaborated with the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) to launch the conversational AI-powered chatbot 'LIC Mitra'. LIC Mitra allows users to know about LIC products, past premiums paid, upcoming premiums, policy maturity date and much more.

**5. Correct Answer: C**

Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) signed a host member agreement to officially open the bank's first overseas office, an Interim Operational Hub (the Hub), in Abu Dhabi.

**6. Correct Answer: D**

Tata Electronics announced the appointment of Randhir Thakur as its Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director. Randhir Thakur has worked with Intel for over 5 years.

**7. Correct Answer: B**

JioCinema, owned by billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Viacom18, has signed up Rohit Sharma, captain of the men's cricket India, as its brand ambassador. For this season, the OTT platform is broadcasting the Indian Premier League free. It said it had a peak concurrency of over 2.4 crore.

**8. Correct Answer: C**

Tamil Nadu has put on hold a bill that was passed recently to allow a 12-hour workday from the mandatory eight hours at factories in the state following protests by several political parties and labour unions.

**9. Correct Answer: A**

In a major push to promote sales and usage of electric vehicles (EVs) in the state of Uttar Pradesh, state government has set a target and has flung into action to convert vehicles used in all government departments into EVs in a phased manner by 2030.

**10. Correct Answer: C**

The government has appointed Arun Sinha as the Chairman of the National Technical Research Organisation (NTRO). Arun Sinha has been an advisor in NTRO for two years.

**11. Correct Answer: C**

Rohit Sharma became the fourth batter in the history of the Indian Premier League (IPL) to score 6000 runs. The right-handed batter achieved the feat in the Mumbai Indians' (MI) match against Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium in Hyderabad.

**12. Correct Answer: C**

Former Air Force vice chief and ace fighter pilot, Air Marshal Sandeep Singh, has been appointed the new Military Advisor to National Security Council. He succeeds General Anil Chauhan, who was appointed as the Chief of Defence Staff in October, last year.

**13. Correct Answer: A**

The third edition of the Hero Intercontinental Cup football tournament, which will have three other teams besides hosts India, will be held in Bhubaneswar between June 9 and 18. Lebanon, Mongolia and Vanuatu are the other three teams taking part in the tournament.

**14. Correct Answer: B**

The US Senate has confirmed Radha Iyengar Plumb, a national security expert, as the Deputy Under Secretary of Defence for Acquisition and Sustainment. Prior to her appointment as the Chief of Staff, she was the Director of Research and Insights for Trust and Safety at Google.

**15. Correct Answer: C**

Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Shri Narendra Singh Tomar has launched the SATHI (Seed Traceability, Authentication and Holistic Inventory) Portal and Mobile App, a Centralized Online System for seed traceability, authentication and inventory. It has been developed by the NIC in collaboration with the Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.

**16. Correct Answer: C**

National Civil Services Day is celebrated in India on April 21 every year. It is a day to commemorate the contribution of civil servants towards the development of the country.

**17. Correct Answer: A**

British Deputy Prime Minister and justice minister Dominic Raab resigned following an independent investigation into formal complaints about his

behaviour. Raab, 49, has been the subject of multiple formal complaints about his allegedly abrasive treatment of civil servants, which led Prime Minister Sunak to commission an independent investigation in November.

**18. Correct Answer: C**

Senior IAS officer Rajesh Kumar Singh assumed the charge of secretary in the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) recently. Singh has replaced Anurag Jain, who was appointed secretary in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.

**19. Correct Answer: B**

A gate named after Sachin Tendulkar was unveiled at the iconic Sydney Cricket Ground to mark the 50th birthday of the Indian batting legend. Tendulkar made three centuries and 785 runs with a highest score of 241 not out (in 2004) in five Tests at the SCG.

**20. Correct Answer: C**

National Panchayati Raj Day is observed in India on April 24 every year to mark the constitutional amendment that created the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in India. The day marks the establishment of the first Panchayati Raj system in India on April 24, 1993.

**21. Correct Answer: B**

Bengaluru-based EV battery technology startup Log9 Materials has launched its first lithium-ion cell manufacturing facility at its campus in Jakkur, Bengaluru. Log9 Materials claims that it is India's first commercial lithium-ion cell manufacturing unit.

**22. Correct Answer: A**

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) said it has granted its approval for the stake acquisition in climate technologies' business of Emerson Electric Co by BCP Emerald Aggregator LP. BCP Emerald Aggregator LP is an affiliate of US-based alternative asset manager Blackstone.

**23. Correct Answer: B**

Solar Industries Nagpur said it has bagged an order to supply unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) 'Nagastra' to the Indian Army, beating competitors from Israel and Poland. The company said that Nagastra -1 having an indigenous content of more than 75 per cent has many world class features.

**24. Correct Answer: D**

Delhi-based green hydrogen and solar developer, Uneecops Technologies Ltd, has announced that it will set up the First Green Hydrogen Microgrid Project in Leh Region for one of India's major hydro-power companies.

**25. Correct Answer: D**

Axis Bank and HDFC Bank said that they would acquire up to a 9.94 per cent stake in insurtech startup Go Digit Life Insurance. In its regulatory filing, HDFC Bank said that it has executed definitive agreements to invest ₹69.90 crore in Go Digit Life Insurance Ltd in two tranches.

**26. Correct Answer: C**

Pankaj Singh, the BJP MLA from Noida and son of Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, has been elected unopposed as Cycling Federation of India (CFI) president in the Annual General Body meeting in Nainital.

**27. Correct Answer: A**

actyv.ai, the Singapore-headquartered enterprise SaaS platform, has announced a partnership with Bajaj Allianz General Insurance to offer insurance products through their technology platform to MSME enterprises and the partner ecosystem across the supply chain.

**28. Correct Answer: C**

Six grassroots environmental activists received the Goldman Environmental Prize recently. Known as the "Green Nobel Prize," the Goldman Prize honors

environmental activists from the six continental regions.

**29. Correct Answer: B**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has given IndusInd International Holdings Ltd, a Hinduja Group entity, in-principle and conditional approval to increase its stake in IndusInd Bank to 26%, according to sources familiar with the development.

**30. Correct Answer: A**

World Malaria Day is observed every year on April 25 to raise awareness of the global effort to control, prevent and eventually eradicate malaria. The day was first recognized in 2007 by the World Health Organization (WHO) as a way to shine a light on the devastating impact of malaria.

**31. Correct Answer: C**

Reliance General Insurance said it has become the first general insurance company in the country to accept the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Central Bank Digital Currency e-Rupee for premium payments. The company has tied up with Yes Bank to facilitate the collection of premiums in the digital mode using the bank's e-Rupee platform.

**32. Correct Answer: D**

The National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM) has appointed Microsoft India's president Anant Maheshwari as its chairperson for the year 2023-24, promoting him from his previous tenure as vice-chairperson.

**33. Correct Answer: A**

Former Punjab Chief Minister and veteran Akali Dal leader Parkash Singh Badal has passed away recently. The 95-year-old Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) patriarch has served as Punjab's Chief Minister five times: 1970-71; 1977-80; 1997-2002 and from 2007 to 2017 (two consecutive terms).

**34. Correct Answer: C**



India and United Kingdom will jointly create India-UK 'NET Zero' Innovation Virtual Centre. The platform will bring stakeholders from both countries together to work in some of the focus areas including decarbonization of manufacturing process and transport systems and Green Hydrogen as renewable source.

**35. Correct Answer: D**

The leaders of EU members France, Germany, Ireland, Denmark, the Netherlands, and Luxembourg took part in the North Sea summit hosted by Belgium in the coastal town of Ostend.

**36. Correct Answer: B**

Union home and cooperation minister Amit Shah has launched the world's first liquid Nano DAP - a novel nano fertiliser containing nitrogen and phosphorus. The patent of the crop nutrient is owned by IFFCO, the country's largest fertilizer cooperative.

**37. Correct Answer: C**

RINL (Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited) bagged Steel Ministry's "Ispat Rajbhasha Samman" First Prize for the year 2021-22. CMD, RINL Shri Atul Bhatt received this prestigious award from the Minister of State for Steel and Rural Development Shri Faggan Singh Kulaste in the meeting of Hindi Salahkar Samiti held at Srinagar.

**38. Correct Answer: D**

The Reserve Bank of India has given its consent for the re-appointment of N Kamakodi as Managing Director and CEO of private sector bank City Union Bank. Tamil-Nadu-based City Union Bank said that the tenure of his re-appointment is for a period of three years with effect from May 1, 2023.

**39. Correct Answer: A**

One of Bollywood's most prominent actors, Alia Bhatt has won the Best Actress Award at the Filmfare Awards with her performance in Gangubai

Kathiawadi. Gangubai Kathiawadi was also adjudged Best Film at this year's awards show.

**40. Correct Answer: C**

Scientist Dr N. Gopalakrishnan, 67, founder of the Indian Institute of Scientific Heritage (IISH) and former scientist at the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), died in Kochi recently. Gopalakrishnan completed MSc in Chemistry, MA in Sociology and Ph.D in Biochemistry.

**41. Correct Answer: B**

The 'Study in India Pavilion' at the Global Education & Training Exhibition (GETEX) in Dubai, UAE was inaugurated by the Consul General of India in Dubai, Dr. Aman Puri. The pavilion, spanning over 200 sqm, features more than 30 universities and edtech stakeholders of Indian higher education.

**42. Correct Answer: C**

Goa will host the 37th edition of the National Games in October this year. This will be the first time that Goa will be hosting the National Games.

**43. Correct Answer: A**

Hari Hara Mishra has taken charge as the Chief Executive Officer of the Association of Asset Reconstruction Companies. The Association, which is the voice of all Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARCs), has been active for more than eight years.

**44. Correct Answer: B**

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully launched two Singaporean satellites, TeLEOS-2 and Lumelite-4, in orbit. TeLEOS-2 carries a Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) payload. It will provide all-weather day and night coverage.

**45. Correct Answer: B**

The NATO Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence (CCDCOE) hosted the 2023 edition of the annual Locked Shields cyber defense exercise in Tallinn, Estonia. The 2023 Locked Shields exercise had 3,000 participants from 38 countries.

**46. Correct Answer: D**

Redington Ltd recently tied up with SBI for provision of solar loans of up to Rs 5 crore at interest rates linked to rates that the bank charges its best customers. Redington Ltd, a major distributor of IT hardware, entered the business of stocking up solar modules in 2016, aggregating demand from 3,000-odd systems integrators.

**47. Correct Answer: B**

FMCG giant ITC has now overtaken the market capitalisation of Infosys to become India's sixth most valuable company on the stock exchanges. This feat is achieved by ITC after its share surged 59% in last one year. In 2023 so far, ITC shares are up 24%, the best performer in the benchmark Nifty50.

**48. Correct Answer: D**

Shri A Madhavarao presently Director (Technical), Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL), has been selected for the post of Chairman & Managing Director, Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) recommended by Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB).

**49. Correct Answer: D**

World Day for Safety and Health at Work is observed on 28 April annually. The day is observed to promote safety and health in the workplace, and for those who have died from work-related injury or illness at the workplace.

**50. Correct Answer: C**

Leading to the National Panchayati Raj Day celebrations on 24th April 2023, Ministry of Panchayati Raj has organised the National Panchayati Raj Award Celebration week (17th -21st April 2023), under which 'National Conference on Themes 2, 4 & 5: Healthy Panchayat, 'Water Sufficient Panchayat' and 'Clean and Green Panchayat' in New Delhi on 20 April.

**51. Correct Answer: B**

Releasing the data on 'Sectoral Deployment of Bank Credit – March 2023', the RBI said personal loans registered a growth of 20.6 per cent (year-on-year) in March 2023 compared to 12.6 per cent a year ago, primarily driven by 'housing loans'.

**52. Correct Answer: C**

Shivalik Small Finance Bank said it has partnered with grain commerce platform Arya.ag to finance small farmers against warehouse receipt. With this business correspondent model partnership, Arya.ag, will further its mission to drive financial inclusion for farmers and Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs).

**53. Correct Answer: C**

Pakistan has become the largest recipient of the Asian Development Bank (ADB)-funded programmes/projects in the year 2022. According to the ADB Annual Report 2022, out of total disbursement of over \$31.8 billion to 40 countries, Pakistan received loans of \$5.58 billion.

**54. Correct Answer: D**

Rajneesh Karnatak has joined the Bank of India as its managing director and chief executive officer, the lender has said. Prior to this, he had been the chief general manager of Punjab National Bank until his appointment as executive director in Union Bank of India from October 21, 2021.

**55. Correct Answer: D**

Carlos Alcaraz beat Stefanos Tsitsipas 6-3, 6-4 to win the Barcelona Open for the second year in a row. The 19-year-old Spaniard recovered from an early break down in the first set to record a convincing victory, picking up his ninth career title and third of 2023.

**56. Correct Answer: B**

Union Minister of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar, along with Shri Rajbir Singh, Managing Director, NAFED, commemorated the launch of the first of its kind 'Millets Experience Centre (MEC)' at Dilli Haat, INA, New Delhi.

**57. Correct Answer: A**

The Indian Air Force (IAF) has participated in Exercise INIOCHOS-23, a multi-national air exercise hosted by the Hellenic Air Force. The exercise was conducted at the Andravida Air Base in Greece from 24 Apr 2023 to 04 May 2023.

**58. Correct Answer: C**

Bank of India (BoI) has announced the launch of "Shubh Arambh Deposit" retail term deposit scheme for senior citizens. With this special FD scheme, seniors, including super senior citizens aged 80 and above can take benefit of an additional interest rate of 0.50% for senior citizens and 0.65% for super senior citizens.

**59. Correct Answer: B**

The government has appointed Siddhartha Mohanty as the Chairperson of the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) till June 29, 2024. After that, he will be the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer until June 7, 2025, LIC said in a release.

**60. Correct Answer: B**

World Asthma Day 2023 was observed on May 2, 2023 and this event is organised by the Global Initiative for Asthma (GINA) to raise awareness and improve asthma care around the world. World Asthma Day is annually observed on the first Tuesday of May.

**61. Correct Answer: D**

Paraguayan conservative economist Santiago Pena, 44, won the country's presidential election recently, tightening the ruling Colorado Party's political grip in the country and defusing fears about the end of diplomatic ties with Taiwan.

**62. Correct Answer: C**

The year 2023 was declared by the United Nations as the International Year of the Millet, following a proposal by India, which wants to position itself as a global hub for millets. As the global agrifood systems

face challenges to feed an ever-growing global population, resilient cereals like millets provide an affordable and nutritious option.

**63. Correct Answer: D**

For the third year in a row, Tamil Nadu has emerged as the State with the highest market borrowings according to data from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). During the April-February period of FY23, Tamil Nadu's gross market borrowings through State Development Loans (SDLs) stood at Rs 68,000 crore.

**64. Correct Answer: D**

Renowned physicist and director of the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) Ajit Kumar Mohanty has been appointed as the chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission and the secretary of the Department of Atomic Energy.

**65. Correct Answer: D**

The Centre Government has announced the appointment of Justice TS Sivagnanam as the new Chief Justice of Calcutta High Court. On March 30, 2023, the Union Law and Justice Ministry had notified the appointment of Justice T. S Sivagnanam, senior-most puisne Judge of Calcutta High Court as Acting Chief Justice of Calcutta High Court.

**66. Correct Answer: C**

India's ranking in the 2023 World Press Freedom Index has slipped to 161 out of 180 countries, according to the latest report released by global media watchdog Reporters Without Borders (RSF). Norway, Ireland and Denmark occupied the top three positions in press freedom, while Vietnam, China and North Korea constituted the bottom three.

**67. Correct Answer: D**

Shivangi Singh, the Indian Air Force's first woman pilot to fly the Rafale fighter aircraft was part of the IAF team which took part in the multinational Exercise Orion in France. She hails from Varanasi,

Uttar Pradesh and is currently undergoing conversion training and will shortly become a part of the IAF's Golden Arrows squadron based out of Ambala in Haryana.

**68. Correct Answer: C**

The world's largest and first franchise-based chess league will be held in Dubai from June 21-July 02. The inaugural Global Chess League will feature six teams with six players each, including a minimum of two female players and one icon player per team.

**69. Correct Answer: D**

England's right-arm seamer Katherine Sciver-Brunt has announced her retirement from international cricket recently. The right-arm seamer, who made her England debut in 2004, played 267 times for her country.

**70. Correct Answer: A**

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Bank for International Settlements (BIS) have launched G20 TechSprint, a global technology competition. The competition is open for developers around the world for submitting application till 04 June 2023.

**71. Correct Answer: A**

Popular UK-based Indian-origin actor-writer Meera Syal has been conferred a BAFTA Fellowship, the highest accolade bestowed by the British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA) upon an individual in recognition of an outstanding and exceptional contribution to film and/or television.

**72. Correct Answer: C**

Ending a four-year Challenger title drought, Sumit Nagal won the Rome Challenger (ATP Roma Garden Open) beating Jesper De Jong 6-3, 6-2 in the final. With this title, Nagal, who reached a career high 122 in 2020, is expected to jump almost 100 places to 254th in the latest ATP rankings.

**73. Correct Answer: A**

Retired IAS officer and former CEO of the National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog) Amitabh Kant has authored a new book titled "Made In India: 75 Years of Business and Enterprise" published by the Rupa Publications India.

**74. Correct Answer: B**

In a bid to spread awareness about Tuna fish and its importance to humans and planet earth, May 2 is observed as World Tuna Day. The day also promotes the importance of sustainable fishing practices.

**75. Correct Answer: C**

Dvara SmartGold and Jana Small Finance Bank have announced a strategic partnership to offer gold loans to customers in Tamil Nadu, Chattisgarh, and Maharashtra. Under the partnership, Dvara SmartGold will provide gold loans to its customers, with Jana Small Finance Bank acting as the lending provider.

**76. Correct Answer: C**

Karnataka has topped the Indian Manufacturing Innovation Index (IMI) Rankings 2022. Telangana is ranked second with a marginal difference of less than one percent in the IMI score in the major States category.

**77. Correct Answer: A**

The nationwide joblessness rate rose to 8.11% in April from 7.8% in March, the highest since December. Urban unemployment climbed to 9.81% from 8.51% according to data from research firm Centre for Monitoring India Economy.

**78. Correct Answer: B**

India's services exports shot up by a record 26.6 per cent in 2022-23 (FY23) to \$322 billion, according to data released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), thus closing the gap with merchandise exports that grew only 6 per cent to \$447 billion in the same period.

**79. Correct Answer: A**

Cashfree Payments and Yes Bank have come together to offer 'Global Collections', an international collection service for exporters, who are account holders of Yes Bank. Under this partnership, the Bank's account holders will be able to collect payments in over 30 foreign currencies using the Global Collections service.

**80. Correct Answer: C**

Indian-born Ajay Banga has made history by being appointed as the president of the World Bank. He is the first Indian-born executive to hold the post in the history of the bank.

**81. Correct Answer: B**

Union Minister Nityanand Rai inaugurated the Dawki Land Port in Meghalaya's West Jaintia Hills district to promote trade and commerce between India and Bangladesh. The Dawki Land Port is located in West Jaintia Hills in Meghalaya, 55 km from the district headquarters, Jowai, and about 84 km from Meghalaya's capital Shillong.

**82. Correct Answer: A**

Capital Small Finance Bank Limited and Max Life Insurance Company Limited have announced their partnership to offer life insurance offerings to Capital SFB's customers. Through this tie-up, Capital SFB will offer its customers a range of savings, protection, retirement, and group life insurance plans of Max Life.

**83. Correct Answer: B**

HDFC Bank has launched its retail banking programme 'Vishesh' for customers in semi-urban and rural geographies wherein it plans to onboard around 1 lakh new customers. HDFC Bank will look to add 675 branches in semi urban and rural geographies in FY24 to take the total number to nearly 5,000.

**84. Correct Answer: B**

Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL) has signed an MoU with Emjay Control Systems to jointly manufacture and develop business for electro-mechanical bollards. The bollards are envisaged to safeguard vital installations by pre-empting the unauthorised entry of heavy vehicles.

**85. Correct Answer: B**

Delhi Metro has launched QR code paper tickets for passengers of Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC). The new facility has started and now allows travellers to use QR code-based paper tickets during the travel from metro.

**86. Correct Answer: C**

The Urban Development Department and Lucknow Smart City has launched "School Health Program". A unique ID card will be made for each child, through which the child's parents, school and administrative officials can download this health card.

**87. Correct Answer: B**

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the first-of-its-kind Indian Air Force (IAF) Heritage Centre in Chandigarh. The Centre has been set up under a memorandum of understanding between the Union Territory of Chandigarh and the IAF which was signed last year.

**88. Correct Answer: B**

Vistara said it operated a Boeing 787 aircraft on the Delhi-Mumbai route, using sustainable aviation fuel (SAF). This is the first time that an Indian carrier has operated a commercial, domestic flight on a wide-body aircraft, using a blend of 17 percent SAF with 83 percent conventional jet fuel, the airline said in a statement.

**89. Correct Answer: D**

Visa has introduced CVV (Cardholder Verification Value) free online transactions for domestic tokenised credentials in India. The move is in line

with the Reserve Bank of India's guidelines on tokenisation, which came into effect last year.

**90. Correct Answer: D**

Indian Navy decommissioned INS Magar on May 06, the oldest Landing Ship Tank (Large) after 36 years of service at the Naval base in Kochi. The ship commanded by CDR Hemant Salunkhe was decommissioned in the presence of Vice Admiral MA Hampiholi, Commanding-in-Chief, Southern Naval Command.

**91. Correct Answer: D**

The Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA) and Ministry of Railways jointly signed an MoU with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for 'Station Area Development along Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail' (Project-SMART). Project-SMART envisages to develop surrounding areas of Mumbai - Ahmedabad High Speed Railway (MAHSR) Stations to enhance accessibility and convenience of commuters.

**92. Correct Answer: D**

Centre's three flagship programmes - the Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY) and Atal Pension Yojana (APY) were launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on May 9, 2015.

**93. Correct Answer: B**

AU Small Finance Bank has partnered RuPay to roll out the Business Cashback Rupay credit card, an innovative solution tailored to meet the financial requirements of self-employed customers. This latest offering is aimed at providing a diverse range of benefits to small businesses.

**94. Correct Answer: A**

Fitch Ratings has lowered its 2023-24 GDP growth forecast for India to 6% from 6.2%, citing headwinds from elevated inflation and interest rates along with subdued global demand, with the economy expected

to rebound to 6.7% in 2024-25 as opposed to 6.9% projected earlier.

**95. Correct Answer: B**

Nextbillion Technology, which runs investment platform Groww, has completed the acquisition of the mutual fund business of Indiabulls Housing Finance (IBHFL) for Rs 175.6 crore after receiving the necessary approvals, IBHFL said in a filing with exchanges.

**96. Correct Answer: B**

In a first-of-its-kind policy in the country, the Telangana Government has introduced a Robotics Framework, which provides a roadmap to promote a robotic ecosystem in the State. The Government will set up a Telangana Robotics Innovation Centre (TRIC) to implement the framework.

**97. Correct Answer: D**

Amid consistent rise in deaths of pedestrians and cyclists, Punjab has taken the lead among the states and UTs to implement the 'right to walk'. Government data show that the number of pedestrians killed in road crashes has increased from 25,858 in 2019 to 29,124 in 2021, indicating that road infrastructures don't cater to the safety of pedestrians.

**98. Correct Answer: B**

YES BANK said it has launched YES KIRAN, a lending proposition aimed at offering financial assistance to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) manufacturers. With this, the Bank aims to support the adoption of sustainable energy practices by small and mid-sized enterprises.

**99. Correct Answer: C**

IBM in collaboration with NASA unveiled a new geospatial foundation model designed to convert satellite data into high-resolution maps of floods, fires, and other landscape changes to reveal the planet's past and hint at its future.

**100. Correct Answer: B**

Bangladesh hosted the 6th Indian Ocean Conference (IOC) held between May 12-13 in Dhaka. High-level government delegations and think tanks from about 25 countries participated in the IOC.

**101. Correct Answer: D**

India's Rhythm Sangwan has won the bronze medal in the women's 10-metre air pistol event at the ISSF World Cup 2023 for rifle and pistol shooters in Baku, Azerbaijan. She scored 219.1 in the final to finish third.

**102. Correct Answer: A**

Antonio Carbajal, the Mexican goalkeeper who became the first player to appear in five World Cups, passed away recently. He was 93. The Mexican Soccer Federation confirmed his death.

**103. Correct Answer: C**

National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) said its board has appointed Rajiv Dhar as interim managing director and CEO. The appointment is effective from May 11, NIIF said in a statement.

**104. Correct Answer: B**

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and the AYUSH ministry have signed an agreement for collaboration and cooperation for research in the field of integrated medicine. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) will combine traditional knowledge with modern research and boost ayurveda's identity on the basis of scientific evidence, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said.

**105. Correct Answer: A**

'Namami Gange Programme', is an Integrated Conservation Mission, approved as 'Flagship Programme' by the Union Government in June 2014 with budget outlay of Rs.20,000 Crore to accomplish the twin objectives of effective abatement of

pollution, conservation and rejuvenation of National River Ganga.

**106. Correct Answer: C**

RBL Bank has gone live with 'Direct Tax Collections' on behalf of the Government of India through the new Tax Information Network (TIN2.0) portal. This is the second such offering from the Bank, following its empanelment by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) as an 'Agency Bank' to conduct banking business for the Central and State Governments.

**107. Correct Answer: B**

The first Ministerial meeting of India- European Union Trade and Technology Council (TTC) took place in Brussels, Belgium on 16th May 2023. Union Minister for Commerce & Industry, Textiles, Consumer Affairs Piyush Goyal was one of the co-chairs.

**108. Correct Answer: A**

Medal winners from the Moscow Wushu Stars Championship were felicitated at the Sports Authority of India by Deputy Director Generals Smt Ekta Vishnoi and Sh Shiv Sharma. The girls bagged a total of 17 medals from the competition held in Russia.

**109. Correct Answer: C**

Elon Musk has named Linda Yaccarino as new CEO of Twitter, just over six months after his controversial takeover of the social media company. Yaccarino, a graduate of Penn State University, served as the chair of global advertising and partnerships at NBCUniversal.

**110. Correct Answer: B**

Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited (KMBL) has launched a premium banking programme, Privy League, aimed at high-net-worth individuals. The programme offers lifestyle privileges and bespoke financial solutions.

**111. Correct Answer: D**

A BrahMos supersonic cruise missile was successfully test-fired from the Indian Navy's frontline guided missile destroyer INS Mormugao, officials said on May 14. The missile firing demonstrated the Indian Navy's firepower at sea, they said.

**112. Correct Answer: D**

The Netherlands has emerged as India's third largest exports destination after the US and UAE during 2022-23, showed commerce ministry's data. India's exports to the Netherlands rose by about 48 per cent to USD 18.52 billion during 2022-23 as against USD 12.5 billion in 2021-22.

**113. Correct Answer: A**

The 13th Hockey India Sub Junior Women National Championship 2023 concluded with defending champions, Hockey Haryana, emerging as winners while Hockey Jharkhand finished second. The Hockey Association of Odisha secured third place in the tournament after defeating Uttar Pradesh Hockey.

**114. Correct Answer: C**

Renowned Indian astronomer and founder of IUCAA, Jayant Narlikar, has been awarded the first Astronomical Society of India (ASI) Govind Swarup Lifetime Achievement Award, presented to recognise contributions made to astronomy and astrophysics by Indian astronomers throughout their career.

**115. Correct Answer: C**

Writer Arinze Ifeakandu was announced as the winner of the Dylan Thomas Prize 2023 for his debut book 'God's Children Are Little Broken Things'. Started in 2006, the Dylan Thomas Prize is awarded for the best published literary work in the English language, written by an author aged 39 or under.

**116. Correct Answer: C**

Insurance regulator IRDAI has constituted a five-member expert committee comprising medical experts and insurers for advice on matters related to

mental health and insurance. With the National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS) Director Pratima Murthy as chairperson, the committee will be providing advice and inputs on existing coverage and those to be offered for mental illnesses.

**117. Correct Answer: B**

Karnataka Director General of Police Praveen Sood has been appointed as the next director of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), a government order said. Praveen Sood has been appointed to the CBI director's post for a period of two years from the date of taking charge after Subodh Kumar Jaiswal completes his tenure on May 25, it said.

**118. Correct Answer: B**

Meri LiFE App was launched by Bhupender Yadav, Union Minister for Environment, Forest, and Climate Change. The app is will help in creating a structured way to track the progress being made on Mission LiFE.

**119. Correct Answer: D**

Prraneeth Vuppala became Telangana's sixth and India's 82nd Grandmaster when he outwitted GM Hans Niemann of the US in the penultimate round of the Baku Open 2023. The win against the top seed helped Prraneeth cross Elo 2500 in live ratings, 2500.5 to be exact.

**120. Correct Answer: C**

Harsha Bangari is the Managing Director of the Export-Import Bank of India (EXIM Bank). Prior to this, she was the Deputy Managing Director and Chief Financial Officer of the Bank.

**121. Correct Answer: B**

Kerala became the first State to have a welfare fund for Mahatma Gandhi Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) workers. Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan inaugurated the Employment Guarantee



Workers' Welfare Fund at a function held in Palakkad on May 15.

**122. Correct Answer: B**

Ravneet Kaur, a 1988-batch Punjab-cadre IAS officer, has been appointed the new chairperson of the Competition Commission of India (CCI) for a period of five years. Kaur is the first woman to head the country's chief national competition regulator.

**123. Correct Answer: D**

The government has appointed former Coal Secretary A K Jain as the chairman of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB). The last chairman of the oil and gas sector regulator was former chairman of the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) D K Saraf, who retired as the PNGRB chief on December 3, 2020.

**124. Correct Answer: A**

The UN migration agency says Amy Pope of the USA has been elected as its next director general. She will be the first woman to head the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

**125. Correct Answer: D**

Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX), a flagship initiative of the Ministry of Defence, has reached a milestone with the signing of its 250th contract with InspeCity Space Laboratories Pvt. Ltd, officials said. This was also the first contract signed under Mission DefSpace, the ministry said in a statement.

**126. Correct Answer: B**

Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh has become the first city in India to adopt the localisation of the United Nations-mandated sustainable development goals (SDG). MP's capital city will now have voluntary local reviews (VLR) demonstrate local government's capacity and commitments.

**127. Correct Answer: B**

Gurugram-based Zomato has become the first online food and grocery delivery app to offer UPI services

for some of its users in India. Zomato has partnered with ICICI Bank to offer the service. The new service will allow users to make both merchants as well as peer-to-peer payments.

**128. Correct Answer: D**

The World Economic Situation and Prospects report released by the United Nations has reposed its faith in the Indian economy. The report said that India is expected to grow by 5.8 percent in 2023 and 6.7 percent in 2024.

**129. Correct Answer: D**

Respected economist Ludovit Odor has been appointed as Slovakia's interim prime minister. 46-year-old Ludovit Odor will now lead the interim government of Slovakia until September when fresh elections will be held.

**130. Correct Answer: D**

Raheja QBE General Insurance Company Limited has announced the appointment of Rajeev Dogra as the new Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer. With a career spanning over three decades, Dogra brings with him a wealth of rich experience in insurance operations, in-depth industry knowledge, great networking skills, and exemplary leadership qualities.

**131. Correct Answer: A**

The board of the Reserve Bank of India has approved Rs 87,416 crore of surplus transfer to the government for 2022-23. It will transfer Rs 87,416 crore as surplus for the fiscal year ended March, up from Rs 30,307 crore a year earlier.

**132. Correct Answer: B**

Tata Sons chairman N Chandrasekaran was conferred with France's highest civilian honour-"Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur". The 59-year-old was conferred with the award for the role played by him in developing and fostering commercial links between India and France.

**133. Correct Answer: D**

Srichand Parmanand Hinduja, the eldest of the four Hinduja brothers and chairman of Hinduja Group, died in London recently. He was unwell for some time. He was 87.

**134. Correct Answer: D**

World AIDS Vaccine Day is observed on May 18 every year to educate people and communities about the importance and need for HIV vaccine in preventing AIDS and HIV infections. World AIDS Vaccine Day was first observed on May 18, 1998.

**135. Correct Answer: A**

A special cabinet for youths was held recently in which the Madhya Pradesh government has come up with 'Mukhyamantri Sikho Kamao Yojana' Scheme for unemployed youths. During the learning process, youths will receive stipends of Rs 8000 to Rs 10,000 a month.

**136. Correct Answer: A**

HDFC Bank has launched Future Bankers 2.0, a one-year professional diploma that aims to create a robust, future-ready talent pipeline for HDFC Bank's retail banking business. It will be offered in association with the Manipal Global Academy of BFSI.

**137. Correct Answer: B**

Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India signed a \$141.12 million loan agreement for the development of an industrial corridor in Andhra Pradesh. The agreement has been signed to support the development of high-quality indoor infrastructure facilities in three industrial areas in Andhra Pradesh.

**138. Correct Answer: D**

The new Parliament building, constructed by Tata Projects Ltd. The triangular-shaped four-storey building has a built-up area of 64,500 square metres.

The building has three main gates -- Gyan Dwar, Shakti Dwar, and Karma Dwar.

**139. Correct Answer: D**

Maharashtra has become the first state in the country to have good governance rules. The state will have a separate department for action on climate change, which will implement an action plan to deal with heatwaves, unseasonal rains and will include citizens in decision making using technology.

**140. Correct Answer: A**

Greek President Katerina Sakellaropoulou appointed senior judicial official Ioannis Sarmas as the caretaker prime minister to form a government that will lead the country to a repeat election on June 25. Sarmas is president of the Hellenic Court of Audit, one of the country's three senior courts.

**141. Correct Answer: A**

Seven US states have reached a consensus on conserving the Colorado River. This is a major breakthrough in the region that constantly experiences drought. Funding from President Biden's Investing in America agenda combined with voluntary commitments will conserve 3-million-acre feet of water through 2026.

**142. Correct Answer: B**

A report titled "Thriving: Making Cities Green, Resilient, and Inclusive in a Changing Climate" was released recently by the World Bank. The report highlights the critical role of cities in tackling the global climate challenge. It also warned that cities account for about 70% of global greenhouse gas emissions. The report provided a compass for policymakers to make cities greener, inclusive and more resilient.

**143. Correct Answer: D**

The draft "G20 High-Level Principles on Hydrogen" has been proposed by India recently. The discussion on global standards for 'green, clean, and low

carbon' hydrogen was proposed at the G20 Energy Transition Working Group meeting. It aims to set global standards for green, clean and low carbon hydrogen. It moots for an emission limit of up to 2 kg of carbon dioxide equivalent per kg of hydrogen produced.

**144. Correct Answer: D**

The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) recently released the updated data in the Atlas of Mortality and Economic Losses from Weather, Climate and Water-related hazards. It revealed that Bangladesh and India witnessed the highest number of deaths caused by climate-related disasters between 1970 and 2021.

**145. Correct Answer: A**

As part of the Act East Policy, the Indian government announced a 12-point development plan for the Pacific Island nations at the Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC) summit held at Port Moresby, the capital of Papua New Guinea. The 12-point development agenda is part of the Act East Policy of India. This plan focuses on areas like renewable energy, healthcare and cybersecurity.

**146. Correct Answer: B**

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed for the development of 'Riverine Based Religious Tourism Circuit' among Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI), Sagarmala Development Corporation Limited (SDCL), Assam Tourism Development Corporation (ATDC) and Department of Inland Waterways Transport (DIWT), Government of Assam.

**147. Correct Answer: B**

Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras has signed a Letter of Intent (LoI) with Israel to build an 'India-Israel Center of Water Technology' (CoWT) in Water Resources Management and Water Technologies. The Centre aims to build human capacity to ensure the implementation of the best technologies of Israel in a tailor-made context for the Indian requirements.

**148. Correct Answer: B**

The Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying Parshottam Rupala launched the Sagar Parikrama Yatra Phase-V in Karanja in the Raigad district of Maharashtra. The Government of India has started phase-V of the 'Sagar Parikrama' from the Gateway of India in Mumbai to the Coastal parts of Goa.

**149. Correct Answer: A**

Payments and financial services company Paytm has announced that it has partnered with SBI Card and National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to launch Paytm SBI Card on the RuPay network. Cardholders will receive a cashback of 3 per cent on Paytm SBI card on booking movie and travel tickets on the Paytm app.

**150. Correct Answer: B**

Godrej Agrovet Ltd (GAVL) has partnered with the State Bank of India to introduce a new finance offering for oil palm farmers. This collaborative product aims to provide farmers with loans for various purposes related to their oil palm farms.

## SECTION 3

# Detailed Analysis of Important Events



**Economics**

**Europe de-recognizes 6 Indian clearing corporations**



**Why in news?**

- With effect from April 30, six clearing corporations in India were de-recognized by the European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA) as Third Country Central Counterparties (TC-CCP).
- It does, however, permit European banks to continue doing business with them until April 2023 without facing any penalties.

**What are Clearing Corporations?**

- The financial entities known as clearing firms, commonly referred to as central counterparties (CCPs), serve as go-betweens in the financial markets.
- By guaranteeing that each party engaged in a trade has the money or assets necessary to fulfill their obligations, they assist in reducing the risk of default.
- Additionally, clearing companies make sure that trades are resolved quickly and effectively.

**Decisions by ESMA**

- Six Indian clearing corporations—CCIL, Indian Clearing Corporation Ltd, NSE Clearing Ltd, Multi Commodity Exchange Clearing, India

International Clearing Corporation, and NSE IFSC Clearing Corporation—have had their recognition revoked by ESMA.

- In order to grant it the authority to oversee and monitor the clearing businesses, ESMA requested that Indian authorities sign an agreement.
- Foreign businesses in Indian clearing corporations were not granted supervisory authority by Indian authorities.
- These clearing companies were designated as Third Country Central Counterparties (TC-CCP) in the EU region by ESMA.

**India’s rebuttal**

- The RBI and the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) have been asked by ESMA to sign a document granting it the authority to oversee and monitor clearing businesses.
- A foreign company was not granted supervisory authority over Indian clearing corporations by Indian regulators.

**All India Radio (AIR) to be renamed Akashvani**



The Centre has ordered that public broadcaster All India Radio (AIR) be exclusively referred to as Akashvani in all broadcasts and programmes.

## All India Radio: Through history

- The Radio Club of Bombay's first commercial broadcast in 1923 marked the beginning of radio broadcasting in India.
- The Indian Broadcasting Company (IBC) and Indian State Broadcasting Service (ISBS) were both founded in 1927 and 1930, respectively.
- ISBS changed its name to All India Radio (AIR) in 1936.
- Only 2% of India's land area and 11% of its population were served by AIR at the time of Independence.
- In its current network, which includes over 262 radio stations, AIR serves virtually all of India's population and 92% of its land area.
- Additionally, it includes an External Services Division that transmits in 11 Indian and 16 foreign languages, reaching more than 100 countries. It broadcasts in 23 languages and 146 dialects.
- The News Services Division of AIR airs 647 bulletins per day for a total of almost 56 hours.
- In Chennai, FM broadcasting first started in 1977. Currently, AIR has 18 FM stereo stations.

## Why the name change?

- According to the terms of the Prasar Bharati Act, 1990, which was passed by Parliament, it has been ordered that AIR only be referred to as Akashvani.
- Akashvani has a stronger connection with listeners, and the name change is in line with the law, which was passed in 1997.

## Importance of AIR

- Prior to the development of television or digital media, AIR was instrumental in bringing important events in recent Indian history to the public's attention.
- Jawaharlal Nehru's famous "Tryst with Destiny" speech in 1947 and Kapil Dev's legendary 175 run

knock in 1983, among other events, helped cement AIR's place in history.

## Rail Vikas Nigam gets Navratna Status



रेल विकास निगम लिमिटेड  
(भारत सरकार का उपक्रम)  
**Rail Vikas Nigam Limited**  
(A Government of India Enterprises)

Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) was recently granted Navratna status by the Ministry of Railways.

## About RVNL

- In order to efficiently complete rail infrastructure projects and raise additional budgetary funds for SPV projects, RVNL was founded in 2003.
- After the company's board of directors was elected, business operations commenced in 2005.
- In 2013, RVNL received Mini-Ratna status.

## RVNL's functions

- The whole project lifecycle, including project development and execution, have been delegated to RVNL.
- If necessary, the corporation will establish project-specific SPVs for particular works.
- For operation and maintenance, the concerned zonal railway will receive finished railroad projects from RVNL.

## Major projects undertaken

RVNL has implemented various projects in the rail sector, including:

- Doubling and electrification of existing lines
- Construction of new lines
- Gauge conversion projects.

**Navratna status and its benefits**

- The Navratna designation will increase the operational and financial independence of RVNL.
- Additional authority delegation will also be given to the company.
- The advancement of RVNL will be greatly aided by Navratna's status.
- This designation will be especially helpful to the business as it diversifies into international projects and moves beyond the railway industry.

**RBI's gold reserves rise to 794.64 tonne**

**Why in news?:** The RBI has increased its gold reserves by 34.22 tonnes YoY to reach 794.64 tonnes at the end of March 2023, according to the central bank's data.

**What are Gold Reserves?**

- A country's or a central bank's physical gold assets that are included in its foreign exchange reserves are referred to as gold reserves.
- In addition to purchasing from other central banks, international organizations, or commercial banks, central banks can also obtain gold reserves through local production or imports.
- Most gold reserves are kept as gold bars, which are kept in safe vaults or depositories.

**Why Gold?**

- Gold is considered a safe-haven asset and has been historically used to back a country's currency.

- Holding gold reserves is seen as a way to hedge against inflation, currency fluctuations, and other economic uncertainties.

**Significance of Gold Reserves**

- Economic stability: Especially in times of financial crisis or uncertainty, gold holdings are frequently considered as a symbol of economic stability and trust. Maintaining gold reserves can aid central banks in keeping their currency and economy stable.
- Diversification: Gold, which is regarded as a safe-haven asset, helps diversify a nation's portfolio of foreign exchange reserves. Diversification aids in lowering the risks connected to any particular asset class.
- Gold is seen as an inflation hedge since its value tends to rise during periods of high inflation or when a currency's value is declining. Maintaining gold reserves can aid in preserving a nation's currency's purchasing power.
- International trade: Gold reserves may be pledged as security for loans and other deals. Additionally, countries can pay off foreign obligations using their gold holdings.
- Increasing confidence: A country's amount of gold reserves can act as a barometer for its economic health and stability. High gold reserve levels can foster confidence among investors and other nations.

**Breakdown of RBI's gold reserves**

- The RBI had 794.64 metric tonnes of gold as of March 31, 2023, including 56.32 metric tonnes of gold deposits.
- Domestic and foreign holdings: Of the entire gold reserves, 301.10 metric tonnes are kept locally, while the remaining 437.22 metric tonnes are kept in safe custody abroad with the Bank of England and the Bank of International Settlements (BIS).

**How much do these gold reserves value?**

- According to the RBI's report, the percentage of gold in the overall foreign exchange reserves climbed from about 7.06% at the end of September 2022 to about 7.81% at the end of March 2023, measured in value terms (USD).
- The reserves climbed from \$532.66 billion at September 2022's end to \$578.45 billion at March 2023's conclusion throughout the six-month period.

### India coal imports surge to 162 MT in FY23



#### Why in news?

- According to a research, India's imports of coal surged by 30% to 162.46 million tonnes in the 2022–23 fiscal year from 124.99 MT in the prior year.
- The research was published by mjunction, a joint venture between Tata Steel and the Steel Authority of India (SAIL), a B2B e-commerce platform.

#### India's coal production and consumption

- India is one of the top five producers of coal worldwide.
- India is a significant producer of coal, but it also imports some of its needs.
- India consumes a sizable amount of coal, which is used in the production of electricity and other industrial operations.
- Coking coal: According to a report by mjunction, the import of coking coal increased by 5.44% to 54.46 MT over 51.65 MT in FY22. A vital raw element in the production of steel is coking coal.

#### Import of Coking Coal

- Non-coking coal: In March 2023, imports of non-coking coal were 13.88 MT, up from 12.61 MT in the corresponding month of the previous year.
- The overall imports of several types of coal, including anthracite, pulverized coal injection (PCI coal), met and pet coke, together with coking and non-coking coal, were 249.06 MT in FY23, up from 200.71 MT in FY22, a rise of more than 24%.

#### Key inferences from this

- The high demand for steam coal in India and the weakening of seaborne prices led to increased volumes during March.
- This trend might continue in the coming months due to above-normal average temperatures expected during the summer.

#### Why does India import coal?

India imports coal primarily due to the following reasons:

- Lack of high-quality coal: India's indigenous coal reserves aren't very good, and the nation doesn't have enough of the high-quality coking coal needed for steel production and related industries. India imports coal to make up for the dearth of high-quality coal.
- Indian energy demand is rising as a result of the country's expanding population and quickening urbanization. India imports coal to meet its rising energy needs because it contributes significantly to the nation's energy mix.
- Infrastructure limitations: Geological limitations, land acquisition challenges, and environmental rules are only a few of the issues limiting India's domestic coal output. Additionally, India's domestic infrastructure for transporting coal is inadequate, and many of its power facilities are situated far from coal mines, making imports a more practical choice.



- Better quality and cost-effectiveness: When imported coal is of higher quality than domestic coal, it might occasionally be more economical to import it than to produce it domestically.

## Chheligada Irrigation Project in Odisha



Officials recently directed to begin construction of the multipurpose irrigation project at Chheligada, Odisha.

### Chheligada Irrigation Project

- The project is a medium-sized, multipurpose undertaking that is situated close to the village of Chheligada in Odisha's Gajapati District.
- A 250 m long and 30 m high dam will be built as part of the project to span the River Badjhora, a tributary of the River Vamsadhara.
- In addition to providing irrigation to 5760 hectares of land in the Ganjam district and 500 hectares of land in the Gajapati district, it intends to protect 5201 hectares of water.
- Additionally, Brahampur City will receive drinking water from the project.
- In addition, a 36 MW mini-hydel project with three locations being developed in the Gajapati district's Shiali Loti, Kankata, and Dekili is part of the plan.

### Features of the project

1. A 90-meter-long Ogee-style gated spillway that is positioned in the centre.
2. Building a 1.13 km long tunnel linking the Ghodahada river and the Chheligada reservoir.

3. Creation of a canal network to enable direct irrigation from the dam in the Gajapati district.
4. Establishing a pipeline system to deliver water to Berhampur in the district of Ganjam.

## India's export of Russian oil to West



### Why in news?

- An EU parliamentarian accused India of profiting from cheaply bought Russian oil and indirectly supporting the Russian economy.
- India justified its purchase by emphasizing its energy demands and the challenges of higher prices due to its reliance on energy imports and significant poverty levels.

### Reasons: Sanctions against Russian Oil

- Western nations and Europe sought to lessen their reliance on Russian energy imports following Russia's invasion of Ukraine in an effort to harm the Russian economy.
- A number of actions were taken, including the suspension of the Nord Stream pipeline launch by Germany and the import bans on Russian crude oil by Canada and the US.
- Russia was subject to further penalties, including a "price cap" prohibiting the trading of Russian oil at prices higher than \$60 per barrel.
- Moscow's economy was to be crippled and its ability to finance the Ukrainian war was to be constrained by the price ceiling.
- But in reaction, Russia increased its oil supplies to China and India.

**India's role in meeting West's energy demand**

- Russia has experienced a huge increase in gasoline imports from India, which is free from the restrictions on Russian oil. This fuel is then processed and delivered to Europe and the US.
- After being refined in India, Russian crude oil is no longer regarded as having a Russian origin.
- India's oil imports have helped it satisfy its own energy needs and have also aided Western countries experiencing energy issues as a result of the conflict in Russia and Ukraine.
- In order to help the West with its current energy problems, India has developed into a net exporter of refined petroleum products.

**Impact of Indian imports on Western markets**

- Indian refiners have increased their shipments of refined petroleum goods to Europe and the US, notably diesel and hoover petrol oil (VGO).
- A feedstock used in the refining process, VGO can be further processed to create fuel products such as petrol, diesel, and others.
- India's exports of diesel to Europe have risen by 12–16% during the past fiscal year.
- With 11,000–12,000 barrels per day (bpd), or 65–81% of India's VGO exports, going to the US, it has grown to be a significant destination for Indian VGO shipments.
- These Indian exports have assisted in easing energy shortages and supply restrictions in Western markets.

**RBI regulations on Green Deposits**

**Why in news?:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has introduced a regulatory framework to govern the acceptance of green deposits by banks, ensuring transparency and accountability in their investments.

**What are Green Deposits?**

- Green deposits are financial services provided by banks that are comparable to standard deposits, but the funds are explicitly designated for green projects.
- While avoiding investments in activities that affect the environment, such as fossil fuel projects, these deposits fund programmes aimed at fighting climate change, such as renewable energy initiatives.
- They are a component of a wider selection of financial products, such as green shares and bonds that let investors fund environmentally friendly initiatives.

**Regulatory framework for accepting Green Deposits**

- The RBI's framework requires banks to adopt a set of guidelines for the investing of green deposits, which must be authorised by their separate Boards.
- To provide transparency and give clients the information they need to make wise decisions, these regulations must be posted on the websites of the banks.
- The amount of green deposits received, the manner in which these money are distributed to various green projects, and the environmental effects of such investments are all disclosed by banks.
- The projects' sustainability credentials and the promises made by the banks are independently verified by a third party who has been appointed to do so.

**Sectors eligible for green deposits**

- The RBI has compiled a list of sustainable industries that are qualified to accept green deposits.
- These industries include reforestation, energy efficiency, clean transportation, waste management, and renewable energy.
- In industries that are deemed harmful to the environment, such as those that use fossil fuels, nuclear energy, cigarettes, gambling, palm oil, and hydropower generating, banks are not allowed to invest green deposits.

### Addressing greenwashing

- Making false statements regarding an activity's or investment's favourable environmental impact is known as "greenwashing."
- The RBI's regulatory structure works to ensure that the true impact of green deposits is appropriately portrayed in order to prevent greenwashing in the banking industry.
- The framework's requirements for transparency, disclosure, and third-party verification are meant to safeguard customers against dishonest business practises and guarantee actual environmental benefits.

### Impact and controversies

- Green deposits and other ecologically sustainable investments may be satisfying for depositors who place a high priority on environmental issues.
- However, some detractors contend that green investment products might only serve to boost investors' self-esteem without having a meaningful positive impact on the environment.
- Additionally, there may not be a wide variety of projects eligible for investment through green deposits, which makes it difficult to have a significant environmental impact.

### Key challenge: Assessing environmental sustainability

- In a complex world with interrelated systems and difficult to predict second-order impacts,

assessing the genuine environmental sustainability of a project can be difficult.

- To ascertain whether a project actually contributes to environmental sustainability, it is crucial to take into account the indirect implications and long-term effects of actions.
- The lack of clarity surrounding the precise environmental effects of green projects emphasises the necessity for thorough assessment and continuing monitoring to guarantee the desired results are realised.

### Credit cards put under Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS)



**Why in news?:** The Centre has amended rules under Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) Rules, bringing international credit card spends under the Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS).

### Changes introduced

- Spending on credit cards outside of India is now covered by the LRS, enabling the use of a higher TCS rate.
- The modification repeals Rule 7 of the Foreign Exchange Management (Current Account Transaction) Rules, 2000, which formerly governed the exclusion of credit card transactions from the LRS.

- Payments made to India for the acquisition of international products or services are not affected by the changes.

## What is Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS)?

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) offers residents the LRS service to send money abroad for authorised current or capital account transactions, or a combination of both.
- The RBI has periodically examined and altered the programme since it was first implemented in 2004.
- According to the plan, residents can send up to a set amount in a financial year for permitted transactions such as gifts, investments in equity and debt securities, travel, medical treatment, and education.
- Currently, the annual cap for LRS is set at USD 250,000.

## Eligibility for LRS

- LRS is open to everyone including non-residents, NRIs, persons of Indian origin (PIOs), foreign citizens with PIO status and foreign nationals of Indian origin.
- The Scheme is **NOT** available to corporations, partnership firms, Hindu Undivided Family (HUF), Trusts etc.

## Benefits provided by LRS

- LRS is an easy process that anyone can use to transfer money between two countries.
- It's especially useful for businesses because they can use it to transfer funds to India, and investors can receive their investments back home.
- LRS also has some added benefits, like fast transfer timing and no issues with exchange rates.

## Concerns with credit card spends

- With the LRS already in place, the amendment attempts to create parity between the use of credit and debit cards.
- The amendment was brought about by instances where LRS payments were excessively high in comparison to disclosed incomes.
- Employee business travel that is paid for by the employer is not covered by the LRS.
- The LRS data gathered from significant money transmitters revealed that overseas credit cards were being issued with limits above the recommended average.

## Exclusions and impact of the Scheme

- The administration promised that legitimate work trips by employees abroad would not be covered by the LRS programme.
- Travel packages, presents to non-residents, and local high net worth individuals who invest in assets like real estate, bonds, and stocks outside of India would be most impacted by the application of a 20% tax collection on source (TCS) for international remittances.
- The Ministry stressed that the 5% TCS assessed on medical or educational costs incurred overseas, which is permitted up to 7 lakh per year, will not alter.

## What are Global Depository Receipts (GDRs)?



Tata Consumer Products has announced its decision to delist its global depository receipts (GDRs) from the London Stock Exchange and Luxembourg Stock Exchange.

## What are GDRs?

- Companies utilise GDRs as financial vehicles to attract financing from global investors.
- They are often listed and traded on foreign stock exchanges and represent a collection of the company's shares.
- By using GDRs, businesses can gain access to international capital markets and draw in funds from foreign investors without having to directly list their shares on numerous stock exchanges around the world.

## GDR Regulation in India

- In India, GDRs can be issued by Indian companies that meet the eligibility criteria set by the SEBI.
- SEBI sets guidelines and regulations for companies wishing to issue GDRs typically include the following:
  1. Listing: The business must be listed on an established Indian stock exchange.
  2. Track Record: The business must have a history of financial success over the time period required by SEBI.
  3. A corporation must adhere to corporate governance standards and publish pertinent financial and non-financial information in order to practise good corporate governance.
  4. Regulatory Compliance: The business must abide by any rules and laws that may be in force, including those governing securities and foreign exchange.
  5. Regulatory Authority Approval: In order to issue GDRs, the firm must have the required SEBI and other regulatory authority approvals.

## Need for GDR

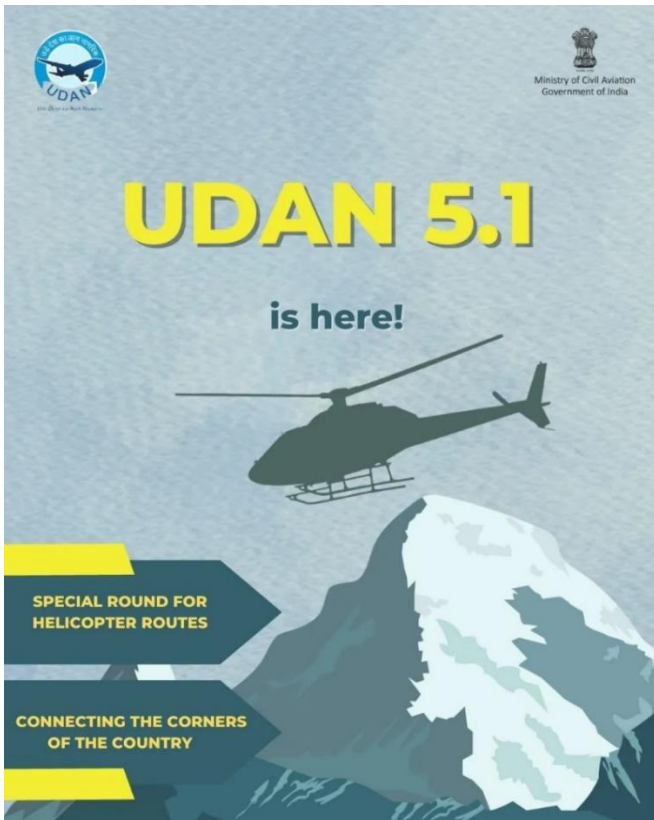
- Funds Raising: Companies can raise funds through the sale of GDRs from foreign investors to fund acquisitions, expansion projects, investments, or debt repayment.
- Global Investor Base: By utilising GDRs, businesses can gain access to a wide variety of international investors, including institutional investors, hedge funds, and individual investors, thereby increasing their shareholder base.
- Cost Effectiveness: Because GDRs allow corporations to access international capital markets without the need for separate listings in many countries, they might be a more affordable alternative to conventional ways of listing shares on several exchanges.
- Trading and settlement are made easier thanks to GDRs, which remove the need for foreign investors to understand the rules and processes of local markets.
- Risk Reduction: Because GDRs offer access to a wider range of investors, they can help corporations mitigate risk by decreasing their exposure to local market swings and volatility.

## Benefits offered

- Access to Global money: GDRs allow Indian businesses to expand their funding sources outside domestic markets and have access to a wider pool of international money.
- Enhanced Liquidity: By making GDRs available to a larger group of investors, listing them on overseas exchanges gives Indian companies greater exposure and improves the liquidity of their shares.
- Enhanced Global Visibility: GDRs aid in expanding the profile of Indian businesses on a global level, enhancing their exposure and drawing in foreign investors and analysts.
- Currency Diversification: Since GDRs are frequently denominated in currencies other than the company's native currency, they might give

Indian enterprises a chance to diversify their exposure to foreign currencies.

## Ministry of Civil Aviation launches UDAN 5.1



The Ministry of Civil Aviation has launched UDAN 5.1, an extension of the Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) – Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik (UDAN), to enhance connectivity to remote areas of India.

### What is UDAN 5.1?

- This round specifically focuses on helicopter routes, aiming to achieve last mile connectivity.
- It allows operators to operate routes where one of the origin or destination locations is in a priority area, such as hilly regions, islands, or North East states.

### Features of the scheme

- Expanded Scope of Operations: Instead of the former requirement that both points on a route

be in priority zones, operators are now permitted to operate routes where only one of the origin or destination sites is in a priority area.

- Airfare caps for helicopter trips have been decreased by up to 25%, making it more economical for people to use them.
- Increased sustainability Gap Funding (VGF) Caps: To improve the financial sustainability of operating the granted routes, VGF caps for operators using single- and twin-engine helicopters have been significantly raised.
- Expansion of Coverage: UDAN 5.1 seeks to extend the advantages of air connectivity to underserved areas by covering a far greater number of routes than prior rounds.

### Importance of UDAN 5.1

- Last-Mile Connectivity and Deeper Democratization of Air Travel: UDAN 5.1 emphasizes last-mile connectivity for distant areas of India and further democratizes air travel.
- Stakeholder engagement and consultations led to the creation of the present iteration of the program, which included considerable input from helicopter operators.

### Way Forward

- Successful Implementation: Make sure that UDAN 5.1 is implemented correctly, taking into account the widened operational scope, lowered airfare caps, and raised VGF caps.
- Fostering cooperation and engagement with helicopter operators will improve last-mile connectivity and encourage the expansion of the helicopter market in the civil aviation sector.
- Establish a reliable monitoring and assessment system to determine how UDAN 5.1 will affect rural areas, the cost of air travel, and economic growth.
- Tourism Promotion: Take use of the expanded helicopter penetration to promote tourism in

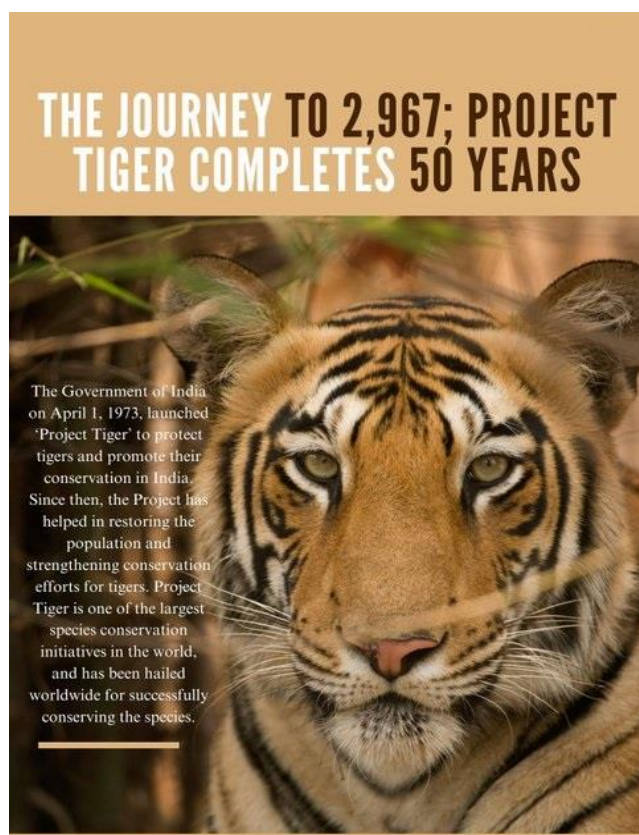
outlying areas, thereby assisting the lodging sector and regional economies.

- Future development: Constantly evaluate the possibilities for additional UDAN program

development, taking into account new routes and modes of transportation to enhance connectivity to underserved areas of India.

## Environment & Diversity

### Bandipur completes 50 years as Project Tiger Reserve



**Why in news?** : Bandipur completed 50 years as a Project Tiger Reserve on April 1, 2023.

#### **Bandipur Tiger Reserve**

- The reserve is located in the Indian state of Karnataka and is spread over an area of 912.04 sq. km.
- It is recognized as one of the prime tiger habitats in the world and is an important component of

the country's first biosphere reserve – Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve.

#### **Tiger Population in Bandipur**

- According to Ramesh Kumar, the head of the Bandipur Tiger Reserve, there were 12 tigers in Bandipur when Project Tiger was started in 1973.
- According to the Status of Tigers Co-predators and Prey in India, 2018, there are currently 173 tigers using the park, while the number of tigers in the reserve has been estimated at 126.

#### **History of conservation efforts in Bandipur**

- The former kings of Mysuru understood the need of protecting flora and fauna long before the Wildlife Conservation Act, 1972, was implemented.
- Following the passage of the Mysore Game and Fish Preservation Act in 1901, a number of forested regions were designated as Game Reserves, and Tiger Blocks had shooting restrictions put in place.
- In the beginning, a 35 square mile tract in the Chamarajanagar State Forest of the Mysore district was designated as a Game Sanctuary in 1931 and protected for 10 years.

#### **Bandipur's inclusion in Project Tiger**

- Bandipur was one of the first nine reserves included in Project Tiger when it began in 1973, and it contained the majority of the lands previously under the Venugopal Wildlife Park's protection.
- The reserve woods next to the park were added to it, increasing its size to 874.20 sq km, and the park was given the new name of Bandipur.

## Significance of the area

- With roughly 724 tigers living there, the region that includes Bandipur, Nagarhole, Mudumalai, and Wayanad complex also has the largest population of Asian elephants.
- The Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve, the nation's first biosphere reserve, contains the Bandipur Tiger Reserve as a significant component.

## Arctic scientists race to preserve 'Ice Memory'



Scientists from Italy, France, and Norway have set up camp in Norway's Svalbard archipelago to extract samples of ancient ice for analysis before the frozen layers melt away due to climate change.

## 'Ice Memory' Project

- Up to 125 metres (137 yards) below the surface, where frozen geochemical traces from three centuries ago are present, scientists will drill a series of tubes.
- To remove ice, the scientists will labour for three weeks in conditions as low as -13 degrees Fahrenheit (-25 degrees Celsius).
- The enterprise is managed by the Ice Memory foundation.
- The ice cores will give researchers important information about previous environmental conditions.

## Analysis and storage

- One set of ice tubes will be used for immediate analysis, while a second set will be sent to Antarctica for storage in an "ice memory sanctuary" under the snow.
- The samples will be preserved for future generations of scientists.

## Reason for drilling

- Water from melting ice is changing the geochemical records preserved in the old ice underneath, and the Arctic is warming between two and four times faster than the global average.
- Therefore, scientists are in a race against time to preserve important ice records before they vanish completely from the planet's surface.

## Tribes in news: Idu Mishmis



## Why in news?

- The National Tiger Conservation Authority has proposed to notify Dibang Wildlife Sanctuary in Arunachal Pradesh as a tiger reserve, causing concerns among the Idu Mishmi community.
- The Idu Mishmi community has a unique cultural relationship with the forest, particularly with tigers.

## Who are the Idu Mishmis?

- A sub-tribe of the broader Mishmi group, the Idu Mishmi population is predominantly based in Arunachal Pradesh's Mishmi Hills, which border Tibet.



- The tribe has close relationships to the local flora and fauna, especially tigers, who in their mythology are referred to as "elder brothers" by the tribe.
- Despite using traditional hunting techniques, the tribe has a belief system based on myths and taboos that forbids them from killing many animals, including tigers.
- Anthropologists and scholars claim that as a result of this belief system, a distinctive model of animal conservation has been developed.

### Overturing Dibang WLS into Tiger Reserve

- Dibang Wildlife Sanctuary has been targeted for designation as a tiger reserve for some time.
- The sanctuary was made aware of in 1998 and is now the home to rare Mishmi takin, musk deer, goral, clouded leopards, snow leopards, and tigers.
- In 2014, the Wildlife Institute of India conducted a survey using camera traps to ascertain the presence of tigers in the region.
- The study's findings that tigers may be found in the Mishmi Hills' highest points served as the foundation for the proposal to designate the area as a tiger reserve.

### Why are the Idu Mishmis resisting the move?

- As a wildlife sanctuary, the Dibang forests have not affected the community's access, but many people think that a tiger reserve would further restrict access.
- A 'Special Tiger Protection Force,' one of the more stringent security measures that would come with the upgrade to a tiger reserve, would make it harder for the locals to access their forest holdings.
- A portion of the community's forest area has been designated as a "Community Conserved Area," which is wholly run by the local populace and where hunting, tree cutting, and other forms of conservation are prohibited.

- The neighbourhood claims that the Dibang WLS was developed without their knowledge or approval.

### TEMPO: NASA device to Monitor Air Pollution from Space



SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket successfully launched carrying a new NASA device named Tropospheric Emissions Monitoring of Pollution (TEMPO) designed to monitor air pollutants and their emission sources across North America from space more comprehensively than ever before.

### What is TEMPO?

- NASA has created an instrument called TEMPO that will allow researchers to track air contaminants and the sources of their emissions down to the neighbourhood level.
- During the day, this device will track pollution and air quality across more of North America on an hourly basis.

### TEMPO's special features

- The hosting of TEMPO on an Intelsat communications satellite in geostationary orbit, 22,236 miles (35,786 km) above the equator, makes it special.

- As a result, the equipment will be able to rotate with the Earth, maintaining constant orbit over North America.
- It will have a spatial resolution of 4 square miles (10 square km), or neighbourhood level, for measuring atmospheric pollution.

### Applications of TEMPO

- TEMPO will serve a variety of purposes, including determining the concentrations of different pollutants, forecasting air quality, and assisting in the formulation of emission-control plans.
- The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and other organisations tasked with combating atmospheric pollution will use the data.

### Importance of the mission

- The American Lung Association estimates that 137 million people, or more than 40% of the US population, reside in areas with harmful levels of ozone or particle pollution, and that air pollution is to blame for 60,000 early deaths annually.
- TEMPO will monitor pollutants including ozone, formaldehyde, and nitrogen dioxide, which are created when fossil fuels are burned.

### Bioluminescence observed at Visakhapatnam beach



The blooms of Noctiluca Scintillans, commonly known as “sea sparkle or bioluminescence” are being witnessed along the coasts of Visakhapatnam, AP.

### Noctiluca Scintillans

- A bioluminescent species called scintillans lights up the water in the ocean at night.
- It grazes on diatoms, fish eggs, and other microorganisms like larvae. However, it contains unicellular phytoplankton that can photosynthesize, converting sunlight into energy.
- Even when nourishment was scarce, they helped their host cell thrive.
- As a result, N. Scintillans has animal and plant characteristics.

### Threats posed

- The phenomena, in the opinion of marine specialists, is a sign of climate change.
- Smaller blooms might not be harmful, while larger, slowly moving blooms might have an effect on deep-sea fishes.
- There have been significant fish and marine creature deaths attributed to N. Scintillans hazardous blooms.
- Despite not producing a poison, it was discovered that the species accumulates dangerous quantities of ammonia, which is subsequently released into the nearby waters and may function as the bloom-killing agent.
- Diatoms, a type of microscopic algae that serve as the foundation of the marine food chain, have been superseded by them. This has made planktivorous fish less able to feed.

### India's first Mangrove Pitta Birds Census conducted in Odisha



**Why in news?** : The first-ever census of mangrove pitta birds was recently conducted in two coastal districts of Odisha, India.

**About Mangrove Pitta**

- The Pittidae subfamily of pittas includes the mangrove pitta (Pitta megarhyncha).
- The mangrove pitta species is found in Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Bangladesh, India, and Myanmar.
- The IUCN rates these pitta species as "Near Threatened" due to their fragmented distribution. They are a monotypic species of pitta.

**Focus of the Census**

- 179 distinct mangrove pitta birds were counted during this census.
- The mangrove areas around the beaches of the districts of Kendrapara and Jagatsingpur were primarily the focus of the census.
- Along the coastal mangroves, data on the distribution, habitat, and breeding of mangrove pittas were gathered.
- Point counts were made during the census, either on foot in the forest or in country boats in waterways.

**First Census of Waterbodies in India**

**WATERBODY COUNT**

**STATES WITH MOST WATERBODIES**

State	No. of waterbodies
West Bengal	7,47,480
Uttar Pradesh	2,45,087
Andhra Pradesh	1,90,777
Odisha	1,81,837
Assam	1,72,492
Jharkhand	1,07,598
Tamil Nadu	1,06,957

**STATES/UT's WITH LEAST WATERBODIES**

Sikkim	134
Chandigarh	188
Delhi	893
Arunachal Pradesh	993

**WATERBODIES LOST TO ENCROACHMENTS**

Uttar Pradesh	15,301
Tamil Nadu	8,366
Andhra Pradesh	3,920



No encroachment on waterbodies was reported from West Bengal, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh and Chandigarh. Source: Waterbody census

The Ministry of Jal Shakti has recently released the report of the first census of waterbodies in India.

**Waterbodies Census**

- It is the first time that a thorough assessment of all the waterbodies in a certain area or nation has ever been carried out.
- The census tries to find and categorise all kinds of waterbodies, including ponds, tanks, lakes, and reservoirs.
- The data can aid in the creation of management and conservation strategies for them.

**Major highlight: Definition of Waterbodies**

- According to the census, a waterbody is an area that is enclosed on all sides and used to store water for a variety of uses.
- These units may or may not feature masonry construction and may be either man-made or natural.

- Aside from irrigation, groundwater recharge, industrial use, horticulture, domestic and drinking water supply, and recreation, waterbodies are also used for a number of other uses.
- According to the report, any facility that retains water by diverting it from a stream, nala, or river is also regarded as a waterbody. This includes structures that collect water from glacier melt, streams, springs, rain, or drainage from residential or other areas.

#### State-Wise Distribution of Waterbodies

- According to the survey, West Bengal has the most ponds and reservoirs, while Andhra Pradesh has the most storage tanks.

- The majority of lakes are in Tamil Nadu, and Maharashtra is the state with the most water conservation initiatives.
- The district of South 24 Parganas in West Bengal has been named as having the most waterbodies (3.55 lakh) in the entire nation.

#### Conclusion

- The census highlights the states and districts with the most waterbodies to give a thorough overview of the distribution of waterbodies in India.
- Data on waterbody encroachment can be used to pinpoint places where conservation efforts are required to save these priceless resources

## Governance

### Link between poor Solid Waste Management and Stray Dog Attacks



Several incidents of stray dog attacks in Indian cities have shed light on the link between urban solid waste management and the issue of stray dogs.

#### Stray Dog Attacks in India

- The number of stray dogs in cities has dramatically increased; according to the official 2019 livestock census, there were 1.5 crore of them.
- Independent estimations, however, place the figure at about 6.2 crore.
- Between 2012 and 2020, the number of dog bites has simultaneously doubled.
- Experts concur that the improper management of waste disposal may have revealed a relationship between urbanization and the production of solid garbage.
- Insufficient rescue facilities, mediocre animal birth control programs, and subpar waste management all contribute to India's overpopulation of street animals.

#### Reasons behind

- Inadequate waste disposal facilities and improper handling of solid waste frequently cause stray dogs to congregate near landfills and rubbish dumps, where they scrounge for food.

- **Unplanned urbanization:** The surge in human population in Indian cities has resulted in a significant rise in the number of stray dogs. Slums and uncontrolled solid trash have been created as a result of rapid urbanization, and these areas are dog-friendly.
- **Lack of food and shelter:** A city's carrying capacity is determined by the availability of food and shelter. Without these amenities, dogs that are allowed to roam free turn into scavengers who hunt for food and eventually converge on open dumps of trash.
- **Territoriality:** Stray dogs frequently develop a territorial and hostile attitude toward public areas where they are fed, which increases human attacks.
- **Poor waste management combined with mediocre animal birth control programs, limited rescue facilities, and improper sterilization lead to an increase in the number of street animals in India.**

## Food wastage in India

- The production of solid trash has increased dramatically in Indian cities as a result of a population boom. More than 150000 metric tonnes of urban solid trash are produced daily in Indian cities.
- A 2021 UNEP research estimates that in 2019, 931 million tonnes of food that was available to customers ended up in trash at homes, eateries, vendors, and other food service outlets.
- Indian households produced 50 kilograms of food waste per person on average.
- The "carrying capacity" of a city, or the accessibility of food and shelter, is what determines the existence of free-roaming dogs in urban settings.

## Tele-MANAS counsels distressed people



**Why in news?** : The Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (IMHANS) in Srinagar has received 10,500 calls from people in distress across Jammu and Kashmir over the past six months.

### What is Tele-MANAS?

- The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare established the Tele-MANAS (Telemental Health Assistance and Networking Across States) initiative in October 2022.
- It aspires to offer 24/7 free tele-mental health services all around the nation, with a focus on those who live in isolated or underserved locations.

### Implementation of the scheme

- **Counselling:** The programme includes a network of 38 tele-mental health centres of excellence spread across 27 States and UTs working in over 20 languages.
- **Helpline:** A toll-free, 24/7 helpline number (14416) has been set up across the country allowing callers to select the language of choice for availing services. Service is also accessible with 1-800-91-4416.

### Two-tier working

- The organization of Tele-MANAS will be two-tiered, with Tier 1 consisting of state Tele-MANAS cells with qualified counselors and mental health professionals.

- Specialists from the District Mental Health Programme (DMHP)/Medical College resources and/or e-Sanjeevani will make up Tier 2 for physical and/or audio-visual consultation.

## Expansion of the scheme

- All States and UTs are using a customized version of the original rollout, which offers fundamental support and counseling through a centralized Interactive Voice Response system (IVRS).
- In order to provide specialized care, it is being connected to other services including National Teleconsultation, e-Sanjeevani, Ayushman Bharat, mental health specialists, health centers, and emergency psychiatric facilities.
- This will aid in the continuity of care as well as the provision of acute mental healthcare assistance.
- This will eventually incorporate all systems that offer mental health treatment and cover the whole spectrum of mental health and illness.

## MoD signs 250th contract under 'Innovations for Defence Excellence'



## Why in news?

- With the signature of the 250th contract, the Ministry of Defence's (MoD) Innovations for Defence Excellence (IDEX) initiative has reached a significant milestone.

- On May 15, the first Mission DefSpace contract and the 100th SPRINT (Navy) contract were both finalized.

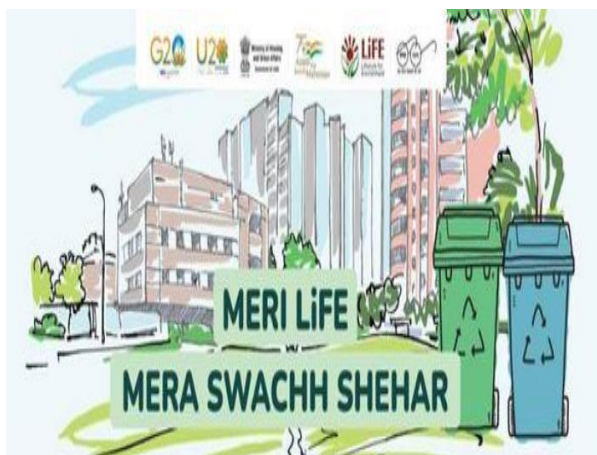
## What is Innovations for Defence Excellence (IDEX)?

- In April 2018, the government unveiled the IDEX program.
- Its goal is to aid in the modernization of the defense sector.
- The initiative's main goal is to advance technological advancement in the aerospace and defense industries.
- Under iDEX, various industries are involved, including MSMEs, startups, one-person inventors, R&D facilities, and academia.
- These industries receive funds and assistance from IDEX to conduct R&D activities.
- As IDEX's executive arm, the Defence Innovation Organization (DIO) finances and oversees the organization.

## Key achievements of IDEX

- InspeCity, the winner of the competition to create a micro propulsion system for CubeSats, and representatives of the MoD exchanged the first IDEX contract of Mission DefSpace.
- As part of Mission DefSpace, InspeCity is developing a gas-based small micro propulsion system that can be combined with various spacecraft, such as the CubeSat swarm.
- More than 7,500 applications from startups, MSMEs, and individual inventors have been submitted to IDEX.
- The program has created thousands of employment and brought talented Indians back to the nation.

## Meri LiFE Mera Swachh Shehar Campaign launched



**Why in news?:** The Union Ministry for Housing and Urban Affairs has launched the 'Meri LiFE, Mera Swachh Shehar' campaign.

**Meri LiFE Mera Swachh Shehar**

- The program supports the Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle (RRR) maxims and focuses on trash management.
- Its goal is to raise people's awareness of the need for environmental conservation and to persuade them to adopt sustainable daily routines.
- Under the Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0, the program enhances individuals' commitment to reducing, reusing, and recycling.
- It supports Mission LiFE's goal of forming sustainable daily routines to protect the environment.

**Objectives of the Campaign**

- Establishing RRR Centers allows residents to donate items like clothing, footwear, books, toys, and plastic for recycling or reuse.
- In keeping with the idea of a circular economy, the gathered things will be renovated or made into new goods.
- The RRR method equips artisans, recyclers, Self Help Groups, businesspeople, and startups to turn garbage into a variety of products.

**Key initiatives: RRR Centres and Circular Economy**

- The RRR Centers, which will be introduced across the country, will act as one-stop collection points for a variety of unwanted or used things.
- These facilities accept plastic products, clothing, shoes, books, and toys from individuals, organizations, and commercial businesses.
- The government's aim of a circular economy will be promoted by repurposing the gathered objects or turning them into new goods.

**What is PARAKH Program?**



The Ministry of Education has organized a workshop in New Delhi to discuss the unification of 60 school examination boards operating across different states and union territories. The key component of this plan is PARAKH, the National Assessment Centre established under the National Council of Educational Research and Training.

**What is PARAKH?**

- Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development is known as PARAKH.
- It is a group established with the goal of uniting educational boards from various states and union territories.
- It has been introduced as a component of the National Education Policy (NEP)-2020 implementation.
- It serves as one of the NCERT's constituent parts.

- Periodic learning outcome assessments like the National Achievement Survey (NAS) and State Achievement Surveys are part of its mandate.
- Large-scale assessments, school-based assessments, and examination reforms will be its three main areas of focus.

### Key objectives of PARAKH

- Setting complete norms, standards, and guidelines for student assessment and evaluation across all recognized school boards is known as uniform norms and guidelines.
- Improve the assessment process: encouraging school boards to use assessment methods that are in line with the knowledge and abilities needed in the twenty-first century.

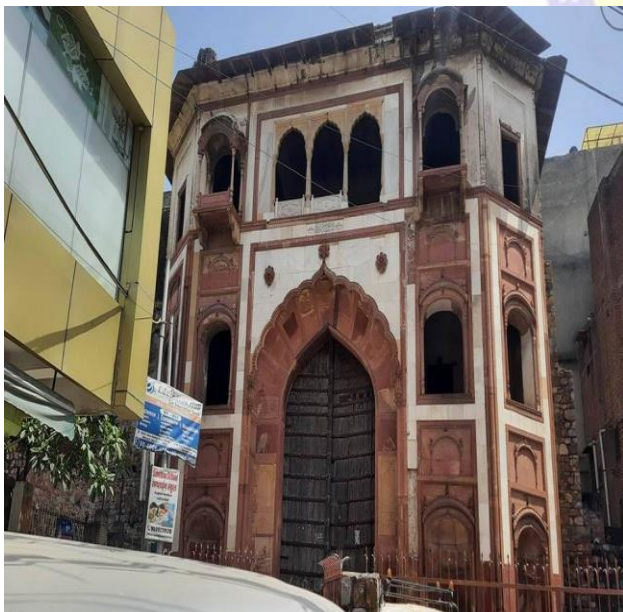
- Reduce Evaluation Disparity: Creating consistency between state and central boards, which now use various evaluation criteria, leading to notable score differences.
- Benchmark Assessment: Creating a framework for benchmark assessments to get away from memorization and align with NEP 2020 goals.

### Conclusion

- The value of PARAKH resides in its capacity to foster transformational change, facilitate cooperation, and conduct benchmarking evaluations.
- It is a crucial step toward developing a fair and consistent evaluation system that gives pupils a level playing field to show off their knowledge and abilities.

## History

### Conservation work at Delhi's Zafar Mahal to begin



The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) is set to initiate conservation works at Zafar Mahal in south Delhi's Mehrauli.

### Zafar Mahal

- The Zafar Mahal in Mehrauli village, South Delhi, India, is said to be the final significant building created during the final years of the Mughal era.
- The final Mughal Emperor, Bahadur Shah Zafar II, was deported by the British, which led to the palace's construction in the 18th and 19th centuries.
- The protected monument is currently in a neglected and damaged state, and residents frequently play cricket and gamble there.

### History

- After 332 years, the Mughal empire came to an end when Bahadur Shah Zafar II (1837–1857), the final emperor, was exiled from Delhi to Rangoon in what is now Myanmar.
- Jahandar Shah built graves in the grounds of Zafar Mahal within a marble screen wall for his father Bahadur Shah I and other kings who came after, and they are a small reminder of the area's past.



- Bahadur Shah Zafar II was interred at Rangoon because he wanted to be buried within the palace grounds.
- During the monsoon season, Bahadur Shah Zafar II liked to visit the palace for hunting, and he was honored here during the Phool Walon Ki Sair festival that took place in February or March.

### Key Structures

- The 18th-century palace known as Zafar Mahal is made up of two parts: the entrance gate, which was rebuilt in the 19th century.
- The gate is imposing with an aperture of 11.75 feet at the entry, and the palace is a three-story edifice made of red sandstone and marble.
- The Moti Masjid, a masjid constructed by Bahadur Shah I, was also situated inside the palace grounds.
- The palace is currently in a state of disrepair, and the lack of sufficient documentation to determine the original construction's specifics restricts its ability to be restored.

### Demolished or Illegally Occupied Structures

- Zafar Mahal, which used to be a huge palace made up of numerous other buildings, is no longer standing or being used by locals.
- These buildings include Bahadur Shah Zafar's Diwan-e-Khaas, Mirza Babur's home, Aurangzeb's Baoli, Mirza Nili's home, Bahadur Shah Zafar's Thana, Mirza Salim's home, and the Khwas Pura.

### Significance of Meerut: Birthplace of India's First War of Independence



Alamgirpur, the easternmost settlement of the Harappa civilization, is located in Meerut and has archaeological importance. However, Meerut gained fame for its role in India's First War of Independence on May 10, 1857, also known as the Indian Mutiny or Revolt.

### Meerut: Historical origins and name

- Meerut has a long history and may have gotten its name from Mayarashtra, the seat of Mayasura, Ravana's in-law.
- The remains of Hastinapur, the former capital of the Kauravas and Pandavas from the Mahabharata, are thought to be found at the archaeological site of Vidura-ka-tila, which lies northeast of Meerut.
- Before being given to the British in 1803, the Scindias were in charge of Meerut.

### The 1857 Rebellion

- The introduction of the Enfield rifle and the use of ammunition thought to have been greased with a mixture of pig and calf fat were the causes of the uprising in Meerut.
- Indian soldiers known as sepoys were punished and had their uniforms taken away if they refused to use the cartridges.
- This event sparked a sepoy insurrection and a demand for a revolution against British rule.

### Outbreak of the Mutiny

- While the European population of Meerut were at church on May 10, 1857, the native troops rose in revolt, as indicated by the sound of musketry and smoke columns.
- After rising up, the sepoys marched towards Delhi, believing it to be the political hub and capital of Mughal India.

### Meerut's Significance

- In the Indian Mutiny, Meerut was an important beginning point for the uprising that expanded throughout the nation.
- The subsequent actions of the rebellion were motivated by and affected by the mutiny in Meerut.

**Santiniketan in tentative list for UNESCO World Heritage list**



The Santiniketan, the home of Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore in West Bengal, has been recommended for inclusion in UNESCO’s World Heritage List.

**About Santiniketan**

Santiniketan is a renowned cultural and heritage place located in Birbhum District, West Bengal, India. It holds historical significance and is known for its association with Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore.

- Rabindranath Tagore lived there and wrote many of his works of literature, including songs, poetry, and novels.
- Beautiful sculptures, frescoes, murals, and paintings by well-known painters like Rabindranath Tagore, Nandalal Bose, Ramkinkar, Binodbehari Mukhopadhyay, and others adorn the Santiniketan campus.
- Santiniketan's location in the Birbhum District is known for its fairs and festivals. Poush Mela (December), Joydev Mela (January), Basanta Utsav (Holi) in March, and the legendary

mystic Baul Singers are a few of the renowned ones.

- In the Bengali month of Boisakh, special cultural activities are held with great fervor during the Bengali New Year and Rabindra Janmotsav (the birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore).
- On the 22nd and 23rd days of Sravana (August), Santiniketan celebrates unusual celebrations like Briksharopan (the festival of planting saplings) and Halakarshan (the festival of plowing the fields).
- The celebration of the rains, known as Varshamangal, is observed in August and September.
- Starting on the seventh day of the month of Poush, Santiniketan hosts the annual Poush Mela market and festival. Although the fair's three official days are up, sellers are welcome to stay until the end of the month. It is well-known for its live performances of Bengali folk music, especially those by bauls (classic roaming minstrels), and also has tribal dances like Santali.

**Recommendation by ICOMOS**

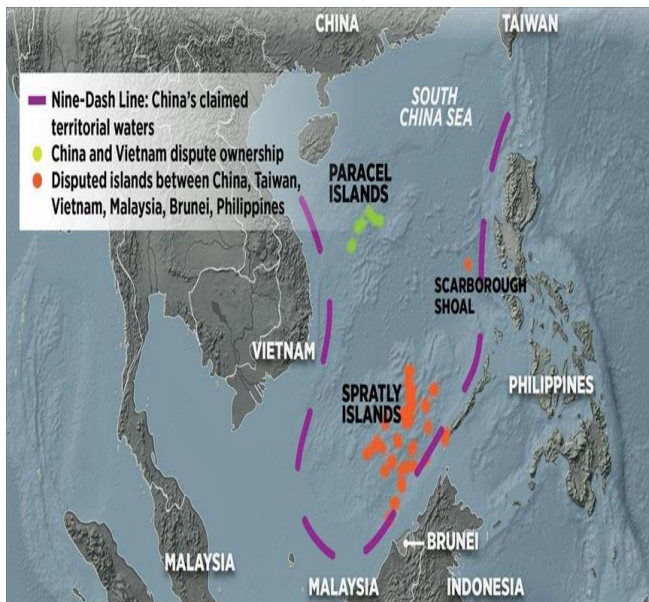
- The International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), the advisory body to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, made the suggestion for Santiniketan's inclusion.
- ICOMOS is an international cultural organization with a base in France that works to preserve and promote the world's architectural and landscape heritage.

**West Bengal’s Representation in World Heritage List**

- Santiniketan would become the second cultural icon from West Bengal to be listed by UNESCO if it were chosen.
- 'Durga Puja in Kolkata' was added to UNESCO's list of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 2021.

## International Relations

### ASEAN-India maritime exercise in South China Sea



The article highlights India's increasing military cooperation with ASEAN countries, with a special emphasis on the upcoming ASEAN-India Maritime Exercise (AIME) in the South China Sea.

#### ASEAN-India Maritime Exercise

- On May 2, 2023, the first ASEAN-India Maritime Exercise (AIME) is scheduled to start, with war exercises taking place in the South China Sea.
- The exercise would involve the INS Satpura and the INS Delhi.
- The "Harbour Phase" and the "Sea Phase" are the two sections of the exercise.

#### Why such exercise?

- The Indian Navy and ASEAN navies would work closely together during the exercise to

undertake seamless operations in the maritime environment.

- Defying territorial claims: The South China Sea is a vital waterway connecting the Indian and Pacific oceans. It is also a disputed area where several nations have territorial claims.
- Support freedom of navigation: By conducting exercises in this area, India can show that it is dedicated to protecting international maritime law and preserving freedom of navigation.
- Asia-Pacific Initiative: India's expanding strategic connections with ASEAN are an integral aspect of its larger Indo-Pacific strategy, which aims to uphold regional peace and advance a rules-based order.
- India views ASEAN as a crucial partner in containing China's aggression and fostering regional stability as China's influence in the Indo-Pacific expands.

#### India's stakes in South China Sea

The South China Sea plays a critical role in India's security and well-being as-

- Global common: The SCS is not a sea belonging to China.
- Navigation has been unhindered for generations despite being a crucial sea route for communication. Indians have maintained a trading presence in these seas for well over 1,500 years.
- Chokepoint for international trade: The South China Sea is the passageway for close to \$200 billion in Indian trade, and thousands of Indians live, work, and invest in ASEAN, China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea.

## Polity

### Supreme Court uses Article 142 for speedy Divorce by mutual Consent



Supreme Court has ruled that it can dissolve a marriage on the ground of irretrievable breakdown, using its power under Article 142(1), without referring the parties to family court for waiting period of 6-18 months for mutual consent divorce.

#### What is Article 142?

Article 142 titled 'Enforcement of decrees and orders of the Supreme Court and orders as to discovery, etc.' has two clauses:

#### [1] Article 142(1)

- In the course of exercising its authority, the Supreme Court may issue any judgment or order that is required to provide full justice in any case or subject that is before it.
- Any rule or decree enacted in this manner is valid over the entirety of India.
- It may be done in accordance with any rules established by a legislation passed by Parliament, or, in the absence of such rules, according to any guidelines the President may by order provide.

#### [2] Article 142(2)

- The Supreme Court shall have all and every power to make any order for the purpose of securing the attendance of any person, the discovery or production of any documents, or the investigation or punishment of any contempt of itself.

#### History of Article 142

- Article 142 was actually numbered as Article 118 when a draft Constitution was created by the drafting committee and presented to the Constituent Assembly.
- On May 27, 1949, it was brought before the Constituent Assembly for discussion, but it was immediately adopted without any discussion.
- This may have occurred because everyone was in agreement that the nation's top court had to have full authority to administer justice in order to guarantee judicial independence.

#### Article 142 in Divorce Cases

##### (1) Current Divorce Process

- Hindu Marriage Act permits "divorce by mutual consent."
- In order to dissolve the marriage, both partners must submit a petition to the district court stating that they have been cohabiting for at least a year and do so voluntarily.
- The parties must then file a second motion with the court within six months of the initial petition's filing and within 18 months of that time.

##### (2) Factors considered for irretrievable breakdown

The Court must be convinced that the marriage is "totally unworkable, emotionally dead, and beyond salvation." The following factors can be considered:

1. The length of time the parties lived together after getting married
2. When the parties' last shared housing
3. the specific claims that each party has made against the other and their relatives
4. Orders occasionally made during legal procedures
5. impact on the personal relationship as a whole
6. whether, how many, and when attempts were made to have the conflicts resolved in court or through mediation.
7. Anything over six years or more will be considered a relevant element, and the separation interval should be suitably long.
8. The parties' educational background, if they have children, their age, and whether their spouse and children are dependents must all be considered in relation to the parties' economic and social standing.

- It is based on the organization's evaluation of each nation's record on press freedom over the preceding year.
- Press freedom is described as "the ability of journalists as both individuals and collectives to select, produce, and disseminate news in the public interest independent of political, economic, legal, and social interference and in the absence of threats to their physical and mental safety."
- It aims to represent the level of freedom enjoyed by news organizations, journalists, and internet users in each nation as well as the efforts made by the government to uphold this freedom.
- It does not evaluate the standard of journalism in the nations it evaluates or take a broad view of human rights abuses.

### Global scenario

- Additionally, Sri Lanka has improved on the index, moving up from 146th place in 2022 to 135th place this year.
- The top three countries for press freedom were Norway, Ireland, and Denmark, while the bottom three were Vietnam, China, and North Korea.

## India drops 11 places to rank 161 in World Press Freedom Index



**Why in news?** : India's ranking in the 2023 World Press Freedom Index has slipped to 161 out of 180 countries, according to the latest report released by global media watchdog Reporters Without Borders (RSF).

### What is Press Freedom Index?

- Reporters without Borders has been compiling and publishing the Press Freedom Index, an annual ranking of nations, since 2002.

## All Cantonments to be disbanded: Centre

### 62 CANTTS IN COUNTRY

- > Defence ministry among India's top landowners with 17.9L acres under its control
- > 62 cantts cover over 1.6L acres, with a population of 50L military & civilian people
- > The British established the first cantt to house troops at Barrackpore over 250 yrs ago
- > There were 56 cantts in 1947. Six more notified later, with last one being Ajmer in 1962
- > Cantts governed by Central Cantonments Act, without jurisdiction of municipal bodies

**Central Idea:** The Union government has kicked off a plan to abolish the 62 cantonments around the country as “archaic colonial legacies”. The first cantonment to be renamed a military station is Yol in Himachal Pradesh.

## What is the plan?

- To create "exclusive military stations" with "absolute control" by the Army over them, the military zones in each cantonment are to be divided off and designated as such.
- The local municipalities will then combine with the civilian areas, who's maintenance will be among their responsibilities.
- After independence, the Army abandoned the idea of cantonments, primarily because of conflict between military and civilian administrations.
- However, a few significant cantonments remained in place. For instance, the cantonments in Pune and Agra.

## What are Cantonments?

- In India, cantonments are long-term military installations where a contingent of soldiers is stationed for administrative functions.
- The Cantonments Act of 2006, which establishes municipal management and control of these territories, governs these cantonments.
- In India, there are 62 cantonments spread out throughout a number of different states.
- Unlike military bases or barracks, which serve as temporary residences for military troops, these sites are maintained by the Ministry of Defence's Defence Estates Organization (DEO).
- In general, cantonments are thought to have better facilities and infrastructure than other sections of the nation.

## Their features

- The members of cantonment boards are elected and nominated in democratic institutions.

- Urban Self Governance of the Cantonments and the Housing Accommodation Therein is the subject matter of the Union, according to Entry 3 of the Union List (Schedule VII) of the Constitution of India.
- The Chief Executive official, who is also the Member-Secretary of the Board, is an official of the IDES or Defence Estates Organization. The Board's ex-officio president is the Station Commander of the Cantonment.
- To balance official representation with democratic composition, they have equal representation of elected and nominated/ex-officio members.
- While giving the locals more civic amenities, they preserve ecological equilibrium.

## History of establishments

- To control the local management of cantonments, the British passed the Cantonments Act in 1924.
- The Cantonments Act, 1924 was changed to accommodate India's democratic system after it gained independence.
- The Cantonments Act, 2006, which superseded the Cantonments Act, 1924, aims to provide the Cantonment Boards more authority and responsibility.

## In news: Sikkim Statehood Day



**Sikkim Statehood Day**

- Sikkim day is annually celebrated on May 16, commemorating the integration of Sikkim with India in 1975.
- The process of Sikkim joining India occurred about two decades after Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel led the integration of princely states into India.

**Sikkim's History with the Chogyal Royals**

- Phuntsong Namgyal was crowned as the first king or Chogyal in 1642, establishing the kingdom of Sikkim.
- The Namgyal dynasty ruled Sikkim for 333 years before it was integrated with India in 1975.
- Between China and India, Sikkim was of Tibetan descent. It frequently had territorial disputes with Bhutan and Nepal.
- The British established a formal relationship with Sikkim because they viewed it as a buffer state.
- The relationship between Sikkim and the British was shaped by a number of treaties, including the Treaties of Tumlong (1861), Titaliya (1817), Calcutta Convention (1890), and Lhasa Convention (1904).

**Independent India and Sikkim**

- Following India's independence, princely kingdoms had the choice to join Pakistan or India.
- Sikkim's special connection to British rule complicated its unification with India.
- Sikkim needed to sign the Instrument of Accession to become a part of India, according to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and BN Rau.
- Jawaharlal Nehru noted Sikkim's autonomous development while acknowledging the state of the region.

- A popular government, the end of landlordism, and membership in India were demands made by the Sikkim State Congress (SSC), Praja Mandal (PM), and Praja Sudharak Samaj (PSS).
- To keep things as they were while talks went on, a standstill agreement was negotiated.

**War with China**

- Sikkim had an elected and nominated state council.
- Sikkim's status was significantly influenced by political changes in the 1960s and 1970s.
- The Sikkim National Congress (SNC) was established in 1960, and both sides' political leaderships underwent changes at this time.
- It was crucial to establish the nature of the relationship between India and Sikkim following the 1962 India-China conflict and the containment of border skirmishes.

**How Sikkim finally joined India?**

- The Indian government began aiding democratic groups in Sikkim, including Kazi Dorji of the SNC.
- A tripartite agreement was reached between the Chogyal, the Indian government, and three major political parties in 1973 as a result of protests in Sikkim.
- In 1974, elections were held, and a new constitution restricted the monarch's authority.
- In a 1975 referendum, the majority of voters chose to join India.
- With the passing of the Constitution (Thirty-Sixth Amendment) Bill, Sikkim became a state within the Union of India.
- The Indian government approved a bill put up by Sikkim's new parliament that would have made Sikkim an Indian state.

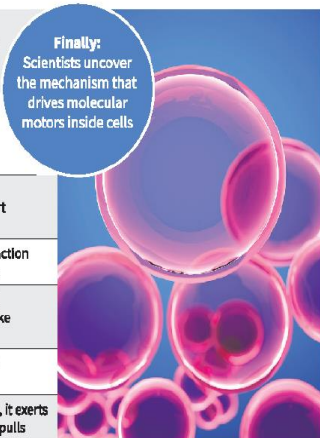
Science, Technology, Art & Culture

Scientists discovered new kind of Molecular Motor

Using biochemical energy to do mechanical work

Molecular motors, which use biochemical energy to do mechanical work, move things inside a cell

- A 2016 study found that a protein (EEA1) losing its taut and rigid shape and becoming floppy helps in pulling two membranes inside a cell closer to each other
- The latest study found the floppy protein regaining its rigid shape so that it can become floppy again to pull the membranes closer
- By repeatedly becoming floppy and then rigid helps in creating a new kind of two-part molecular motor
- The EEA1 protein draws energy from a reaction called GTP hydrolysis to become rigid again
- The EEA1 protein can have one of several trillion shapes when it is floppy, but a rod-like shape when it is stiff
- The floppy state has more entropy and is entropically favoured
- When the protein goes from stiff to floppy, it exerts an entropic force on the membranes that it pulls



Researchers from the National Centre for Biological Sciences have discovered a new kind of molecular motor that has potential applications in biology and medicine.

What is a molecular motor?

- Cells use molecular motors to move things like organelles and molecules, and disruption of these processes can lead to diseases.
- Molecular motors use biochemical energy to do mechanical work.

What did the new study find?

- According to the findings, a lengthy protein called EEA1 can restore its rigid shape to form a novel type of two-part molecular motor.
- Through a process known as GTP hydrolysis, which is carried out by GTPases, EEA1 regains its hard form.
- According to the researchers, this could herald the emergence of a new class of molecular machines that function as motors in distinctive

ways and have unexpected collective consequences.

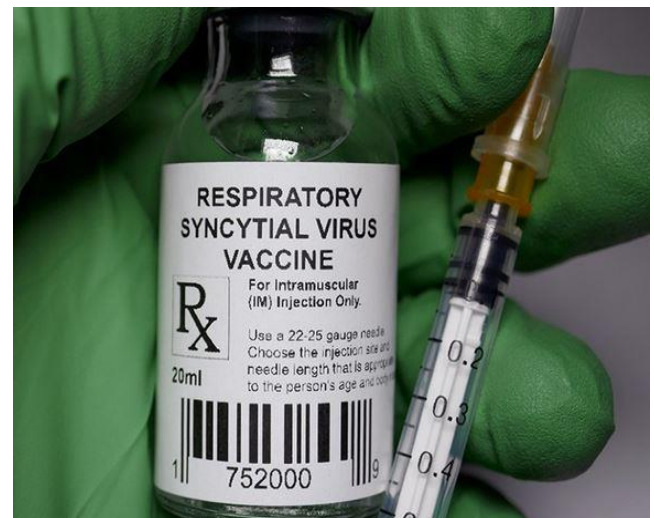
Why is the finding significant?

- The motor differs from typical motors in that it employs GTP (guanosine triphosphate) (GTP) as its energy source rather than ATP (adenosine triphosphate), which produces a lever-like back-and-forth motion.
- It is a distinctive property of EEA1 that it pulls membranes with an entropic force.
- The discovery may have implications for many other mechanochemical proteins or assemblies, as well as for our understanding of membrane fusion.

What are the potential applications?

- The discovery of the molecular motor could have potential applications in biology and medicine.
- The study provides a general mechanism that is applicable to many mechanochemical proteins or assemblies that harness chemical energy for mechanical work in cells.

FDA approves first vaccine for Respiratory Syncytial Virus





The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved the first vaccine 'Arexvy' for respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) to lower respiratory tract disease in people older than 60 years.

**What is Respiratory Syncytial Virus?**

- People of all ages can become ill with the common respiratory virus known as respiratory syncytial virus (RSV).
- It can affect older persons and people with compromised immune systems, as well as newborns and young children, where it is the most frequent cause of lower respiratory tract infections.
- RSV is extremely contagious and can be passed from person to person through coughing or sneezing droplets or by touching a surface that has been exposed to the virus before contacting one's face.
- RSV symptoms, which include runny nose, coughing, sneezing, fever, wheezing, and breathing difficulties, can be minor to severe.
- In extreme circumstances, it may result in mortality, bronchiolitis, or pneumonia.

**Identification of Protein F**

- In 2013, Barney Graham and other scientists identified the key protein, protein F, responsible for the RSV virus to infect human cells.
- The protein, introduced in humans, elicited neutralizing antibodies against the virus.

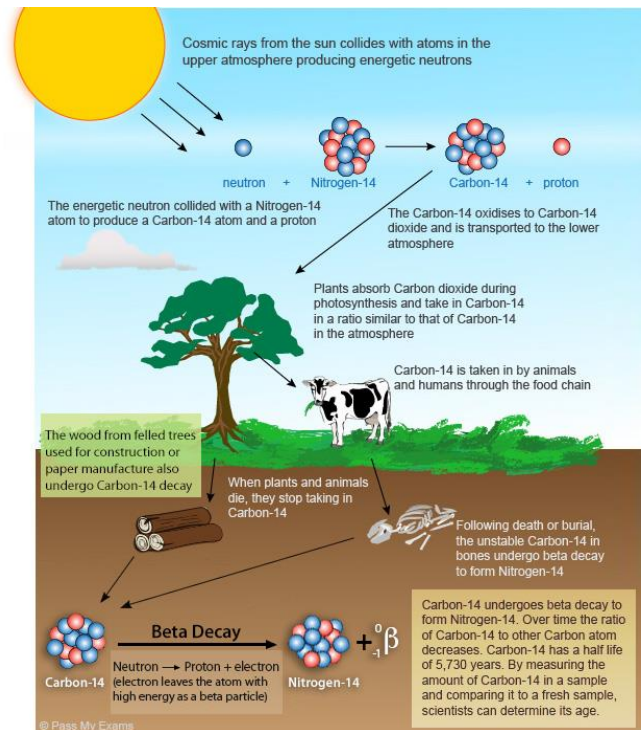
**Approval and Efficacy of Arexvy**

- The first RSV vaccine to receive approval anywhere in the world, Arexvy, made by GSK, has been approved by the FDA.
- An almost 25,000-person phase-3 trial served as the foundation for the approval.
- According to the study, those over 60 years old had a 94.1% lower risk of acquiring severe RSV disease and an 82.6% lower risk of developing

lower respiratory tract disease after receiving just one dose of the vaccine.

- Before the RSV season in 2023–2024, the vaccine will be accessible to older persons in the United States.

**What is Carbon Dating? How does it work?**



**What is Carbon Dating?**

- The age of biological materials that were formerly living is commonly ascertained through carbon dating.
- Based on the radioactive decay of Carbon-14 (C-14), a carbon isotope with an atomic mass of 14, the procedure is used.
- It functions by measuring the proportion of C-12 to C-14 in the atmosphere as well as in living things that absorb carbon through photosynthesis or dietary intake, such as plants and animals.

**The half-life concept**

- The half-life of carbon-14 is 5,730 40 years, meaning that for the next 5,730 years, half of the

radioisotope that is present at any particular time will spontaneously disintegrate.

- Because carbon-14 decays at a constant pace, it is possible to determine the date of an organism's demise by analyzing the quantity of radiocarbon it still contains.

**Limitations of Carbon Dating**

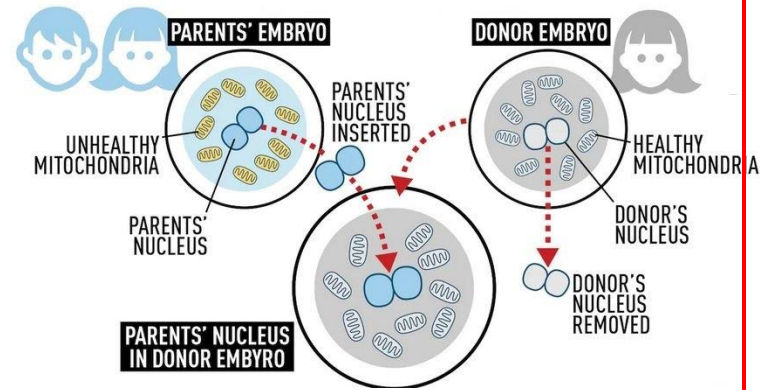
- Carbon dating has some restrictions and can't be used in every situation.
- It cannot be used to estimate the age of non-living objects like rocks.
- For artifacts older than 40,000–50,000 years, carbon dating is less precise because there is substantially less detectable C-14.
- Other radiometric dating techniques, which rely on the decay of radioactive elements present in the substance, are used to establish the age of inanimate artifacts.
- These techniques, which measure the ratios of particular isotopes to determine the age of rocks, include potassium-argon dating and uranium-thorium-lead dating.

**Other Dating Methods**

In addition to radiometric dating, there are alternative methods to determine the age of objects.

- Cosmogenic nuclide dating, or CRN, is a technique that uses radioactive decay to calculate age and is frequently used to investigate the age of ice cores in Polar Regions.
- The ratio of potassium to argon isotopes in rocks is measured using the radiometric dating technique known as potassium-argon dating to establish the age of the rocks.
- Radiometric dating technique called uranium-thorium-lead dating determines the age of rocks by analyzing the ratios of these three isotopes.

**UK sees success in Mitochondrial Replacement Therapy**



**Why in news?**

- With the use of mitochondrial replacement therapy (MRT), a baby was born in the UK utilizing the DNA of three different people.
- The mitochondria as well as the genetic material from the biological parents make up the baby's third parentage.
- To stop the infant from acquiring the mother's mitochondrial illness, this cutting-edge technique was used.

**Mitochondrial Diseases :-**

- The function of tissues in many organs that require a lot of energy might be impacted by mitochondrial illnesses caused by specific mitochondrial abnormalities.
- The incidence of mitochondrial illnesses is thought to be one in 5,000 people, and although they can be treated, there is no known cure.
- The woman in this situation did not want to use donor eggs since she had a mitochondrial condition that she did not want to pass on to her child.

**What is Mitochondrial Replacement Therapy (MRT)?**

- MRT is a medical procedure used to stop the mother-to-child transmission of specific mitochondrial disorders.
- It entails using donor mitochondria to swap out damaged ones in an egg or embryo for healthy ones.

- In vitro fertilization (IVF) methods are commonly used for the procedure.
- The intended parents' egg or embryo's nucleus, which contains the majority of the genetic material, is transferred to a donor egg or embryo with healthy mitochondria.
- The resulting embryo, which has healthy mitochondria from the donor and nuclear DNA from the intended parents, is subsequently put into the mother's uterus to begin gestation.

### How does it work?

- The biological mother's and a healthy female donor's eggs are fertilized by the father's sperm.
- An egg having both the biological parents' DNA and the donor's mitochondria is produced by replacing the genetic material from the donor's egg with that of the biological parents.
- The mother's uterus receives this altered egg, which is subsequently implanted and carried to term. As a result, the baby is born healthy and free of the mother's mitochondrial disease.

### Uses of MRT

- Mitochondrial Disease Prevention: MRT aids in preventing the mother-to-child transfer of several mitochondrial illnesses.
- Family Planning: It makes it possible for people or couples who have mutations in their mitochondrial DNA to have genetically related offspring without running the danger of passing on a disease.
- Improved Health: By preventing crippling mitochondrial illnesses, MRT can dramatically enhance people's general health and sense of wellbeing.
- The intended parents can have a kid with their own genetic makeup while preventing the spread of disease thanks to this alternative to typical donor egg alternatives.
- Scientific Progress: MRT advances the study of mitochondrial biology and the development of assisted reproductive technologies, opening up

new avenues for the treatment of mitochondrial illnesses.

### Recent advancements in UK

- The baby primarily carries DNA from its biological parents and a small percentage from the donor whose mitochondria was used during fertilization.

### Scientific process

- Since mitochondrial illnesses are passed down from the mother, research is being done to discover preventative measures for passing them on to future generations.
- Mitochondrial Donation Treatment (MDT), a cutting-edge in vitro fertilization method, was created by the Newcastle Fertility Clinic.

### Legal Facilitation of MDT

- The law was changed by the UK government in 2015 to permit MDT or mitochondrial replacement treatment (MRT).
- 2018 saw the approval of the first cases at the Newcastle Fertility Centre, which was the first facility to be granted a license to carry out the treatment.

### Worldcoin: The Iris-scanning Cryptocurrency



**Why in news?:** Sam Altman, CEO of OpenAI, is reportedly raising \$100 million for Worldcoin, a unique cryptocurrency.

**What is Worldcoin?**

- In 2019, Altman and Alex Blania co-founded Worldcoin, which promises to give each person on Earth a part of its digital token.
- Worldcoin is a cryptocurrency concept that aims to create a universal identification and financial network.
- It makes use of a tool known as the Orb, which scans people's irises to confirm their individuality and humanity.
- People that submit to the iris scan are given Worldcoin tokens as compensation.
- Users can send and receive money using Worldcoin and other digital assets through the World App, which was created by Worldcoin.
- 80% of the 10 billion tokens that will be distributed by the initiative, which is expected to begin in the first half of 2023, will go to consumers.

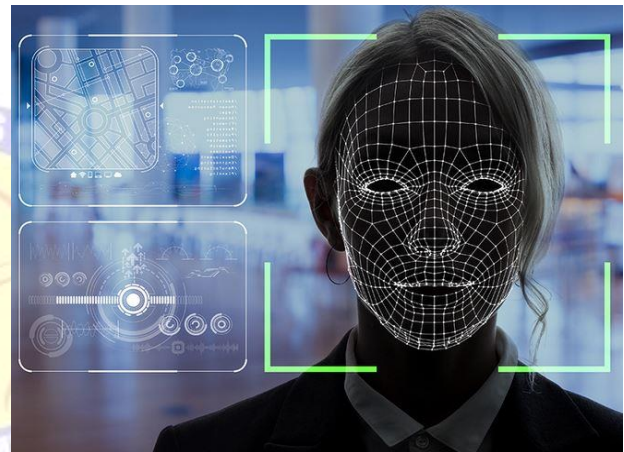
**Functioning of Worldcoin**

- The creators of Worldcoin wanted to give every person on the earth unrestricted access to shares of the digital token.
- They saw it as a way to equitably disperse earnings from AI systems and a global distribution system for Universal Basic Income.
- Worldcoin uses the Orb device's biometric iris scans to ensure fair distribution.
- The iris is scanned by the Orb and transformed into an unrecoverable hash, even if it were compromised.
- If the user is new to the system, the hashes are added to the database and the business's blockchain after being submitted to Worldcoin servers together with the user's public key hash and iris hash.

**Challenges and criticisms**

- The accessibility of the Orb and growing the user base are hurdles for Worldcoin.

- The initiative intends to use coupons or loan access to encourage sign-ups.
- There are worries regarding the security, privacy, and potential abuse of biometric data.
- The viability and scalability of reaching unbanked or underbanked communities are in doubt.
- It is also important to consider the Worldcoin token's value and usability as well as how it stacks up against other cryptocurrencies and fiat money.

**DoT develops Facial Recognition Tool 'ASTR'**

**Why in news?:** The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has developed an artificial-intelligence-based facial recognition tool called Artificial Intelligence and Facial Recognition powered Solution for Telecom SIM Subscriber Verification (ASTR).

**What is ASTR?**

- ASTR is made to search telecom operators' subscriber records for numerous connections that belong to the same person.
- ASTR aims to reduce cyber fraud by detecting and blocking fake mobile connections.

**Development of ASTR**

- The Department of Transportation (DoT) ordered telecom companies to give the

department access to their subscriber database, which includes user photos, in 2012.

- The primary database for facial recognition using ASTR is made up of these pictures.
- Between April 2021 and July 2021, the DoT unit in Haryana conceptualized and designed the ASTR project.
- A substantial number of counterfeit SIMs were found during a pilot operation to investigate the viability of ASTR in the Mewat district of Haryana.

#### How ASTR works?

- ASTR encodes human faces in subscriber photos using convolutional neural network (CNN) models, taking into consideration numerous aspects such as face tilt, angle, image opacity, and dark hue.
- Each face is compared to every other face in the database, creating a directory of faces that are similar to one another.
- ASTR defines facial identity as a minimum 97.5% match between two faces.
- In less than ten seconds, it can identify every SIM connected to a suspected face from a database of one billion (10 million) photos.
- ASTR's method uses "fuzzy logic" to determine approximations of matches for subscriber names after matching faces, taking into account variations, typos, and related findings.

#### Impact and Results

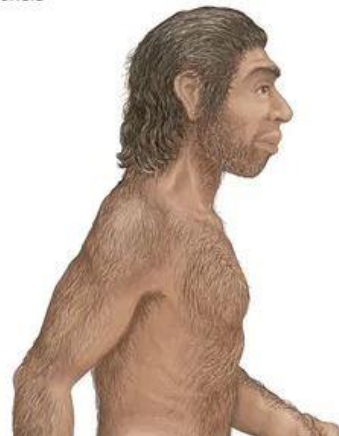
- More than 40 lakh (4 million) instances of people utilizing a single photograph to get multiple connections were found in the first round of ASTR's analysis of more than 87 crore (870 million) mobile connections.
- Following verification, telecom carriers terminated more than 36 lakh (3.6 million) connections.
- In order to remove these numbers from each platform, banks, payment wallets, and social

media platforms are also given access to the list of fraudulent links.

- To disable accounts created using such numbers, WhatsApp worked with the authorities, and similar initiatives are being made with other social media services.

#### Did Neanderthals shape our noses?

*Homo neanderthalensis*



The human nose has historical and cultural importance beyond its practical functions. Different societies have their own standards of beauty related to nose shape and proportion. The nose is significant in art, literature, and remnants of ancient civilizations.

#### Genetic association study on Human Nose

- In a recent study, a genetic association study was carried out using 2D pictures and automated estimations of facial landmarks.
- More than 6,000 people from Latin America participated in the study, which found 42 novel genetic loci linked to the human nose.
- Numerous of these loci, including 1q32.3, were replicated in Asian, European, and African populations.

#### Role of Neanderthal Genes and ATF3 Gene

- Neanderthal genetic contributions can be seen at the midface height-related genomic locus 1q32.3.

- The FOXL2 gene, which controls the ATF3 gene at this locus, is important for the growth of the face and skull.
- The evolution of the nose may have ramifications for how humans adapt to various climatic conditions.

#### **Neanderthal Genomes and Human Traits**

- Numerous features and diseases in modern humans have been impacted by genetic loci from Neanderthals and Denisovans.
- There is evidence that these genetic contributions have an impact on pathogen response, skin, blood, and mental health issues.
- It is easier to understand genetic diversity and adaptability when you are aware of the genetic interconnections between the ancient and contemporary human genomes.

#### **Human Origins and Interbreeding**

- Human characteristics have been shaped by human migrations out of Africa, intermarriage with Neanderthals and Denisovans, and extinct archaic hominids.
- Recent research has shown that early humans diverged in Africa from various ancestral roots, with different groups retaining differing amounts of genetic material from archaic humans.

#### **Implications and Future Research**

- Our understanding of genetic legacy is strengthened through research into the interbreeding event and its effects.
- The newfound information might open up new possibilities for understanding human genetic variation and for studying and treating diseases.
- A fascinating area of genomics research is the interaction between the ancient and contemporary human genomes.

### **Study reveals unique Nervous System in Comb Jellies**



Comb jellies, or ctenophores, are marine animals with jelly-like bodies and iridescent combs. They represent an ancient animal lineage and have a distinct nervous system. A recent study published in Science examined the comb jelly nervous system and made surprising discoveries.

#### **What are Comb Jellies?**

- Ctenophores, sometimes referred to as comb jellies, are sea creatures that are a part of the phylum Ctenophora. They are intriguing beings that have a distinct and delicate appearance.
- Comb jellies are not genuine jellyfish, despite their name.
- Their bodies are transparent and gelatinous, frequently glowing, and covered in rows of cilia, or comb-like structures, which give them their distinctive shimmering look.

#### **Findings of the new study**

- The researchers aimed to investigate how nerve net neurons in comb jellies connect.
- Contrary to expectations, synapses (junctions between neurons) were absent in the nerve net.
- Instead, nerve-net neurons were continuously connected by a single plasma membrane.

#### **Significance of ctenophores**

- The separate-cell nature of neurons connected by synapses was verified by electron microscopy in the 1950s.
- The latest study's observation of a syncytial nerve net in ctenophores challenges this idea.

- The possibility that ctenophores represent an early animal ancestry garnered interest.
- Studies using whole genome sequencing backed up the idea that ctenophores diverged early in animal evolution.

## Evolution of ctenophore nervous systems

- Biologists are still unsure of how ctenophore neural systems evolved.
- A contentious theory of the independent evolution of the nervous system in ctenophores and other animals was put out by Leonid Moroz.
- The neural system of ctenophores is unusual because it lacks common neuronal genes and traditional neurotransmitter routes.
- The dependence on cilia and lack of muscle-based movement may have influenced the emergence of a distinct signaling system.

## Questions for further research

- The growth of nerve net neurons in ctenophores is a topic of research.
- They want to know whether adult ctenophores develop synapses or keep their syncytial nerve nets.
- Ctenophore nervous systems' singularity offers important insights on the development of the nervous system.
- Comparative studies of distinctive animal systems, such as ctenophores, help us comprehend neural function and treat diseases.

## Conclusion

- Further investigation is necessary to comprehend the evolutionary and functional importance of syncytial nerve net neurons in ctenophores.
- Investigating the evolution of animal nervous systems on the basis of this study is essential.
- Comparative research on tiny marine organisms like ctenophores sheds light on the basic tenets of brain operation.

## India to triple Supercomputing capabilities



India is set to significantly enhance its supercomputing capabilities by installing an 18-petaflop system this year. This development aims to improve complex mathematical calculations, particularly in weather forecasting, by providing greater processing power and accuracy.

## Understanding Supercomputers

- A high-performance computer called a supercomputer can process enormous volumes of data extremely quickly.
- Instead of million instructions per second (MIPS), performance is measured in floating-point operations per second (FLOPS).
- Supercomputers are capable of performing trillions of FLOPS (peta FLOPS).

## India's Journey in Supercomputing

- The Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), which was founded in response to technology embargoes enforced by the United States, marked the beginning of India's supercomputing adventure in the late 1980s.

- Since then, India has made steady advancements, introducing the PARAM 800 in 1991, the second-fastest supercomputer in the world at the time.
- The National Supercomputing Mission (NSM), which had a budget of 4,500 crore when it was announced in 2015, has been crucial in advancing India's supercomputing capabilities.
- throughout order to serve academia, researchers, MSMEs, and startups, the mission aspires to establish a network of supercomputers throughout academic and research institutions throughout the nation.

#### **Current Supercomputing Infrastructure**

- Pratyush and Mihir, the two most potent civilian supercomputers in India, have a combined processing capability of 6.8 petaflops.
- Mihir resides at the National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF) in Noida, whereas Pratyush is situated at the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM) in Pune.
- 2018 saw the completion of a \$438 crore investment in these supercomputers, bringing them online.
- Both organizations are connected to the MoES.

#### **Acquisition of New Supercomputers**

- The new supercomputers were purchased as part of an agreement between the governments of France and India that was inked in December 2018. They were sourced from the French company ATOS.
- By 2025, the government hopes to spend 4,500 crores on high-performance computers, with the new earth sciences Ministry computers expected to cost 900 crores.

#### **Enhanced Capabilities and Future Outlook**

- To increase performance, supercomputing systems must be upgraded every 4-5 years.
- The new method will increase resolution from the present 1212 km to 66 km, giving local weather forecasts more precision and clarity.
- The ultimate objective is to represent regions using grids of 1 km<sup>2</sup>, allowing for the forecasting of rapidly changing weather events like cloudbursts.
- The Frontier-Cray system at Oakridge National Laboratory in the United States, with a peak speed of 1 exa-flop (equal to 1,000 petaflops), is currently the fastest high-performance computing system in the world.

#### **Way forward**

To further enhance India's supercomputing capabilities and maintain technological advancements, the following steps can be considered:

- Continuing to spend in R&D will help us stay on the cutting edge of supercomputing technology.
- utilizing global experience through cooperation with international partners and organizations.
- encouraging the use of the supercomputing infrastructure by universities, researchers, MSMEs, and start-ups in order to advance and innovate science.
- increasing the network and resources available to the National Supercomputing Mission (NSM), which will strengthen it.
- upgrading supercomputing systems frequently to keep up with changing computational needs and retain global competitiveness.



## Security Issues

### Common Uniforms at Higher Ranks of Army



A decision has been taken at the recent Army Commanders Conference to change the uniforms worn by senior Army officers.

#### Changes in Uniform

- Brigadier-level and higher officers must now wear the same uniform components.
- The most frequent uniform accessories include berets, rank badges, belt buckles, and shoe patterns.
- Officers of these higher grades shall no longer wear regimental lanyards or shoulder flashes.
- They won't wear any gear to indicate that they are members of a specific Corps or Regiment.

#### Present Uniform Accoutrements

- Depending on their association with a regiment or corps, officers from the rank of Lieutenant to General presently wear uniform accoutrements.
- According to regimental customs, each Infantry Regiment and Corps has its unique kind of lanyard, rank badges, buttons, and belt buckle.

#### Reason for Change

- Regimental service in the Army ends at the rank of Colonel for most officers who rise further.
- Senior officers commanding troops of mixed regimental lineage should present themselves in a neutral uniform rather than a regimental one.

#### Reversion to Past Practice

- The Army has returned to the custom that prevailed before the service's adoption of wearing regimental designations about 40 years ago.
- Officers of the level of Colonel and higher wore standardized uniform designs and insignia up until the middle of the 1980s.

#### Tradition in Other Armies

- To distinguish it from the Regimental uniform, the dress worn by officers with the rank of Colonel and above in the British army is referred to as the Staff uniform.
- The military of neighboring nations Pakistan and Bangladesh operate similarly to the British army.

### 25th anniversary of Pokhran-II



India's nuclear program the Pokhran-II nuclear tests conducted in 1998. This year is special, marking 25 years since we started celebrating National Technology Day.

### **India's Nuclear Journey: A quick recap**

- In 1998, India detonated nuclear bombs at the Pokhran Test Range.
- These tests, known under the codename Operation Shakti, demonstrated India's capacity to produce nuclear weapons.
- The tests marked the end of a protracted journey that started in the 1940s and 1950s.
- Homi J. Bhaba, a physicist, was instrumental in creating the groundwork for India's nuclear program.
- In 1954, Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru created the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) in support of Bhaba's initiatives.

### **Reasons: Threat of China and Pakistan**

- After the 1962 Sino-Indian War and China's nuclear bomb test in 1964, India's attitude on nuclear weapons shifted.
- The political establishment understood that self-sufficiency was necessary in the face of hostile China and Pakistan.
- India attempted to obtain nuclear guarantees from states that already possess nuclear weapons but was unsuccessful.
- India made the acquisition of nuclear weapons a top goal.

### **Pokhran-I and its Aftermath**

- India carried out its first nuclear test at Pokhran in 1974, also known as Operation Smiling Buddha or Pokhran-I.

- Despite being referred to be a "peaceful nuclear explosion," the test was condemned globally and was subject to sanctions.
- The development of India's nuclear program was hampered by political unrest, particularly the Emergency in 1975.
- Speculation about nuclear weapons returned in the 1980s as Pakistan's nuclear capabilities advanced.

### **The Period between the Two Tests**

- India encountered difficulties as a result of local political unrest and shifting global conditions.
- India's military coalitions were weakened with the demise of the USSR in 1991.
- Despite reservations about Pakistan's nuclear development, the US persisted in aiding that country.
- India was under pressure to produce nuclear weapons as soon as possible since the window of opportunity seemed to be closing.

### **Pokhran-II: Projecting India's Strength**

- Atal Bihari Vajpayee led the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) to victory in 1998.
- The completion of India's nuclear weaponization was celebrated by Operation Shakti, which was carried out in response to a missile launch by Pakistan.
- After Pokhran-II, India declared itself a nuclear weapons state.
- The tests came under some international pressure, but India was able to withstand it thanks to its expanding economy and commercial potential.

**Trivia**

**Bihan Mela of Kondh Tribals**



Since 2019, the Kondh tribe in Nayagarh district, Odisha has been celebrating the Bihan Mela, or the seed festival, to promote the revival of indigenous farming.

**Bihan Mela**

- Farmers from 40 villages in the Dasapalla block take part in this festival, which focuses on the gathering and preservation of indigenous seeds.
- Women gather indigenous variety seeds after harvesting kharif crops and preserve them in earthen jars.
- They dress the pots in red and white patterns on a specific day in December, put them in a bamboo basket, and carry them on their heads to the village where the fair is being held.
- Men who play drums and other traditional instruments walk behind them.

**Objectives**

- The seed festival was instituted to assist farmers in reverting to more conventional farming

practices, such as mixed-cropping, which is more resistant to unpredictably heavy rain and pest infestations.

- Farmers have recently abandoned local crops and species that are more suited to the environment and naturally resistant to pests.

**Commercialization through this festival: Seed Bank**

- Nirman, a nonprofit that collaborates with the tribe on forest rights and agro-ecological farming, established a seed bank in Raisar village in 2019 to make it easier for people to access indigenous seeds.
- Farmer loans are made possible by the bank's collection and preservation of native seeds from various Kondh communities.
- The bank today boasts 62 different types of paddy, four different millets, five different pulse varieties, and eight different vegetables.
- All Kondh farmers are welcome to use the bank, which has already benefited 750 households.

**Golden Globe Race**



**Why in news?**

- By placing second in the Golden Globe Race (GGR), 2022, Abhilash Tomy, a former commander in the Indian Navy, accomplished the incredible achievement of accomplishing a solo circumnavigation of the globe.
- He set the previous record in 2013 by sailing solo and unassisted around the world aboard a sailboat. He set this record in even more difficult conditions.



## What is Golden Globe Race?

- The first iteration of the Golden Globe Race, a non-stop, solo, unaided sailboat race around the globe, took place in 1968-69.
- Participants in the race must use vessels built to premodern criteria and must only use sextants and paper charts.
- Modern navigational equipment cannot be used, and the use of satellite phones is severely restricted.
- The sailing would follow a predetermined path and circle the three large capes.

## His return to GGR

- Following many injuries, Tomy started looking for sponsors and boats to compete in GGR-2022 in 2021.
- He declared his intention to compete in the race on the Bayanat in March 2022, which was supported by an organization from the UAE that specializes in geospatial artificial intelligence.
- The boat, however, was involved in a ship collision just three weeks prior to the race, necessitating extensive repairs.

## Significance of his achievement

- In the GGR-2022, only three of the eleven competitors finished the race, and Kirsten Neuschäfer became the first woman to triumph in a solo around-the-world yacht race.
- The most "repaired" boat in the race was Tomy's, and the sailor who did it all fought against inconceivable sea conditions and a lack of sleep.
- In the end, Tomy finished second to Neuschäfer to become the first Asian to finish the 30,000-mile GGR.



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