

JUNE 2023

CURRENT AFFAIRS

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



The Eklavya IAS Academy

UPSC / MPSC

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 June 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.



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Section 1

Topic Wise Current Affairs

Section 2

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SECTION 1

Topic Wise Current Affairs in Short



1: Important Days



World Milk Day : 01 June :-

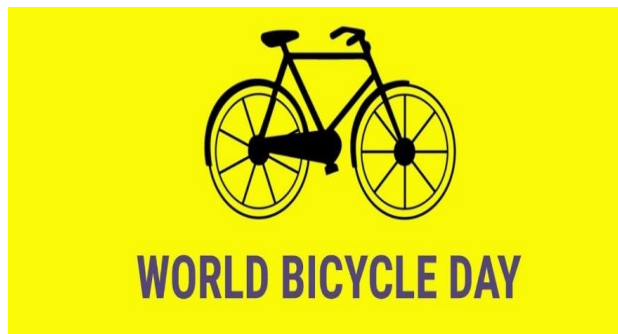
On June 1st, World Milk Day is marked to raise awareness about the importance of milk and dairy products in our life. The Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations established the day in 2001. Milk is high in nutrients and has a variety of health advantages. It is consumed not only by growing youngsters, but also by people of all ages. It is an essential component of our everyday nutrition. The theme of World Milk Day 2023 is "Showcasing how dairy is reducing its environmental footprint, while also providing nutritious foods and livelihoods."



Global Parents Day : 01 June :-

On September 17, 2012, the United Nations General Assembly voted Resolution 66/292 designating June 1 as Global Parents Day. The day is designated to recognise the role of parents in the lives of their children. Parents are the foundation of a child's life. They devote their entire lives to the needs and happiness of their children without expecting anything in return. According to the

United Nations, families form the foundation of a child's upbringing. Every child should be raised in a loving, caring, and peaceful environment.



World Bicycle Day : 03 June :-

Every year on June 3rd, the world celebrates World Bicycle Day. The day is set aside to raise awareness about the benefits of riding a bicycle. The day has been observed since 2018, when the United Nations General Assembly enacted a resolution during its 72nd Regular Session. World Bicycle Day draws attention to the advantages of riding a bicycle, which is a simple, inexpensive, clean, and ecologically friendly sustainable mode of transportation. The theme for World Bicycle Day 2023 is "Riding Together for a Sustainable Future."



International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression : 4 June :-

Every year on June 4th, the International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression is marked to educate the public about the suffering of children around the world who are victims of physical, mental, and emotional abuse. The day commemorates the United Nations'

commitment to uphold the rights of innocent children and shield them from such suffering. Many organisations and people observe the day by running various campaigns to raise awareness of the issue. It also encourages individuals to join the cause and take the required steps to end the worldwide crisis.



World Environment Day : 05 June :-

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) organises World Environment Day on June 5 to raise awareness about deteriorating environmental conditions and to inspire people worldwide to adopt positive environmental activities to help create a brighter future. Over the years, World Environment Day has evolved into a global platform for people from all walks of life to join in various activities to raise awareness about environmental conservation. Theme for the World Environment Day 2023 is under the campaign #BeatPlasticPollution, 'Ecosystem Restoration'.



World Pest Day : 06 June :-

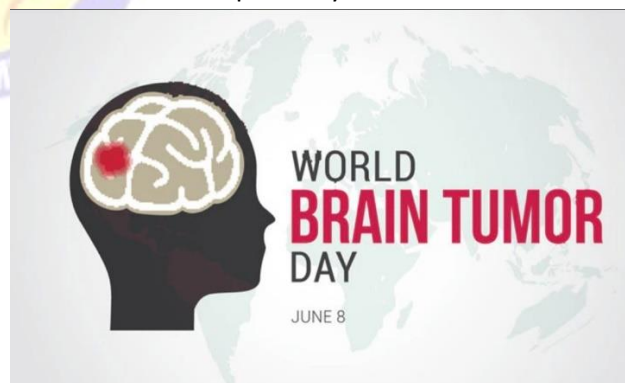
Every year on June 6, World Pest Day, also known as World Pest Awareness Day, is observed. The day is observed to raise awareness about pest management and its benefits to plants and people. World Pest Day was first marked in 2017, with the inaugural ceremony taking

place on June 6, 2017 at the Beijing Hotel. The Chinese Pest Control Association had organised the festivities. This day aims to raise awareness about the importance of people and organisations who work in pest management to keep our lives safe.



World Food Safety Day : 07 June :-

Every year on June 7, World Food Safety Day is observed to encourage producers, consumers and governments to acknowledge the mutual responsibility of food safety. The World Health Organization (WHO) and the Food & Agriculture Organization (FAO) together designated this day in 2018. World Food Safety Day theme 2023 is "Food Standards Save Lives". This day aims to increase awareness about food safety to minimize health concerns and risks posed by foodborne diseases.



World Brain Tumour Day : 08 June :-

On June 8, World Brain Tumour Day is commemorated to raise awareness and educate people about brain tumours. A brain tumour is a mass development of aberrant brain cells. There are various types of brain tumours. Some are noncancerous, while others are cancerous. Cancer can start in the brain or spread from other parts of the body to the brain as secondary brain tumours. This day was initially observed by the German

Brain Tumour Association (Deutsche Hirntumorhilfe e.V.) in the year 2000. The theme for World Brain Tumour Day 2023 is "Protect yourself- keep away from stress."



World Oceans Day : 08 June :-

Every year on June 8, World Oceans Day is commemorated to raise awareness about the function of the oceans on Earth. According to the UN, the ocean produces at least 50% of the oxygen. Furthermore, the oceans absorb 30% of the carbon dioxide created by humans, mitigating the effects of global warming. We know that water covers 3/4 of our planet; it is our duty to protect our oceans and marine life from the dangers of global warming. This year, the theme of World Oceans day 2023 is "Planet Ocean: The Tides are Changing."



World Day Against Child Labour : 12 June :-

Every year on June 12th, the United Nations observes 'World Day Against Child labour' to draw attention to the cruel practises of child employment around the world. The International Labour Organisation established this day in 2002 to address the global issue of child labour. According to the UN, 160 million children, some as young as five, are still involved in child work. At the start of 2020, one out of every ten children aged five and up was engaging in child labour around the world. The theme for

World Day Against Child Labour 2023 is 'Social Justice for All. End Child Labour!'



World Blood Donor Day : 14 June :-

According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), World Blood Donor Day is commemorated every year on June 14 with the goal of raising awareness of the need for safe blood and blood products for transfusion. The day also emphasises the essential contribution that unpaid and voluntary blood donors make to health-care systems in order to save lives. Every day, transfusions performed with safe blood and blood products save numerous lives. The slogan for 2023 World Blood Donor Day campaign is "Give blood, give plasma, share life, share often."



World Wind Day : 15 June :-

Every year on June 15, Global Wind Day is observed to acknowledge the potential of wind power. Wind is one of the most environmentally friendly renewable energy sources. This day is dedicated to investigating the potential of wind energy in decarbonizing our economies and boosting growth. The European Wind Energy Association (EWEA) declared the first Global Wind Day in 2007. The EWEA collaborated with the Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC) in 2009, and it has since been recognised as a global event.

**World Elder Abuse Awareness Day : 15 June :-**

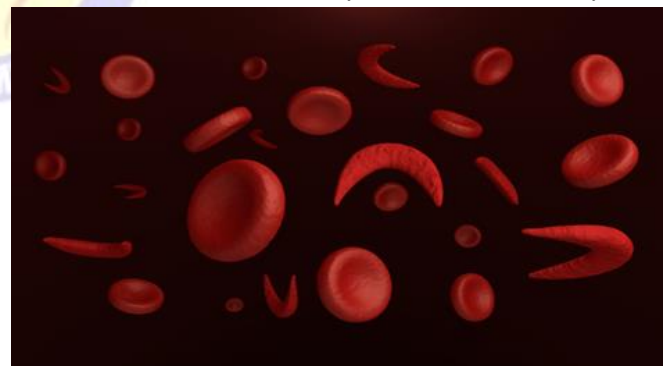
Every year on June 15, World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) is observed. The goal of this day is to raise awareness regarding the maltreatment of the elderly. The day's goal is to bring communities together to speak out against such things and prevent elderly from becoming victims of abuse. The first commemoration of the day occurred in 2006. The theme for 2023 is "Closing the Circle: Addressing Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in Older Age - Policy, Law and Evidence-based Responses."

**World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought : 17 June :-**

Every year on June 17, the World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought is observed. The day is held in order to transform degraded land into healthy land. Its goal is to find a solution to desertification and assure the repair of damaged land in order to increase food fertility. Human activity and climatic variations are the elements that have contributed to land desertification. The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) established this day in December 1994 to address desertification and drought. This year, the theme of the International Day Against Desertification, and Drought is "Her land. Her rights."

**World Father's Day (3rd Sunday of June) : 18 June :-**

Father's Day is observed on the third Sunday of June in most areas of the world, including India. It falls on June 18 this year. Father's Day is observed to honour fathers and father figures, as well as to recognise and appreciate their contributions and influence in our lives. This particular day allows us to express our gratitude to fathers for their love, support, and leadership. Father's Day was founded in the early twentieth century in the United States as a means to commemorate and honour paternal relationships, inspired by Mother's Day. The day allows us to focus on the sacrifices that fathers make and the wonderful influence they have on their family.

**World Sickle Cell Awareness Day : 19 June :-**

Every year on June 19, World Sickle Cell Awareness Day is observed to raise awareness and understanding of the disease and the hardships that its patients and families endure. Patients with sickle cell disease have sickle-shaped red blood cells that can cling together and prevent blood flow and oxygen from reaching all regions of the body. It is a genetic blood condition. The United Nations General Assembly established World Sickle Cell

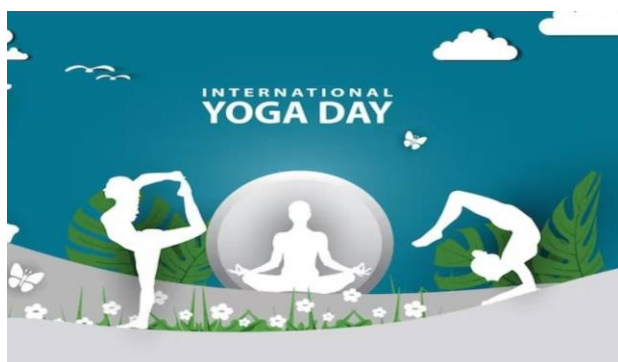
Day in 2008 to promote awareness of sickle cell illness. It was originally celebrated on June 19, 2009.

NATIONAL READING DAY



National Reading Day : 19 June :-

The 19th of June is National Reading Day. P N Panicker, regarded the Father of Kerala's Library and Literacy Movement, is honoured on this day. It also kicks off the month-long Digital Reading celebrations. National Reading Day, which began as a Reading Day celebration on June 19, 1996, by the Government of Kerala in collaboration with the P N Panicker Foundation, grew into a public campaign to promote literacy and the culture of reading in the state. In 2017, Prime Minister Narendra Modi began the National Reading / Digital Reading Month in Kochi, urging individuals to spread the slogan "Read and Grow."



International Yoga Day – 21 June :-

International Yoga Day will be celebrated on 21 June 2023 worldwide to spread awareness about health and fitness. This year's International Yoga Day 2023 theme is Vasdhaiv Kutumbakam; which beautifully encapsulates our collective aspiration for "One Earth, One Family, One Future." The United Nations designated 21 June as the

International Day of Yoga by resolution 69/131 on 11 December 2014 to recognize yoga's widespread appeal. The aim of Yoga is to join or to unite, it symbolizes the union of body and consciousness.



International Widows' Day – 23 June :-

International Widows Day (IWD) is observed annually on 23 June. The day is recognised to create awareness among people about the difficulties and challenges faced by widows worldwide. International Widows Day was established by the United Nations in 2010 to highlight the social, economic, health and other problems endured by widows in the societies. Widows face a plethora of problems in the society including social exclusion, gender discrimination, economic crisis, and many more.



International Day of the Seafarer 2023 – 25 June :-

The day is a yearly international observance which is held on June 25th. The aim is to recognize the work that seafarers do and to draw attention to the important role they play in the global economy. The Day of the Seafarer was established by the IMO - the International Maritime Organization in June 2010 to highlight the importance of maritime careers and the work done by all of those hard working men and women at sea. The Day of the Seafarer

has now been included in the annual list of United Nations Observances.



World Drug Day – 26 June :-

The International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, or World Drug Day, is marked on 26 June every year to strengthen action and cooperation in achieving a world free of drug abuse. The aim of this year's campaign is to raise awareness about the importance of treating people who use drugs with respect and empathy; providing evidence-based, voluntary services for all; offering alternatives to punishment; prioritizing prevention; and leading with compassion.



UDYAMI BHARAT-MSME DAY – 27 June :-

The United Nations General Assembly on 6 April 2017 designated 27 June as "Micro-, Small, and Medium-sized Enterprises Day" to raise awareness of the tremendous contributions of MSMEs to the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The theme of MSME Day 2023 in India is "Future-ready MSMEs for India@100." The theme MSME Day 2023 in India is "Future-ready MSMEs for India@100." On the occasion of World MSME Day, Ministry of MSME celebrated 'Udyami Bharat-MSME Day' on 27th June, 2023 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.



World Asteroid Day – 30 June :-

World Asteroid Day is an annual global event which is held on June 30, the anniversary of the Tunguska event in 1908 when a meteor air burst decimated about 2,000 square km (500,000 acres) of pine forest in central Siberia, Russia. The Tunguska asteroid event was the Earth's largest asteroid impact in recorded history. World Asteroid Day aims to raise public awareness about the asteroid impact hazard and to inform the public about the crisis communication actions to be taken at the global level in case of a credible near-Earth object (NOEs) catastrophic threat to our planet.

2: Agreements



Garuda Aerospace And Naini Aerospace Collaborate To Manufacture Make In India Drones :-

In a significant step towards increasing indigenous drone manufacture in India, Garuda Aerospace and Naini Aerospace, a wholly owned subsidiary of HAL (Hindustan Aeronautics Limited), have inked a cooperative development cooperation agreement. The collaboration will allow Garuda to produce Advanced Precision Drones in India for a variety of applications. These drones will be able to transport a payload of approximately 25 kg. Naini Aerospace Limited (NAeL) was formed as a wholly owned subsidiary of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) in December 2016.



Zomato Partners With ICICI Bank To Launch Zomato UPI, Streamlining Payments For Users:-

Zomato, a popular food delivery enterprise, has recently launched its own UPI (Unified Payments Interface) service. This real-time payment system, developed in conjunction with ICICI Bank, would enable users to make direct payments to people as well as merchants. Users of

Zomato will be able to pay for their purchases from a number of merchants as well as send money to other users in a peer-to-peer method. This feature simplifies payment for Zomato customers by allowing them to handle transactions seamlessly within the app.



India And Australia Sign Agreements On Migration And Green Hydrogen Task Force :-

Recently, India and Australia signed agreements on migration and mobility partnerships, as well as a Green Hydrogen task group. The Memorandum of Understanding was signed following a bilateral meeting in Sydney between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Australian colleague Anthony Albanese. Prime Minister Modi stated in a joint press statement following the meeting that India-Australia relations are built on mutual trust and confidence. He stated that they are having a positive discussion about enhancing strategic cooperation in mining and essential minerals.



Goa Signed MoU With Uttarakhand For Strengthening Tourism Cooperation :-

Officials from the governments of Goa and Uttarakhand have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to

work together to improve the tourism landscapes of both Goa and Uttarakhand. The MoU is aimed at promoting bilateral cooperation in the travel and tourism sector and facilitating travel between the states to increase the number of tourists visiting Goa and Uttarakhand respectively. The initiative aims to encourage people to witness and experience the rich heritage and vivid culture of India.



Ministry Of Ayush And Minority Affairs Collaborate For Development Unani Medicine System :-

The Ministries of Ayush and Minority Affairs have joined forces to promote and expand the Unani medical system in India. According to an Ayush Ministry announcement, the Ministry of Minorities Affairs has authorised a grant of Rs 45.34 crore under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJKV), a centrally sponsored scheme (CSS). Unani medicine facilities in Hyderabad, Chennai, Lucknow, Silchar, and Bengaluru would be enhanced with the help of this scheme. The grant has been authorised for the establishment of various Unani Medicine facilities at these sites.



Microsoft Joins Indian Govt To Train 6K Students, 200 Educators In Cybersecurity Skills :-

Microsoft has inked an agreement with the Ministry of Skills Development and Entrepreneurship's

(MSDE) Directorate General of Training (DGT) to teach 6,000 students and 200 instructors in digital and cybersecurity skills in the country. As part of this collaboration with, Microsoft will offer a wide range of courses, including training in AI, cloud computing, web development and cybersecurity skills for students and 200 faculty members at government-led Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) and National Skills Training Institutions (NSTIs).



ADB, India Sign \$130 Million Loan To Promote Horticulture In Himachal Pradesh :-

The Government of India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) have inked a USD 130 million loan deal to increase agricultural output, improve irrigation access, and expand horticulture agribusinesses in Himachal Pradesh, according to a press statement. According to the announcement, the project interventions would help boost the income and resilience of at least 15,000 farm households in seven districts of the state: Bilaspur, Hamirpur, Kangra, Mandi, Sirmour, Solan, and Una.



Indian Railways signs MoU with top US agency :-

The Indian Railways (IR) and the United States Agency for International Development/India (USAID/India), an independent agency of the US federal government, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in June

2023. The MoU was signed by Naveen Gulati, Member (Traction and Rolling Stock), Railway Board, Indian Railways and Isabel Coleman, Deputy Administrator, USAID, in the presence of Anil Kumar Lahoti, Chairman & CEO, Railway Board. USAID/India supports international development.



GE Aerospace signs MOU with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited:-

GE Aerospace announced that it has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) to produce fighter jet engines for the Indian Air Force. The agreement includes the potential joint production of GE Aerospace's F414 engines in India, and GE Aerospace continues to work with the U.S. government to receive the necessary

export authorisation for this. The effort is part of the Indian Air Force's Light Combat Aircraft Mk2 program. GE Aerospace has operated in India for more than four decades.



Infosys signs \$454-million deal with Danske Bank :-

Infosys has signed a strategic collaboration deal with Danske Bank, a Nordic bank, to accelerate the bank's digital transformation initiatives. The \$454 million deal will be in force for a period of 5 years. This collaboration will help Danske Bank achieve its strategic priorities towards better customer experiences, operational excellence, and a modernised technology landscape, powered by next-gen solutions. Infosys will also acquire Danske Bank's IT centre in India, where over 1,400 professionals are employed.

3: Appointments



Namdev Shirgaonkar Elected Unopposed President Of Taekwondo India :-

Namdev Shirgaonkar was voted unopposed as the president of India Taekwondo's executive committee at the body's election. The election was attended by 25 affiliated state associations. Shirgaonkar, who holds a

Black Belt in Taekwondo, said, " It is a matter of immense pride that the entire election process proceeded smoothly. I will ensure that the discipline of taekwondo will gain immense popularity and will reach the masses in our great country. Presently not many may know of taekwondo, but this will not be the case in the future."



RN Jayaprakash Re-Elected As President Of Swimming Federation Of India :-

At the Swimming Federation of India's (SFI) annual general body meeting, R. N. Jayaprakash and Monal D Chokshi were re-elected President and Secretary, respectively. "We are very proud of our Federation (SFI) that all our elections for the last few decades, till now, have always been unanimous. That's the most unique thing of SFI. Full credit for that goes to Virendra Nanavati, Bureau member of FINA (International Swimming Federation) and Digambar Kamat, former Chief Minister of Goa," said Jayaprakash at a press conference.



Dennis Francis elected as President of the UN General Assembly :-

Dennis Francis, a citizen of Trinidad and Tobago (TT), created history by becoming the first TT citizen to be elected as the President of the UN General Assembly (UNGA). Francis, who has served in the diplomatic service for over 40 years, was nominated on April 1 and faced no opposition in the election. He will serve as the 78th President of the UNGA. United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) is the United Nation's chief policy-making and representative organ and was created in 1945. It is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations (UN).



Dr Abdulla elected as President of World Meteorological Organization :-

A meteorologist of United Arab Emirates (UAE) Dr Abdulla Al Mandous has been elected as the new President of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) for a four-year term from 2023 to 2027. The WMO is an authoritative body within the UN system that focuses on weather, climate, hydrological, and related environmental fields. Dr. Abdulla, the official candidate of the UAE secured 95 votes out of 193 member states and territories. This is the first time that a GCC meteorologist and an Arab meteorologist from Asia has been named as the president of WMO.



Indian-Origin Sikh Becomes First Turban-Wearing Lord Mayor Of UK City Coventry :-

A local British Sikh councillor in Coventry has made history by becoming the city's first turban-wearing Lord Mayor. Jaswant Singh Birdi, who was born in Punjab and spent some time as a child in West Bengal's Calcutta, moved to Coventry 60 years ago and has been a city councillor for 16 years. Birdi has been involved in the establishment of religious, social, and community projects in Coventry. He takes over as Lord Mayor from Councillor Kevin Maton, while Councillor Mal Mutton has been named Deputy Lord Mayor for the coming year.



Dream11 Founder Harsh Jain Elected Chairperson Of IAMAI :-

Harsh Jain, Dream Sports' co-founder and CEO, has been elected chairman of the Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) for 2023-25. He takes over for Sanjay Gupta, Google India's vice president and country manager. At the forthcoming annual general meeting of IAMAI, which represents leading technology companies, a new 24-member governing council and an executive council will take control. Every two years, the IAMAI governing council is elected. This year's elections saw the participation of 83 IAMAI members.



CAG Girish Chandra Murmu Re-Elected External Auditor Of WHO For 4 Year Term :-

Girish Chandra Murmu, India's Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG), has been re-elected as the World Health Organization's (WHO) external auditor for a four-year term from 2024 to 2027. He has held the job for four years, from 2019 to 2023. The office of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) said in a statement that the election took place at the 76th World Health Assembly in Geneva, where the CAG of India was re-elected in the first round of voting with 114 out of 156 votes.



Angshumali Rastogi Appointed As India's Representative To Global Civil Aviation Org :-

According to a Personnel Ministry directive, senior bureaucrat Angshumali Rastogi has been named India's representative to the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) council in Montreal, Canada. Rastogi, a 1995 batch officer of the Indian Railway Service of Mechanical Engineers (IRSME), has been appointed for three years in place of Shefali Juneja. Hemang Jani, Secretary of the Capacity Building Commission, has been appointed for three years as Senior Adviser to the Executive Director of the World Bank in Washington, DC.



Praveen Kumar Srivastava Sworn In As Central Vigilance Commissioner :-

President of India Droupadi Murmu has sworn in veteran administrator Praveen Kumar Srivastava as the next Central Vigilance Commissioner. Praveen Kumar Srivastava was already working in the capacity as acting Central Vigilance Commissioner (CVC) following the completion of tenure of incumbent CVC Suresh N Patel in December last year. Srivastava has substantial experience in key administrative positions, including Chief Vigilance Officer in RITES and Joint Secretary and Mission Director for the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM).



Justice Rao Sworn In As Himachal Pradesh High Court CJ :-

Justice MS Ramachandra Rao had recently sworn in as Chief Justice of the Himachal Pradesh High Court. He was a Judge of the Punjab and Haryana High Court prior to his elevation. Since January, when Chief Justice Amjad Ahtesham Sayed retired, the office of Himachal Pradesh High Court Chief Justice has been vacant. At a brief ceremony at Shimla's Raj Bhavan, Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla administered the oath of office to Justice Rao. Chief Minister Sukhvinder Sukhu and Opposition Leader Jai Ram Thakur were also present.



Gol Appoints Ashwani Kumar As MD Of UCO Bank :-

The government has nominated Ashwani Kumar to replace Soma Sankara Prasad as managing director of UCO Bank, whose term is coming to an end. Kumar is currently an executive director at Indian Bank, and he was previously the Chief General Manager of Punjab National Bank. The national government has appointed Ashwani Kumar as MD and CEO of UCO Bank for a three-year term, according to a notification from the Finance Ministry. The appointment takes effect on or after June 1, 2023, or until additional directives are issued, according to the announcement.



Amarendu Prakash Takes Charge As SAIL Chairman :-

Amarendu Prakash has been appointed as the new Chairman and Managing Director of Steel Authority of India Ltd (SAIL). He was previously the Director (In-Charge) of SAIL's Bokaro steel programme. Prakash was previously involved in spearheading SAIL's corporate transformation and financial turnaround, which resulted in the company returning from a three-year streak of losses, from FY16 to FY18, to being back in the black in FY19. He has been the Director In-Charge of the Bokaro Steel Plant from September 2020.



Sanjay Varma Takes Charge As MRPL Managing Director :-

Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd (MRPL) appointed Sanjay Varma as Managing Director (additional charge). Varma has been a Director (Refinery) on the MRPL board since June 2020. He has also gained valuable experience through his service on the boards of ONGC-Mangalore Petrochemicals Ltd and Shell-MRPL Aviation. Varma, a mechanical engineering graduate, joined MRPL in December 1993 and has played a critical role in the implementation and operation of the refinery's three major phases and its aromatic complex.



Nirmala Lakshman Named As New Chairperson Of The Hindu Group :-

Ms. Nirmala Lakshman has been unanimously elected Chairperson of The Hindu Group Publishing Private Limited's (THGPPL) Board of Directors for a three-year tenure. She follows Ms. Malini Parthasarathy, who stood down as Chairperson during the Board's meeting on Monday, June 5, 2023, after her three-year term came to an end. Ms. Nirmala Lakshman has a Ph.D. in postmodern literature and has worked as an editor, writer, and strategist for The Hindu's numerous publications for almost four decades.



Janardan Prasad Appointed New Director-General Of Geological Survey Of India :-

An official has announced the appointment of Janardan Prasad as the new Director General of the Geological Survey of India (GSI). Mr. Prasad, who took over the 174-year-old institution on June 1, succeeds Dr. S. Raju, who has been in charge since April 2022. Mr. Prasad formerly served as Additional Director General and Head of Department (ADG & HoD) for the southern area since June 2020 and was also chairman of the Technical-cum-Cost Committee (TCC), National Mineral Exploration Trust, New Delhi.



PESB Picks Sanjay Swarup To Be The Next CMD Of CONCOR :-

Sanjay Swarup has been appointed Chairman and Managing Director of Container Corporation of India Ltd (CONCOR) by the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB). Swarup is currently the Director (International Marketing and Operations) of India's largest container rail carrier. Swarup was chosen from a short list of eight candidates, six of them were CONCOR employees. After an interview, the PESB announced on its website that Sanjay Swarup has been recommended for the position of Chairman and Managing Director, CONCOR.



Ravi Sinha appointed as new chief of the Research and Analysis Wing :-

Senior IPS officer, Ravi Sinha has been appointed as the new head of the Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW) for a tenure of two years. Currently in charge of the agency's operations wing, Sinha will take charge from Samant Kumar Goel, who completes his four-year stint at the helm on June 30. Ravi Sinha is a 1988-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer of the Chhattisgarh cadre. At present, he is serving as Special Secretary, Cabinet Secretariat. Earlier, Sinha served in Jammu and Kashmir, the northeast, and foreign countries.



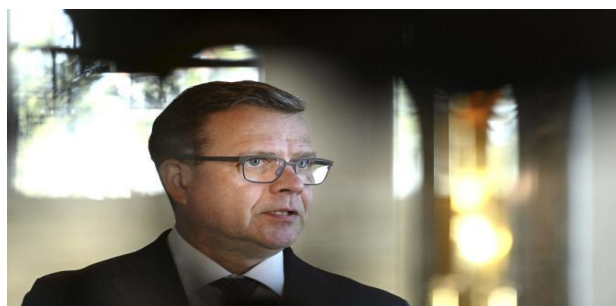
SBI MD Swaminathan Janakiraman appointed as RBI's deputy governor :-

International Government on Tuesday appointed Swaminathan Janakiraman as a deputy governor of the Reserve Bank of India for three years from the date of joining, according to an order seen by Reuters. Janakiraman, was working as the managing director of State Bank of India, will succeed Mahesh Kumar Jain, whose tenure ended on June 22. According to the RBI Act, 1934, the central bank should have four Deputy Governors - two from within the ranks, one commercial banker and an economist to head the monetary policy department.



Hasmukh Adhia appointed as the Chairman of GIFT City:-

Former Union Finance Secretary Hasmukh Adhia has been appointed as chairman of GIFT (Gujarat International Finance Tec) City, and as Chairman and Director of the Vadodara based Gujarat Alkalies and Chemicals Ltd (GACL) and the Chairman and Director of the Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation (GMDC). Adhia replaces Sudhir Mankad in GIFT City, and took charge on 21 June 2023. Adhia was principal secretary to Narendra Modi when he was the chief minister of Gujarat.



Finnish Parliament Elects Conservative Petteri Orpo As PM :-

Petteri Orpo, the leader of the conservative party in Finland, has been elected as the country's prime minister by the parliament. Orpo will lead a coalition government comprising four parties, including the far-right Finns Party, which intends to implement strict measures on immigration. This move comes after Orpo's victory in the April elections and subsequent negotiations to form a coalition government. With 107 members in favour, 81 opposed, and 11 absent, the parliament expressed its support for Orpo, who emerged victorious in the April elections.



Chinese tech giant Alibaba names new CEO, chairman :-

Alibaba has replaced Daniel Zhang as chairman and CEO as the Chinese tech giant undergoes the biggest shakeup in its history. Joseph Tsai, executive vice chairman and a co-founder of Alibaba (BABA), will succeed Zhang as chairman. Eddie Wu, chairman of e-commerce unit Taobao and Tmall Group, will succeed Zhang as chief executive officer. Both appointments will take effect in September, and Zhang will continue to serve as the chairman and CEO of Alibaba's cloud unit.



Ruby Sinha appointed as the president of BRICS CCI WE :-

BRICS Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BRICS CCI) has appointed Ruby Sinha as the president of BRICS CCI WE, the women's vertical of the body, for three years. An entrepreneur herself, Ruby Sinha is the founder of SheAtWork, a knowledge hub for women entrepreneurs, and Kommune Brand Communications. BRICS Chamber of Commerce and Industry works towards promoting active trade, commerce and entrepreneurship between the BRICS and other friendly nations.



Justice Umesh Kumar appointed chairman of DERC :-

Former Allahabad High Court judge Umesh Kumar has been appointed the new chairman of the Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission (DERC) by the President of India. The appointment is likely to fuel a fresh tussle between the LG and the AAP government in Delhi as Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal had approved the appointment of Justice Rajeev Kumar Srivastava (retired) as the chairperson of the regulator in January. The appointment of Justice Kumar (retired) comes following Shrivastava expressing his inability to take charge due to "family commitments and requirements".



Mitsotakis sworn in as Greek PM :-

Conservative leader Kyriakos Mitsotakis won Greece's national elections on 25 June with a clear majority,

securing a second term during which he vowed to bring about major reforms to transform the country. With nearly all the votes counted, Mitsotakis's New Democracy party obtained a score of over 40.5 percent, well ahead of the leftist Syriza party led by former premier Alexis Tsipras, which scored less than 18 percent. The margin is the widest for the conservatives in almost 50 years, as voters rewarded them for nursing Greece back to economic health after a crippling debt crisis.



DBS Bank appoints Rajat Verma as MD & Head of Institutional Banking :-

DBS Bank India, has appointed Rajat Verma as the managing director and head of Institutional Banking, the bank said in a press release on June 26. Before joining DBS Bank India, Verma was the managing director and country head of Commercial Banking for HSBC Bank. The bank also said that the current head of Institutional Banking for India, Niraj Mittal, will be the Country Head of DBS Bank in Australia. The lender in its results for the fiscal year 2022-23 reported net profit of Rs 228 crore in FY23, a jump of 36.52 percent on a year-on-year basis.



Rohit Jawa appointed as MD and CEO of Hindustan Unilever :-

Hindustan Unilever Ltd (HUL) announced that Rohit Jawa has taken over as the company's new Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer from June 27. He joined the company as CEO-designate and whole-time director from April 1. Jawa has also taken over as President, Unilever South Asia. He joined the Unilever Leadership Executive (ULE) effective April 1, 2023. He started his career with HUL as a management trainee in 1988 and has a proven track record of sustained business results across - India, South East Asia, and North Asia.



Anurag Verma appointed as Chief Secretary of Punjab :-

The Punjab Government on 26 June 2023 announced the appointment of Anurag Verma, a 1993 batch IAS officer, the new Chief Secretary of the State. The order will come into effect on July 1, 2023. Mr. Verma will replace Vijay Kumar Janjua, who is retiring on June 30, 2023. Mr. Verma is currently posted as the Additional Chief Secretary (Home, Industries & Commerce, Legal and Legislative Affairs, Information Technology and Investment Promotion). Mr. Verma will also hold additional charge as Principal Secretary Personnel as well as Vigilance.



IPS officer Ajay Bhatnagar appointed CBI Special Director :-

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the proposals of the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) for the appointment of Ajay Bhatnagar (IPS) as Special Director in the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on 28 June 2023. Bhatnagar is a 1989-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer of Jharkhand cadre. He is currently serving as Additional Director in the Cental Govt investigating agency. According to a DoPT order, he has been appointed to the post till the date of his superannuation on November 20, 2024.



TS Singh Deo appointed Chhattisgarh Deputy Chief Minister :-

The Congress on June 28, appointed T.S. Singh Deo, who has been at loggerheads with chief minister Bhupesh Baghel, as the deputy CM of Chhattisgarh ahead of assembly elections in the state later this year. Singh Deo resigned as the minister of the panchayat raj and rural development in July 2022, accusing the state government of not allotting funds to build houses under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana. Chattisgarh will go to the polls later this year, along with Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Telangana.

4: Awards



Bulgarian Writer Georgi Gospodinov Wins International Booker Prize For 'Time Shelter :-

Time Shelter, authored by Georgi Gospodinov and translated into English by Angela Rodel, has been named the winner of the International Booker Prize 2023, beating out six other novels on the shortlist. This is the first time a novel initially published in Bulgarian has received the annual award, which is granted to a work of fiction translated into English and published in the United Kingdom the previous year. Last year's winner was Geetanjali Shree's Tomb of Sand, which Daisy Rockwell translated into English.



Indian Shooters won Gold at the ISSF Junior World Cup :-

Indian shooters Abhinav Shaw and Gautami Bhanot clinched the gold medal in the Mixed Team event at the ISSF Junior World Cup in Suhl, Germany. Demonstrating remarkable teamwork, Gautami Bhanot and Abhinav Shaw outperformed their French counterparts Oceanne Muller and Romain Aufrere, securing a resounding 17-7 victory in the final of the 10-meter Air Rifle Mixed Team category. Dhanush Srikanth also won the Men's 10 metre

Air Rifle on Day 3 of the ongoing International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup Junior.



Department Of Animal Husbandry And Fisheries, Chandigarh Awarded Skoch SILVER Award 2023 :-

The agency of Animal Husbandry and Fisheries in Chandigarh received the Skoch SILVER Award 2023 for e-Governance for computerising medical data for livestock treated by the agency. This is the country's first project of its kind. More specifically, Secretary Animal Husbandry and Fisheries Vinod P Kavle stated that this web-based application software caters to the Animal Husbandry Department's five Government Veterinary Hospitals and nine Veterinary Sub-centres in Chandigarh.



President Droupadi Murmu Honoured With Suriname's Highest Civilian Award :-

President Droupadi Murmu was awarded the 'Grand Order of the Chain of the Yellow Star,' Suriname's highest civilian award, by President Chandrikapersad Santokhi in recognition of the country's deep bilateral connections. Ms. Murmu was on a three-day State visit in Suriname, her first since taking office in July of last year. President Murmu expressed her gratitude for receiving Suriname's

highest honour. "This recognition holds tremendous significance, not only for me but also for the 1.4 billion people of India whom I represent," she tweeted after receiving the award.



Gandhi Peace Prize for Gita Press in 2021 :-

The Gandhi Peace Prize will be awarded to Gita Press, Gorakhpur in 2021, the Ministry of Culture just announced. This renowned award honours Gita Press for its outstanding contribution to nonviolent and other Gandhian techniques of social, economic, and political reform. The Gandhi Peace Prize was established by the government in 1995 as a monument to Mahatma Gandhi's ideas, and it has been given to numerous people and organisations for their exceptional work. Established in 1923, Gita Press has grown to become one of the biggest publishers in the world, spreading knowledge through literature and advocating Gandhian values. Gita Press has made a significant impact on the lives of countless people via the production of 417 million books in 14 languages, including 162 million copies of the revered Shrimad Bhagavad Gita.



Acharya Gopi conferred with first Prof. Jayashankar Award:-

Acharya N. Gopi has been selected for the first-ever Prof. Kothapalli Jayashankar Award, instituted by Bharat Jagruthi. The award was presented to Acharya Gopi at an event organized at Telangana Saraswatha Parishath in Abids on June 21. The award has been instituted for honoring the litterateurs every year. Acharya Gopi has penned 56 books including 26 compilations of poems, 7 compilations of essays, 5 translations, and 3 research books. He served as Telugu University Vice Chancellor and also as in-charge Vice Chancellor of Kakatiya and Dravida Universities.



Arundhati Roy wins 45th European Essay Prize for 'Azadi':-

Writer and activist Arundhati Roy has been awarded the 45th European Essay Prize for lifetime achievement on the occasion of the French translation of her latest essay, 'Azadi'. The French translation 'Liberte, fascisme, fiction' appeared in Gallimard, a leading French publishing group. The Delhi-based author's works, including Booker Prize winning "The God of Small Things", "The Ministry of Utmost Happiness", and "My Seditious Heart" have garnered her national and international acclaim.



IndiGo Bags Title of Best Low-Cost Airline at the 2023 World Airline Awards :-

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh inaugurated the Integrated Simulator Complex (ISC) 'Dhruv' at Southern Naval Command, Kochi on June 21, 2023. The ISC 'Dhruv' hosts modern state-of-the-art indigenously-built simulators which will significantly enhance practical training in the Indian Navy. These simulators are envisaged to give real-time experience on navigation, fleet operations and Naval tactics. These simulators will also be utilised for training of personnel from friendly countries.



Yoga Day event in Surat sets a new Guinness World Record :-

The Yoga Day event organised in Surat city of Gujarat on 21 June 2023 has set a new Guinness World Record for the largest gathering for a yoga session at one place with 1.53 lakh people joining the program. Representatives of the Guinness World Records have confirmed that 1.53 lakh people participated in the Yoga session in Surat. The previous world record was set in 2018 in Kota city of Rajasthan when 1,00,984 people participated in a Yoga Day session in one place.



President Murmu presents National Florence Nightingale Awards 2022-23 :-

President Droupadi Murmu on 22 June 2023 presented the National Florence Nightingale Awards for the years 2022 and 2023 to nursing professionals at a function held

at Rashtrapati Bhavan. Out of the total 30 awardees, there were 10 Auxiliary Nurses and Midwives (ANM), 4 lady health visitors and 16 nurses. The National Florence Nightingale Award was instituted by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, in the year 1973 as a mark of recognition for the meritorious services rendered by the nurses and nursing professionals to the society.



NTPC gets recognized as "Most Preferred Workplace of 2023-24" :-

NTPC Ltd., the country's largest power generator, has been honoured with the prestigious title of "Most Preferred Workplace of 2023-24" by Team Marksmen. CEO (UPL) & ED (HR) of NTPC, Sital Kumar along with other NTPC officials from the organization, received this esteemed recognition on behalf of the organization. The awards, conducted by Team Marksmen in association with India Today and Business Standard, are the result of a comprehensive consumer study conducted across the industry.



Sahitya Akademi announces winners of Bal Sahitya & Yuva Puraskar:-

The Sahitya Akademi has announced a list of 22 recipients of its Bal Sahitya Puraskar and 20 winners of its Yuva Puraskar for this year. In the Hindi language category, Suryanath Singh won the Bal Sahitya Puraskar

for his collection of short stories, 'Kotuk App'. Renowned children's author Sudha Murty won Bal Sahitya Puraskar for her collection of stories titled 'Grandparents' Bag of Stories'. Prominent among Yuva Puraskar awardees are Anirudh Kaniseti for 'Lords of the Deccan: Southern India from Chalukyas to Cholas' and Atul Kumar Rai for his novel 'Chandpur ki Chanda'.



Cristiano Ronaldo receives Guinness World Record award :-

Cristiano Ronaldo has received a Guinness World Record after reaching 200 international caps for Portugal. The legendary forward is making his 200th appearance for A Selecao das Quinas in their Euro 2024 qualifier against Iceland. The 38-year-old has broken another record and is the most-capped player in international football. Cristiano Ronaldo's achievement has been recognized by the Guinness Book of Records. The Portugal captain was presented with a certificate for his accomplishment before his nation's clash against Iceland.



PM Modi conferred Egypt's highest civilian honour 'Order of The Nile' :-

Prime Minister Narendra Modi received Egypt's highest civilian honour 'Order of The Nile' as he met the Arab Republic's president, Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, in Cairo on 25

June 2023. This is the 13th such highest state honour that various countries across the world have conferred upon PM Modi in the last nine years. The Prime Minister also visited the Heliopolis Commonwealth War Cemetery and offered tributes to the Indian soldiers who bravely fought and laid down their lives in Egypt and Palestine during the First World War. PM Modi also paid a visit to the 11th-century Al-Hakim mosque, which was recently renovated with help from the Dawoodi Bohra community in India.



Shankar Mahadevan receives honorary doctorate in UK :-

Singer & Music Composer Shankar Mahadevan has been conferred an honorary doctorate by Birmingham City University (BCU) in England in recognition of his contribution to music and the arts. The 56-year-old singer, who is a member of the accomplished Shankar-Ehsaan-Loy trio of music composers, received the honour from the university's Vice-Chancellor Professor Philip Plowden at a ceremony in Birmingham in June 2023. The award was announced earlier this year during a trade delegation to Mumbai led by West Midlands Mayor Andy Street.



Alappuzha doctor bags IMA award :-

Dr. K. Venugopal, chief consultant in respiratory medicine at General Hospital, Alappuzha, has been selected for an award instituted by the Indian Medical Association (IMA) to commemorate National Doctors' Day on July 1. Dr. Venugopal was selected under the category of community service. He will receive the award at a function to be held at IMA headquarters in New Delhi on National Doctor's Day. National Doctor's Day is celebrated on 1 July in the honour of Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy, a renowned physician, politician, freedom fighter and education advocate.



MOHFW wins Kreta Vikreta Gaurav Sammaan Samaaroh 2023 :-

Department of Health and Family Welfare, Union Health Ministry, has been awarded as the winner of Kreta Vikreta Gaurav Sammaan Samaaroh 2023 in "Highest Single Bid Procurements in FY22-23" category. The

function was organised by Government e-Marketplace, Ministry of Commerce and Industry. The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare onboarded domestic vendors of vaccines and invited bids for 780 lakh doses of Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV) in April 2022 for use under Universal Immunization Programme in an efficient and transparent manner.



World Bank president Ajay Banga named in 2023 list of Great Immigrants :-

Ajay Banga, the president of the World Bank, has been named by a prestigious philanthropic organisation to its annual "Great Immigrants" list of honourees who have enriched and strengthened America and its democracy through their contributions and actions. Mr. Banga, who became World Bank chief in June 2023, is the first-ever Indian American to lead the institution. He is the only honouree from India in this year's list of 'Great Immigrants' by the Carnegie Corporation of New York.

5: Banking



IDBI, BOB, And SBI Capital Chosen To Manage IREDA IPO For Renewable Energy Development :-

The government has hired IDBI Capital, BOB Capital, and SBI Capital to oversee the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency's (IREDA) initial public offering (IPO). IDBI Capital is the transaction's principal banker. Separately, Saraf and Partners has been designated as the IPO's legal counsel. The IPO, which is scheduled in FY24, will most likely consist of the government selling a 10% stake and the renewable energy project financier issuing 15% new equity to fund its business expansion.



Insurance Regulatory & Development
Authority Of India

IRDAI Relaxes Norms For Surety Bonds, Boosting India's Insurance Market :-

Irdai, the regulatory body, announced that it has lowered standards for 'surety bonds,' which are insurance policies that protect parties participating in a transaction or contract from potential financial losses due to a breach of contract or other sorts of non-performance. The modifications are intended to broaden the surety insurance industry by enhancing the availability of such products. According to a circular released by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai), the solvency threshold applicable to such policies has now been decreased to 1.5 times from the previously prescribed 1.875 times.



Paytm Money Launches Bonds Platform :-

Paytm Money announced the launch of India's most advanced bond platform for retail investors, simplifying debt investment for individuals. On Paytm Money, investors can invest in three types of bonds: government, corporate, and tax-free. Bonds on the Paytm Money app provide investors with all important information in one location and convert everything to yield, allowing investors to examine and comprehend the potential returns. Bonds on Paytm Money are currently being released with an early access waitlist programme.



Google Pay Introduces Support For RuPay Credit Cards On UPI, Expanding Digital Payment Options :-

Google Pay has introduced support for RuPay credit cards for UPI payments in collaboration with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI). Users of RuPay credit cards must register their cards on Google Pay in order to participate in online and offline UPI transactions where they are accepted. RuPay credit card customers from Axis Bank, Bank of Baroda, Canara Bank, HDFC Bank, Indian Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Punjab National Bank, and Union Bank of India can use this function. According to Google, more banks will be added to the ecosystem in the near future.



Axis Bank Introduces 'Sarathi' – A Digital Onboarding Platform For PoS Terminals :-

Axis Bank has created 'Sarathi,' a digital onboarding route for merchants to enable Electronic Data Capture (EDC) or Point of Sale (POS). Unlike the time-consuming traditional onboarding procedure, which can take several days, Sarathi offers merchants a seamless and hassle-free experience. Sarathi was designed to give merchants a simple and efficient experience. The paperless onboarding process eliminates the need for merchants to fill out lengthy documents or wait for their POS terminals to be installed.



Gupshup Launches UPI Payments For Feature Phone Users :-

Gupshup, a conversational interaction platform, has provided UPI payments for feature phone users via a native app called GSPay. The software, created in collaboration with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), will leverage SMS or even IVR-based payments to eliminate the requirement for data or internet connectivity. Gupshup stated that it would use UPI 123 Pay, an immediate payment system launched last year by the Reserve Bank of India and NPCI, to enable safe and secure payments for feature phone customers.



Indian Bank Joins ICCL As Clearing And Settlement Bank :-

Indian Bank has entered into an agreement with Indian Clearing Corporation Ltd. (ICCL) as its Clearing and Settlement Bank. According to a release, Indian Bank will now provide banking services to members of the BSE, Mumbai for clearing and settlement operations. Clearing members can now open settlement accounts with the bank for the equities derivatives segment to settle funds. Furthermore, with its dedicated branch in Fort, Mumbai, Indian Bank launched the e-TDR solution for online transmission of FDR and margin with ICCL on behalf of clearing members.



RBI Imposes Rs 84.50 Lakh Penalty On Central Bank Of India For Non-Compliance With Fraud Reporting Norms :-

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced a penalty of Rs 84.50 lakh against the Central Bank of India (the bank) for failing to comply with certain requirements of regulations relating to fraud classification and reporting. The Reserve Bank conducted a required inspection to undertake a supervisory examination of the bank's financial status as of March 31, 2021. According to the reports, the public sector lender neglected to notify some accounts as fraudulent to the RBI within seven days following the Joint Lenders' Forum (JLF) resolution to designate the accounts fraudulent.



Equitas SFB Collaborates With IBM To Build A Digital Banking Platform :-

Equitas Small Finance Bank has inked an agreement with IBM Consulting to design and build a digital banking platform that would provide consumers with a secure experience, according to the bank. The collaboration between the two institutions intends to strengthen Equitas' digital products as well as its service offerings as the bank adapts its operations for a digital-first generation, according to a news statement from the bank. Equitas intends to begin its modernization journey with a cloud-native platform architecture as part of its next growth phase.



YES Bank launched New Logo :-

Private lender YES BANK has recently released a new logo and stated it is ready to roll out an integrated campaign with the phrase 'Life Ko Banao Rich' - which highlights the bank's primary goal of being a comprehensive solution provider. According to a press statement, the bank's dynamic new brand is intended to resonate with clients' growing needs and aspirations, allowing them to live each day to the fullest. YES BANK has released a vivid new logo as part of its revamped identity, which carries forward and expands on the bank's visual DNA.



Razorpay Launches 'Turbo UPI' For Seamless One-Step Payments To Online Merchants :-

Razorpay has introduced 'Turbo UPI,' which it claims is India's fastest one-step UPI (unified payments interface) payment solution. This new tool enables online merchants' consumers to make UPI payments without being redirected to a third-party UPI app during checkout. Razorpay Turbo UPI intends to provide a payment experience that is 5X faster. It simplifies the payment procedure and avoids any redirections to third-party apps. This enables organisations to achieve a 10% boost in the success rate of UPI payments.



Bank Of Baroda Introduces UPI Cash Withdrawal Facility At ATMs :-

According to reports, Bank of Baroda (BoB) has unveiled a new way to withdraw cash using the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) in all of its ATMs. The action is in accordance with the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) directive to banks to provide Interoperable Cardless Cash Withdrawal (ICCW) services. The new facility will guard against cloning, impersonation, and fraud. For each transaction, it creates a unique QR code. Customers can only use the ATM UPI service twice per day per account, with a daily limit of ₹5,000.



Federal Bank Launches 'I Am Adyar, Adyar Is Me' Campaign In Chennai :-

By transforming an entire bank branch into a museum of local stories, the Federal Bank has begun a campaign to honour people and culture. The 'I am Adyar, Adyar is me' campaign selected 40 outstanding personal tales to be included in an exclusive display at the Federal Bank Adyar branch. The campaign is a first-of-its-kind micro-marketing venture in the banking business, with the goal of highlighting Adyar's soul, including its people's hardships and successes that make it unique.



Equitas Holdings Surrenders NBFC Licence To RBI, Registration Cancelled :-

Equitas Holdings Ltd has surrendered its Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) licence, and its registration has been cancelled as a result, according to the Reserve

Bank of India. The RBI has cancelled its CoR (certificate of registration) in accordance with the authority granted on it by Section 45-IA (6) of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, the central bank said in a statement. Because the corporation does not handle public funding, it is possible that it voluntarily surrendered its certificate of registration.



Airtel Payments Bank ties up with Care Health Insurance :-

Airtel Payments Bank is collaborating with Care Health Insurance to offer health insurance products for its customers via the Airtel Thanks app. The payments banking arm of Bharti Airtel will offer family health insurance covering pre-existing ailments and day care treatment with sum-insured options ranging from Rs 50,000 to Rs 5 lakh. Customers will pay using their APB account, net banking, or debit cards from other banks. Incidentally, APB had reported a 141% on-year jump in net profit to Rs 21.7 crore in FY23.



Lloyds Bank to set up Tech Centre in Hyderabad :-

UK high street bank Lloyds Banking Group is set to create an IT centre in India to further its digital transformation. The Lloyds Technology Centre will be based in Hyderabad

and will employ 600 tech, data and cyber security specialists by the end of 2023. According to a statement from the bank, the facility will focus on developing an in-house technical capability to improve the customer experience. The centre, which is scheduled to open later this year, is also part of a wider £3bn project to boost its digital offering, which currently has more than 20 million active users.



RBI imposed a Rs 2.5 crore penalty on J&K Bank :-

RBI imposed a Rs 2.5 crore penalty on J&K Bank for non-compliance with certain directions issued by RBI. According to RBI's inspection, J&K Bank failed to ensure integrity and quality of data submitted to CRILC, extended term loans to a Corporation without undertaking due diligence on the viability and bankability of the projects to ensure that revenue streams from the projects are sufficient to take care of the debt servicing obligations. J&K Bank also failed to ensure that the repayment/servicing of said term loans were not made out of budgetary resources.



World Bank approves loan to improve technical education in India :-

The World Bank has granted its approval for a USD 255.5 million loan aimed at enhancing the quality of technical education in government-run institutions across India. This funding will support approximately 275 selected government-run technical institutions over the course of the next five years, benefiting more than 350,000 students annually. The Multidisciplinary Education and Research Improvement in Technical Education Project will focus on improving student skills and employability through various measures.



RBI imposes ₹30 lakh penalty on Standard Chartered Bank :-

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a monetary penalty of ₹30 lakh on Standard Chartered Bank-India for non-compliance with provisions of its Know Your Customer (KYC) directions. The Reserve Bank of India has also imposed penalties on Standard Chartered Bank-India, TransUnion CIBIL, Equifax Credit Information

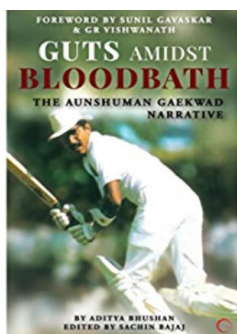
Services, and other entities for contravention of various norms. The action is based on the deficiencies in regulatory compliance and is not intended to pronounce upon the validity of any transaction or agreement entered into by the bank with its customers.



Canara Bank Offers UPI Payments Through RuPay Credit Cards :-

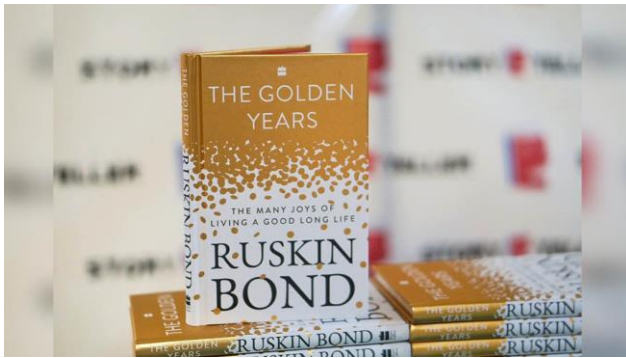
Bangalore-based Canara Bank has become the first public sector bank in India to introduce UPI (Unified Payments Interface) payments for merchants through its RuPay Credit Card. This exciting feature is now accessible within the bank's 'Canara ai1' Banking Super App, thanks to a partnership with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI). This development means that Canara Bank customers can now make UPI payments to merchants directly from their RuPay Credit Cards.

6: Books and Author



A Book "Guts Amidst Bloodbath : The Aunshuman Gaekwad Narrative" By Aditya Bhushan :-

Former Indian Test cricketer Anshuman Gaekwad released his semi-autobiographical book "Guts Amidst Bloodbath" at the Cricket Club of India (CCI). Six former India cricket captains attended the event, including Sachin Tendulkar, Gundapa Vishwanath, Sunil Gavaskar, Dilip Vengsarkar, Ravi Shastri, and Kapil Dev. These renowned cricketers exchanged stories and complimented Gaekwad for his services to the game. Several other significant personalities from the cricketing world were there, in addition to the past captains.



Ruskin Bond Wrote A New Book Titled 'The Golden Years' :-

Ruskin Bond, an Indian novelist, wrote a book titled "The Golden Years: The Many Joys of Living a Good Long Life." The Golden Years book was issued on Bond's 89th birthday, May 19, 2023, is published by HarperCollins India. "The Golden Years" concentrates on Bond's adventures in the 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s. Bond wrote the book in his late 80s as a collection of essays and musings about ageing. Bond provides his opinions on the joys and hardships of old age in the book, as well as tips on how to make the most of the golden years.



Chennai Mayor R. Priya launches Seaside Stories, a book on city's fishing community :-

Chennai Mayor R. Priya has released Seaside Stories, a book about the city's vibrant fishing community and the hamlets that are an integral part of Chennai. Deputy Mayor Magesh Kumar accepted the first copy of the book from author Akila Kannadasan, The Hindu MetroPlus Weekend Editor Shonali Muthalaly, and members of the fishing community. There are almost 40 stories in the

book. There are also interviews with men who repair boats, women who produce dried fish, and youngsters who enjoy playing on the beach.



Book 'The Panther's Ghosts: The Beginning', Launched at Raj Bhavan :-

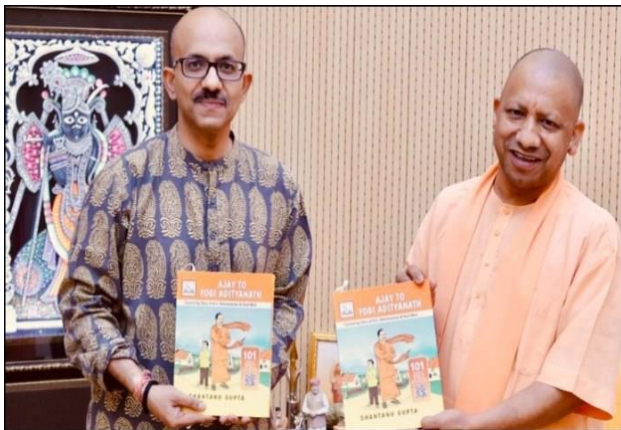
Published by Bloomsbury India 'The Panther's Ghosts: The Beginning,' the first book in a six-part series by Ajit Menon and Arvind Menon, was recently inaugurated at Kolkata Raj Bhavan. According to Ajit Menon, a business professional-turned-author, penning this book was an attempt to finish many sentences left unfinished by his father, Arvind Menon, a retired Intelligence Bureau official. Motivated by a desire to bring to light the stories of many unsung heroes who devote their lives to the sake of the nation and its people.



Shikhar Dhawan launches Luke Coutinho's new book 'Small Wins Everyday' in Delhi :-

Shikhar Dhawan, the ace cricketer, launched renowned Holistic Lifestyle Coach Luke Coutinho's new book 'Small Wins Everyday' at the Taj Mahal in New Delhi. Luke writes in his book 'Small Wins Everyday: 100 Powerful Ways to Transform Your Life & Health' about how

breaking down goals into smaller and simpler work might help you achieve more in life. Speaking about his book, he stated during the occasion that it teaches people how to rewire their brains for greater achievement. His most recent book, 'Small Wins Everyday,' is published by Penguin India.



'Ajay to Yogi Adityanath' launched on UP CM's 51st birthday :-

Renowned author Shantanu Gupta unveiled his latest masterpiece, a graphics-based novel titled "Ajay to Yogi Adityanath," which beautifully captures the extraordinary life journey of Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. The novel was released in conjunction with the CM's 51st birthday, adding a special significance to the occasion. The launch event witnessed the presence of esteemed guests, including Public Works Department Minister Jitin Prasada, Education Minister Sandeep Singh and others.



Dr Vijay Darda's New Book 'RINGSIDE' Released By Shashi Tharoor In Delhi :-

"RINGSIDE - Up, Close, and Personal on India and Beyond", a new book written by Lokmat Media Group Chairman of the Editorial Board and former MP Dr Vijay Darda, was recently released by renowned author and Congress MP Dr Shashi Tharoor. The book is a gripping collection of Darda's weekly essays, which were published between 2011 and 2016 in Lokmat Media Group newspapers and other significant national and regional dailies in the country. According to the release, Dr Darda's publications include well-documented notes and insightful comments about notable persons, in addition to commentaries.



Naturalists launch book documenting over 150 species of butterflies found in Chennai :-

A group of ten teenage naturalists documented approximately 150 species of butterflies in the book 'Butterflies of Chennai' in an effort to broaden regional knowledge on butterflies and create a field guide. What started as a lockdown project during the COVID-19 pandemic for Vikas Madhav Nagarajan and his team - Aditya R., Anooja A., Aswathi A., Ekadh R., Mahathi N., Nanditha S., M. Nishanth, Rohith S. and Smriti M. - has resulted in a one-of-a-kind compilation of butterfly morphology and information on differentiating between species.



Book titled 'Visthapan Ka Dansh' released :-

A book named "Visthapan Ka Dansh" has been published about the difficulties faced by those who have been displaced as a result of the acquisition of their immovable properties for various development projects. Dr. Sanjay Dhiman, a Himachal Pradesh Administrative Officer currently serving as Deputy Commissioner, Relief and Rehabilitation, Raja ka Talab in Fatehpur subdivision of Kangra district, wrote the book. The book focuses on the influence the Pong Dam, highway widening, and airport developments in the hill state have on people's livelihoods.



'Fire prevention: life safety and fire protection' Book to prevent fire disasters launched :-

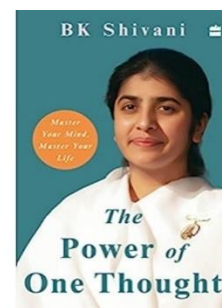
Dilip Patel, former principal of M S University's Polytechnic College, has published a book titled 'Fire prevention: life safety and fire protection,' which includes basic recommendations on how to protect yourself from fire disasters. "This book is based on the Gujarat Comprehensive Development Control Regulations, the Gujarat Fire Act 2013 which was amended in 2021 and the National Building Code which

has now become an integral part of the Gujarat Fire Act," said Patel, who was appointed as fire safety officer by the Gujarat government in 2021.



DU launches e-book collection, digital archive :-

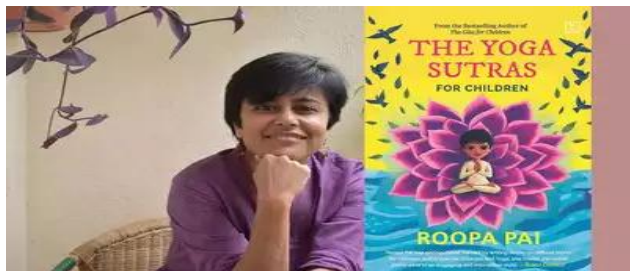
As part of its centenary celebrations, Delhi University introduced its e-book collection and digital archive, which has over 17 lakh documents including books, prints, periodicals monographs, theses, and other resources. The DU library system (DULS), known for its extensive collection, has added subject collections from nine prestigious publishers this year alone, including Oxford University Press, Cambridge University Press, Bloomberg, SAGE Publishing, Taylor & Francis, Elsevier, Springer Nature, and Wiley Online Books.



HarperCollins India To Publish BK Shivani 'S "The Power Of One Thought" :-

HarperCollins India is set to launch BK Shivani's "The Power of One Thought: Master Your Mind, Master Your Life." This practical handbook, which will be released on July 10th, is packed with the wisdom of well-known spiritual guide BK Shivani as well as her unique tools and techniques for personal transformation, such as introspective exercises, daily practises, and meditations,

and will provide the reader with the much-coveted key to unlocking a happy and healthy life. Brahma Kumari (BK) Sister Shivani, a Rajyog Meditation practitioner for over 25 years, has become a household name for her refreshing and realistic outlook on life.



Roopa Pai's book 'The Yoga Sutra for Children' :-

Popular Indian author Roopa Pai has released her new book on Yoga for kids. Titled 'The Yoga Sutras for Children'. The book did hit the shelves on June 27. The book introduces Maharishi Patanjali's techniques to nurture energies and attitudes, enabling focused and balanced actions. With black-and-white artwork by Sayan Mukherjee, it empowers young readers to approach their complex lives with confidence and positivity. Publishers describe the book as a surprising and accessible unraveling of Patanjali's ancient text.

7: Defence



Defence Production In India Surpasses ₹1 Lakh Crore Mark On The Back Of Crucial Reforms :-

According to the Defence Ministry, the value of defence manufacturing in Fiscal Year 2022-23 has surpassed 1 lakh crore for the first time. "The value currently stands ₹1,06,800 crore and it will go further up once the data is received from the remaining private defence industries," a Defence Ministry statement said. "The current value of defence production in FY 2022-23 is a rise of more than 12% over FY 2021-22, when the figure was ₹95,000 crore." Under the Make in India initiative, there has been a strong emphasis on growing local defence manufacturing, encouraging private sector participation, and increasing exports.



Vaghsheer, Indian Navy's Final Kalvari Class Submarine, Begins Sea Trials :-

Vaghsheer, the Indian Navy's sixth and final Kalvari class submarine, has begun sea trials and is anticipated to be commissioned early next year. The submarine's commissioning under Project-75 is expected to boost the Navy's combat capability at a time when China is strengthening its presence in the Indian Ocean region. Following the completion of sea testing, Vaghsheer will be delivered to the Indian Navy in early 2024. The submarine was launched in April of last year at the Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) Kanhoji Angre Wet Basin.



Espionage case: Judicial custody of DRDO scientist now till June 12 :-

Pradeep Kurulkar (59), the DRDO scientist detained on espionage charges by the Maharashtra Anti Terrorism Squad (ATS), has had his judicial detention extended to June 12 by a special court in Pune. Kurulkar (59) was apprehended by the ATS on May 3. He was charged with espionage and improper communication with Pakistani intelligence personnel under the Official Secrets Act (OSA) in a suspected honey trap case. Kurulkar had visited various other nations, according to ATS, and it was being investigated whether he met Pakistani operatives during these journeys.



Ummalaneni to head DRDO missiles and strategic systems :-

Ummalaneni Raja Babu, a distinguished scientist and Director of RCI, has been appointed Director-General (missiles & strategic systems), DRDO, Hyderabad. He takes over for Dr. B.H.V.S. Narayana Murthy, who has retired. He began his career in the Indian Air Force in 1988 before joining DRDO in 1995. He has worked on aircraft, helicopters, and was a vital member in the development of various missile systems over his 35-year aerospace career. Babu, a mechanical engineering graduate from Andhra University, went on to earn his

Master's degree from IIT Kharagpur and his MBA from JNTU.



Bangladesh-US Joint Naval Exercise Held In Chattogram :-

The 'Tiger Shark 40' Joint Bangladesh-US Naval Drill Exercise was recently held at BNS Nirvik in Chattogram. The exercise's goal is to improve both countries' strategic capacities and to share technical and procedural information. According to an official press release from the Bangladesh Inter Services Press Relations (ISPR), the project is being conducted to boost the existing good relations between the two nations' armed forces. The event's Chief Guest was Chattogram Naval Area Commander Rear Admiral Abdullah AL Mamun Chowdhury.



Defence Exports Of India Up By 23 Times Since 2014 :-

India's defence exports have achieved an all-time high, rising from 686 crore rupees in 2013-14 to roughly 16 thousand crore rupees in 2022-23. This astounding 23-fold rise highlights India's advancement in the global defence manufacturing sector. With exports to more than 85 nations, the country's defence sector has demonstrated its capabilities in design and development to the world, with 100 enterprises

currently exporting defence equipment. Global demand for indigenous Indian products such as LCA-Tejas, Light Combat Helicopters, Aircraft Carriers, and MRO services is also increasing.



First edition of India, France and UAE Maritime Partnership Exercise :-

On 07 Jun 23, the first iteration of the India, France, and UAE Maritime Partnership Exercise began in the Gulf of Oman. The exercise is being conducted by INS Tarkash and French Ship Surcouf, both of which have integrated helicopters, as well as French Rafale aircraft and UAE Navy Maritime Patrol Aircraft. The inaugural exercise aims to strengthen trilateral cooperation among the three navies and prepare the path for the adoption of measures to combat traditional and non-traditional maritime threats. The exercise will also improve collaboration in the region to ensure the safety of commercial traffic and freedom of navigation on the high seas.



India Successfully Flight-Tests New-Generation Ballistic Missile 'Agni Prime' :-

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) recently successfully flight-tested the new generation ballistic missile 'Agni Prime' from Dr. A.P.J.

Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha. According to the DRDO, Agni- Prime is a two-stage canisterised solid propellant ballistic missile with dual sophisticated navigation and guiding systems. It has a range of 1000 to 2000 kilometres and tested for the first time in June 2021. According to a Defence Ministry statement, it is lighter than any previous Agni series missiles.



Rajnath Singh inaugurates Integrated Simulator Complex 'Dhruv' :-

IndiGo won top award as the Best Low-Cost Airline in India and South Asia at the 2023 World Airline Awards, held at the Paris Air Show. It is the thirteenth time that IndiGo has won this award as the Best Low-Cost Airline in India and South Asia. IndiGo is amongst the fastest-growing low-cost carriers in the world. With its fleet of over 300 aircraft, the airline is operating well over 1800 daily flights and connecting 78 domestic destinations and will soon further grow its international footprint to 32 international destinations



Ocean Ring of Yoga organized by the Indian Navy in Dubai :-

The Ocean Ring of Yoga was an event organized by the Indian Navy on International Yoga Day, involving 19 Indian Navy ships that sailed over 35,000 kilometers as ambassadors of yoga. The International Day of Yoga witnessed a unique feature called the Ocean Ring of

Yoga. The Indian Navy spreads the message of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam by participating in the Ocean Ring of Yoga against the backdrop of INS Brahmaputra at the historic docks of Mina Rashid, Dubai. The event was also supported by the Embassy of India in Abu Dhabi and DP World.



IAF carries out Exercise Ranvijay with focus on integrated operations :-

With a focus on integration, the Indian Air Force carried out Exercise Ranvijay where day and night operations by combat aircraft including the Su-30s were conducted. Exercise Ranvijay was conducted in UB Hills and Central Air Command Area of Responsibility from June 16-23 wherein full spectrum operations by all combat assets by day and night were carried out. The focus was on Integrated operations while optimally exploiting electronic warfare capabilities of the Indian Air Force. The exercise was carried out from different air bases of the command headquartered in Prayagraj.

8: Economy



RBI Approves Rs 87,416 Crore Surplus Transfer To Government For FY23 :-

The Reserve Bank of India's board has approved the transfer of Rs 87,416 crore to the Central Government as a surplus. The central bank also agreed to increase the contingency risk buffer from 5.5% to 6%, according to a press release. The RBI transferred Rs 30,307 crore to the government in FY22. The board, led by Shaktikanta Das, addressed the Reserve Bank's operations from April 2022 to March 2023 and approved the Reserve Bank's Annual Report and accounts for the fiscal year 2022-23.



Credit Suisse Group AG And UBS Group AG's Proposed Merger Approved By CCI :-

The proposed merger of Credit Suisse Group AG and UBS Group AG has been approved by the Competition Commission of India (CCI). The UBS Group AG (UBS) is a multinational investment bank and financial services firm headquartered in Switzerland that operates globally. According to CCI, the transaction involves UBS' proposed acquisition of Credit Suisse through an absorption merger, with UBS being the surviving legal company. Following the purchase, all of Credit Suisse's assets, obligations, and contracts will be transferred to UBS.



No TCS On LRS Transactions Upto Rs 7 Lakh Via International Debit, Credit Cards From July 1, 2023 :-

The government has stated that no tax will be levied on international spending of up to Rs 7 lakh per year made with debit or credit cards, in an effort to quell public outrage over its earlier decision to apply Tax Collected At Source (TCS) on all spending. Previously, the government had included abroad credit card expenditure in the Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS). This meant that starting July 1, any international credit card spending would be subject to a 20% tax. LRS already included debit card spending.



TCS, ITI Get Rs 15,700 Crore Advance Orders For 1 Lakh BSNL 4G Sites :-

According to a senior executive at telecom operator Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL), the company has issued advance purchase orders (APOs) worth Rs 15,700 crore to Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) and ITI Ltd for 100,000 4G sites. BSNL's large-scale 4G rollout coincides with the launch of 5G services in the country by private sector telecom providers Reliance Jio and Bharti Airtel. The consortium lead by TCS will deploy C-DoT-developed

core equipment, while Tejas Network will provide the radio network.



Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Ltd.

GRSE Launch 'GAINS 2023' Startup Challenge In Kolkata :-

Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) Ltd, one of India's finest defence shipyards and a Category 1 Mini Ratna Company, has begun on a mission to identify and stimulate the development of new solutions in shipbuilding by Startups. As part of this initiative, the Company developed the GRSE Accelerated Innovation Nurturing Scheme - 2023 or "GAINS 2023" in Kolkata to utilise the eco-system that tackles current and developing difficulties in the ship design and building industry.



1100 FPOs Have Been Allocated To National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC):-

With the announcement to construct 1100 new Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) in the cooperative sector, the national government's objective of "Sahkar se Samridhhi" receives an additional push. The Ministry of Cooperation announced in a statement that "A target of these 1100 additional FPOs has been allocated to the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare

under its 'Formation and Promotion of 10,000 FPOs' scheme." The government launched FPO in 2020 with a total budgeted cost of Rs. 6865 crore.



SEBI Approves HDFC Bank As New Owner Of HDFC AMC :-

HDFC Asset Management Company (AMC) has stated that it has got final permission from capital market regulator SEBI for a change in control resulting from the merger of HDFC and HDFC Bank. This permission will help pave the way for HDFC's merger into HDFC Bank, which is slated to be completed by the third quarter of the next fiscal year. HDFC Bank agreed to take over the largest domestic mortgage lender in a \$40 billion deal on April 4, last year, in what is considered the largest transaction in India's business history.



Income Proof Now Mandatory For Rs 10 Lakh Investments In Small Savings Schemes :-

The government has now made verification of source of funds obligatory for those investing more than Rs 10 lakh in post office schemes such as Public Provident Fund (PPF), National Savings Certificate (NSC), Kisan Vikas Patra (KVP), and others. It has also made all investments in post office programmes subject to stronger KYC/PMLA compliance regulations in order to avoid misuse for

terrorist financing/money laundering. The Department of Posts has asked post office employees to obtain proof of income from certain types of small savings programme investors.



India's GDP Grows 6.1% In Q4, FY23 Growth Pegged At 7.2% :-

India's gross domestic product (GDP) increased by 6.1% in the final quarter of the preceding fiscal year, above analyst expectations. Furthermore, according to Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation data, the Centre now predicts the overall growth rate for FY23 to be 7.2%. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) forecasted 5.1% real GDP growth in Q4FY23, while SBI Research forecasted 5.5% growth. According to a Reuters poll, the Indian economy is anticipated to grow by 5% year on year in the January-March quarter, owing to robust urban demand and government investment.



RBI Imposes Rs 2.20 Crore Penalty On Indian Overseas Bank For Rule Violations :-

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced a Rs 2.20 crore fine against Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) for rule infractions. The penalty was imposed on IOB because it failed to make the minimum mandatory transfer of a sum

equal to 25% of its disclosed profit for the fiscal year 2020-21 to its reserve fund, and there was a significant divergence between the non-performing assets (NPAs) as reported by it and as assessed by the inspection, according to the release. In this context, the RBI issued two notifications to the bank, directing it to show reason why a penalty should not be charged.



BoB Set To Reduce NSE Shareholding For At Least ₹661 Crore :-

The government-owned Bank of Baroda (BoB) has revealed its plan to sell a portion of its stake in the National Stock Exchange of India (NSE). The bank has filed a filing in which it invites potential bidders to submit bids for its stake in the exchange. The proposed auction establishes a minimum share price of Rs 3,150, valuing the NSE at Rs 156,000 crore. This will amount to a total transaction value of Rs 661.5 crore. Partnership firms, on the other hand, are ineligible to engage in the bidding process.



Centre Approves 3rd Revival Package For BSNL Worth Rs 89,047 Crores :-

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the third BSNL revival package, totaling Rs 89,047 crore. It comprises the provision of 4G/5G spectrum to BSNL via equity investment. The Cabinet approved the allocation of four spectrum bands:

700 MHz for Rs 46,338.60 crore, 3,300 MHz for Rs 26,184.20 crore, 26 GHz for Rs 6,564.93 crore, and 2,500 MHz for Rs 9,428.20 crore. BSNL's authorised capital would be raised to Rs. 2,10,000 crore from Rs. 1,50,000 crore.



LIC Raises Stake In Tech Mahindra To 8.88% Through Open Market Transactions :-

Insurance giant Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has raised its ownership stake in IT services firm Tech Mahindra through open market transactions during the last six months. "Corporation's shareholding in Tech Mahindra has increased from 6.69 crore to 8.65 crore equity shares, raising its shareholding from 6.869 percent to 8.884 percent," LIC said in its filing to exchanges. It also stated that there is a 2.01% increase in holding from November 21, 2022 to June 6, 2023. The average price paid for these shares was Rs 1,050.77 per share.



Retail Inflation Drops To Over A 2-Year Low At 4.25% In May :-

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) measured inflation at 4.7 percent in April and 7.04 percent in May 2022. This is the fourth month in a row that retail inflation has fallen, and the third month in a row that Consumer Price Index (CPI)-

based inflation has remained below the RBI's comfort level of 6%. Retail inflation has been at 4.25 percent since April 2021, when it was 4.23 percent. In May, food basket inflation was 2.91 percent, down from 3.84 percent in April. Almost half of the CPI is accounted for by the food basket.



To access IMF funds, Bangladesh floats its currency for the first time :-

Bangladesh's central bank has made the historic decision to permit the taka, the country's currency, to float freely for the first time. The choice intends to release more money from a \$4.7 billion loan programme in response to demands from the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Bangladesh, which does not have a high level of debt, now joins a growing number of countries that have chosen to relinquish authority over their national currencies in order to obtain loans from the Washington-based lender, along with Pakistan, Egypt, and Lebanon.



Fitch raises India's GDP Forecast to 6.3% for FY24 :-

The Ocean Fitch Ratings on Thursday raised its forecast for Indian economic growth to 6.3% for the current fiscal year 2023-24 from the 6% it had predicted previously, according to a report published by the news agency PTI. The growth forecast changed because of a stronger outturn in the first quarter and near-term momentum. In FY23, the growth forecast compares with a 7.2% GDP expansion. The economy had a growth of 9.1% in FY22. Fitch said although inflation has eased, the monsoon outlook and the potential impact of El Nino posed a risk in the second half of the year.



S&P retains FY24 India growth projection at 6% :-

S&P Global Ratings on June 26 retained India's GDP growth forecast at 6% saying India will be the fastest-growing economy among Asia Pacific nations. The GDP growth forecast for the current and the next fiscal has been kept unchanged from the forecast made in March partly on account of domestic resilience. The medium-term growth outlook remains relatively solid. S&P said retail inflation is likely to soften to 5% this fiscal from 6.7%, and the RBI is expected to cut interest rates only early next year.

9: International



Blackstone Acquires International Gemological Institute :-

Private equity firm Blackstone Inc announced the acquisition of the International Gemological Institute (IGI) from China's Fosun and the company's founding family. According to a statement, Blackstone purchased an 80% holding from Fosun and a 20% stake from the Lorie family. Blackstone paid approximately \$530 million for IGI, which derives the majority of its revenue and profits from India. IGI was founded approximately 50 years ago by the late Marcel Lorie and now boasts 29 laboratories and 18 gemology schools in ten countries. The vast majority of laboratories are located in India.



Nepal Designates 2025 As A 'Special Tourism Year' :-

Bikram Samvat's 2080s decade will be known as the "Visit Nepal decade," with 2025 designated as a special year for tourism. The President of Nepal, Ram Chandra Paudel, made the announcement while presenting the plans and programmes for the fiscal year 2080/81 at a joint meeting of the federal parliament. The tourism

industry, which suffered greatly as a result of the COVID crisis, is steadily rebounding. Since the beginning of 2023, about one lakh visitors have visited Nepal on a monthly basis.



Indian Railways Hands Over 20 Broad Gauge Locomotives To Bangladesh :-

India recently delivered 20 broad gauge (BG) locomotives to Bangladesh, fulfilling a commitment made to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina during her October 2019 visit. These locomotives can be used for both running passenger and freight trains. Currently, five BG connectivities are operational, namely Geda-Darsana, Benapol-Petrapol, Singhabad-Rohanpur, Radhikapur-Birol and Haldibari-Chilahati. Work on two more cross-border rail connectivities, Akhaura-Agartala and Mahishasan-Shahbazpur, are progressing well.



United World Wrestling Condemns Detention Of Indian Wrestlers, Threatens WFI With Suspension :-

The world wrestling regulatory body, United World Wrestling (UWW), has threatened to suspend the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI), forcing Indian

wrestlers to compete under a neutral banner. The UWW also voiced dissatisfaction with the investigations and criticised the arrest of Indian wrestlers in Delhi. Olympic medalists Bajrang Punia and Sakshi Malik were among the Indian wrestlers who were dragged through the streets after deciding to protest outside the new parliament building.



Nova Kakhovka Dam in Ukraine destroyed :-

Nova Kakhovka Dam in Ukraine has suffered a catastrophic blow, leading to concerns of devastating flooding. Ukraine's military and Nato have accused Russia of blowing up the dam, while Russia has blamed Ukraine. Thousands of people were evacuated from communities in the surrounding areas, as catastrophic floods engulf low-lying areas either side of the river Dniro. The Kakhovka Hydroelectric Power Plant is in the city of Nova Kakhovka in the Kherson region. The city is currently under Russian occupation.



India Announced To Open New Consulate In Brisbane :-

India has announced intentions to open its fourth consulate in Australia, in Brisbane, the capital of Queensland state, to meet a long-standing demand from the Indian diaspora. India has a high commission in

Canberra, while consulates are currently located in Sydney, Melbourne, and Perth. In Brisbane, there is also an honorary consulate. The earliest Indian consulate, the Trade Commission of India, was established in Sydney in 1941. In September 2006, a consulate was created in Melbourne, and another in Perth in October 2011.



Tipu Sultan's Sword Created New Auction Record In UK With GBP 14 Million pounds :-

The bedchamber sword of Tipu Sultan, the 18th-century king of Mysuru, was auctioned off for 14 million pounds (\$17.4 million or Rs 143 crore) at London's Bonhams Islamic and Indian Art Auction. This is a new world record for an Indian and Islamic artefact at auction. According to a press statement from Bonhams, the sword was valued at between 1,500,000 and 2,000,000 pounds. According to Bonhams, the sword was the most essential of the weapons since it had a demonstrated personal association with the sovereign.



Nigeria: Bola Tinubu Sworn In As President :-

Sometimes referred to as a political "godfather," Bola Tinubu was sworn in as Nigeria's next president, under mounting pressure to address the country's persistent economic and security problems. The inauguration took place in the capital Abuja at Eagles Square, with local and foreign dignitaries in attendance. The 71-year-old

southerner won the elections that were held in February this year with 8.8 million votes, succeeding the 80-year-old Muhammadu Buhari who is also a member of the All Progressives Congress party (APC).



University Of Edinburgh Launches Hindi Course :-

The University of Edinburgh has collaborated with the Indian consulate in the United Kingdom to provide its first open access course in Hindi. The Climate Solutions course was created with the assistance of competent translators as a result of a collaboration between the Indian government and the University of Edinburgh's Edinburgh Climate Change Institute. The programme is planned and conducted by award-winning climate change specialists, including Professor Dave Reay, Executive Director of the Edinburgh Climate Change Institute (ECCI).



Latvian Parliament Elects Foreign Minister Edgars Rinkevics As New President :-

Latvian parliamentarians have chosen popular and long-serving foreign minister Edgars Rinkevics as the Baltic country's next president, according to Prime Minister Krisjanis Karins. Rinkevics will be sworn in on July 8 and will spend a four-year term. Latvia's long-serving top diplomat received 52 votes from the Saeima legislature's

100 members, one more than was required to win. The incumbent President Egils Levits, who took office in 2019, did not seek re-election after Karins' three-party coalition could not agree on a joint candidate.



New Liberation War Gallery Inaugurated At Indian Cultural Centre In Dhaka :-

A new 1971 Liberation War Gallery was unveiled at the Indian Cultural Centre of the High Commission of India in Dhaka. The event's Chief Guest was Bangladesh's Home Minister, Asaduzzaman Khan. High Commissioner of India to Bangladesh Pranay Verma joined the Home Minister in the inauguration of the Liberation War Gallery, which houses some rare photographs from the 1971 Liberation War, which culminated in the liberation of then-East Pakistan and its emergence as the region's newest nation.



WMO Gets Celeste Saulo As Its 1st Female Secretary-General :-

Argentina's Celeste Saulo has been named the World Meteorological Organization's (WMO) first female Secretary-General. Saulo was elected by a landslide majority at the United Nations Climate and Weather Conference in Geneva. Since 2014, Saulo has been the

director of Argentina's National Meteorological Service. The World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) is critical in organising worldwide meteorological work. It measures essential elements of the atmosphere, land, and ocean using satellites and thousands of weather stations.



5 New Countries Elected As Non-Permanent Members Of The UNSC :-

Five countries were elected to the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) for two-year periods beginning January 1, 2024. Algeria, Guyana, Sierra Leone, Slovenia, and South Korea are among them. This comes at a time when India has been urging the United Nations Security Council to become more inclusive by adding more permanent and non-permanent members. Stating that the current composition of the UN Security Council (UNSC) no longer aligns with the realities of an interconnected and multipolar world, India's permanent representative to the UN, Ruchira Kamboj urged for urgent reform of the UN body.



Indian Rupee Accounts Are Now Available to Russian Individuals Through Sberbank :-

In an effort to lessen its reliance on the US dollar and the euro, Sberbank, the largest lender in Russia, has announced that customers can now create accounts in Indian rupees. Sberbank has more than 100 million regular customers and already accepts deposits in UAE dirhams and Chinese yuan. Sberbank will continue to borrow in rubles and issue bonds in Chinese yuan if the opportunity arises, according to the bank's finance boss. In addition, rival VTB has stated that by 2025, yuan deposits will account for a sizable share of Russia's foreign exchange holdings.



The World Bank to approve 700 million aid package to Sri Lanka.:-

The World Bank is likely to approve \$700 million in budgetary and welfare support for Sri Lanka at its next board meeting on June 28, sources told Reuters, the biggest funding tranche for the crisis-hit island nation since an IMF deal in March. The economy of the country of 22 million is expected to shrink 2% this year before returning to growth next year, the government estimates, following last year's record contraction of 7.8% after foreign exchange reserves hit record lows.



UAE and Qatar reopen embassies to restore diplomatic ties :-

The United Arab Emirates and Qatar have reopened their respective embassies in Abu Dhabi and Doha, respectively, as of Monday, June 19, 2023. This marks the restoration of diplomatic ties between the two countries, which had been severed in 2017. The reopening of the embassies is based on the Al-Ula agreement, which was signed by the leaders of the GCC countries in January 2021. The agreement called for the end of the Gulf rift, which had been triggered by a number of factors, including Qatar's alleged support for terrorism.



Same sex marriage legalized in Estonia :-

Estonia's parliament passed a law legalising same-sex marriage, making it the first central European nation to do so. While much of western Europe has already legalised same-sex marriage, it remains prohibited in many former communist central European countries that were once part of the Soviet-led Warsaw Pact. About the Estonia same-sex marriage bill. Prime Minister Kaja Kallas said she was 'proud of Estonia' after the bill received 55 votes in the 101-seat parliament.



India climbs eight places to 127 in global gender index :-

India has positioned at 127 out of 146 nations with regards to gender parity as per the World Economic Forum's annual Gender Gap Report, 2023. In 2022, it was positioned at 135 out of 146 nations. India has worked on by 1.4 rate focuses and eight situations since the last release, denoting an incomplete recuperation towards its 2020 equality level, the report expressed. Pakistan ranks 142 out of 146 countries. The index positioned India's neighbors Pakistan at 142, Bangladesh at 59, China at 107, Nepal at 116, Sri Lanka at 115 and Bhutan at 103.



PM Modi-led Yoga event in UN sets Guinness World record :-

The Guinness World Record for most nationalities in a Yoga session was created during the International Yoga Day event led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New York on 21 June 2023. Guinness World Record official, Michael Empric presented the award to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, United Nations General Assembly president Csaba Kőrösi and Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations Ruchira Kamboj. Envoys from over 100 nations attended the event led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.



World Bank announced debt payment pause for disaster-hit countries :-

The World Bank chief announced a raft of measures to aid countries hit by natural disasters, including a pause in debt repayments to the lender, at a gathering of world leaders in Paris to give impetus to a new global finance agenda. Some 40 leaders, including about a dozen from Africa, China's prime minister and Brazil's president, were in the French capital alongside international organisations at the "Summit for a New Global Financial Pact". World Bank President Ajay Banga unveiled the measures. French President Emmanuel Macron hosted the summit in Paris.



Apple set to launch its credit card in India :-

In a bid to tap the growing opportunities in India's financial sector, Apple Inc is planning to launch its credit card in India, also known as Apple Card. The iPhone maker is planning to tie up with HDFC bank to bring its credit card to its Indian customers. The report also reveals that the tech giant is discussing modalities of the credit card with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). It further adds that RBI has told Apple to follow the regular procedure for co-branded credit cards, without offering any special consideration for the company.



China inks deal with Pakistan to set up nuclear power plant :-

China in June 2023 inked an agreement worth a whopping USD 4.8 billion with cash-strapped Pakistan to set up a 1,200-megawatt nuclear power plant. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif witnessed the signing of the deal under which Beijing would build a 1,200-megawatt Chashma-V nuclear plant at Chashma in the Mianwali district of Punjab. Pakistan's Chashma power plants are considered a key in the production of cheap nuclear power. The installed capacity of the existing four power plants is 1,330 megawatts, according to the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission.



UK Net Debt Exceeds 100% of GDP for First Time Since 1961 :-

Britain's public sector net debt surpassed 100% of gross domestic product in May as borrowing came in higher than expected. Public sector net debt, excluding that of state-controlled banks, hit 2.567 trillion pounds (\$3.28 trillion), equivalent to 100.1% of gross domestic product. That represented the first time that debt stood above 100% of GDP since 1961 although it was temporarily recorded as passing that threshold during the COVID-19 pandemic before being revised lower.



New York City Declares Diwali As School Holiday :-

New York City will add the festival of Diwali to the list of public school holidays in recognition of the growth of the city's South Asian and Indo-Caribbean communities, Mayor Eric Adams announced in June 2023. Thousands of New Yorkers celebrate Diwali each year to

commemorate the victory of light over darkness, and the announcement came after state lawmakers recently enacted legislation designating it as a holiday in the biggest school system in the US. New York Assembly member Jenifer Rajkumar led the initiative to make the Indian festival of Diwali a holiday in the city.

10: Miscellaneous**Adidas Named New India Cricket Team Kit Sponsor :-**

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has announced that Adidas will be the Indian team's new kit sponsor. Although no further information was supplied, it has been learned that the agreement is for five years. The financials are expected to be similar to the 6.5 lakh per match that the former sponsor, gaming business MPL, and fashion brand Killer, which presently holds the stop-gap rights, are paying. The board is still in talks with two corporations about becoming the Indian team's shirt sponsors in place of Byju, whose contract expired in March.

Hari Budha Magar, an ex-British Gurkha soldier from Nepal, made history by climbing the world's highest Mount Everest with artificial legs. Hari Budha Magar was born in 1979 and was brought up in Nepal's hilly area of Rolpa. Magar began his career in the British Gurkhas in 1999, at the age of 19, and dedicated his life to the English government. In 2010, the British Army veteran lost both legs after he stepped on an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) planted by the Taliban on a deployment in Afghanistan.

**Sachin Tendulkar Now 'Smile Ambassador' For Maharashtra Govt :-**

Sachin Tendulkar has been chosen the 'Smile Ambassador' for Maharashtra's Swachh Mukh Abhiyan, an oral hygiene initiative. Tendulkar signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis. For the next five years, the batting legend will serve as the campaign's brand ambassador. The Indian Dental Association's Swachh Mukh Abhiyaan is a countrywide programme to enhance oral health and hygiene to educate people about its relevance.

**Hari Buddha Magar Climbs Mt Everest With Artificial Legs :-**



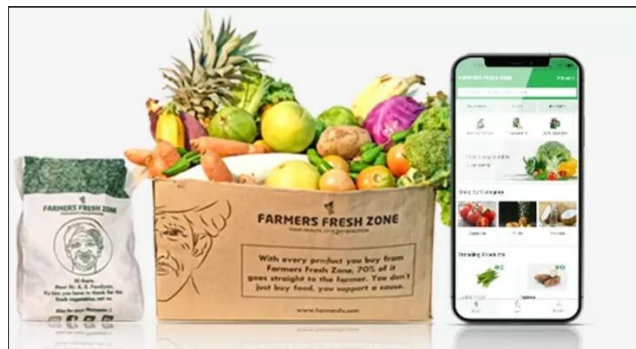
AIIMS Nagpur Achieves NABH Accreditation :-

AIIMS-Nagpur is the country's first AIIMS to be accredited by the renowned NABH (National Accreditation Board for Hospitals and Healthcare Providers). The NABH accreditation is worldwide recognised as a standard for healthcare excellence. This accreditation is held by only a handful private hospitals in Nagpur. The NABH certification procedure is rigorous and comprehensive, reviewing numerous aspects of a hospital's performance such as patient care, safety protocols, and organisational efficiency.



DG Atul Verma Gets Three-Month Extension By Competition Commission :-

The government is extending Atul Verma's tenure as Director General of the Competition Commission of India (CCI) for another three months. The Director General's (DG) office is the fair trade regulator's investigation arm. According to an official order, the competent authority has accepted the extension of Atul Verma's deputation as CCI Director General for three months beyond May 31. CCI is investigating a number of anti-competitive instances, including those involving technology businesses.



'FarmersFZ' Chosen By UN For Food Startup 'Accelerator Programme' :-

Farmers Fresh Zone (FarmersFZ), a Kerala-based business, has been chosen for the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations' Accelerator Programme. FarmersFZ is one of 12 agri-food businesses from around the world chosen by the United Nations to grow business. The Kochi-based multichannel marketplace platform, which runs under the Kerala Startup Mission (KSUM), is one among India's two firms to qualify for the 'Accelerator Programme'. Its ultimate goal is to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.



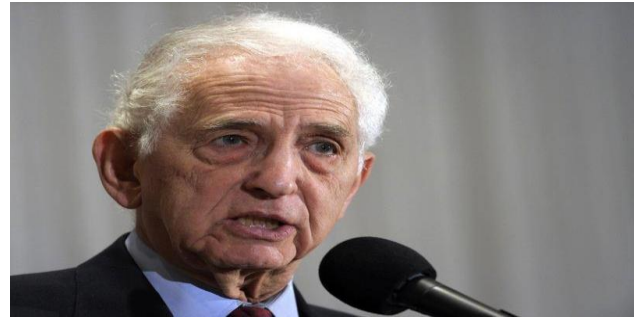
Epson India Signs Rashmika Mandanna As Brand Ambassador :-

Epson India has appointed actor Rashmika Mandanna as its brand ambassador. This month, the actress will work with the company to promote its products in a multi-media campaign for its 'EcoTank' printers. The company stated in a statement that by cooperating with the actress recognised for her performances in Kannada, Telugu, Hindi, and Tamil movies, it intends to utilise her popularity to reach a wider audience across the country, particularly the younger population.



Changing Pride Flag :-

Gilbert Baker's rainbow Pride flag first appeared in 1978 during the San Francisco Gay Freedom Parade. According to Baker, the flag stands for the LGBTQIA+ community's fight for acceptance and equality and is a potent symbol of optimism and unity. Six colours, each with a unique connotation, made up the flag's initial composition. Including Stripes in Black and Brown. Social justice activist Amber Hikes significantly updated the Pride flag in 2017. To symbolise persons of colour within the LGBTQIA+ community, she incorporated stripes in black and brown. The purpose of this amendment was to recognise and celebrate the intersecting experiences of people of different racial backgrounds.



Daniel Ellsberg: Who is He? :-

One guy was crucial in revealing the questions and fabrications surrounding the Vietnam War after the confidential "Pentagon Papers" were made public in 1971. Daniel Ellsberg, who just passed away from pancreatic cancer, rose to prominence as a champion of press freedom, government transparency, and whistleblower. The Pentagon Papers were exposed in 1971 by Daniel Ellsberg, a former US military analyst. He revealed the truth about the Vietnam War by making classified records public, showing that various US administrations had exaggerated the country's involvement in the conflict and the odds against it being won. Ellsberg became a well-known figure in the anti-war movement as a result of his activities, which revealed his dedication to truth-telling and opposition to the war.

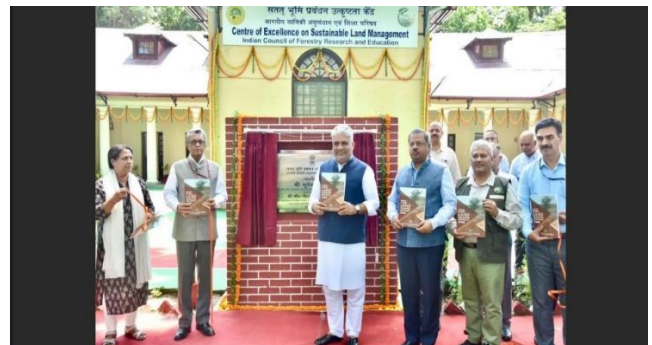
11: National



Amit Shah Lays Foundation Stone Of National Academy Of Coastal Policing Campus In Dwaraka, Gujarat :-

Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah has laid the foundation stone of the permanent campus of the National Academy of Coastal Policing at Okha in Dwaraka. Mr. Shah stated that the academy will teach

over three thousand security personnel each year. The National Academy of Coastal Policing was founded in 2018 as the country's first national academy to give extensive training to maritime police from nine coastal states, five Union Territories, and the Central Police Forces.



Bhupender Yadav Inaugurates Centre Of Excellence On Sustainable Land Management In Dehradun:-

Bhupendra Yadav, Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and Labour and Employment has inaugurated Centre of Excellence on Sustainable Land Management (CoE-SLM) at Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE), Dehradun. The CoE-SLM is poised to make a long-term impact in addressing land degradation issues by leveraging sustainable land management practises, fostering cooperation among developing countries, and aligning with the Indian government's vision to promote environmental conservation and combat climate change.



Procurement ceilings of 40 percent for tur, urad, and Masur removed:-

For enhancing domestic production of pulses, the Government has removed the procurement ceilings of 40 percent for tur, urad, and Masur under Price Support Scheme PSS operations for 2023-24. The government imposed stock limits on tur and urad by invoking the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 in order to prevent hoarding and unscrupulous speculation. The Department has also asked Central Warehousing Corporation and State Warehousing Corporations to provide the details pertaining to tur and urad held in their warehouses.



Govt Approves Digital Communication Framework Between Banks And CEIB :-

The Centre has approved a rapid digital reporting and communication mechanism to address loan defaults of more than Rs 50 crore. According to reports, the Union government has put in place a digital mechanism under which the Central Economic Intelligence Bureau (CEIB) will send a report digitally regarding borrowers to PSU banks for a loan amount of Rs 50 crore or higher at the pre-approval stage within 15 days of request, while ending the paper-based communication system. The new system was approved by the Union Finance Minister after extensive engagement with all stakeholders.



Periodic Table, Evolution Removed From Class 10th :-

The National Council for Education Research and Training (NCERT) has removed the Periodic Table, agriculture's contribution to the national economy, challenges to democracy, and sustainable management of natural resources from the syllabus for Class 10 and Class 12 board examinations. This comes after NCERT removed Charles Darwin's Theory of Evolution as part of removing the theory of biological evolution from the CBSE Class X curriculum. Several professionals and scientists have written to NCERT urging them to reverse these modifications, which could have an impact on children' foundational education in India.



Cabinet Approves Establishment Of Regional Office Of Universal Postal Union :-

The Union Cabinet, presided over by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the decision to create a regional office of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) in New Delhi, to carry out UPU's development cooperation and technical support activities in the region through the signing of an agreement with UPU. According to the government, the authorisation allows India to take an active position in multilateral organisations in the postal sector, with a focus on South-South and triangular cooperation. For the UPU's regional office, India will offer a field project specialist, staff, and office space.



Shalini Singh Becomes The First Female NCC Cadet To Complete Mountaineering Course :-

Shalini Singh made history by being the first female NCC cadet in India to complete a mountaineering course in Uttarakhand's Himalayan area. Shalini joined the 67 UP battalion after finishing the necessary basic mountaineering course. According to reports, she began her month-long course on April 26. What's more, Shalini was the only female cadet on the squad of 45 NCC cadets assembled for the expedition. To complete the course, the Senior Wing NCC cadet scaled 15,400 feet via snow-covered mountains in the Dring Valley.



National Food Safety & Standards Training Centre Inaugurated By Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya :-

During the inauguration of the National Training Centre for the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya emphasised the importance of a healthy population in India's pursuit of becoming a developed nation. He stated that rigorous testing would be undertaken nationwide, and that those found guilty under the Food Safety and Standards Act of 2006 would face harsh penalties.



Rs 1.18 Trillion Released As Third Tax Devolution To States By Govt :-

The government has released Rs 1.18 trillion as the third tranche of tax devolution to state governments. This is far more than the usual monthly devolution of Rs 59,140 crore. In June 2023, the government will make another advance payment to the states. According to the Ministry of Finance, this is being done to assist states in accelerating capital investment, financing development and welfare-related expenditures, and making money accessible for key projects and programmes.



SIDBI Launches EVOLVE Mission With NITI Aayog :-

SIDBI, India's primary lending institution for MSMEs, announced the launch of mission EVOLVE (Electric Vehicle Operations and Lending for Vibrant Ecosystem) in collaboration with NITI Aayog, World Bank, Korean-World Bank, and Korean Economic Development Cooperation Fund (EDCF) to finance MSMEs in the EV space. SIDBI stated that the programme will provide MSMEs with access to reasonable commercial financing for EV loans, as well as hosting telematics that might assist lower financing costs and provide data for other financial services.



‘Dakshta’ course launched by Central government on iGOT Platform :-

The central government of India has recently introduced a new curated collection of courses called “Dakshta” (Development of Attitude, Knowledge, Skill for Holistic Transformation in Administration) for young professionals on the iGOT Karmayogi Platform. The iGOT (Integrated Government Online Training) Karmayogi platform (<https://igotkarmayogi.gov.in/>) is a comprehensive portal to guide government officials in their capacity-building journey.



Government of India Approves \$2.7 Billion Micron Chip Plant :-

The Government of India has approved a \$2.7 billion plan by US chipmaker Micron Technology to set up a

semiconductor testing and packaging unit in the country. The plant, which is set to be built in the state of Gujarat, will create over 3,000 jobs. The approval is a major boost for India’s efforts to become a global hub for semiconductor manufacturing. The country currently imports most of its semiconductors, and the government is keen to reduce its dependence on foreign suppliers.



PM-KISAN Mobile App launched with Face Authentication Feature :-

The Centre on 22 June launched PM-Kisan mobile app with a face authentication feature. It also launched a campaign calling upon youth to come forward and assist farmers in getting the verification done through the app. The new feature on the PM-Kisan mobile app was unveiled by Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar. Under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN), eligible farmers are provided with a financial benefit of Rs 6,000 per year in three equal installments of Rs 2,000 each every four months.



Amit Shah lays foundation stone of ‘Balidan Stambh’ in Srinagar :-

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Amit Shah, laid the foundation stone of the ‘Balidan Stambh’ in Srinagar, an enduring symbol of courage. Additionally, he met with the families of the martyrs from the Jammu

and Kashmir Police and presented them with appointment letters as a token of respect and support. Shah, along with Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, laid the foundation stone at the park near the Lal Chowk city centre – the commercial hub of Srinagar city.



Sarbananda Sonowal Launched 'Sagar Samajik Sahayog' To Empower Ports :-

The new Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) guidelines by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways, known as "Sagar Samajik Sahayog," were introduced by the Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways and Ayush Sarbananda Sonowal on 27 June 2023. CSR has the ability to become a major agent of change in a location or on an activity to bring positive change in the lives of the people. The newly released regulations will enable ports to carry out CSR initiatives directly. Projects and programmes involving the activities listed in Section 70 of the Major Port Authorities Act, 2021 would be impacted by the rules.

12: Obituaries



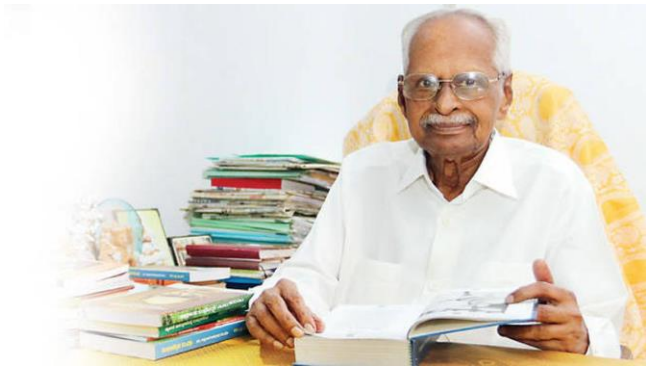
Actor Sarath Babu Passes Away At The Age Of 71 :-

Sarath Babu, an actor well known for his performances in Tamil and Telugu films has passed away recently. The well-known actor was admitted to the hospital early in May and was receiving treatment. The renowned actor debuted in the film industry in 1973 with a Telugu film and rose to prominence with the Tamil film 'Nizhal Nijamagiradhu,' which also starred Kamal Haasan and was directed by K Balachander. He was most recently seen in the Tamil film 'Vasantha Mullai,' starring Bobby Simhaa, earlier this year.



Over 200 killed, 900 injured in a three-train collision in Odisha :-

On Friday evening (02 June), a fatal accident involving three trains occurred at Bahanaga Bazar station in Odisha's Balasore district, killing over 200 passengers and injuring about 900 more. According to officials, the number of fatalities could rise as many people remain trapped in the debris. According to railway officials, two bogies of the Sir M Visveswaraya Terminal-Howrah Superfast Express derailed first near Bahanaga Bazar Station of the Kharagpur division of South Eastern Railway, about 140 kilometres from Kharagpur, about 7.10 p.m.



Noted linguist, writer Dr Vellayani Arjunan passes away :-

Dr. Vellayani Arjunan, a well-known linguist and writer, has passed away recently. He was 90. In 2008, Vellayani Arjunan received the Padma Shri, India's fourth highest civilian award. He achieved fame through his own efforts and worked as a teacher and educator. Arjunan was the author of over 40 works in various genres such as poetry, short stories, children's fiction, essays, literary criticism, research articles, and so on. He also possessed postgraduate degrees in Malayalam, English, and Hindi, as well as PG diplomas in Telugu, Kannada, and Tamil.



Industrialist And Philanthropist Karumuttu T Kannan Passes Away At 70 :-

Karumuttu T Kannan (70), a well known industrialist and the chairman of Tamil Nadu-based Thiagarajar Mills and an independent member of TVS Motor's board of directors, died in Madurai, Tamil Nadu. Kannan, the son of the late industrialist and philanthropist Karumuttu Thiagarajan Chettiar, who founded the Thiagarajar Mills in 1936, was also a leading educationalist and the president of Thiagarajar College, Madurai. A textile industry veteran, Kannan was a graduate in business

administration from Madurai University and had a wide range of experience in the textile industry.



Malayalam actor Harish Pengan, known for comedy roles, passes away :-

Malayalam actor Harish Pengan died while receiving treatment for liver problems at a private hospital in Kochi. He was 48. Harish Pengan was well-known for his roles in comedies. In Minnal Murali, Honey Bee 2.5, Mahestinte Prathikaran, Shefeekkinte Santhosham, Vellari Pattanam, Jan. E. Man, and Jaya Jaya Jaya Hey, he gave standout performances. Previously, the film industry sought financial assistance for his medical care. His companions said that physicians told them he required a liver transplant surgery right away.



Congress Lok Sabha MP Balu Dhanorkar passes away in Delhi :-

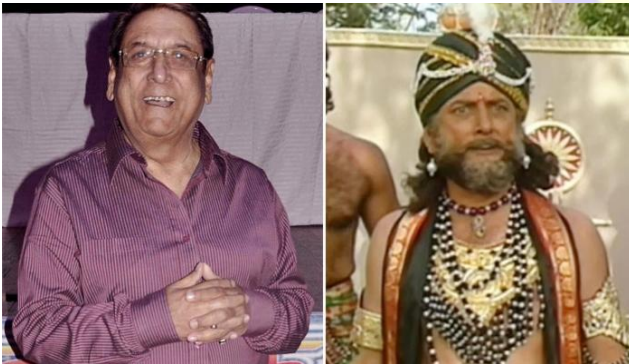
Congress leader Balu Dhanorkar, the lone Lok Sabha member from Maharashtra, died recently in a private hospital in the National Capital Region. He was 47 years old. Dhanorkar began his political career in the Shiv Sena of Balasaheb Thackeray in Chandrapur district, where he won the assembly election in 2014. He was, however, interested in running for the Lok Sabha seat of Chandrapur, which has traditionally been represented by

the BJP's Hansraj Ahir. Dhanorkar became a member of the Congress Party and defeated Ahir.



Veteran actress Sulochana Latkar passes away at 94 :-

Sulochana Latkar, a veteran actress, has passed away recently. At the age of 94, she passed away at a Mumbai hospital. Sulochana Latkar has appeared in over 300 films, mostly in Hindi and Marathi. Sulochana received the Padma Shri Award from the Government of Maharashtra in 1999 and the coveted Maharashtra Bhushan Award in 2009. Among her many films are Ab Dilli Dur Nahin, Sujata, Aaye Din Bahar Ke, Dil Deke Dekho, Aasha and Majboor, Nai Roshni, Aayi Milan Ki Bela, Gora Aur Kala, Devar, and Bandini.



Mahabharat's Shakuni Mama aka Gufi Paintal passes away :-

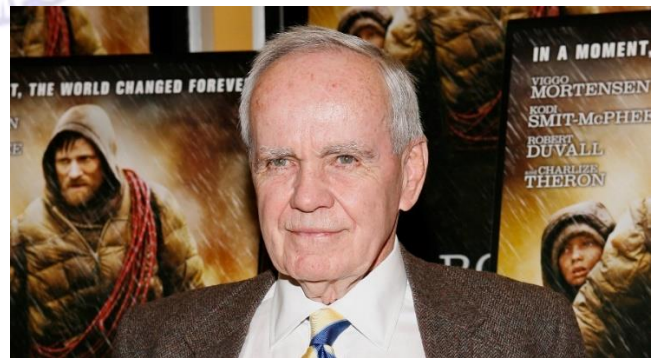
Gufi Paintal, 78, a popular and experienced actor well known as Shakuni Mama from Mahabharat, died on June 5 after suffering from health concerns. His abilities are not limited to acting; he has also worked as a television director. He also appeared in a number of popular Bollywood films, including Rafoo Chakkar, Des Pardes, Dillagi, Maidan-E-Jung, and Daava. Kanoon, Sauda, Akbar Birbal, Om Namah Shivay, Mrs. Kaushik ki Paanch

Bahuein, Karn Sanghini, and other TV series bear his name. He was most recently seen in the TV programme Jai Kanhaiya Lal Ki.



Malayalam actor Kollam Sudhi dies in car accident :-

Kollam Sudhi, a Malayalam actor, has died. The actor, most known for his comedic appearances, died in an automobile accident at the age of 39. Kollam was on the road with artists Ullas Aroor, Binu Adimali, and Mahesh. Sudhi was well-known for his comedic parts in several television shows and has also been in a few films. He debuted in the industry with the film Kanthari in 2015. Kattappana, Kuttanadan, Theta Rappai, Vakathiriv, An International Local Story, Keshu Ee Dihin Nathan, Escape, and Swargathile Katturumb were among his subsequent films.



Cormac McCarthy, Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist dies at 89 :-

Cormac McCarthy, the acclaimed author who wrote classic works such as 'The Road' and received the US Pulitzer Prize for it, died on June 13 at the age of 89. 'The Road' and 'No Country for Old Men' are two of his most well-known and critically regarded books. Both works were adapted into successful films. Joel and Ethan Coen

adapted his 2005 novel No Country for Old Men for the movie. With Javier Bardem and Tommy Lee Jones starring, it became a phenomenally popular thriller. Not only that, but the film won four Oscars, including best picture.



Award-Winning DD Anchor Gitanjali Aiyar Passes Away :-

Gitanjali Aiyar, one of India's first female English news anchors on Doordarshan, died recently. In 1971, Aiyar joined Doordarshan. She was named best anchor four times. In 1989, she received the Indira Gandhi Priyadarshini Award for Outstanding Women. Besides presenting news programmes, Aiyar, a diploma holder from the National School of Drama, had also been a popular face in several print advertisements and even acted in Sridhar Kshirsagar's TV drama "Khandaan".



Kerala's First 'Ashoka Chakra' Winner Havildar Alby D'Cruz Passes Away :-

Havildar Alby D'Cruz, the first Keralite to be awarded the Ashoka Chakra, died in his Thiruvananthapuram home. He was 87. His relatives stated that he died as a result of age-related diseases. In 1962, while serving as a Lance Naik with the 14 Assam Rifles, he was awarded the Ashoka Chakra (class 3) by President Rajendra Prasad.

According to the citation, L/Naik Alby D'Cruz, who was in charge of signal communications, manned the wireless set without any rest and maintained signal communications throughout the critical days of a siege of Assam Rifles post in 1960 by about 500 hostiles.



Rakesh Master, a well-known Tollywood choreographer, passes away :-

Sad news has emerged regarding the passing of renowned Tollywood choreographer S. Rama Rao, well known as Rakesh Master. Rakesh Master began his career in dance reality shows and has since amassed a remarkable resume that includes choreographing more than 1,500 films and writing a number of well-known songs. Before starting his career as a dancing master, S. Rama Rao—his birth name—gained experience working under Master Mukku Raju in Hyderabad. When he passed away, he was 53 years old.



Sylvester daCunha, Creator Of Iconic 'Amul Girl' Campaign, Dies :-

Sylvester daCunha, the creative genius behind the iconic 'Amul Girl' campaign, died on 20 June 2023 in Mumbai. Former Amul MD and current Indian Dairy Association President RS Sodhi tweeted a crying picture of the Amul Girl to condole daCunha's death. Sylvester daCunha, along with his wife Nisha, conceptualized the famous

'Utterly Butterly' campaign for Amul in 1966, which introduced the world to the endearing 'Amul Girl.' This campaign, with its witty and timely messages, became an instant hit and continues to captivate audiences to this day.



BJP Rajya Sabha MP Hardwar Dubey dies at 75 :-

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) senior leader and Rajya Sabha member from Uttar Pradesh Hardwar Dubey breathed his last on 27 June 2023 in New Delhi. He was a sitting MP elected to the Rajya Sabha in November 2020. The late Dubey, was also elected as a member of Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly from Agra Cantonment assembly segment in 1990s and served as a minister in the Kalyan Singh ministry in 1991. The late Dubey, who

was closely associated with the Sangh parivaar and its affiliate Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP).



John Bannister Goodenough, a co-inventor of Li-ion batteries, passes away :-

John Bannister Goodenough, the American co-inventor of lithium ion batteries and a co-winner of 2019 Nobel prize for Chemistry has passed away. He was about to turn 101 on 25th July. Stan Whittingham, who shared the Nobel Prize with Goodenough, initially discovered that lithium can be stored within sheets of titanium sulphide. Goodenough perfected it by refining it with a cobalt based cathode to produce a product that now significantly impacts everyone's lives. Additionally, he made a key contribution in the development of random access memory (RAM) for computers.

13: Ranks & Reports



Financial Times Global Ranking Puts IIM Kozhikode Among The Top Four Schools In India :-

The Indian Institute of Management - Kozhikode (IIMK) has been listed in the coveted Financial Times rankings (FT rankings), adding to its rising worldwide credentials. According to the survey, IIMK is placed 72nd among the top 75 Open-enrollment executive programme providers

in the world. IIMK is one of only three IIMs and four Indian B-Schools to be included in the top 75 FT Open Enrollment Executive Education Rankings - 2023, which are based on surveys of executive participants and relevant institutes around the world.



World's Largest Car Exporter Title Shifts From Japan To China :-

China said that it has surpassed Japan as the world's largest auto exporter in the first three months of the year. According to the BBC, China shipped 1.07 million vehicles during the time, a 58 percent increase over the first quarter of 2022. At the same time, Japan's automobile exports stood at 954,185, up 6% from the previous year. Demand for electric vehicles and shipments to Russia bolstered China's exports. Last year, the Asian behemoth surpassed Germany to become the world's second largest auto exporter.



RBI Projects Robust Economic Growth In India, Expects Q1 GDP Growth At 7.6% :-

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) forecasts 5.1% real GDP growth in Q4FY23. The RBI forecasts GDP growth of 6.5% for 2023-24, with Q1 at 7.6%. This growth can be attributed to several factors, including the strong prospects for agricultural and related activities, which is expected to positively impact domestic consumption and investment. Additionally, strengthening business and consumer confidence, as well as robust credit expansion, are likely to contribute to the overall economic expansion.



National Institutional Ranking Framework

NIRF announced Rankings of higher education institutions

The National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF), under the Union Ministry of Education, announced the India Rankings 2023 of higher education institutions. The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)-Madras in Chennai remained the best educational institution in overall rankings for the fifth consecutive term. The Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru ranked as the best university. Miranda House, Delhi is ranked the best college. Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Ahmedabad is the top management institute. AIIMS, Delhi is ranked the best medical college



India's GDP Growth Projected At 7.1% In FY23: SBI Ecowrap Report :-

According to the most recent SBI Ecowrap study, the country's GDP (gross domestic product) is predicted to expand at a 7.1% annual rate in FY23. This is consistent with the National Statistical Office's (NSO) second advance projections announced in February, which forecast the country's real GDP at 7% in FY23. According to the report, global activity has remained resilient, aided by strong service sector expansion. Global headline inflation is expected to reduce from 8.7% in 2022 to 7.0% in 2023 as commodity prices fall, but underlying (core) inflation is expected to fall more slowly.



Health Index Report Of Covid Year: Kerala And Tamil Nadu Top Performers :-

In NITI Aayog's annual 'Health Index' for the Covid-19 pandemic year of 2020-21, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Telangana emerged as the top-performing states among the 'big states', Tripura did well in the smaller states category, and Delhi ranked last among the Union Territories. The NITI Aayog Health Index, created in 2017, evaluates the performance of states and union territories using 24 health performance metrics. The comprehensive health index was developed in collaboration with the Union Health Ministry and the World Bank.



Urban Unemployment In India Declines To 6.8% In January To March 2023 Quarter :-

According to the periodic labour force survey, the urban unemployment rate fell further in the January to March 2023 quarter and fell for the seventh consecutive quarter, demonstrating that the urban labour market is on the mend following the pandemic. The unemployment rate in current weekly status (CWS) for those aged 15 and up in metropolitan areas fell to 6.8% from January to March 2023, despite concerns about a slowdown in economic activity. This was the lowest quarterly unemployment rate since the survey's start.



Rise In Fake Rs 500 Notes Detected In India, RBI Annual Report Reveals :-

According to the Reserve Bank of India's annual report, approximately 91,110 pieces of counterfeit Rs 500 notes were discovered in FY23. The Reserve Bank discovered 4.6% of all Fake Indian Currency Notes (FICNs) reported in the banking sector during 2022-23, whereas other banks detected 95.4 percent, according to the report. In the same year, the central bank reported 78,699 fraudulent Rs 100 notes and 27,258 fake Rs 200 notes. In fiscal year 23, the RBI detected 9,806 counterfeit Rs 2000 notes. On May 19, the national government ordered the withdrawal of 2000 rupee notes from circulation.



UPI Transactions Reach Record High Of Rs 14.3 Trillion In May 2023 :-

In May, Unified Payment Interface (UPI) transactions reached a record high of Rs 14.3 trillion in terms of value and 9.41 billion in volume. In comparison to April, there is a 2% increase in value (Rs 14.07 trillion) and a 6% increase in volume (8.89 billion). According to National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) data, over Rs 3.96 trillion in transactions occurred in the final ten days of May. The increase comes at a time when the government is attempting to digitise tax collection across several segments.



J.P. Morgan Raises India's FY24 GDP Forecast To 5.5% Amidst Global Economic Concerns :-

J.P.Morgan boosted its prediction for India's annual growth to 5.5% in fiscal 2024 by 50 basis points, but warned that a global economic slowdown and tighter financial conditions will continue to drag the economy. The shift comes after India's GDP advanced to 6.1% in the March quarter, according to government figures, buoyed by government and corporate capital spending even as private consumption remained sluggish. In fiscal 2023, the GDP increased at a faster-than-expected 7.2%.



GST Revenue Collection For May Up 12% YoY At Rs 1.57 Lakh Crore :-

The gross GST revenue collection in India in May reached at Rs 1,57,090 crore, a 12% increase year on year, according to the Ministry of Finance. In April, India recorded a record-high GST collection of Rs 1.87 lakh crore. For the fifth time since the implementation of GST in the country, gross revenue has surpassed 1.5 lakh crore. The CGST is Rs 28,411 crore, the SGST is Rs 35,828 crore, the IGST is Rs 81,363 crore (including Rs 41,772 crore collected on import of goods), and the cess is Rs 11,489 crore (including Rs 1,057 crore collected on import of goods).



TCS, Reliance, Jio Top Best Indian Brands 2023 Ranking :-

According to Interbrand, the renowned worldwide brand consultant, technology giant TCS and India's most valued corporation Reliance Industries have topped the list of the country's most valuable brands. With a brand worth of Rs 1.09 lakh crore, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) topped the list of the 50 Most Valuable Indian Brands in 2023. Reliance Industries Ltd, owned by billionaire Mukesh Ambani, is ranked second with a brand value of Rs 65,320 crore. With a brand worth of Rs 49,027 crore, his group's telecom and digital unit Jio is also in the top five.



Dubai Emerges As India's Top Choice For Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) :-

Dubai, a popular tourism and shopping destination, is quickly becoming the top choice for Indian investment. In the calendar year 2022, Dubai is ranked first as a destination city for Indian foreign direct investment (FDI). According to the Dubai FDI Monitor, India is one of the top five source nations in terms of announced FDI projects and expected FDI capital in calendar year 2022. In 2022, India accounted for 12% of announced FDI projects in Dubai. Only the United States (20%) and the United Kingdom (13%) are ahead of India.



World Bank Cuts India's GDP Growth Forecast For FY24 To 6.3% :-

The World Bank anticipates India's growth to decline further to 6.3% in fiscal year FY 2023/24 (April to March). This represents a 0.3 percentage point decrease from the prior forecast of 6.6%. The fundamental reason for the slowdown, according to the international financial institution, is limited private consumption due to excessive inflation. The World Bank said in its Global Economic Prospects report that the downturn is due to private consumption being restrained by high inflation and rising borrowing costs, while government consumption is hurt by fiscal restraint.



Tata Retains Title Of India's Most Valuable Brand, Taj Strongest Brand For 2nd Year In A Row: Brand Finance Report :-

The Tata Group has retained its title as India's most valuable brand, valued at \$26.4 billion in 2023, up 10.3% from the previous year, according to brand valuation firm Brand Finance's latest assessment of the country's major brands. This is the first time an Indian company has surpassed the \$25 billion level to appear in the top 100 of the company Finance Global 500 2023 list, a yearly ranking of the world's top 500 most valuable brands, according to the UK-based brand valuation agency. Taj Group, with a brand worth of \$374 million, has been India's strongest brand for the second year in a row.



India Emerged As The World's 2nd Largest Producer Of Crude Steel :-

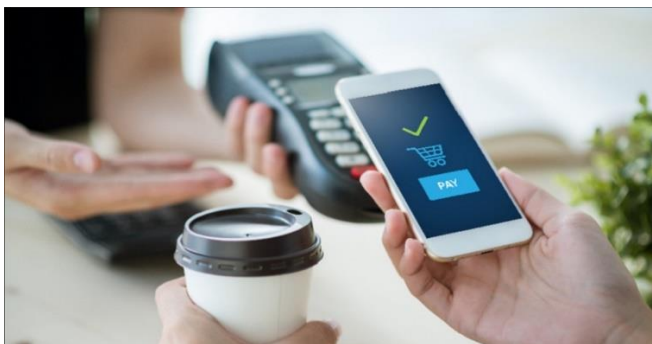
According to Union Minister of Steel and Civil Aviation Jyotiraditya Scindia, India has emerged as the world's second largest producer of crude steel. In his statement, the minister emphasised the importance of the steel industry in ensuring India's pragati (growth) and vikas (progress). In the last nine years, India has been a net exporter of steel, with 6.72 MT of finished steel exported versus 6.02 MT imported in 2022-23. India has set a target of 300 MTPA total crude steel capacity and 255 MTPA total crude steel demand/production by 2030-31, he said.



CSE Report Shows Telangana Ranks 1st For Overall Environmental Performance :-

The non-profit Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) published its yearly data compilation, in which Telangana was ranked first in terms of overall environmental performance. CSE, a major public interest research and advocacy organisation based in Delhi, recently issued its yearly data compendium titled "State of India's Environment 2023: In Figures." The study contains an abundance of statistics on climate and extreme weather,

health, food and nutrition, migration and displacement, agriculture, energy, waste, water, and biodiversity.



India Tops Digital Payments Rankings Globally, Shows MyGovIndia Data :-

According to data from the government's citizen participation portal MyGovIndia, India has led the global rankings in digital payments for the year 2022. There were 89.5 million digital transactions in the country during the fiscal year under review. In 2022, India accounted for 46% of worldwide real-time payments, which was greater than the total digital payments of the following four largest countries. Brazil came in second position, with 29.2 million digital transactions recorded. China came in third with 17.6 million transactions.



Moody's Projects 6-6.3% GDP Growth For India In June Quarter, Flags Fiscal Risks :-

According to Moody's, the Indian economy is predicted to grow by 6-6.3 percent in the June quarter, but there is a danger of fiscal slippage due to lower-than-expected government revenues in the current fiscal year. Moody's growth forecast is lower than the Reserve Bank's 8% forecast for the first quarter. Moody's Investors Service Associate Managing Director Gene Fang told PTI that India has a comparatively high amount of general

government debt, estimated to be about 81.8 percent of GDP in 2022-23, and low debt affordability.



Tata Power becomes most attractive employer brand :-

Tata Power Company has emerged as the country's most 'attractive employer brand', followed by e-commerce giant Amazon and Tata Steel, a research report by Randstad India revealed. Randstad India's annual report 'Randstad Employer Brand Research (REBR) 2023' stated that Tata Power Company scored highly on financial health, good reputation and career progression opportunities, the top 3 Employee Value Proposition (EVP) drivers for the organisation that helped the brand get to the winning spot.



Vienna named as the world's "most livable city" for 2023 :-

The Austrian capital Vienna has been named as the world's "most livable city" for 2023 after winning praise for its reliable infrastructure, standout culture and entertainment and impeccable education and health services. The ranking of 173 cities was released by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) in June 2023 which is based on a number of significant factors, including

healthcare, education, stability, infrastructure and environment. Denmark's capital Copenhagen got second place. Melbourne and Sydney took third and fourth place respectively.



Bengaluru startup ecosystem ranked 20th in GSER :-

Bengaluru has been ranked 20th in the Global Startup Ecosystem Report (GSER) 2023. Silicon Valley retained its top spot, while New York City and London were tied at the second position. The Global Startup Ecosystem Report 2023 (GSER 2023) is a comprehensive analysis of the current state of startup ecosystems worldwide. Now in its 11th year, the GSER is based on extensive research and analysis of data from 3.5 million startups across 290 global ecosystems and over a decade of independent research and providing policy advice to more than 145 clients in over 50 countries to date.



IISc Tops Among Indian Universities in Times Asia Rankings 2023 :-

In Asia University Rankings 2023 by Times Higher Education (THE), the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) has emerged as the leading university in India. The Indian Institute of Science (IISc) has claimed the highest position among Indian universities, securing the 48th spot in the

Asia University Rankings 2023. India has made a notable presence in the rankings, with a total of 18 universities featured among the top 200 in Asia. Among the top 100 universities in Asia, India is represented by four institutions.



MIT tops the QS World University Rankings :-

MIT has again been named the world's top university by the QS World University Rankings. This is the 12th year in a row MIT has received this distinction. The QS rankings are based on factors including academic reputation, employer reputation, citations per faculty, student-to-faculty ratio, proportion of international faculty, and proportion of international students. MIT was also ranked the world's top university in 11 of the subject areas ranked by QS, as announced in March of this year.



IIT Bombay ranks 1st in India in QS World University Rankings:-

Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay has been ranked first in the country and has also moved up to the 149th spot from 177th position last year in the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings. The premier institute received an overall score of 51.7 out of 100. The

list was released on June 28 by QS. For the first time ever since it participated in the rankings, it ranked within the top 150 in the QS rankings. In the 2024 edition of QS

World University Rankings, the institute is placed in the top 10 percent of the world's top 1,500 universities under the QS consideration.

14: Schemes & Committees



'75/25' Initiative For People With Hypertension, Diabetes Launched :-

The Union Health Ministry announced the "75/25" plan, in which 75 million people will be screened for hypertension and diabetes. The Shashakt Portal will bring healthcare services closer to the community by training 40,000 primary healthcare medical officers on the standard treatment procedure for NCDs. The screening would take place at public health centres (PHCs). The announcement was made by the Health Ministry at a G20 co-branded event with the World Health Organisation (WHO). The event titled "Accelerating the Prevention and Management of Hypertension and Diabetes".

The report of the court-appointed committee of experts in the Hindenburg-Adani row case was just made public by the Supreme Court recently. While the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has yet to submit its conclusion, the expert panel noted in their report that SEBI has been probing the ownership of 13 "opaque" overseas businesses associated with Adani since October 2020. The committee also investigated two other issues: investor knowledge and whether there was any regulatory failure that resulted in the Hindenburg report's conclusions.



Giriraj Singh Launches SAMARTH Campaign To Promote Digital Transactions At Gram Panchayat Level :-

The 'SAMARTH' Campaign has been launched to promote digital transactions across 50,000 gramme panchayats. The campaign's main goal is to promote digital transactions in rural areas, with a particular emphasis on women. Giriraj Singh, Union Minister for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, launched the campaign in Lucknow and complimented the self-help group for reducing their NPA from 9.58 percent in 2013 to less than 2 percent presently. He recognised BC Sakhis' commitment to the emerging digital economy and stated that India is establishing worldwide standards in women's empowerment.



Supreme Court Appointed Sapre Committee Submits Report On Adani-Hindenburg Issue :-



Mukesh Ambani Joins COP28 Advisory Committee To Address Climate Crisis :-

Mukesh Ambani, Chairman and Managing Director of Reliance Industries, has been nominated to the Advisory Committee to the President of the 28th Conference of the Parties (COP28) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Apart from Sunita Narain, Director General of the Centre for Science and Environment, Mukesh Ambani is the only Indian on the Advisory Committee to the President of COP28. The UAE Advisory Committee for COP28 brings together climate expertise from thought leaders from six continents.



Meghalaya Forms Expert Panel To Review Reservation Formula; Opposition Leader Ends Hunger Strike :-

The Meghalaya government has announced the formation of an expert committee to evaluate the 1972 reservation policy in response to the opposition Voice of the People's Party (VPP) whose leader was on an indefinite hunger strike. The expert committee is tasked with reviewing the state reservation policy and soliciting feedback from all stakeholders, according to a notification from Chief Secretary D P Wahlang. According

to the 2011 census, approximately 14.1 lakh Khasis dwell in Meghalaya, whereas 8.21 lakh Garo people inhabit there.



'CM Learn And Earn Scheme' Launched By MP Govt :-

The Chief Minister's Learn and Earn scheme was launched in Madhya Pradesh to provide employable skills to the youth. The scheme has identified 703 work sectors for training. The most essential part of this learn-and-earn scheme is that the young would be provided an allowance of Rs 8,000 to 10,000 in addition to learning skills. According to Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, the administration is making ongoing efforts to link youth with employment opportunities. The project will provide training to at least one lakh young people.



'GOBARDhan' Scheme: Govt Launches Unified Registration Portal For Biogas Projects :-

Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, the Union Minister for Jal Shakti, has launched a unified registration portal for 'GOBARDhan,' which will serve as a one-stop repository to assess investment and participation in the biogas or compressed biogas (CBG) sector at the pan-India level and streamline the process of setting up biogas plants in India. By enrolling in the unified registration site, any

government, cooperative, or private entity operating or planning to operate a biogas, CBG, or Bio CNG plant in India can acquire a registration number.



Gender-Inclusive Tourism Policy 'Aai' Gets Maharashtra Cabinet Approval :-

The Maharashtra cabinet has approved the 'Aai' (mother) tourism policy as part of the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'. The cabinet also approved female-run bike-taxi services in some tourist areas. According to an official, the Directorate of Tourism will establish a Women Tourism Policy Cell to oversee the execution of the Aai policy. A task force will also be formed under the presidency of the tourism minister to ensure that the strategy is effectively implemented, according to a statement from the Chief Minister's Office.

15: Science & Technology



TCS Announces Generative AI Partnership With Google Cloud And New Offering For Enterprise Customers :-

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has announced an expanded cooperation with Google Cloud, as well as the debut of TCS Generative AI, a new offering that utilises Google Cloud's generative AI technologies to build and deliver custom-tailored business solutions. TCS has established a wide portfolio of artificial intelligence (AI)-powered solutions and intellectual property in the areas of AIOps, Algo Retail, smart manufacturing, digital twins, and robotics, based on its domain experience across different sectors and investments.



Israel Ties Up With IIT-M To Set Up Water Technology Centre :-

To build an India-Israel Centre of Water Technology (CoWT) the Israeli government is collaborating with India through Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT-M) in water resources management and water technologies at IIT-M. According to a press statement, the ministry of housing and urban affairs (MoHUA) will work with Mashav, Israel's agency for international development cooperation, to build the centre at IIT Madras. The primary goal of this new institution is to assure the application of Israel's greatest technology in a framework tailored to Indian needs.



SpaceX Sends First Saudi Arabian Astronauts To The International Space Station :-

A private rocket carrying the first Arab woman astronaut launched on a trip to the International Space Station (ISS)

recently. Rayyanah Barnawi, a stem cell researcher, became the kingdom's first female astronaut after being sponsored by the Saudi government. Ali al-Qarni, a Royal Saudi Air Force jet pilot, joined her. The ticket-holding crew was launched by SpaceX, led by a retired NASA astronaut who now works for the corporation that booked the flight from Kennedy Space Centre.



Axiom Space's Private Astronaut Mission To Test Cancer Drugs In Space :-

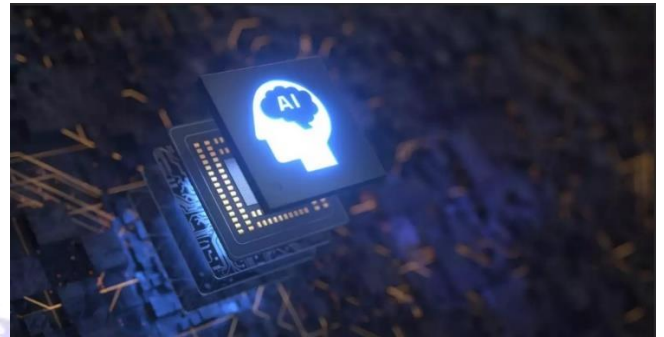
Axiom Space, a private space habitat firm, just launched its latest mission to the International Space Station (ISS), Axiom Mission 2 (Ax-2). The goal of this mission is to conduct investigations on human stem cell ageing, inflammation, and cancer in space's unique microgravity environment. Axiom Space will examine if two inhibitory medications may reverse regeneration in an organoid model of breast cancer as part of Ax-2. The results of these trials not only benefit astronauts' health, but they also have the potential to advance cancer therapy on Earth.



Microsoft Launches Jugalbandi, A Multilingual AI-Chat Bot For Rural India :-

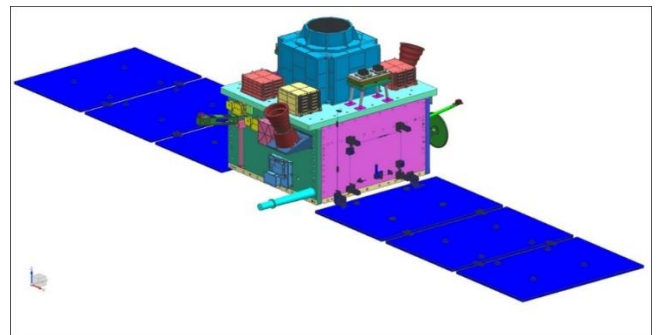
Microsoft has announced 'Jugalbandi,' a new generative AI-driven chatbot developed for farmers and other users

living in rural India. The chatbot is being developed in collaboration with Microsoft Research and the government-backed AI4Bharat - an open-source language AI centre based at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras - and OpenNyAI. According to a press release, the chatbot will operate over the WhatsApp messaging service and it aims to make information on government schemes accessible in multiple languages.



AI Supercomputer 'AIRAWAT' ranked 75th in the world :-

The AI Supercomputer 'AIRAWAT', which is located at C-DAC in Pune, has been ranked 75th in the world. The 61st edition of the Top 500 Global Supercomputing List was announced during the International Supercomputing Conference (ISC 2023) in Germany. The AIRAWAT supercomputer, installed at the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) in Pune, Maharashtra, is India's largest and fastest supercomputer, with a peak speed of 13,170 teraflops (Rpeak). As part of the government's National Programme on Artificial Intelligence (AI), the AI system was implemented.



XPoSatsat, India's First Polarimetry Mission :-

The Indian Space Research Organisation is working with the Raman Research agency (RRI), Bengaluru, an

autonomous research agency, to create the X-Ray Polarimeter Satellite (XPoSat), which is set to launch later this year. It is advertised as India's first and only the world's second polarimetry mission, with the goal of studying the varied dynamics of intense astronomical X-ray sources in harsh settings. NASA's Imaging X-ray Polarimetry Explorer (IXPE), which was launched in 2021, is another such big mission.



ISRO's GSLV-F12 Successfully Places Navigation Satellite NVS-01 :-

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully launched the NVS-01 navigation satellite into Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit, weighing approximately 2232 kg. Speaking from the control room, ISRO Chairman S. Somanath praised the mission team and stated that GSLV had precisely positioned the satellite in orbit. According to ISRO, the GSLV-F12 is India's 15th GSLV flight and the 9th flight with an indigenous cyro stage. This is the GSLV's sixth operational flight using an indigenous cryogenic stage.



India Conducts Asia's First Demonstration Of Performance-Based Navigation For Helicopters :-

According to civil aviation minister Jyotiraditya Scindia, India completed Asia's first demonstration of performance-based navigation for helicopters on a flight from Juhu in Mumbai to Pune utilising GAGAN satellite technology. GAGAN — GPS Aided GEO Augmented Navigation — is a cutting-edge space-based augmentation system that improves the accuracy of GPS navigation system output by giving local geographical positioning for greater aircraft location precision and more efficient traffic management.



Exhibition "Intersolar Europe 2023" :-

Recently, the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) attended the esteemed Intersolar Europe 2023 trade show in Munich, Germany. IREDA demonstrated its dedication to funding renewable energy, sustainability, and building collaborations as an organisation working under the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy. The involvement of IREDA at Intersolar Europe 2023 demonstrates its commitment to the advancement of renewable energy. This highly regarded show, held in Munich, Germany, offers a forum for business executives, producers, suppliers, and service providers to discuss innovations in the solar sector.



IIT Kanpur conducts successful test flight for cloud seeding project:-

The Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur (IIT Kanpur) successfully conducted a test flight for their cloud seeding on June 23. The project was initiated a few years ago at IIT Kanpur and is led by Professor Manindra Agarwal of the Department of Computer Science and Engineering. The experiment was conducted with due approval from DGCA (Directorate General of Civil Aviation) which would help to combat dry conditions and air pollution.



Google Cloud Launches Anti-Money-Laundering AI Tool for Banks :-

Google Cloud, a division of Alphabet, has unveiled Anti Money Laundering AI, an innovative AI-driven tool that aims to revolutionise anti-money laundering efforts in the financial industry. The product utilises machine learning to assist banks and other financial institutions in meeting regulatory requirements for identifying and reporting suspicious activities. With an AI-first approach, Google Cloud aims to mitigate these challenges. Users can customize the tool with their own risk indicators, reducing alerts by up to 60% and increasing accuracy.



Omicron-specific mRNA-based Booster vaccine launched in India :-

A COVID booster vaccine based on Omicron-specific mRNA was launched in June 2023 by Union Minister Jitendra Singh. Pune's Gennova Biopharmaceuticals has developed India's first mRNA vaccine, GEMCOVAC-OM, with support from the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and the Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC). The vaccine is safe and well tolerated and could prevent future waves of the pandemic. The vaccine was developed as part of Atmanirbhar Bharat 3.0, the government's package to accelerate the development of COVID-19 vaccines.



Meta Launches \$250K Mixed Reality Fund for 5 Indian Startups :-

Meta on 28 June declared a fresh Mixed Reality (MR) programme in India that has an award of \$250,000 for homegrown new companies and developers to construct applications and experiences. They can assemble applications utilising Meta's Presence Platform, the organisation's expansive scope of machine perception and AI capabilities for the Meta Quest Platform and Metaverse. As a part of the programme, a select group of up to five Indian developers and new companies will get a monetary grant, alongside top-notch mentoring and guidance from the Meta Reality Labs specialists.

16: Sports



Neeraj Chopra Becomes World No.1 In Men's Javelin Rankings :-

Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra became the world number one for the first time in his career in the latest men's javelin throw rankings issued by the World Athletics. Chopra topped the charts with 1455 points, 22 ahead of Grenada's reigning world champion Anderson Peters (1433). Tokyo Olympics silver medallist Jakub Vadlejch of Czech Republic was third with 1416 points. In September last year, Neeraj Chopra won the Diamond League 2022 finals in Zurich, becoming the first Indian to win the prestigious trophy.



Khelo India University Games-2022 concludes in Varanasi:-

Third khelo India University games recently concluded. The closing ceremony was conducted on the campus of IIT BHU in Varanasi. Panjab University reclaims the winners' title, while Guru Nanak Dev University falls short despite a Fencing sweep on the final day. After a one-year absence, Punjab University, Chandigarh, reclaimed their overall champion title at the Khelo India

University Games. Punjab University, Chandigarh won 69 medals in total, including 26 gold, 17 silver, and 26 bronze medals.



Australia Crowned With ICC World Test Championship 2023 :-

On June 11, Australia made history by becoming the first men's team in world cricket history to win an International Cricket Council (ICC) world title in all three formats. Australia accomplished the feat when they defeated India in the global Test Championship 2021-23 final at The Oval to become the new global champions of the game's longest format. Australia may have lost the Border-Gavaskar Trophy 2-1 in India earlier this year, but the world champions came out firing in the final at The Oval, defeating India by 209 runs.



Zlatan Ibrahimovic Announces His Retirement From Football :-

Zlatan Ibrahimovic, the Swedish striker for AC Milan, has announced his retirement at the age of 41 after a trophy-laden career at some of Europe's biggest clubs. Zlatan's contract will not be renewed at the end of the season

due to an injury-plagued season that has forced him to call it quits on a great career. Zlatan began his professional career with Malmo FF in 1999 and moved on to Ajax Amsterdam in 2001 before continuing his career with Manchester United, Inter Milan, and Milan.



Sunil Kumar Wins Decathlon Gold At Asian U20 Athletics Championship :-

Sunil Kumar of India won gold in the men's decathlon with a score of 7003 points at the Asian U20 Athletics Championships in Yecheon, South Korea. Aside from Sunil's heroics, Pooja won silver in the women's high jump with a 1.82m jump, and Bushra Khan won silver in the women's 3000m race. Previously, Siddharth Choudhary won gold in the men's Shot Put with a throw of 19.52m, while Shivam Lohakare took silver in the Javelin with a throw of 72.34m. Sharuk Khan ran 8:51.74 in the men's 3000m steeplechase to add another silver medal to India's total.



Satwiksairaj and Chirag are the men's doubles champions of the Indonesia Open in 2023 :-

Men's doubles champions Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty won the Indonesia Open after defeating Malaysian world champions Aaron Chia and Soh Wooi Yik by scores of 21-17 and 21-18, respectively. From June 13 to June 18, 2023, the Istora Gelora Bung Karno in Jakarta,

Indonesia, hosted the Indonesia Open. 'Satwiksairaj Rankireddy' and 'Chirag Shetty' from India, ranked sixth in the world, defeated 'Aaron Chia' and 'Soh Wooi Yik' from Malaysia, ranked third. The last game was over in 43 minutes.



Egypt wins the world squash championship again :-

Egypt defeated Malaysia to win the SDAT (Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu) World Squash Federation Squash World Cup. The competition took place in Chennai, Tamil Nadu's Express Avenue Mall, from June 13 to June 17. The event featured eight nations, including India: Hong Kong, Japan, Malaysia, Egypt, South Africa, Australia, and Colombia. In the championship, Egypt defeated Malaysia 2-1. Malaysia won the championship's silver medal. Japan and India, the hosts, split third place. The victorious team received a golden cup from the chief minister of Tamil Nadu.



Fencer Bhavani Devi won Medal in Asian Championships :-

Indian fencer C.A. Bhavani Devi achieved a historic milestone by securing India's first-ever medal at the Asian fencing championships. Competing in the women's

sabre event, the 29-year-old ended up with a bronze after she lost in the semis of the women's sabre event at the Asian Fencing Championships. Bhavani earlier pulled off a stunning win over current world champion Misaki Emura by winning 15-10 in the quarters. This meant that India was assured of its first medal in the competition.



Germany unveils teddy bear as the mascot for Euro 2024:-

The mascot for next year's European Championship in Germany will be a teddy bear. The mascot made its first appearance on 20 June 2023 by surprising children at a primary school in Gelsenkirchen, where it was set to appear again later before the team's friendly game against Colombia. The large-headed mascot with big eyes has shorts — in contrast to the 2006 World Cup mascot, a lion named "Goleo" that was widely ridiculed for not having pants. The as-yet unnamed teddy bear also has a soccer jersey, socks and boots.



India beat Bangladesh to win the 2023 Women's Emerging Asia Cup title:-

India A took on Bangladesh A in the final of the Women's Emerging Teams Asia Cup 2023 at the Tin Kwong Road Recreation Road ground in Hong Kong on 21 June 2023.

Shreyanka Patil was the pick of the bowlers with four wickets to rattle Bangladesh in the final of the ACC Emerging Teams Asia Cup. India played just one group stage match and made it to the final on the basis of that result. After an U19 World triumph a few months ago, this is the set up's second trophy. A game to remember for the Women in Blue.



Union Minister Anurag Thakur flagged off "Bharat in Paris" campaign :-

The campaign has been launched by Indian Olympic Association (IOA) to create awareness and promote sports across India ahead of the Paris Olympics games. Union Sports Minister Anurag Singh Thakur flagged off "Bharat in Paris" campaign with a short marathon at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in New Delhi. The campaign has been launched by Indian Olympic Association (IOA) to create awareness and promote sports across India ahead of the Paris Olympics games. The 2024 Olympics will take place from 26 July to 11 August in France, at Paris.



Madhya Pradesh crowned champions of Junior Men National Championship :-

Hockey Madhya Pradesh won the 13th Hockey India Junior Men National Championship 2023 in June 2023

after defeating Hockey Chandigarh in the Final at the iconic and world's largest Birsa Munda Hockey Stadium of Rourkela. Meanwhile, Hockey Haryana defeated Hockey Association of Odisha to finish third in the competition. Hockey Madhya Pradesh defeated Hockey Chandigarh by 4-2 in the Final. The goalscorers for Hockey Madhya Pradesh were Shreyas Dhupe , Mohd Konain Dad, and Ali Ahmad.



Gautam Adani Launches 'Jeetenge Hum' With 1983 Heroes :-

On his 61st birthday, Gautam Adani launched the 'Jeetenge Hum' campaign along with heroes of the 1983 Cricket World Cup-winning team to support Team India ahead of the upcoming ICC ODI Cricket World Cup 2023. The campaign encourages Indian cricket fans to unite as one, and rally behind Team India with #JeetengeHum on Twitter and Instagram. This campaign draws inspiration from the Adani Group's ethos, "Kar ke dikhaya hai, Kar ke dikhayenge," symbolizing an indomitable spirit of achievement in both cricket and business.



India's Ayhika Mukherjee & Sutirtha Mukherjee clinch WTT title :-

Ayhika Mukherjee and Sutirtha Mukherjee won the WTT Contender Tunis title after defeating Miyuu Kihara and Miwa Harimoto of Japan in the finals of women's doubles

on 25 June 2023. Currently ranked 36 as pair in the world, the Indian duo dominated the finals with two straight-game wins of 11-6 and 11-6. The Japanese pair made a comeback in the third game to win 11-5. But the Indian duo held their nerves in the fourth game to win it 13-11 and clinch their first-ever World Table Tennis Contender title.



India end Special Olympics World Games campaign with 202 medals :-

India secured 76 gold, 75 silver and 51 bronze medals in the global multi-sport spectacle that celebrates unity, diversity and special skills among people with intellectual disabilities. The Indians were among the many participants who later in the day took part in a moving, victorious closing ceremony at the Brandenburg gate in the heart of the old city. From 17 to 25 June 2023, Berlin, Germany welcomed 7,000 Special Olympics athletes and Unified partners from approximately 190 countries to compete in 26 sports. The athletes were supported by more than 3,000 coaches and 20,000 volunteers.



Union Minister Parshottam Rupala launched NANDI Portal:-

Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Shri Parshottam Rupala launched Nandi - NOC Approval for New Drug and Inoculation System portal on

26 June at Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi. The launch of the NANDI portal is another notable undertaking following the animal vaccination coverage initiative and Mobile Veterinary Units (MVUs). On the occasion, Dr. Sanjeev Balyan, Minister of State for Animal Husbandry, Dairying, and Fisheries of India commended the department's efforts in alignment with the Digital India mission.



Jeddah named host city for 2023 Club World Cup :-

Soccer's world governing body FIFA has announced that the 2023 Club World Cup will take place in Saudi Arabian city of Jeddah. The decision was made following a FIFA delegation visit to Jeddah to assess ongoing preparations for the tournament. The tournament will be played from Dec 12-22 and held in Saudi Arabia for the first time. The 2023 edition of the Club World Cup will be the last of current format - an annual competition with seven teams - which will be discontinued before its expansion to a 32-team event to first be held in 2025 in the United States.



Diksha Dagar wins Czech LET golf title :-

Diksha Dagar capped her remarkable consistency and form with a commanding win in the €300,000 Tipsport Czech Ladies Open on 25 June 2023, claiming her second Ladies European Tour title. The 22-year-old, was unchallenged as she finished on a 13-under 203 at the Royal Beroun Golf Club in Czech Republic. Diksha's rise to prominence in Indian golf has also been about overcoming adversity. Born with hearing problems, she started wearing hearing aids at the age of six. She started playing left-handed aged 12 and is guided by father, Col. Narinder Nagar.



Kolkata Team won the Historic Dubai Women's Kabaddi Final :-

Dubai hosted the world's first international Women's Kabaddi final, featuring the Punjab Panthers vs Uma Kolkata. The intense match concluded with the Uma Kolkata team emerging as champions, securing a grand prize of ₹10,000,000. The Punjab team demonstrated commendable skills and earned the second position, receiving a prize of ₹5,000,000. The event was successfully organized by Women's Kabaddi league who played a crucial role in bringing the tournament to fruition. The tournament witnessed remarkable participation, with eight teams from across India converging in Dubai.

17: State



Aiming to withdraw AFSPA by end of 2023, says Assam CM Himanta Sarma :-

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has stated that his government intends to repeal the controversial Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) completely from the state by the end of 2023. "We will also rope in ex-military personnel to train our police force," CM Sarma tweeted. While the Disturbed Areas notification under AFSPA was removed by the Centre from the entire state of Assam last year, it was still in force in about nine districts and one sub-division of another district.



Kerala Becomes India's First Fully E-Governed State :-

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan announced that the state has become India's first entirely e-governed state. The southern state has successfully digitised a wide range of government functions, ensuring that citizens receive timely and transparent service. Chief Minister Vijayan stated at the 'Total e-Governance Kerala' event that this critical milestone will not only establish a robust network between government offices

and citizens, but would also harness technology to drive Kerala's development and bridge the digital gap.



Maharashtra Government Launches 'Shasan Aplya Dari' Initiative :-

Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde has inaugurated the 'Shasan Aplya Dari' (government at your door) project, which aims to centralise the advantages of government schemes. Shinde announced the concept at an event in his hometown of Satara. According to an official, the scheme's goal is to bring the government to the people's doorsteps so that they can take advantage of numerous initiatives without difficulty. A separate cell has been established in the CM's office to coordinate the initiative, he added.



Kerala Fibre Optical Network launched by P Vijayan:-

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on 5 June launched the ambitious Kerala Fibre Optical Network (KFON), which is envisaged to provide high-speed internet

connectivity for all households in the state. Basically, KFON will act as an infrastructure provider. It is an optical fibre cable network of 30,000 kms, with 375 Points-of-Presence across Kerala. The KFON infrastructure will be shared with all service providers, including cable operators. While KFON will do the cable work for government offices, individual beneficiaries will have to depend on private, local internet service providers.



Maharashtra celebrated 350th Rajyabhishek Day of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj :-

Maharashtra celebrated the 350th Rajyabhishek Day (Coronation Day) of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj on June 6. Various programmes were organized at various places including the Raigad Fort in Maharashtra. Rajyabhishek ceremonies were also held at Lal Mahal in Pune and New Palace in Kolhapur in the presence of dignitaries. Sambhaji Raj Chhatrapati was present at Raigad Fort, NCP President Sharad Pawar was in Pune and Shahu Maharaj Chhatrapati was present at Kolhapur palace.



Himachal Pradesh Government Aims To Formulate Green Hydrogen Policy :-

The government of Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu is developing a Green Hydrogen policy to promote the use of green

hydrogen and establish Himachal Pradesh as a prominent hub for its production. The fundamental goal of the strategy, according to Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, is to attract investments in large-scale renewable energy projects, assuring a regular and sustainable supply of green electricity for electrolysis. Himachal Pradesh, he added, sought to establish a suitable climate for the generation of green hydrogen by exploiting its natural resources.

Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana (PMJDY)



Telangana Achieves 100% Coverage Of PMJDY :-

Telangana State has achieved 100 percent household coverage of banking services since the inception of the Prime Minister Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), expanding them to all sectors of the population. According to the Social Security Administration survey, the state has achieved 100 percent coverage, and the benefits of 135 welfare schemes and programmes administered by 20 departments are deposited to the recipients' zero-balance bank accounts. By the middle of May, Telangana had over 1 crore 11 lakh Jan Dhan bank account holders.



Tata Group Signs \$1.6 Billion EV Battery Plant Deal In Gujarat :-

The Tata group inked an outline agreement with the Gujarat government to establish a lithium-ion cell manufacturing for approximately Rs 13,000 crore (\$1.6 billion). The initiative coincides with India's efforts to

establish its own electric vehicle (EV) supply chain. The decision to build the EV battery plant in Sanand, Gujarat, was made at a Tata Sons board meeting earlier. Tata Motors already operates a plant in Sanand and has acquired the adjacent Ford Motors plant. The integration of the two factories has begun, and it could take up to a year to complete.



Karnataka Announces Free Bus Travel 'Shakti' Scheme For Women :-

The Karnataka Congress government has implemented the first of the five poll guarantees, the 'Shakti' scheme, which provides free transport to women and transgender people on state-run buses. The scheme was launched by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, and Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy. According to officials, the free transport service will benefit over 41.8 lakh women every day and will cost the state exchequer an estimated Rs 4,051.56 crore per year.



UP Government Launched Nand Baba Milk Mission Scheme :-

According to an official release, the Uttar Pradesh government launched the Nand Baba Milk Mission Scheme at a cost of Rs 1000 crore to promote milk

production on the one hand and to give milk farmers fair rates for their goods in villages on the other. According to the statement, milk cooperative organisations will be founded in villages under the mission to improve precision dairy farming, increase per-animal milk yield, and provide a proper market to rural milk producers. The mission's objective is to get from the cow to the client.



Prisons in the U.P. will be called "Reform Homes" :-

In June 2023, Yogi Adityanath, the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, made a critical choice to change the prison system in the state. Adityanath gave important instructions emphasising the value of prisoner rehabilitation at a high-level meeting where he examined the circumstances of the current jails. One of the most noteworthy recommendations was to change the names of the jails in Uttar Pradesh to "Sudhaar Grah," or Reform Homes. As it went beyond merely holding criminals and sought to promote a culture of reform and rehabilitation, this action signified a departure from the current approach to prisons.



'Gruha Jyothi Scheme' launched in Karnataka :-

Karnataka government has launched a free power scheme named 'Gruha Jyothi scheme' for providing free electricity up to 200 units a month. Karnataka CM

Siddaramaiah also stated that the scheme also extends to tenants living on rent if their electricity consumption matches the scheme's criteria. The beneficiaries will get a 'zero bill' starting August 1 if usage is within their entitlement. No Free Electricity will be provided to those consumers who has commercial connection in their name.



Odisha Cabinet approves outlay of over Rs 1000 crore:-

Odisha Cabinet headed by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik have approved the revised cost of Rs. 4224.22 Crore (with an additional outlay of Rs 1016.22 crore) under Augmentation Basic Amenities and Development of Heritage and Architecture (ABADHA) Scheme for the development of Puri into a world-class heritage city and to preserve and revitalize the city and its heritage. The ABADHA scheme was launched during 2017-18 to transform basic infrastructure in Puri town which is famous for the Lord Jagannath Temple.



North India's first skin bank opened in Safdarjung Hospital:-

North India's first Skin Bank has been inaugurated at New Delhi's Safdarjung Hospital. It is a bank where deceased donors can donate their skin which will be helpful in treating burns. The skin can be donated within six hours

of death and utilized for burns and trauma patients after processing. Union Health Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya said the facility will be a boon for patients suffering from severe burns and injuries. Medical Superintendent of the Safdarjung Hospital, Dr B L Sherwal described it as a significant achievement.



World's largest Ramayan temple construction has started in Bihar :-

The temple will be constructed in 3.76 lakh sq. ft. land in the Kaithwalia-Bahuara villages on Kesaria-Chakia road in East Champaran district, about 120 km from Patna. The construction of the three-storeyed Viraat Ramayan temple will be completed by the end of 2025 at an estimated cost of ₹500 crore. The temple will be taller than the 12th century Angkor Wat temple complex at Cambodia and it's architecture is inspired by the Angkor Wat complex in Cambodia, the Ramanathaswami temple in Rameshwaram, and the Meenakshi Sundareshwarar temple in Madurai.



Tamil Nadu police launch program for women safety at night :-

The Tamil Nadu police in June 2023 launched a new scheme, where women travelling alone between 10 pm and 7 am can avail of free drop facility in a patrol vehicle

in case they feel unsafe. In a statement released by Director General of Police (DGP) C Sylendra Babu, the 'Pengal Pathukaaptu Thittam' (Women safety scheme), will be in operation on all seven days of the week. Women who feel unsafe at night and need a conveyance can dial the helpline number 1091, 112, 044-23452365 and 044-28447701 and a police patrol vehicle will be made available.



UP CM Yogi Adityanath unveils MotoGP Bharat's First Ticket :-

FairStreet Sports announced opening the ticket sales of the highly-anticipated MotoGP Bharat as Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Yogi Adityanath unveiled the first ticket of the bike racing event. The tickets for the India's first-ever global motorcycling event can be purchased on BookMyShow, the official ticketing partner for MotoGP Bharat. The race will take place at the Buddh International Circuit in Greater Noida, also the country's first Formula 1 track, where the India edition of the F1 race took place from 2011-2013.



Telangana CM KCR inaugurates Medha Rail Coach Factory in Hyderabad :-

Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao inaugurated Medha Rail Coach Factory, the largest private coach

factory in India, at Kondakal in Shankarpally mandal of Rangareddy district on 22 June 2023. On behalf of the State government, he assured complete support to Medha Servo Group for its expansion in Telangana and was confident that it would create massive employment opportunities for the local youth. In a joint venture, Telangana-based Medha Servo Group and Stadler Rail established the rail coach manufacturing at Kondakal with an investment of Rs 1,000 crore.



Vitasta Cultural Festival's final edition wraps up :-

The third and final edition of the esteemed 'Vitasta Cultural Festival' concluded successfully, on 25 June 2023, in the Valley, celebrating culture and various art forms unique to the region of Jammu and Kashmir. The grand event concluded with a series of cultural programmes, including singing, dancing, and various forms of folk art, which took place at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre (SKICC), located on the banks of Dal Lake in Srinagar. The Governors of Punjab and Tamil Nadu, Banwarilal Purohit and R. N. Ravi were present as chief guests at the closing ceremony.



Maharashtra Govt Announces Insurance Scheme For Warkari Pilgrims :-

CM Eknath Shinde introduced the "Vitthal Rukmini Warkari Bima Chhatra Yojana" to provide insurance cover to the Warkaris participating in Pandharpur's Ashadhi Wari. Every year, pilgrims travel from their respective villages to Pandharpur in Solapur district to take part in the Ashadhi Ekadashi celebrations at the Vitthal temple. Under this scheme, in the unfortunate event of a Warkari's death, their family will receive Rs 5 lakh. In case of permanent disability, Rs 1 lakh will be provided. For partial disability, Rs 50,000 and for illness, up to Rs 35,000 will be provided for medical treatment.



Five New Vande Bharat Express Trains Launched :-

Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off five new Vande Bharat Express trains virtually on 27 June 2023. Of the total 5 trains, two were launched in Madhya Pradesh, one in South India, one in Bihar, and the last one was Mumbai-Goa Vande Bharat Express. Earlier, the

Mumbai-Goa Vande Bharat Express was supposed to be launched on June 3, 2023. However, the inauguration was postponed due to Balasore train accident. With the launch of these trains, the total number of Vande Bharat Express trains in India has reached 23.



UP Govt Launches 'Operation Conviction' :-

The Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath led Uttar Pradesh government has launched "Operation Conviction" to swiftly try and convict 20 cases each in every district related to rape, murder, dacoity, conversion, and cow slaughter within 30 days of framing of charges. These will be in addition to cases registered under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (Pocso) Act, 2012. Charges will be framed within three days of filing the chargesheet, and the trial will be completed in the next 30 days to ensure speedy justice for victims.

18: Summits & Conferences

Education Ministry And World Bank Host Workshop For School-To-Work Transition :-

The Ministry of Education and the World Bank recently held a one-of-a-kind workshop on School-to-Work Transition as part of the STARS Programme in Mumbai. Shri Sanjay Kumar, Secretary, School Education, and Shri Atul Kumar Tiwari, Secretary, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, co-chaired the session. The Secretaries of Education and Skill Departments from the six STARS states, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Odisha, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Uttar Pradesh, also attended the event.





National Workshop on the National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA) :-

On May 24th and 25th, 2023, the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs has organised a two-day National Workshop on the National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA) in the Convention Hall, The Hotel Ashok in New Delhi. The primary goal of this workshop is to encourage all state and union territory legislatures to accept the NeVA platform. NeVA is one of the 44 Mission Mode Projects (MMPs) that are part of the Government of India's "Digital India Programme." Currently, 21 state legislatures have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to implement NeVA.



Laos to Host ASEAN Tourism Forum 2024 :-

The Lao government is preparing to host the annual ASEAN Tourism Forum in 2024, which will be held in Vientiane next January. The forum's subject will be "Quality and Responsible Tourism -- Sustaining ASEAN Future" according to Lao News Agency, who reported Minister of Information, Culture, and Tourism Suanesavanh Vignaket as saying at a meeting to discuss event preparations. The forum will include a tourism exhibition, and serves to spur tourism and further service

improvement in associated businesses, Xinhua news agency quoted Suanesavanh as saying.



G20 Health Working Group Meeting Held In Hyderabad :-

The G20 Health Working Group (HWG) had its third meeting in Hyderabad from June 4 to 6. The third HWG meeting included both a main event and a side session focused on collaboration on research and development in Medical Counter Measures (MCMs). In addition to India, participants from 19 G20 member countries, 10 invited countries, and 22 international organisations attended the third HWG meeting. The health priorities were outlined and debated in depth at the HWG sessions in Thiruvananthapuram and Goa in January and April of this year, respectively.



Kazakhstan Hosted Astana International Forum:-

From 8 to 9 June 2023, the bustling Kazakh capital Astana held the highly anticipated Astana International Forum (AIF), bringing together world leaders, policymakers, and important figures from numerous fields to engage in an exciting dialogue aimed at moulding humanity's future. The forum is the latest in Kazakhstan's series of endeavours to enhance interaction among leaders from

diverse regions and industry. The Forum was established at the request of President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev to address global concerns such as climate change, food scarcity, and energy security.



Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya addresses Global Pharmaceutical Quality Summit :-

Union Minister for Chemicals and Fertilisers and Health & Family Welfare Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya on June 23 addressed the 8th Global Pharmaceutical Quality Summit 2023 in Mumbai. Addressing the Summit the Health Minister said that India played the role of pharmacy for the world during COVID-19. The Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance (IPA) successfully concluded the 8th edition of the Global Pharmaceutical Quality Summit. The theme

for the Summit was, 'Patient Centricity: New Paradigm of Manufacturing and Quality'.



DRDO organises 'Anusandhaan Chintan Shivir' to encourage R&D :-

The Defence Research and Development Organisation organized an Anusandhaan Chintan Shivir in New Delhi today aimed at promoting Defence Research and Development in the industry and academia. At the event, a list of 75 technology priority areas was released, encouraging indigenous innovation in defence technologies and fostering self-reliance. The DRDO Technology Foresight 2023, listing current and future technology development tasks, was also unveiled. Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan also attended the event as the Chief Guest with other dignitaries..

SECTION 2

Practice Questions with Answers



PRACTICE QUESTIONS

1. A risk disclosure framework for individual traders for trading in the equity Futures & Options (F&O) segment was launched by which of the following?

- A) RBI
- B) SEBI
- C) IRDA
- D) NSE

2. India's first small-cap fund in the ULIP (Unit Linked Insurance Plan) segment was launched by which of the following insurance company?

- A) Max Life Insurance
- B) HDFC Life Insurance
- C) Bharti AXA Life Insurance
- D) Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance

3. Who among the following clinched the bronze medal in the women's long jump event at the Seiko Golden Grand Prix 2023 in Yokohama, Japan?

- A) Shaili Singh
- B) Reeth Abraham
- C) Neena Varakil
- D) Nayana James

4. Which of the following author has authored a new book, "Partitioned Freedom"?

- A) Utsa Patnaik
- B) Shashi Tharoor
- C) Ram Madhav
- D) Bina Agarwal

5. Which of the following water sport made its debut at the 3rd 'Khelo India' University Games?

- A) Rowing
- B) Sailing
- C) Swimming
- D) Water Polo

6. To promote the development of innovative solutions in shipbuilding by Startups, which of the following

shipbuilding company has launched 'GAINS 2023' scheme.

- A) Cochin Shipyard Ltd
- B) Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Ltd
- C) Goa Shipyard Ltd
- D) Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd

7. A live chat Video service and Web Chat facility for Customers was launched by which of the following bank?

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

8. To manufacture indigenous drones, along with the Naini Aerospace engineering limited (NAeL) which of the following company has entered into a partnership?

- A) Bellatrix Aerospace
- B) Dhruva Space Private Limited
- C) Garuda Aerospace Private Limited
- D) Skyroot Aerospace Private Limited

9. Who among the following was roped in as the Tennis ambassador of the Sony Sports Network?

- A) Mahesh Bhupathi
- B) Rohan Bopanna
- C) Sania Mirza
- D) Yuki Bhambri

10. Eminent Telugu writer Kethu Viswanath Reddy has passed away recently. When did he received the Sahitya Akademi Award?

- A) 1993
- B) 1994
- C) 1995
- D) 1996

11. The annual five-day-long Great Prayer Festival 'Monlam Chenmo' was held in which of the following state/Union Territory (UT)?

- A) Assam
- B) Ladakh
- C) Jammu and Kashmir
- D) Sikkim

12. An insurance product for infrastructure projects 'General Surety Bond Bima (Conditional & Unconditional)' was launched by which of the following Insurance company?

- A) Reliance General Insurance
- B) Future Generali India Insurance
- C) SBI General Insurance
- D) Bajaj Allianz General Insurance

13. Along with which of the following bank the Plotch has launched an ONDC (Open Network for Digital Commerce)-focused payment solution NodePe?

- A) RBL Bank
- B) IDFC FIRST Bank
- C) ICICI Bank
- D) HDFC Bank

14. For which of the following book the Bulgarian Writer Georgi Gospodinov and translator Angela Rodel won the International Booker Prize 2023?

- A) And Other Stories
- B) The physics of sorrow
- C) The Story Smuggler
- D) Time Shelter

15. The Reserve Bank of India has approved the re-appointment of Vijay Shekhar Sharma as the part-time chairman of which of the following Payments Bank?

- A) Airtel Payments Bank
- B) Fino Payments Bank
- C) Paytm Payments Bank
- D) Jio Payments Bank

16. What is the rank of India's AI supercomputer 'AIRAWAT' globally in the 61st edition of the Top 500 Global Supercomputing List?

- A) 45
- B) 50
- C) 65

- D) 75

17. To enable customers of online merchants to make UPI payments directly which of the following company has launched UPI SDK?

- A) MobiKwik
- B) Paytm
- C) PhonePe
- D) Razorpay

18. To launch Future Bankers 2.0 recruitment programme, which of the following bank has partnered with Manipal Global Academy of Banking, Financial Services and Insurance (BFSI)?

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

19. Senior judge Ioannis Sarmas was named as the caretaker prime minister of which of the following country?

- A) South Africa
- B) Spain
- C) Greece
- D) None of the above

20. Who among the following was appointed as the brand ambassador of Realme?

- A) Aamir Khan
- B) Akshay Kumar
- C) Ranbir Kapoor
- D) Shah Rukh Khan

21. Which edition of India-Saudi Arabia Bilateral Naval Exercise, "Al Mohed Al Hindi 23" was conducted in Al-Jubail, Saudi Arabia from 21 to 25 May 2023?

- A) 6th
- B) 5th
- C) 4th
- D) 2nd

22. To support the development of high-quality internal infrastructure in Andhra Pradesh, which of the

following organisation has signed a USD 141.12 million loan agreement with India?

- A) Asian Development Bank
- B) Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank
- C) United Nations Development Programme
- D) World Bank

23. Which of the following national emblem is featured on one side of the newly launched Rs 75 coin?

- A) Lion Capital of the Ashoka Pillar
- B) Lotus
- C) Peacock
- D) Tiger

24. In which of the following country the scientists have found the first-ever genetic detection of wolf-dog hybridization?

- A) Australia
- B) China
- C) India
- D) Japan

25. Which of the following author has won the International Booker Prize for the novel "Time Shelter"?

- A) Chetan Bhagat
- B) Georgi Gospodinov
- C) Strega European
- D) None of the above

26. Who among the following will chair the 21-member Intermediary Advisory Committee constituted by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)?

- A) Dipali Goenka
- B) S Ravindran
- C) Upendra Kumar Sinha
- D) Usha Narayanan

27. With which of the following Co-operative Bank, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) sanctioned the voluntary scheme of amalgamation of Maratha Sahakari Bank Ltd?

- A) Abhyudaya Co-operative Bank
- B) Cosmos Co-operative Bank

- C) Janata Co-operative Bank
- D) Saraswat Co-operative Bank

28. Srikrishnan Harihara Sarma was appointed as the Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of which of the following bank?

- A) Axis Bank
- B) Karnataka Bank
- C) RBL Bank
- D) YES Bank

29. A new book titled "RINGSIDE – Up, Close, and Personal on India and Beyond" was authored by which of the following author?

- A) Wasim Ahmad
- B) Govindrao Adik
- C) Vijay Darda
- D) Amar Nath Agarwal

30. Who among the following was appointed as the MD & CEO of UCO Bank?

- A) Vivek Tyagi
- B) Ashwani Kumar
- C) Ajay Sinha
- D) Ajay Bhalla

31. Who among the following has endorsed the 'Debt Ceiling Deal' to increase the federal government's borrowing capacity?

- A) England
- B) USA
- C) UAE
- D) India

32. Who of the following has won the 2023 Spanish Grand Prix?

- A) S. Pérez
- B) M. Verstappen
- C) L. Hamilto
- D) G. Russell

33. In which of these countries, President Droupadi Murmu was conferred with 'The Grand Order of the Chain of Yellow Star'?

- A) Bhutan
- B) Surinam
- C) Papua New Guinea
- D) Fiji

34. Which of these Indian warships visited South Africa's Durban in June 2023?

- A) INS Vikrant
- B) INS Dhruv
- C) INS Trishul
- D) INS Kochi

35. What is the name of the financial inclusion dashboard recently launched by RBI?

- A) Divyadarshak
- B) Antardrishti
- C) Dwaaram
- D) Margsutra

36. Which of the following bank emerged as top performer in Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) management during the financial year ended March 2023?

- A) Bank of Baroda
- B) Bank of Maharashtra
- C) HDFC Bank
- D) Kotak Mahindra Bank

37. What is the Indian economic growth forecast by Goldman Sachs for calendar year 2023?

- A) 6.5%
- B) 6.3%
- C) 6.0%
- D) 5.9%

38. To offer taxi services to personnel from the government ministries, departments, agencies and public sector units, which of the following company has partnered with the Government e-Marketplace (GeM)?

- A) Uber
- B) Ola Cabs
- C) Rapido
- D) Zoomcar

39. Who among the following has won Best Actor in a Leading Role (male) at the International Indian Film Academy Awards (IIFA) 2023?

- A) Akshay Kumar
- B) Hrithik Roshan
- C) Saif Ali Khan
- D) None of the above

40. For her role in which of the following film Alia Bhatt won Best Actor in a Leading Role (Female) at the International Indian Film Academy Awards (IIFA) 2023?

- A) RRR
- B) Gangubai Kathiawadi
- C) Brahmastra
- D) None of the above

41. Which of the following Small Finance Bank has signed an agreement with IBM Consulting to design and build a digital banking platform?

- A) AU Small Finance Bank
- B) Equitas Small Finance Bank
- C) ESAF Small Finance Bank
- D) Suryoday Small Finance Bank

42. A new logo and integrated campaign with the tagline 'Life Ko Banao Rich' was launched by which of the following bank?

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

43. In FY23 the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) into India was declined by how much percent as per the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) data released in May 2023?

- A) 22%
- B) 20%
- C) 15%
- D) 10%

44. Sandeep Batra has been re-appointed as the Executive Director (ED) of which of the following bank?

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

45. A new book titled "NTR-A Political Biography" was authored by which of the following author?

- A) Devulapalli Amar
- B) Katta Shekar Reddy
- C) Pulagam Chinnarayana
- D) Ramachandra Murthy Kondubhatla

46. Which of the following insurance company has launched India's 1st insurance plan for Type 2 diabetic and pre-diabetic individuals recently?

- A) Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance
- B) Bharti AXA Life Insurance
- C) ICICI Prudential Life Insurance
- D) Star Health and Allied Insurance

47. To provide digital supply chain financing solutions to small and medium-sized businesses (SMEs) which of the following bank has announced its partnership with Yubi?

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

48. Users of which of the following payment company can now make UPI payments using RuPay credit cards?

- A) CRED
- B) Kiwi
- C) Google Pay
- D) Razorpay

49. India emerged as the key source country for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in which of the following city, as per the report released by "FDi Markets"?

- A) Yishun, Singapore
- B) Washington, US
- C) Dubai, UAE
- D) Berlin, Germany

50. Who among the following has been honored with the 57th Jnanpith Award by Goa Governor PS Sreedharan Pillai?

- A) Amitav Ghosh
- B) Damodar Mauzo
- C) Krishna Sobti
- D) Nilmani Phookan

51. Which of the following country became the first country in the world to regulate anti-tobacco warnings on OTT platforms?

- A) Finland
- B) India
- C) Japan
- D) New Zealand

52. AIIMS of which of the following city became the first AIIMS in the country to be accredited by the National Accreditation Board for Hospitals & Healthcare Providers (NABH)?

- A) Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh
- B) Deoghar, Jharkhand
- C) Nagpur, Maharashtra
- D) Rishikesh, Uttarakhand

53. Ajay Yadav has been appointed as the Managing Director of which of the following company?

- A) Coal India Limited
- B) NTPC Limited
- C) Power Finance Corporation Ltd
- D) Solar Energy Corporation of India

54. Who among the following took charge as the CEO and Managing Director of Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)?

- A) Aarthi Subramanian
- B) K Krithivasan
- C) O. P. Bhatt
- D) Pradeep Kumar Khosla

55. Who among the following took charge as the new Chairman of Steel Authority of India Ltd (SAIL) recently?

- A) Abhijit Narendra

- B) Amarendu Prakash
- C) Soma Mondal
- D) Sukriti Likhi

56. Under the GOBARdhan scheme which of the following union minister has launched the Unified Registration Portal for Biogas/ Compressed Bio Gas (CBG) plants?

- A) Raj Kumar Singh
- B) Mansukh L. Mandaviya
- C) Hardeep Singh Puri
- D) Gajendra Singh Shekhawat

57. As per the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation's payroll reporting data analysis, which state has recorded the highest number of formal job creation, contributing around 22% of total new jobs created in India in FY23?

- A) Assam
- B) Haryana
- C) Karnataka
- D) Maharashtra

58. Along with Sweden which of the following country hosted the multinational Arctic Challenge Exercise in June 2023?

- A) Norway
- B) Finland
- C) Denmark
- D) Both A & B

59. To launch its first-of-its-kind co-branded digital fashion and lifestyle credit card, which of the following bank has partnered with Myntra?

- A) YES Bank
- B) Kotak Mahindra Bank
- C) ICICI Bank
- D) Axis Bank

60. Who among the following has won the gold medal in the UWW Ranking Series competition?

- A) Ritika
- B) Manisha
- C) Sarita Mor

- D) Avni Singh

61. Where did the 3rd Employment Working Group (EWG) meeting was held under the G20 Indian Presidency?

- A) Vienna, Austria
- B) Paris, France
- C) London, United Kingdom
- D) Geneva, Switzerland

62. Which of the following university has emerged as the top Indian university and ranked 52 globally in the Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings 2023?

- A) Lovely Professional University
- B) Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT) University
- C) Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham
- D) None of the above

63. What is the rank of the Western Sydney University, Australia in the Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings 2023?

- A) Fourth
- B) Third
- C) Second
- D) First

64. Which of the following Insurance Company has been identified as the acquirer-insurer of the business of Sahara India Life Insurance Co. (SILIC)?

- A) SBI Life Insurance
- B) Max Life Insurance
- C) HDFC Life Insurance
- D) Exide Life Insurance

65. Which of the following bank has launched a new fixed deposit scheme named 'ACE Fixed Deposit'?

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

66. Country's first-ever mobile-based expense management card named 'Card++' was launched by which of the following company?

- A) Karbon Card
- B) GoCardless
- C) EnKash
- D) BharatPe

67. When the World Bicycle Day was observed?

- A) 30 May
- B) 31 May
- C) 02 June
- D) 03 June

68. Which of the following country has honored President Droupadi Murmu with its highest civilian award?

- A) Bangladesh
- B) Maldives
- C) Sri Lanka
- D) Suriname

69. Kotak Private Banking has launched which of the following savings programme curated exclusively for UHNIs (Ultra High Net Worth Individuals) and HNIs (High Net Worth Individuals)?

- A) Alpha
- B) Beta
- C) Diamond
- D) Réserve

70. To withdraw cash using UPI from the ATM without using the physical debit card, which bank has launched the Interoperable Cardless Cash Withdrawal (ICCW) facility?

- A) Bank of Baroda
- B) Canara Bank
- C) Indian Bank
- D) Union Bank of India

71. Which edition of the annual Naval Exercise 'Ekatha' is being held between India and Maldives?

- A) 6th
- B) 5th
- C) 4th
- D) 2nd

72. To provide complete financial solutions to the MSME customers, which of the following bank has signed an MoU with the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)?

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

73. Which of the following bank has launched a new credit card named 'Millennia' recently?

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

74. The world's first multi-sensor earth observation satellite named 'Drishti Mission' is set to be launched by which of the following company next year?

- A) Dhruva Space Pvt Ltd
- B) GalaxEye Space Solutions Pvt Ltd
- C) NewSpace India Limited
- D) Skyroot Aerospace Pvt Ltd

75. When the World Food Safety Day (WFSD) was observed?

- A) 06 June
- B) 07 June
- C) 08 June
- D) 09 June

76. The Amrit Generation campaign was launched by which of the following company along with the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD)?

- A) Google
- B) Meta
- C) Microsoft Corporation
- D) Tata Consultancy Services

77. Bond issuances by banks are projected to fall how much in FY24, as per the ICRA report?

- A) Rs 90,000 crore
- B) Rs 60,000 crore

- C) Rs 40,000 crore
- D) Rs 30,000 crore

78. Who among the following won the UNESCO's 2023 Michel Batisse Award for Biosphere Reserve Management?

- A) Rajiv Bhartari
- B) Manoj Misra
- C) Jagdish Bakan
- D) Arushi Mishra

79. Which of the following company has partnered with ISRO to design and develop Crew Module Recovery Models (CMRM) for recovery team training for the Gaganyaan Mission?

- A) Agnikul Cosmos
- B) Dhruva Space Private Limited
- C) Garuda Aerospace
- D) Tata Elxsi

80. Which of the following institute topped the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) 2023?

- A) IIT Madras
- B) IIT Delhi
- C) IIT Kharagpur
- D) IIT Kanpur

81. Along with India and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) which of the following country participated in the maiden Trilateral Maritime Partnership Exercise in the Gulf of Oman?

- A) France
- B) Maldives
- C) Mozambique
- D) Tanzania

82. India's first Active Momentum Fund was recently launched by which of the following company?

- A) SAMCO Asset Management Private Limited
- B) Nippon Life India Asset Management Limited
- C) Kotak Mahindra Asset Management Company Limited
- D) Edelweiss Asset Management Limited

83. The 'I am Adyar, Adyar is me' campaign was launched by which of the following bank in Chennai, Tamil Nadu?

- A) Federal Bank
- B) HDFC Bank
- C) ICICI Bank
- D) IndusInd Bank

84. To provide technological support to the farmers, which of the following institutions has signed an MoU with Amazon Kisan?

- A) Central Agricultural University
- B) Indian Council of Agricultural Research
- C) National Centre of Organic Farming
- D) National Institute of Agricultural Marketing

85. The world's most powerful wind tunnel JF-22 was launched in which of the following city?

- A) Beijing, China
- B) California, USA
- C) Tokyo, Japan
- D) Vladivostok, Russia

86. Who among the following clinched the French Open singles title?

- A) Andy Murray
- B) Caspar Rude
- C) Novak Djokovic
- D) Rafael Nadal

87. The IRDAI gave the certificate of registration to which of the following insurance company to carry out life insurance business in India?

- A) Go Digit Life Insurance
- B) IndiaFirst Life Insurance
- C) Kotak Mahindra Life Insurance
- D) Max Life Insurance

88. For the post of CMD of Container Corporation of India Limited (CONCOR) the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) has recommended the name of which of the following?

- A) Ajit Kumar Panda

- B) Manoj Kumar Dubey
- C) Sanjay Swarup
- D) Satendra Kumar

89. Edgars Rinkevics has been elected as the president of which of the following country?

- A) Austria
- B) Belarus
- C) Latvia
- D) Slovakia

90. Which of the following country won the Women's Junior Hockey Asia Cup 2023 title?

- A) Australia
- B) Germany
- C) India
- D) Pakistan

91. To improve irrigation practices in rural areas of which of the following state, the World Bank has recently approved a USD 148 million loan?

- A) Andhra Pradesh
- B) Odisha
- C) Telangana
- D) West Bengal

92. To promote Horticulture in Himachal Pradesh, along with the Government of India which of the following organisation has signed a USD 130 million loan agreement?

- A) World Bank
- B) United Nations Environment Programme
- C) Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank
- D) Asian Development Bank

93. Who among the following was appointed as the director general of the National Testing Agency (NTA)?

- A) Rupinder Singh
- B) Saurabh Garg
- C) Subodh Kumar Singh
- D) None of the above

94. Who among the following was appointed as the new director general of the Border Security Force (BSF)?

- A) Anurag Garg
- B) B.K Mehta
- C) Nitin Agarwal
- D) Sonali Mishra

95. Who among the following is set to become the youngest employee to work at SpaceX?

- A) Abhivan Purohit
- B) Adam Clarke
- C) Akshay Sinha
- D) Kairan Quazi

96. Which state or UT recently revoked its general approval of the CBI investigations?

- A) Andhra Pradesh
- B) Odisha
- C) Telangana
- D) Tamil Nadu

97. Which state/UT honours Mother Earth during the "Raja" festival?

- A) West Bengal
- B) Goa
- C) UP
- D) Odisha

98. 'Governor of the Year' award was given to the head of which nation's central bank?

- A) Nepal
- B) Iran
- C) India
- D) None of the above

99. Which nation gave Indigenous Maori and Moriori people's remains back to New Zealand?

- A) UK
- B) USA
- C) Germany
- D) Ukraine

100. The 'Women 20 Summit' is taking place in which Indian state?

- A) West Bengal
- B) Jharkhand

- C) Kerala
- D) Tamil Nadu

101. An outreach programme named “Julley Ladakh” was organized by which organization?

- A) ISRO
- B) NASA
- C) Amazon
- D) Indian Navy

102. Which Department of the Government of India administers the VAIBHAV Fellowships Programme?

- A) Department of Social Justice
- B) Department of Revenue
- C) Department of Economic Affairs
- D) Department of Science and Technology

103. The National Time Release Study (TRS) Report 2023, is released by which organization?

- A) Port Trust of India (PTI)
- B) Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)
- C) Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC)
- D) None of the above

104. ‘Nature Restoration Law’, which was seen in the news, is associated with which region?

- A) UK
- B) USA
- C) Europe
- D) Ukraine

105. Which institution has released the report named – “Detox Development: Repurposing Environmentally Harmful Subsidies”?

- A) WEF
- B) Niti Aayog
- C) IMF
- D) World Bank

106. Which state recorded the highest wind capacity addition during 2022-'23?

- A) Bihar
- B) Goa
- C) Jharkhand

- D) Rajasthan

107. NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam Limited commissioned the ‘1 MW Rooftop Solar Power Project’ in which city?

- A) Bengaluru
- B) Chennai
- C) Panjim
- D) Jodhpur

108. Which state repealed the Protection of Right to Freedom of Religion Act, 2022 —known as the anti-conversion law?

- A) Assam
- B) Kerala
- C) Karnataka
- D) None of the above

109. What is the new name of the ‘Nehru Memorial Museum and Library Society’?

- A) Swatantra Memorial Museum and Library Society
- B) Bharat Memorial Museum and Library Society
- C) Prime Ministers’ Museum and Library Society
- D) India Memorial Museum and Library Society

110. Which Union Ministry unveiled the ‘Dugdh Sankalan Sathi Mobile App’?

- A) Ministry of Jal Shakti
- B) Ministry of MSME
- C) Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- D) Ministry of Heavy Industries

111. Which company launched the ‘Indian Languages Programme’ to aid small news publishers?

- A) Amazon
- B) Flipkart
- C) Oyo
- D) Google

112. Which institution issued Guidelines on Product Offerings by online bond platform providers (OBPP)?

- A) IRDAI
- B) RBI
- C) NPCI
- D) SEBI

113. Which personality/ institution was granted the 'Gandhi Peace Prize 2021'?

- A) Medha Patkar
- B) Tata Foundation
- C) Gita Press
- D) None of the above

114. Who is the head of the panel set up to recommend reforms in Arbitration Law?

- A) Anurag Thakur
- B) Arjun Ram Meghwal
- C) T K Vishwanathan
- D) Kiren Rijiju

115. 'Common Annual Confidential Reports' which were seen in the news, is associated with which field?

- A) Politics
- B) MSME
- C) Sports
- D) Defence

116. What is the name of the plant which grows on another plant/tree drawing moisture and nutrients not from host?

- A) Photophyte
- B) Phorophyte
- C) Parasite
- D) Epiphyte

117. Which Union Ministry launched 'DAKSHTA For Young Professionals'?

- A) Ministry of MSME
- B) Ministry of Education
- C) Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
- D) Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions

118. Which institution adopted the 'International Treaty to Protect the High Seas'?

- A) WEF
- B) World Bank
- C) UN
- D) None of the above

119. What is the expansion of 'NIXI', which celebrated its 20th foundation day recently?

- A) National Interactive Exchange of India
- B) National Information Exchange of India
- C) National Internet Exchange of India
- D) National iOS Exchange of India

120. Which country is the host of the 'Ex Khaan Quest 2023' multilateral peacekeeping joint exercise?

- A) Israel
- B) India
- C) Sri Lanka
- D) Mongolia

121. Which Indian institution nudged Google and Apple to secure mobile devices for financial transactions?

- A) Securities Exchange Board of India
- B) NPCI
- C) NASSCOM
- D) RBI

122. Which country announced the 'Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant scheme'?

- A) France
- B) Germany
- C) USA
- D) Ireland

123. India gifted indigenously-built in-service Missile Corvette INS Kirpan to which country?

- A) Nepal
- B) Pakistan
- C) Vietnam
- D) None of the above

124. A Mesolithic period rock painting depicting a person tilling a piece of land has been found in which state?

- A) Kerala
- B) Tamil Nadu
- C) Andhra Pradesh
- D) Karnataka

125. TRAI has recently recommended 'essential services' status which entity?

- A) OTT platforms
- B) Broadband cables
- C) Unmanned Air Vehicles
- D) Submarine cables

126. Who has been appointed as the Chairperson of the Cheetah Project Steering Committee set up by NTCA?

- A) Ashwini Vaishaw
- B) Gangadeep Singh Bedi
- C) Jitendra Singh
- D) Rajesh Bansal

127. Which institution has conceptualized 'Lightweight Payments System'?

- A) NASSCOM
- B) NITI Aayog
- C) NPCI
- D) RBI

128. Which company is set to build Israel's most powerful AI supercomputer- Israel1?

- A) Qualcomm
- B) IMD
- C) NVIDIA
- D) None of the above

129. What is 'Acinetobacter baumannii', which was seen in the news?

- A) Malware
- B) Animal Species
- C) Bacteria
- D) Cryptocurrency

130. Which institutions released the 'Gaganyaan Recovery Training Plan'?

- A) ISRO and NSIL
- B) ISRO and Air Force
- C) ISRO and Indian Army
- D) ISRO and Indian Navy

131. Which Union Ministry organized the 'Ocean Ring of Yoga' special event?

- A) Ministry of External Affairs
- B) Ministry of Defence
- C) Ministry of Sports
- D) Ministry of AYUSH

132. The Child Helpline 1098 is set to be consolidated with which helpline?

- A) 100
- B) 101
- C) 1091
- D) 112

133. Which country signed partnership agreement with the UNWTO for promoting tourism?

- A) Nepal
- B) Pakistan
- C) India
- D) None of the above

134. Which institution released the 'Global Food Policy Report (GFPR) 2023'?

- A) FCI
- B) FASSAI
- C) IFPRI
- D) FAO

135. 'Operation Kawach' has been launched to crack down the menace of drugs in which state/UT?

- A) Punjab
- B) Goa
- C) Gujarat
- D) New Delhi

136. Which state/UT implements the ABADHA scheme?

- A) West Bengal
- B) Assam
- C) Goa
- D) Odisha

137. Which state/UT is set to implement the 'Non-Conforming Industrial Area Redevelopment Project'?

- A) Sikkim
- B) Assam
- C) Telangana

D) New Delhi

138. The Livestock and Livestock Products Bill 2023 categorizes livestock as which entity?

- A) Product
- B) Life
- C) Commodity
- D) None of the above

139. Which institution released the 'Gender Gap Report 2023'?

- A) World Bank
- B) NITI Aayog
- C) World Economic Forum
- D) FAO

140. 'Goa Declaration' which was seen in the news, is related to which field?

- A) Inclusive Development
- B) Environment
- C) Finance
- D) Tourism

141. Which institution released the 'Standard IS 18267: 2023' to address plastic pollution?

- A) ISO
- B) FSSAI
- C) FCI
- D) BIS

142. Which institution released a consultation paper to implement a regulatory sandbox within the realm of digital communications?

- A) NASSCOM
- B) RBI
- C) FBI
- D) TRAI

143. 'Victor 6000', which was involved in rescue operation of the Titan submersible, was developed in which country?

- A) Ukraine
- B) UAE
- C) France

D) None of the above

144. The Green Diamond, which was presented by Prime Minister Modi to the US President Joe Biden and First Lady, was developed in which state?

- A) Andhra Pradesh
- B) New Delhi
- C) Gujarat
- D) Bihar

145. Which Union Ministry launched 'PM-Kisan Mobile App with Face Authentication Feature'?

- A) Ministry of MSME
- B) Ministry of Electronics and IT
- C) Ministry of Home Affairs
- D) Ministry of Agriculture and Family Welfare

146. Joha rice, which was seen in the news, is from which state/UT?

- A) Goa
- B) Jharkhand
- C) Bihar
- D) Assam

147. Heliopolis Memorial, which was seen in the news, is located in which country?

- A) UK
- B) USA
- C) France
- D) Egypt

148. Which country leads the 'Minerals Security Partnership (MSP)'?

- A) Ukraine
- B) UAE
- C) USA
- D) None of the above

149. Archaeologists have unearthed a 4,000-year-old sanctuary in which country?

- A) China
- B) Japan
- C) Netherlands
- D) Nepal

150. Which Union Ministry announced changes in UAV Export Policy to make it simpler and liberalized?

A) Ministry of MSME

B) Ministry of Electronics and IT

C) Ministry of Home Affairs

D) Ministry of Commerce and Industry

ANSWERS

1. Correct Answer: B

To facilitate informed decision making by investors, markets regulator Sebi has decided to introduce risk disclosure framework for individual traders with respect to trading in the equity Futures & Options (F&O) segment. The new framework would come into force from July 1, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) said in a circular.

2. Correct Answer: D

Bajaj Allianz Life has launched India's first Small Cap fund in the ULIP segment. In a statement, the insurer said that the fund will offer customers an opportunity to achieve capital appreciation by investing in a diversified portfolio of small-cap stocks.

3. Correct Answer: A

Shaili Singh opened her international outdoor season with a bronze in the Seiko Golden Grand Prix, a World Athletics Continental Tour-Gold event, in Yokohama. Shaili, the 2021 under-20 Worlds silver medallist who has a personal best of 6.76m, opened with a wind-assisted 6.65m (+2.1) and that was her best for the day.

4. Correct Answer: C

Assam Governor Gulab Chand Kataria has released a book titled 'Partitioned Freedom' written by Ram Madhav at an event in Guwahati. The book launch program was attended by Ram Madhav, educationalist Dr. Sangeeta Tripathi, Deputy High Commissioner for Bangladesh in Guwahati Ruhul Amin along with a host of other dignitaries.

5. Correct Answer: A

For the first time in the third 'Khelo India' University Games, water sports rowing competition has been organized at Ramgarh Tal in Gorakhpur. The Khelo India University Games 2023 will be live streamed on Prasar Bharati Sports YouTube channel.

6. Correct Answer: B

In a bid to address challenges in the ship design and construction industry, defence PSU Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) Ltd launched an innovation nurturing scheme named GRSE Accelerated Innovation Nurturing Scheme – 2023 (GAINS). It will be a two-stage process to help generate ideas, from which the promising ones may be selected and nurtured.

7. Correct Answer: A

Bank of Baroda has introduced two new customer service channels - live chat over video and web for customers to interact with the bank. The bank is the first PSU lender in India to offer live video calling through BoB Video Chat and live web chat through BoB Live Chat on its website.

8. Correct Answer: C

Garuda Aerospace and Naini Aerospace engineering limited (NAeL) has signed a joint development partnership to manufacture indigenous drones in India. NAeL is a wholly owned subsidiary of HAL (Hindustan Aeronautics Limited) under the administrative control of the Ministry of Defence.

9. Correct Answer: C

Sports broadcaster Sony Sports Network has announced the appointment of Sania Mirza as the Tennis Ambassador for Sony Sports Network. As per

the network, Mirza will be seen as an expert panelist on the network.

10. Correct Answer: D

Eminent Telugu story writer and novelist Kethu Viswanatha Reddy has passed away recently. Viswanatha Reddy won the Sahitya Akademi Award in 1996 and was honoured with YSR Lifetime Achievement Award in 2021 for his contribution to Telugu literature.

11. Correct Answer: B

The annual five-day-long Great Prayer Festival, "Ladakh Monlam Chenmo," a mass prayer camp by Buddhist monks and nuns for world peace and happiness was recently held in Leh, Ladakh. The annual Mass Prayer was held this year after three years of discontinuation due to Covid.

12. Correct Answer: C

SBI General Insurance has announced the launch of the General Surety Bond Bima (Conditional & Unconditional)' insurance product. Surety Bond Insurance will act as a security arrangement for infrastructure projects and will insulate the contractor as well as the principal (contract awarding authority).

13. Correct Answer: B

Plotch along with IDFC First Bank, has launched an Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC)-focused payment solution NodePe. Using NodePe, payments can be routed between buyer and seller apps based on transaction level contracts agreed upon by network participants.

14. Correct Answer: D

Time Shelter, written by Georgi Gospodinov and translated into English by Angela Rodel, has won the International Booker Prize 2023. Last year, the prize went to Geetanjali Shree's Tomb of Sand, translated into English by Daisy Rockwell.

15. Correct Answer: C

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has given its approval to Paytm Payments Bank for the re-appointment of Paytm chief executive Vijay Shekhar Sharma as part-time chairman for a year, as per a regulatory filing by the fintech company to the stock exchanges.

16. Correct Answer: D

India's AI supercomputer 'AIRAWAT', installed at C-DAC, Pune has been ranked 75th in the world. It was announced in the 61st edition of Top 500 Global Supercomputing List at the International Supercomputing Conference (ISC 2023) in Germany.

17. Correct Answer: B

Paytm owner One97 Communications Limited announced it has launched Paytm UPI SDK, which will allow customers of online merchants to make UPI payments directly and in-line from the merchant's mobile app without getting redirected during checkout.

18. Correct Answer: B

HDFC Bank has announced that it has launched Future Bankers 2.0, a pan-India recruitment programme to transform young graduates into banking professionals within one year. The Special Recruitment Programme will be offered in association with the Manipal Global Academy of BFSI.

19. Correct Answer: C

Senior judge Ioannis Sarmas was named caretaker prime minister in Greece after a general election failed to produce a new government. Sarmas, 66, will lead a caretaker government until a new election expected to be held on June 25, according to government officials.

20. Correct Answer: D

Smartphone brand Realme has appointed Bollywood actor Shah Rukh Khan as the brand ambassador. The announcement comes ahead of the launch of the Realme 11 Pro 5G series in the country.

21. Correct Answer: D

The second edition of India- Saudi Arabia Joint Naval Exercise 'Al Mohed Al Hindi 23' was held from 21 to 25 May 2023. The exercise aims to carry out tactical manoeuvres, search and rescue operations, and an electronic warfare drill to enhance interoperability.

22. Correct Answer: A

Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Indian government has signed a USD 141.12-million loan to support the development of high-quality internal infrastructure in Andhra Pradesh (AP). The funding is for construction of roads, water supply systems and electricity distribution network in three industrial clusters in the state

23. Correct Answer: A

A special ₹ 75 coin was launched to commemorate the inauguration of the new parliament building. One side of the coin feature the Lion Capital of the Ashoka Pillar, with the words "Satyamev Jayate" below it.

24. Correct Answer: C

A citizens science initiative by nature enthusiasts from Pune has facilitated researchers from National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS), Bengaluru, to detect the first-ever wolf-dog hybridization. A suspected wolf-dog hybrid individual with an unusual tawny coat was first sighted and photographed by a group of nature lovers led by Siddhesh Bramhankar near Pune in May 2021.

25. Correct Answer: B

Georgi Gospodinov's Time Shelter, translated by Angela Rodel, has become the first book written in Bulgarian to win the International Booker prize. The £50,000 prize, which is split equally between the author and translator, is awarded annually for a novel or short story collection in any language that has been translated into English and published in the UK or Ireland.

26. Correct Answer: B

Sebi has reconstituted its intermediary advisory committee, which suggests on matters pertaining to changes in legal framework. The committee, chaired by S Ravindran Jain, will also advise SEBI on the use of technology and cyber security by intermediaries.

27. Correct Answer: B

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has sanctioned the voluntary Scheme of Amalgamation of Maratha Sahakari Bank with The Cosmos Co-operative Bank. The Scheme will come into force with effect from May 29, 2023, RBI said in a statement.

28. Correct Answer: B

Karnataka Bank has announced Srikrishnan Harihara Sarma as its new Managing Director & CEO for a period of three years. The appointment follows M.S. Mahabaleshwara retiring after two terms of three years as MD & CEO.

29. Correct Answer: C

"RINGSIDE – Up, Close and Personal on India and Beyond", a new book written by Chairman of the Editorial Board of Lokmat Media Group and former MP Dr Vijay Darda was released by renowned author and Congress MP Dr Shashi Tharoor on May 30.

30. Correct Answer: B

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of Ashwani Kumar, Executive Director of Indian Bank, as the new Managing Director and CEO of UCO Bank. The appointment has been made for a period of three years, with the possibility of an extension based on performance.

31. Correct Answer: B

The US House of Representatives voted to raise the federal debt limit, putting Congress on track to approve additional borrowing. The federal government will be able to borrow money up until the November 2024 presidential election. The deal keeps non-defence spending unchanged in 2019 and increases it by 1% in 2025.

32. Correct Answer: B

Max Verstappen took his fifth race victory of the season at the 2023 Spanish Grand Prix. Lewis Hamilton came home to finish in P2, whilst his teammate George Russell completed a fantastic recovery drive to claim the final podium spot.

33. Correct Answer: B

President Murmu was conferred with the Suriname's highest civilian award, the Grand Order of the Chain of the Yellow Star. She met her counterpart in Suriname, Chandrikapersad Santokhi and announced extension of eligibility criteria for the Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI) card from fourth generation to sixth generation.

34. Correct Answer: C

INS Trishul – A frontline warship of the Indian Navy visited Durban to commemorate the 130th anniversary of the June 7, 1893, incident at South Africa's Pietermaritzburg railway station when Mahatma Gandhi was evicted from a train that led to his fight against racial oppression.

35. Correct Answer: B

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das launched a financial inclusion dashboard named 'Antardrishti' which will provide required insight to assess and monitor the progress of financial inclusion by capturing relevant parameters. This facility will also enable to gauge the extent of financial exclusion at granular levels across the country.

36. Correct Answer: B

Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) has emerged as the best bank as far as management of bad loans is concerned with its net non-performing assets (NPAs) falling as low as 0.25 per cent during the financial year ended March 2023. This is the lowest ratio among all banks having total business above Rs 3 lakh crore.

37. Correct Answer: B

Goldman Sachs has raised India's GDP growth forecast for calendar year 2023 by 30 basis points to

6.3%, citing a rise in exports. The earlier forecast was made in November, which showed that Indian economy will grow at 5.9%.

38. Correct Answer: A

Soon personnel from the government ministries, departments, agencies and public sector units will be able to book taxis for official purposes from cab aggregator Uber as the company has partnered with public procurement portal Government e-Marketplace (GeM) to provide the service.

39. Correct Answer: B

For his performance in the movie Vikram Vedha, Hrithik Roshan won the award for Best Actor in a Leading Role (male) at the International Indian Film Academy Awards (IIFA) 2023 held in Abu Dhabi. Veteran actor Kamal Haasan was conferred the Outstanding Achievement in Indian Cinema award.

40. Correct Answer: B

Alia Bhatt won the award for Best Actor in a Leading Role (Female) for her role in the movie Gangubai Kathiawadi. While Alia was not present at the ceremony, producer Jayantilal Gada accepted the award on her behalf.

41. Correct Answer: B

Equitas Small Finance Bank has signed an agreement with IBM Consulting to design and build a digital banking platform aimed at providing a secure experience to customers. The collaboration between the two entities aims at boosting the digital products offered by Equitas as well as its service offerings.

42. Correct Answer: D

Private lender YES BANK on May 30 launched a new logo of the company and said it is set to roll out an integrated campaign with the tagline – 'Life Ko Banao Rich' - which represents the bank's core focus of being a complete solution provider.

43. Correct Answer: A

Foreign direct investment (FDI) into India declined by 22 per cent to USD 46 billion in 2022-23, dragged by lower inflows in computer hardware and software, and automobile industry, according to the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) data.

44. Correct Answer: B

ICICI Bank, in a regulatory filing, said the shareholders had approved the appointment of Sandeep Batra as Executive Director of the Bank for a period of five years effective from the date of approval of Reserve Bank of India. The effective date of the same was from December 23, 2020.

45. Correct Answer: D

Ramachandra Murthy Kondubhatla, a journalist, editor, and writer, has written a new book titled "NTR-A Political Biography" that paints a realistic picture of Nandamuri Taraka Rama Rao (NTR), the star figure in the discourse on cinema and politics in the two Telugu States (Andhra Pradesh and Telangana). The book, published by HarperCollins India, honours NTR's 100th birthday.

46. Correct Answer: A

Bajaj Allianz Life, one of India's leading private life insurers, has launched an exclusive term insurance plan for Type 2 diabetic and pre-diabetic individuals. The Bajaj Allianz Life Diabetic Term Plan Sub 8 HbA1c is first of its kind protection plan in the Indian life insurance industry.

47. Correct Answer: D

Yubi has announced its partnership with Indian Bank to extend digital supply chain financing solutions to small and medium-sized businesses (SMEs). Yubi said Indian Bank will leverage Yubi's technology and platform to digitally enable and scale its supply chain financing book through vendor and dealer financing, targeting large corporations and their SME counterparties.

48. Correct Answer: C

In order to push the growth of digital payments in India, NPCI has collaborated with Google Pay to enable the integration of RuPay credit cards with UPI. UPI users can now link their RuPay credit cards with Google Pay to initiate payments across all online and offline merchants where RuPay credit cards are accepted.

49. Correct Answer: C

India has emerged as a key source country for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Dubai, one of the wealthiest of the seven emirates in the United Arab Emirates. It ranked among the top five source countries for announced FDI projects and estimated FDI capital, according to a report released by "fDi Markets".

50. Correct Answer: B

Goan writer Damodar Mauzo has received the prestigious Jnanpith Award, the country's highest literary honour, from state Governor P S Sreedharan Pillai. Renowned poet Gulzar was present during the function held at the Raj Bhavan near Goa capital Panaji.

51. Correct Answer: B

India became the first country on May 31 to make it mandatory for OTT platforms to display anti-tobacco warnings and disclaimers as seen in movies screened in theatres and television programmes. The Union health ministry notified the amendments in the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act, 2004 on the World No Tobacco Day.

52. Correct Answer: C

The All-India Institute of Medical Science (AIIMS) Nagpur has become the first AIIMS in the country to receive the prestigious National Accreditation Board of Hospitals and Healthcare Providers (NABH) accreditation. The premier hospital was also congratulated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a tweet.

53. Correct Answer: D

The government has appointed Ajay Yadav, as the managing director of Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI), the ministry of new and renewable energy said in a press release. He is a 2005 batch IAS officer of the Bihar cadre.

54. Correct Answer: B

TCS chief executive officer designate K Krithivasan took charge of India's biggest Information Technology services company Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) on June 1, 2023. He succeeded Rajesh Gopinathan, who tendered his resignation from the Tata Group company, where he served for 22 years, in April.

55. Correct Answer: B

Amarendu Prakash has taken charge as the new Chairman and Managing Director of Steel Authority of India Ltd (SAIL) from May 31. He was previously the Director (In-charge) of SAIL's Bokaro steel plan.

56. Correct Answer: D

Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Union Minister for Jal Shakti, launched the Unified Registration Portal for Galvanising organic bio-agro Resources Dhan (GOBARdhan), which will serve as a one-stop repository for assessing investment and participation in the Biogas/CBG sector at the pan-India level, as well as streamlining the process of establishing CBG/Biogas plants in India.

57. Correct Answer: D

1.39 crore people found new formal jobs in India in FY23, according to the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation's payroll reporting data analysis. The data also shows that 22 per cent of the new jobs — 30.28 lakh payroll additions — were in Maharashtra, across age groups and sectors.

58. Correct Answer: D

Allies Finland and Norway and Partner Sweden hosted the multinational Arctic Challenge Exercise from 29 May to 9 June 2023. While this was not a

NATO event, the alliance participated along with 14 different countries.

59. Correct Answer: B

Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited in partnership with Myntra has announced the launch of its first-of-its-kind co-branded digital fashion and lifestyle credit card. The card will be available across Myntra as well as Kotak mobile applications, the companies said.

60. Correct Answer: B

In the three-wrestler tournament, Manisha won gold and Reetika came in second place by taking full advantage of small-sized draws, while battle-tested Sarita Mor accepted a bronze medal as Indian women grapplers finished the UWW Ranking Series competition with three medals overall.

61. Correct Answer: D

The three-day meeting, which took place from June 31st to June 2nd, 2023, at the International Labour Organization (ILO) headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, witnessed active participation from delegates representing 78 G20 Members, Invitee Countries, Guest Countries, and International Organizations.

62. Correct Answer: C

The Times Higher Education Impact Rankings 2023 have been declared and Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Coimbatore has emerged as India's highest-placed university. The university is ranked at the 52nd rank globally out of 1,591 universities from 112 countries/regions.

63. Correct Answer: D

Australia's Western Sydney University has gained the top spot in the 2023 Times Higher Education Impact Rankings for the second consecutive year. The league table, now in its fifth year, measures and compares universities' performance against the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

64. Correct Answer: A

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has identified SBI Life Insurance Company as the acquirer-insurer of the business of the beleaguered Sahara India Life Insurance Co. (SILIC).

65. Correct Answer: C

RBL Bank has announced that it has introduced a new fixed deposit scheme – ACE Fixed Deposit. RBL Bank has also revised its fixed deposit interest rates effective from June 1, 2023.

66. Correct Answer: A

Karbon Card has launched a mobile-based expense management card for businesses and individuals wherein it offers its users uncapped cashback of upto 1%. In comparison to other prepaid instruments like UPI and debit cards, which do not offer any cashback, Card ++ differentiates itself by providing interesting cashback offers, incentivizing people for their spending.

67. Correct Answer: D

World Bicycle Day is celebrated every year on June 3. Bicycle ride is one of the most enjoyable activities which also helps us keep our body physically and mentally fit and disease free.

68. Correct Answer: D

President Droupadi Murmu, who was on a three-day visit to Suriname, was conferred with the highest civilian award of the country, the Grand Order of the Chain of the Yellow Star. President Murmu said she was “greatly honoured to receive Suriname’s highest distinction”.

69. Correct Answer: D

Kotak Private Banking, a division of Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited, has launched Kotak Réserve, a Savings Programme curated exclusively for UHNIs (Ultra High Net Worth Individuals) and HNIs (High Net Worth Individuals).

70. Correct Answer: A

Bank of Baroda announced the launch of Interoperable Cardless Cash Withdrawal (ICCW) facility using UPI on its ATMs. In May 2022, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has asked all banks to provide customers with the option of Interoperable Card-less Cash Withdrawal (ICCW) at their ATMs.

71. Correct Answer: A

Indian Navy divers and Marine Commandos are in the Maldives for the sixth edition of Exercise Ekatha with Maldives National Defence Force (MNDF) from 4th June to 3rd July. The annual exercise is conducted between the two forces to enhance interoperability in diving and special operations.

72. Correct Answer: C

Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with HDFC Bank Limited for providing financial solutions to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME). Under the MoU, SIDBI and HDFC Bank Limited would work together to provide complete financial product & services to the customers under MSMEs.

73. Correct Answer: B

HDFC Bank has introduced a new credit card — Millennia — offering cashback. The card comes with contactless technology allowing customers to ‘tap and pay’ via POS machine.

74. Correct Answer: B

An IIT-Madras-incubated space-tech startup, GalaxEye, is building the world’s first multi-sensor earth observation satellite with the help of a visible spectrum camera providing synchronised imaging that can take multiple images at the same time. The startup is going to launch its first satellite, ‘Drishti Mission’ next year.

75. Correct Answer: B

World Food Safety Day is observed on June 7 to draw attention and inspire actions to help prevent, detect,

and manage foodborne risks, contributing to food safety, human health, economic prosperity, agriculture, market access, tourism, and sustainable development.

76. Correct Answer: B

WCD minister Smriti Irani launched the Amrit Generation campaign, in association with the Meta, under which children in the age group of 16-18 will be invited from across the country to showcase their creativity and share their aspirations by creating reels on Instagram and Facebook.

77. Correct Answer: A

Bond issuances by banks may fall below Rs 90,000 crore in FY24 due to easing liquidity conditions, rating agency ICRA has said in a report. Banks issued a record Rs 1.1 trillion bonds in FY23.

78. Correct Answer: C

Jagdish Bakan, Wildlife Warden and District Forest Officer (DFO) of Ramanathapuram district, has won the 2023 Michel Batisse Award for Biosphere Reserve Management from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

79. Correct Answer: D

A private company will help train the recovery team of the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) for the upcoming Gaganyaan Mission. The firm, Tata Elxsi, has designed and developed a Crew Module Recovery Models (CMRM) to train the recovery team for the space mission.

80. Correct Answer: A

The National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) 2023 was released by Dr. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh, the Minister of State for Education and External Affairs. Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras retained its top position in the overall rankings.

81. Correct Answer: A

Navies of India, France and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) held the maiden trilateral maritime partnership exercise on June 7 and June 8 in the Gulf of Oman. Navy personnel from all three countries attended the exercise aimed at enhancing trilateral cooperation.

82. Correct Answer: A

Samco MF has launched an Active Momentum Fund, a first in India. It will be a thematic fund that aims to invest in stocks that are showing momentum characteristics using a proprietary momentum-seeking algorithm.

83. Correct Answer: A

The Federal Bank has launched a campaign to celebrate people and their culture by transforming an entire bank branch into a museum of local stories. The 'I am Adyar, Adyar is me' campaign has handpicked 40 compelling stories of individuals, which are showcased in an exclusive exhibition at the Adyar branch of Federal Bank.

84. Correct Answer: B

Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), New Delhi signed an MoU with Amazon Kisan to combine strengths and create synergy between the two organizations for guiding the farmers on scientific cultivation of different crops for optimum yield and income.

85. Correct Answer: A

China has recently finished constructing the world's most powerful wind tunnel in the mountainous Huairou district of northern Beijing. Known as JF-22, this wind tunnel has a diameter of 4 meters (13 feet) and is capable of generating extremely high airflow speeds of up to 10 kilometers (6.2 miles) per second.

86. Correct Answer: C

Novak Djokovic won the French Open for his 23rd Grand Slam singles title, breaking the men's record he shared with Rafael Nadal. Djokovic, a 36-year-old

from Serbia, beat Norwegian Casper Ruud 7-6 (1), 6-3, 7-5 in final at Roland Garros.

87. Correct Answer: A

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI), granted a certificate of registration to Go Digit Life Insurance Limited to commence the life insurance business. The number of total life insurers in India is now 26, with this one being the fourth registration granted last year.

88. Correct Answer: C

The Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) has picked Sanjay Swarup for the role of Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Container Corporation of India Ltd (CONCOR). Swarup was selected from a short list of eight candidates, six of whom were from CONCOR.

89. Correct Answer: C

Latvia's parliament has elected long-time Foreign Minister Edgars Rinkevics as the 11th President. Rinkevics will serve a four-year term as the new president and is expected to be sworn in on July 8.

90. Correct Answer: C

The Indian Junior Women's Hockey Team achieved a remarkable triumph in the Women's Junior Asia Cup 2023, which took place in Kakamigahara, Gifu Prefecture, Japan. They secured the championship title by defeating Korea in a captivating final match with a score of 2-1.

91. Correct Answer: D

The World Bank's Board of Executive Directors has approved a USD 148 million loan to support the Indian state of West Bengal in harnessing surface and ground water through better irrigation practices that will benefit people in rural areas.

92. Correct Answer: D

Government of India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) have signed a USD 130 million loan agreement to increase agricultural productivity,

improve access to irrigation and promote horticulture agribusinesses to raise farmers' income in Himachal Pradesh.

93. Correct Answer: C

Senior IAS officer Subodh Kumar Singh have been appointed director general of the National Testing Agency as part of a bureaucratic reshuffle effected by the Centre. Singh is currently additional secretary in the Department of Food and Public Distribution under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.

94. Correct Answer: C

Nitin Agarwal, a 1989-batch IPS officer of Kerala cadre has been appointed as the new director general of the Border Security Force (BSF), more than five months after the post fell vacant. Mr. Agarwal is currently posted as the Additional director general of operations at the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) headquarters in Delhi.

95. Correct Answer: D

According to lifestyle magazine Augustman, a 14-year-old boy named Kairan Quazi is about to graduate from college and work for SpaceX, making him the youngest graduate in the history of Santa Clara University. He is also said to be the youngest employee to work at Elon Musk's SpaceX.

96. Correct Answer: D

According to the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946 (Central Act XXV of 1946), the CBI must obtain prior consent from the state government before entering its territory to conduct investigations. Recently, Tamil Nadu became the tenth state to revoke its general approval for the CBI investigations.

97. Correct Answer: D

During the Raja festival in Odisha, the soil is revered. Three days are devoted to celebrating this celebration. The festival's first day is referred to as "Pahili Raja," the second as "Majhi Raja," the third as

"Bhudaha," and the fourth as either "Basi Raja" or "Sesha Raja. Notably, "Pahili Raja" and "Raja Sankranti," which mark the start of the rainy season, respectively, fall on the final day of the month "Jyestha" and the first day of the month "Asadha," respectively.

98. Correct Answer: C

Shaktikanta Das, governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), received the "Governor of the Year" honour at the 2023 Central Banking Awards. A worldwide publication for economic study is called Central Banking. The honour praised his leadership of the RBI in controlling inflation and running India's banking sector during crises like the COVID pandemic and world unrest.

99. Correct Answer: C

From German museums and colleges, 95 Indigenous New Zealanders' remains as well as antiques and cultural treasures have been brought back to New Zealand. Te Papa, New Zealand's national museum, received the ancestors of 95 Maori and Moriori people, including six toi moko, or mummified tattooed heads from the Maori culture.

100. Correct Answer: D

The 'Women 20 Summit' has started at Mahabalipuram, close to Chennai. 'Women-Led Development- Transform, Thrive and Transcend' is the summit's theme for this year. An exhibition, a Janbhagidari event, eight seminars, and a private meeting made up the summit. The Department of Rural Development of Tamil Nadu funded an exhibition of grassroots entrepreneurs from that state as part of the summit.

101. Correct Answer: D

The Indian Navy conducted an outreach programme at Ladakh named "Julley Ladakh" (Hello Ladakh), to awareness about the Indian Navy in Ladakh. The programme included a 5000km Motorcycle Expedition. The core objectives of the programme

are to Celebrate Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, Conduct Awareness drives at Schools/ Colleges about career opportunities in Indian Navy and to showcase Nari Shakti in the region.

102. Correct Answer: D

The Department of Science and Technology (DST), Ministry of Science and Technology has launched Vaishvik Bhartiya Vaigyanik (VAIBHAV) fellowships programme. The programme aims to connect the Indian STEM diaspora (Science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and medicine) with Indian academic and R&D institutions for collaborative research. The fellowship would be awarded to outstanding scientist/technologists of Indian origin (NRI/OCI/PIO) who are engaged in research activities in their respective countries.

103. Correct Answer: C

The National Time Release Study (TRS) Report 2023 is released by Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC). Time Release Study (TRS) is a performance measurement tool which aims to present quantitative measure of the cargo release time (i.e) the time taken from arrival of the cargo at the Customs station to its out of charge for domestic clearance in case of imports and arrival of the cargo at the Customs station to the eventual departure of the carrier in case of exports.

104. Correct Answer: C

The European Green Deal, initiated in 2019, consists of a collection of policy initiatives aimed at guiding the European Union (EU) towards achieving climate neutrality by the year 2050. Its current mandate is for the region to achieve climate neutrality by the middle of this century. The European Parliament's environment committee voted 44-44 on an amendment tabled by the European People's Party to reject the Nature Restoration Law.

105. Correct Answer: D

A report titled “Detox Development: Repurposing Environmentally Harmful Subsidies” was released recently by the World Bank. According to this report, large amounts of money are wasted on subsidies for agriculture, fishing, and fossil fuels, which could be utilized to tackle climate change and benefit humanity and the environment, rather than causing harm.

106. Correct Answer: D

The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Government of India joined the worldwide celebrations of 15th June as Global Wind Day. Rajasthan was felicitated for achieving the highest wind capacity addition, Gujarat for achieving the highest wind capacity addition through open access and Tamil Nadu for initiating repowering of wind turbines. The event also witnessed the launch of Wind Atlas at 150 meter above ground level, prepared by National Institute of Wind Energy (NIWE).

107. Correct Answer: D

The 1 MW Rooftop Solar Power Project was commissioned recently by the NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam Limited at IIT Jodhpur. This project is expected to meet 15 percent of the electricity requirements of the institution. NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam Limited (NVVN) is a wholly owned subsidiary of NTPC. The rooftop project will generate around 14.9 Lakhs units per annum.

108. Correct Answer: C

The Congress government in Karnataka has announced the repeal of the State’s Protection of Right to Freedom of Religion Act, 2022, which is popularly known as the anti-conversion law. The State Cabinet also decided to reverse the changes made to Kannada and Social Studies school textbooks last year, including lessons on Hindutva ideologues.

109. Correct Answer: C

During a special meeting of the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library Society, a decision was made to modify its name to the Prime Ministers’ Museum and Library Society. The meeting was chaired by Rajnath Singh, the Union Defence Minister and Vice-President of the Society.

110. Correct Answer: D

The Dugdh Sankalan Sathi Mobile App was launched recently by the Union Minister of Heavy Industries Dr.Mahendra Nath Pandey in Mussorie, Uttarakhand. The app was developed by Rajasthan Electronics & Instruments Limited (REIL), a Mini Ratna Central Public Sector Enterprise under the Ministry of Heavy Industries. This mobile app aims to improve the quality of milk, foster transparency among stakeholders, and streamline operations at the grassroots village level, including milk cooperative societies.

111. Correct Answer: D

The Google introduced the Indian Languages Programme with the goal of offering training, assistance, and financial aid to small news publishers in India who work in eight local languages apart from English. The Indian Languages Programme seeks to support news publishers in English, Hindi, Kannada, Tamil, Telugu, Bengali, Malayalam, Gujarati, and Marathi through training, technical support, and funding.

112. Correct Answer: D

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has imposed restrictions on online bond platform providers, prohibiting them from offering products other than listed debt securities. However, SEBI has allowed these platforms to offer specific securities such as Government Securities, Treasury Bills, listed Sovereign Gold Bonds, listed municipal debt securities, and listed securitized debt instruments.

113. Correct Answer: C

Gita Press, Gorakhpur recently received the Gandhi Peace Prize 2021. It is the largest publisher of Hindu religious texts. Gandhi Peace Prize is an annual award instituted by Government of India in 1995, on 125th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi as a tribute to the ideals advocated by Mahatma Gandhi. It is open to all persons regardless of nationality, race, language, caste, creed or gender.

114. Correct Answer: C

The government has formed an expert panel, headed by former law secretary T K Vishwanathan, to establish India as a global center for international arbitration and alleviate the strain on courts. The panel will propose reforms to the Arbitration and Conciliation Act. The committee, consisting of Attorney General N Venkataramani, has been established by the Department of Legal Affairs of the Union Law Ministry.

115. Correct Answer: D

India's Defence and security authorities have recently made the decision to implement uniform annual confidential reports for senior officers across all branches of the armed forces. This decision aligns closely with the government's strategy for the theaterisation process, which seeks to foster greater collaboration and coordination among the three branches of the military.

116. Correct Answer: D

Epiphytes grow on another plant/tree merely for physical support, drawing moisture and nutrients from the air, rain, water or from debris accumulating around it, and not from the host. The survival of epiphytic orchids in the Dooars and Darjeeling hills are threatened due to deforestation. They are known for their medicinal properties.

117. Correct Answer: D

The iGOT Karmayogi Platform has recently launched a compilation called DAKSHTA (Development of Attitude, Knowledge, Skill for Holistic

Transformation in Administration) for Young Professionals. Its primary goal is to enhance the learners' functional, domain-specific, and behavioral abilities by providing essential knowledge on subjects that are vital for effectively fulfilling their duties and responsibilities.

118. Correct Answer: C

The world's first international treaty to protect the high seas was adopted by the UN on June 19. It will help protect remote ecosystems that are critical for the survival of humanity. The treaty, known as the treaty on "Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction" (BBNJ), also introduces requirements to carry out environmental impact studies for proposed activities to be carried out in international waters.

119. Correct Answer: C

National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI) celebrated its 20th foundation day on 19th June this year. NIXI has made remarkable efforts to establish a strong and all-encompassing digital environment in the nation through its various business divisions, which include Internet Exchange, .IN Registry, IRINN, and NIXI-CSC Data Services Ltd.

120. Correct Answer: D

Ex Khaan Quest 2023 is a multilateral peacekeeping joint exercise that is currently being held in Mongolia. It involved the participation of military contingents and observers from around 20 countries. President of Mongolia inaugurated the Exercise, which is co-sponsored by Mongolian Armed Forces (MAF) and United States Army Pacific Command (USARPAC).

121. Correct Answer: D

The Reserve Bank of India has prepared a 10-point action plan for strengthening cyber security in financial transactions. This includes talks with tech companies Google and Apple to secure mobile devices and adoption of artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) in cyber security design.

122. Correct Answer: D

Ireland announced the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant scheme recently for those who own a desolate house in one of its 20 islands on the western coast. It offers a maximum of USD 92,000 to those people who want to develop and refurbish vacant and derelict homes and live in one of its 20 islands on the western coast. The scheme is part of a 10-year strategy for islanders.

123. Correct Answer: C

India recently gifted indigenously-built in-service Missile Corvette INS Kirpan to Vietnam. Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh announced after bilateral talks with his visiting Vietnamese counterpart General Phan Van Gang.

124. Correct Answer: C

A Mesolithic period rock painting depicting a person tilling a piece of land has been found in Orvakallu village in Guntur, Andhra Pradesh. While surveying the lower River Krishna Valley to ascertain the architectural features of shrines, researchers identified a new prehistoric rock painting on the walls and ceiling of natural rock shelters on a hillock at Orvakallu.

125. Correct Answer: D

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) recommended adding a section in the Indian Telecommunication Bill, 2022, to promote, protect and prioritise submarine cables and cable landing stations (CLS) since they are critical assets. It also suggested that the operation and maintenance of CLS and submarine cables should be accorded 'essential services' status.

126. Correct Answer: D

National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) has constituted an 11-member Cheetah Project Steering Committee. Rajesh Bansal, the Secretary General of Global Tiger Forum, has been appointed as its

Chairman, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change said in a statement.

127. Correct Answer: D

The Reserve Bank of India has conceptualized a lightweight payment and settlements system that operates independently of conventional technologies, ensuring uninterrupted transactions in extreme situations. It can be operated from anywhere is minimum staff during times of war or natural calamities.

128. Correct Answer: C

Israel-1 is an Israeli supercomputer that is set to be built by Nvidia. It will be partly operational by the end of this year. The system is expected to deliver performance of up to eight exaflops of AI computing that will essentially make it one of the world's fastest AI supercomputers.

129. Correct Answer: C

Acinetobacter baumannii, the multidrug-resistant bacteria, is a red alert pathogen notorious for its ability to resist many antibiotics. Researchers have used machine-learning to identify a potential new antibiotic named Abaucin, against a challenging species of disease-causing bacteria

130. Correct Answer: D

The Indian Navy and the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) have released the Gaganyaan Recovery Training Plan at INS Garuda in Kochi. It provides a training plan for recovery of the Crew Module of the Gaganyaan Mission. The Crew Module Recovery Model was also formally handed over to the Indian Navy.

131. Correct Answer: D

To commemorate the International Yoga Day 2023, the Ministry of AYUSH has organized a special event called the 'Ocean Ring of Yoga' to symbolize unity and solidarity. As part of this initiative, Indian Navy ships stationed in the Indian Ocean Region are visiting different ports of friendly foreign nations to

promote the message of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam,' which is also the theme for IDY 23.

132. Correct Answer: D

The Ministry of Women and Child Development had announced the consolidation of the existing child helpline (1098), operated by Childline, with the women's helpline and Emergency Response Support System (112), as part of its "One Nation, One Helpline" initiative. Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Ladakh, Puducherry, Goa, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, Mizoram, Gujarat, and Bihar are set to launch the integrated child helpline service by the end of this month, making it the first of its kind in India.

133. Correct Answer: C

India and the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) have entered into a partnership agreement to strengthen collaboration and identify common areas of interest. It was signed in the backdrop of G20 Tourism Ministers meeting at Goa. The MoU will see both parties collaborate on key areas related to tourism market intelligence, tourism, and rural development, tourism investment, education, and innovation.

134. Correct Answer: C

The Global Food Policy Report (GFPR) 2023 was released recently by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI). According to this report, the combination of three significant challenges—the Covid-19 pandemic, the ongoing conflict between Ukraine and Russia, and frequent occurrences of natural disasters—has heightened the vulnerability of the food security system in South Asia.

135. Correct Answer: D

'Operation Kawach' has been launched to crack down the menace of drugs in the national capital. Under this operation, the Delhi Police apprehended a total of 776 individuals involved in drug offenses. These arrests were made in connection with 615

cases related to the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act (NDPS). The police have successfully seized approximately 36 kilograms of heroin so far.

136. Correct Answer: D

The Odisha Cabinet, led by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, has given approval for an increased budget of Rs. 4224.22 Crore for the ABADHA Scheme. ABADHA stands for 'Augmentation Basic Amenities and Development of Heritage and Architecture'. The scheme aims to transform Puri into a world-class heritage city, focusing on preserving and rejuvenating its cultural and architectural heritage.

137. Correct Answer: D

The Delhi Government is set to implement the Non-Conforming Industrial Area Redevelopment Project. It will transform all 26 Non-Conforming Industrial Areas into recognised Conforming Industrial Areas. The government would bear 90 percent of the cost to convert all 26 non-conforming industrial areas in the city into conforming industrial areas. The remaining 10 percent of the cost will be contributed by the industries themselves.

138. Correct Answer: C

The Livestock and Livestock Products (Importation and Exportation) Bill, 2023 has been withdrawn recently by the Central Government. The proposed Bill seeks to establish regulations regarding the import and export of animals, encompassing domestic pets such as dogs and cats. Additionally, it suggests categorizing livestock as a tradable "commodity."

139. Correct Answer: C

The Gender Gap Report, 2023 was released recently by the World Economic Forum. India stood at 127th position out of 146 countries in terms of gender parity. The country had improved by 1.4 percentage points from 2022 figures, marking a partial recovery towards its 2020 parity level.

140. Correct Answer: D

Goa Declaration has been adopted unanimously at the G20 Tourism Ministerial meet. This marked the success of the 4th tourism working group meeting. Over 130 delegates from the G20 countries and the guest countries attended the G20 Tourism Ministerial meet in Goa.

141. Correct Answer: D

The IS 18267: 2023 “Food Serving Utensils Made from Agri By-Products – Specification” has been released by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) to address plastic pollution and encourage sustainable practices. This standard offers detailed instructions to manufacturers and consumers, promoting consistent quality standards throughout the nation.

142. Correct Answer: D

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) recently released a consultation paper on “Encouraging Innovative Technologies, Services, Use Cases, and Business Models through Regulatory Sandbox in Digital Communication Sector”. TRAI’s consultation paper explores the potential implementation of a regulatory sandbox within the realm of digital communications.

143. Correct Answer: C

Victor 6000 is a French robot that was involved in rescue operation of the Titan submersible. It is capable of diving up to 20,000 feet (6,000 metres) underwater. The crew of the Titan submersible lost contact with its surface vessel – the Polar Prince – an hour and 45 minutes after it began a dive to see the wreck. French research vessel L’Atalante, was carrying the Victor 6000 remotely operated vehicle (ROV).

144. Correct Answer: C

Prime Minister Narendra Modi presented a unique gift upon US President Joe Biden and First Lady Jill Biden. It was produced by a lab based in Surat, Gujarat. The lab-grown 7.5-carat green diamond possesses similar chemical and optical

characteristics as naturally mined diamonds from the Earth. The diamond is eco-friendly as resources like solar and wind power were used in its making. It has emitted only 0.028 grams of carbon per carat, and is certified by the Gemological Lab, International Gemological Institute.

145. Correct Answer: D

The PM-Kisan Mobile App with Face Authentication Feature was launched by the Union Agriculture Minister to facilitate e-KYC for farmers under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi scheme. The app allows farmers to complete the process remotely by scanning their face, without the need for OTP or fingerprint, and has now been extended to state government officers to help 500 farmers with e-KYC.

146. Correct Answer: D

Scientists at the Institute of Advanced Study in Science and Technology conducted research on the nutraceutical properties of Joha rice, an aromatic rice grown in the Northeastern region of India, especially Assam. They found that Joha rice is effective in reducing blood glucose levels and preventing the onset of diabetes, making it a promising choice for managing diabetes.

147. Correct Answer: D

Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited the Heliopolis War Cemetery in Cairo, Egypt, to honor the memory of around 4,000 Indian soldiers who fought in World War 1 in Egypt and Palestine. The Heliopolis (Port Tewfik) Memorial is part of the larger Heliopolis Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery. The cemetery also pays tribute to 1,700 Commonwealth soldiers who lost their lives in World War 2.

148. Correct Answer: C

The establishment of the Minerals Security Partnership (MSP), led by the United States, aims to fast-track the global development of resilient and eco-friendly supply chains for crucial energy

minerals. India recently became its member alongside 12 other partner countries and the European Union.

149. Correct Answer: C

Archaeologists have unearthed a 4,000-year-old sanctuary in the central Netherlands, composed of ditches and burial mounds, believed to have had a similar purpose to Stonehenge. The large sanctuary, equivalent to at least three soccer fields in size, was constructed with soil and wood and aligned with the sun during the solstices.

150. Correct Answer: D

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry's Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) has made the export policy for civilian drones/UAVs from India simpler and more liberalized, aligning with the focus of India's Foreign Trade Policy 2023. This decision aims to promote the export of domestically manufactured drones/UAVs for civilian purposes while considering India's international commitments regarding non-proliferation.



SECTION 3

Detailed Analysis of Important Events

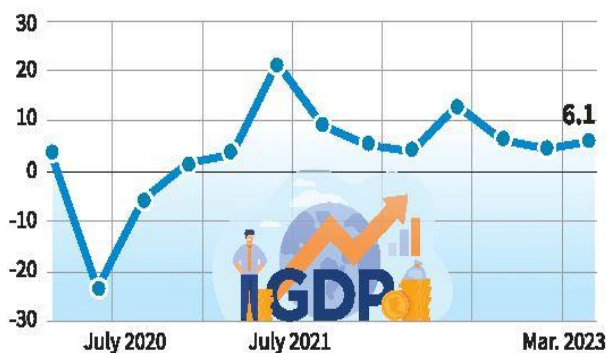


Economics

India's GDP expanded 6.1% in 2022-23's last quarter

Slow expansion

India's quarterly gross domestic product growth accelerated to 6.1% in the first three months of 2023, from 4.5% in the preceding quarter, while yearly economic growth for 2022-23 was 7.2%, compared with 9.1% in 2021-22, according to data released by the National Statistical Office



The National Statistical Office (NSO) has released provisional national income data revealing that India's GDP growth in the January to March 2023 quarter reached 6.1%. This growth in the fourth quarter is the fastest among major economies, indicating better prospects for the current year compared to previous expectations.

Key Highlights

(1) Manufacturing Sector Growth Slows, Despite Q4 Rebound

- In 2022–2023, the economy's Gross Value Added (GVA) increased by 7% as opposed to 8.8% in the prior fiscal year.
- Growth in manufacturing GVA was only 1.3%, a sharp fall from 11.1% a year earlier.
- After six months of contraction, the sector recorded a 4.5% return in the last quarter, but overall growth remained muted.

(2) Agri and Services Sectors Propel Economic Growth

- In 2022–2023, the agricultural GVA increased by 4%, up from 3.5% the year before.
- GVA increased by 7.1% in the financial, real estate, and professional services sectors, as opposed to 4.7% in 2021–22.
- The GVA of the sectors associated to commerce, lodging, transportation, communication, and broadcasting only slightly increased (14%).

(3) Revised GDP and GVA Figures Reflect Changes in Economic Performance

- For the first half of 2022–2023, the NSO amended the GDP and GVA estimates, which resulted in modest losses; however, the third-quarter results showed a slight increase.
- GDP growth for 2022–2023 is now predicted to increase by 13.1% in the first quarter, 6.2% in the second, and 4.5% in the third.
- The first and second quarter GVA growth projections were updated to 11.9% and 5.4%, respectively, while the third quarter GVA growth increased to 4.7% from the original projection of 4.6%.

(4) Consumer Sentiment and Consumption Growth

- Consumption growth remained subdued despite a small increase in private final consumption spending to 2.8% in Q4 from 2.2% in Q3.
- This demonstrated the disconnect between consumer sentiment and actual spending, which was in contrast to the improvement in consumer mood reported by the RBI's consumer confidence survey.

(5) Outlook and Challenges for Future Growth

- According to analysts, it will be difficult to keep growth above 6% in the face of a slowing global economy.
- The government and central bank have forecast growth of about 6.5% for the current year, but higher-than-expected GDP growth in the prior year may temper expectations.

- Pent-up demand that previously sustained growth may not be as strong, and since exports are not anticipated to significantly contribute to growth, private sector investment needs to speed up.

Conclusion

- Focus on encouraging private sector investment to supplement the performance of the agriculture and services sectors in order to sustain and improve economic growth.
- Increased consumption and overall economic growth can result from addressing the issues facing the manufacturing sector and fostering consumer confidence.
- To contribute to future growth and lessen reliance on domestic consumption, efforts to diversify and increase exports should be given top priority.

Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) reaches 31-month high

Manufacturing momentum

Manufacturing PMI surged to a 31-month high of 58.7 in May as factory orders rose at the fastest clip since January 2021



- Producers accumulated inputs at an unprecedented pace thanks to lower costs, the survey showed
- Order books grew for the 23rd consecutive month, bolstered by export deals clocking the swiftest rise in six months
- Producers raised selling prices at a rate that was the highest in a year

Surge in PMI to 31-month high: The S&P Global India Manufacturing PMI soared to 58.7 in May, the highest level in 31 months.

Service Sector

The service sector, also known as the tertiary sector, includes a wide range of economic activities that are

focused on providing intangible goods and services to customers.

Some examples of activities that fall under the service sector include:

1. Hotels, restaurants, travel agencies, and tour operators are all part of the hospitality and tourist industry.
2. Businesses that acquire and sell products are included in the retail and wholesale trade, including supermarkets, department shops, and internet merchants.
3. Banks, insurance providers, and investment organizations all provide financial services.
4. Professional and business services: This category includes activities like accountancy, consulting, advertising, and legal services.
5. Software creation, telecommunications, and data processing are examples of activities that fall within the category of information and communication technology.
6. Hospitals, clinics, nursing homes, and social services are all included under the category of healthcare and social aid.
7. Schools, colleges, universities, and vocational training are all part of education and training.
8. Shipping, warehousing, and distribution are included in the category of transportation and logistics.

Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI)

- A measure of business activity in both the manufacturing and service sectors is the PMI.
- S&P Global compiles the India Services PMI based on responses to questionnaires distributed to a panel of about 400 service-related businesses.
- It is a survey-based measurement that inquires about changes in respondents' perceptions of various important business variables from the previous month.

- A composite index is created after it is individually calculated for the manufacturing and services sectors.

How is the PMI derived?

- From a series of qualitative inquiries, the PMI is derived.
- When asked if important metrics like output, new orders, company expectations, and employment were stronger than the previous month, executives from a sizable sample of hundreds of companies are asked to score these metrics.

How does one read the PMI?

- A number over 50 indicates more commercial activity. Any number under 50 indicates contraction.
- The expansion or contraction is inversely correlated with the distance from this midpoint. The PMI can also be compared to data from the prior month to determine the rate of expansion.
- The economy is growing more quickly if the number is higher than it was the prior month. It is growing more slowly if it is lower than it was the prior month.

Key insights of recent trend

- Fastest increase in factory orders since January 2021: Factory orders increased at a faster rate than expected.
- Inputs were accumulated at an unprecedented rate by producers as a result of decreasing costs.
- Operating circumstances have significantly improved, as seen by the indicator, which has increased significantly from 57.2 in April.
- Strong growth in order books and exports: Export deals helped to drive order book growth for the 23rd straight month.
- Maximum output in 28 months: The maximum output in 28 months was attained.
- Firms hired more people, reaching a six-month high, as a result of capacity constraints.

Reasons behind this rise

- Increase in selling prices: May saw producers raise selling prices at the fastest and steadiest rate in a year.
- Mild input costs but altered charges: Despite historically low input costs, companies had to raise their prices because of ongoing cost growth and a favorable market environment.
- Increased business optimism: Business optimism for growth increased and reached a five-month high.
- Public confidence in the economy: The upbeat view was influenced by factors including publicity and the persistence of demand.

RBI issues draft on Cybersafety for PSOs

The Reserve Bank of India has released the draft Master Directions on Cyber Resilience and Digital Payment Security Controls for Payment System Operators (PSOs).

What are Payment System Operators (PSOs)?

- An organization in charge of running a payment system is known as a payment system operator.
- The PSO uses certain operating models to deliver services.
- They generally delegate their payment and settlement-related tasks to different other organizations.
- PSOs include things like Google Pay (and other apps), the Clearing Corporation of India, the

National Payments Corporation of India, cards payment networks, cross-border money transfers, ATM networks, prepaid payment instruments, white label ATM operators, instant money transfers, trade receivables discounting systems, and the Bharat Bill Payment System, among others.

Key points from the draft**(1) Governance Mechanisms:**

- The document highlights the need for strong governance structures to efficiently handle cybersecurity threats.
- It addresses risks and vulnerabilities related to information security that PSOs should take care of.
- PSOs are required to create and keep up a thorough cybersecurity framework.

(2) Baseline Security Measures:

- The document outlines the minimum security measures that PSOs must use.
- These precautions are made to guard against cybersecurity risks against digital payment systems.
- PSOs are required to put in place controls for business continuity planning, access controls, and data security.

(3) Resilience to Cybersecurity Risks:

- The guidelines are designed to make PSOs resilient to threats from both established and newly developed information systems and cybersecurity threats.
- Periodic risk assessments must be conducted by PSOs, and the right controls must be put in place to reduce identified risks.
- The proposal places a strong emphasis on the value of ongoing cybersecurity measure monitoring and review.

(4) Safeguarding Digital Payment Transactions:

- The goal of the guidelines is to make digital payment transactions more secure.
- Strong authentication systems, encryption standards, and secure communication protocols must all be implemented by PSOs.
- The document emphasizes the necessity of effective fraud monitoring and reporting systems.

Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS)

Collaboration between the European Space Agency (ESA), Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS), and Marple (an AI company) aims to track cotton certification in India. Utilizing satellite images and artificial intelligence, the project focuses on identifying and classifying cotton fields in India.

What is GOTS?

- A widely accepted standard for the manufacture and processing of organic textiles is the Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS).
- It is a top certification for cotton and other organic fibers along the entire supply chain, from the collection of raw materials to the labeling of the finished product.
- GOTS provides consumers with trustworthy assurance by ensuring that organic textiles adhere to high environmental and social standards.

Key aspects of GOTS include:

1. **Organic Fiber Criteria:** According to GOTS, a textile product's fibers must be at least 95% certified organic. It limits the use of some synthetic chemicals and forbids the use of genetically modified organisms (GMOs).
2. **Environmental Standards:** For the production of organic textiles, GOTS establishes stringent environmental standards. It contains recommendations for energy use, chemical inputs, and wastewater treatment, increasing sustainability and reducing the negative effects on the environment.
3. **Social Criteria:** GOTS includes social criteria as well, guaranteeing that workers have fair and secure working conditions throughout the supply chain. In addition to preventing forced labor and adhering to International Labor Organization (ILO) standards, it also includes protections for employees' rights.
4. **Supply Chain Traceability:** GOTS demands complete supply chain traceability, from the origin of the organic fibers to the finished product. As a result, the entire production process is transparent and honest.
5. **Labeling and Certification:** GOTS-certified items are labeled appropriately, enabling customers to confidently recognize and select organic textiles. Independent third-party organizations that evaluate conformity with GOTS criteria perform certification.

- Farming methods that respect the environment and are traditional will be promoted.

Kerala Fibre Optical Network (KFON)



Why in news?

The Kerala government officially launched KFON, a flagship project aimed at reducing the digital divide and promoting e-governance. KFON intends to provide high-speed broadband internet access to all households and government offices in Kerala.

What is KFON?

- In Kerala, KFON serves as a provider of the 30,000 km and 375 Points-of-Presence optical fiber cable network infrastructure.
- All service providers, including cable operators, have access to KFON's infrastructure, which benefits both government agencies and individual beneficiaries.
- Internet access for homes is provided by regional ISPs, TSPs, and cable TV companies.

Spread and Speed of KFON

What is the new program about?

- With the help of an ESA program, AI models will be trained to examine ESA satellite data and locate cotton farms in India.
- The initiative will support GOTS in developing precise yield estimates for organic cotton and incorporating yield metrics.
- The project attempts to identify cotton fields that match certain criteria and aid in a smooth transition to organic farming.

- KFON's initial phase intends to connect 14,000 BPL (Below Poverty Line) families and 30,000 government offices in Kerala.
- Internet and mobile connectivity: KFON promises internet rates between 10 Mbps and 10 Gbps, which could enhance the quality of mobile calls.
- By June 5th, 17,412 government buildings and 2,105 homes had been connected, and 9,000 homes had cable networks installed.

Purpose: Empowering the Poor

- Internet Access for BPL Families: KFON wants to offer 20 lakh families living in poverty free access to the internet.
- Implementation of Phase 1: With a long-term goal of choosing 100 BPL families in each assembly constituency for high-speed internet access, the first phase targets 14,000 BPL families.

Need for KFON

- The CPI(M) government has highlighted KFON as an example of the Left's alternative model of development and dedication to the public sector.
- KFON addresses the limited infrastructure and bandwidth offered by private telecom carriers in rural areas, which constitute a problem for rural connectivity.
- Improved Service Delivery: The KFON was created to guarantee effective service delivery, as well as quality, dependability, interoperability, and security.

Services Provided

- Core Network Infrastructure: KFON aspires to connect government agencies and educational institutions with an information highway that is open to anyone.
- Range of Services: KFON provides connectivity to government buildings as well as IPTV, OTT, cloud

hosting, dark fiber leasing, internet leased lines, fiber to the home, and wifi hotspots.

- Licenses and Facilities: KFON has Internet Service Provider (category B) and Infrastructure Provider (category 1) licenses, granting access to the infrastructure of the optic fiber network.

Subansiri Lower Hydroelectric Project (SLHEP)



NHPC Limited, a government of India enterprise, will begin trial runs for the Project in July. After a delay of 20 years, India is finally approaching the launch of India's largest hydropower project which is crucial for the region's energy transition.

About Subansiri Lower Hydroelectric Project (SLHEP)

- On the Subansiri River, there is a concrete gravity dam that is 116 meters high above riverbed level.
- Location: In the Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh, the dam is situated about 2.3 kilometers upstream of the Subansiri River.
- Accessibility: The project is situated on the Assam-Arunachal Pradesh border, close to North Lakhimpur. Nagaon is the closest railhead, and Lilabari/Dibrugarh is the closest airport.
- Run-of-the-river project: According to NHPC Limited, the project developer, the SLHEP is a run-of-the-river project because it was created with the intention of preserving the river's natural flow.

- Power generation capacity: When finished, the SLHEP is anticipated to have a 2,000 MW capacity for power production, making it one of India's largest hydroelectric projects.

Construction challenges

- Natural hindrances: During construction, the project encountered a number of difficulties, including landslide-related problems, the necessity to rethink some elements, and opposition from numerous parties.
- Originally planned to be finished in 2018, the project has encountered delays, which has contributed to its ongoing construction status.
- Clearance from NGT: On July 31, 2019, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) granted the SLHEP clearance, allowing the main dam building project to resume on October 15, 2019.
- Construction progress: As of the beginning of 2019, the SLHEP and other significant dam projects in the Assam region, like the Dibang

Dam, had encountered difficulties and were not moving forward as anticipated.

Benefits offered

- Cascade development and flood control: It is anticipated that this will both promote general growth in the area and moderate floods in the Subansiri River, which will be good for the local economy.
- Hydropower boost: As the production of solar and wind energy rises, hydropower is becoming increasingly important in maintaining the stability of the electrical grid.

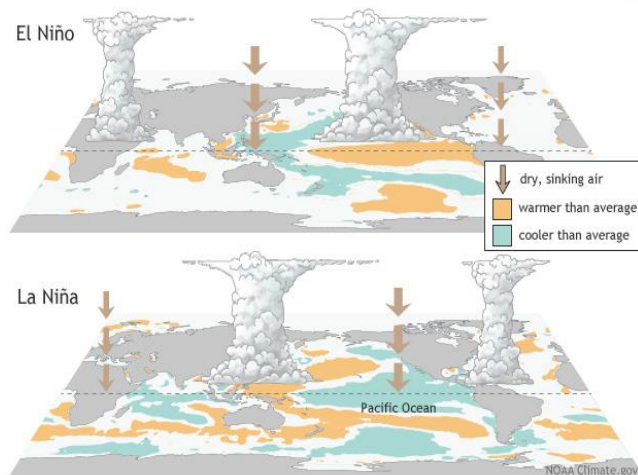
Strategic Location

- Its proximity to the China-India border increases its strategic significance.
- The project, which is in Arunachal Pradesh and is bordered by China, is significant from a geopolitical standpoint.

Environment & Diversity

What is El Niño and How it impacts the Monsoon?

Understanding El Niño and La Niña



- El Niño and La Niña are two opposite phases of the El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) cycle.
- ENSO is a naturally occurring phenomenon that involves the interaction between the ocean and atmosphere in the equatorial Pacific.

El Niño and Indian Monsoon

- El Niño and the Indian Monsoon: El Niño is the name given to the unusual warming of surface waters in the equatorial Pacific Ocean, which tends to reduce India's monsoon rainfall.
- El Niño's phases Southern Oscillation (ENSO): ENSO is a three-phase phenomenon that affects the Pacific Ocean. El Niño, La Niña (excessive cooling), and a neutral phase with sea surface temperatures that are close to long-term averages are the three phases that make up ENSO.

Any discussion on Indian monsoon delay these days invariably has references to the El Niño phenomenon. This year's monsoon is also progressing under the cloud of an El Niño in the Pacific Ocean.

- Conditions of the ocean and the atmosphere: ENSO includes not only variations in sea surface temperatures but also variations in air pressure at sea level, wind speed, and wind direction.
- The Southern Oscillation Index (SOI) quantifies the difference in sea-level air pressure over the western and eastern sides of the Pacific Ocean, while ENSO is greatly influenced by wind patterns.

Factors triggering El Nino

- Declining trade winds: By limiting the circulation of warm surface waters, when the trade winds in the tropical Pacific decline, it helps to cause El Nino.
- Ocean current changes: Since ocean current changes have an impact on how warm water is

distributed and accumulates in the central and eastern Pacific, they have the potential to cause El Nino episodes.

- Variations in atmospheric pressure: These shifts in pressure patterns prevent the trade winds' usual circulation from occurring, which can lead to the development of El Nino conditions.
- Oceanic Kelvin waves have an impact on El Nino episodes because of their presence and behavior. Oceanic Kelvin waves are large-scale waves that move warm water eastward.
- Connections and interactions with other climate phenomena, such as the Madden-Julian Oscillation and the Indian Ocean Dipole, which can affect the oceanic and atmospheric conditions in the Pacific region, can have an impact on El Nino.

Governance

Mandatory Anti-Tobacco Warnings on OTT Platforms

New requirements for Anti-Tobacco Warnings



Over-the-top (OTT) streaming platforms must display anti-tobacco warnings similar to those seen in movies screened in theatres and on TV. The requirement is based on a Union Health Ministry notification that amends the rules under the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA), 2004.

- Publishers of curated online content that features tobacco goods or tobacco usage are required to provide anti-tobacco health messages at the start and halfway of the program.
- An anti-tobacco health warning must be clearly shown as a static message at the bottom of the screen whenever tobacco products or their usage are mentioned in the program.
- Black typeface on a white backdrop is required for legibility and readability of the warning message.
- The specific cautions are "Tobacco kills" or "Tobacco causes cancer."
- Health announcements, cautions, and audio-visual disclaimers ought to use the same language as the program.

Negative health impacts of tobacco

- Cancer: The primary avoidable cause of cancer is tobacco smoking. It can result in cancer of the

cervix, bladder, kidney, larynx, mouth, throat, and pancreas.

- Diseases of the respiratory system: It may result in chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), which includes emphysema and chronic bronchitis. It may exacerbate asthmatic symptoms.
- Coronary heart disease, stroke, and other cardiovascular disorders are all made more likely by consumption. Blood clot risk goes up and blood vessel damage occurs.
- Health of the reproductive system: Smoking can cause infertility, early birth, and low birth weight in newborns.

Socio-economic impact

(1) On an individual level:

- Reduced productivity: Smoking-related ailments can lead to missed work days, poor job output, and higher medical costs.
- Reduced life expectancy: Smoking can cause a reduction in life expectancy, which lessens an individual's total number of productive years.

(2) On a societal level:

- Cost of healthcare: Smoking can have a negative impact on economic growth since it increases the burden of healthcare expenses and lowers productivity.
- Increased societal spending: A World Health Organization (WHO) research found that tobacco-related ailments cost India \$22.4 billion a year in healthcare costs and lost productivity.

Why tobacco isn't completely banned?

- Money loss: The sector provides the government with a considerable quantity of tax money. These tax earnings, which are used for many public welfare programs and projects, would be lost if tobacco were banned.
- Economic Impact: A considerable number of people are employed by the tobacco industry,

particularly in the agricultural sector where tobacco production is common.

- Not a drug that causes psychosis: Although the negative consequences of cigarettes are well known, it takes extensive thought and legal procedures to completely outlaw a lawful commodity.
- The Indian government has chosen a regulatory approach to regulating tobacco usage rather than a total prohibition.


Way forward

- Tobacco control legislation should be strengthened by reviewing and improving current regulations.
- Launch initiatives to raise public awareness: Inform the general audience of the dangers of tobacco smoking and the advantages of quitting.
- increasing access to programs for quitting smoking Increase the number of programs that are accessible, inexpensive, and supportive of tobacco-free lifestyles.
- Implement tobacco product sin taxes: Taxes should be raised to reduce consumption, especially among populations that are price sensitive.
- Promote smoke-free spaces: Smoke-free regulations must be strictly enforced in public areas, workplaces, and on public transportation.
- Assistance to tobacco farmers Give farmers who are moving away from tobacco production aid and opportunities for alternate livelihoods.
- Carry out surveillance and research Spend money gathering and analyzing data to inform treatments and policies that are supported by the evidence.
- Join forces with global organizations: To take advantage of knowledge and resources in tobacco control, collaborate with international organizations like WHO.

National Exit Test (NExT) for Medical Grads


NEXt

- The National Exit Test will be held for final year MBBS students from 2023
- It will replace final year undergraduate examination, the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (PG)
- It will be the basis for admission to postgraduate specialty courses
- Students who clear the exam will be granted licence to practice modern medicine and will be eligible for enrolment in the state or national medical register
- Mock run planned for 2022



APPREHENSIONS

- Move may prove detrimental to state's efforts to have more doctors available, especially in rural areas
- MBBS finals are held twice a year but NeXT will be held only once
- NeXT marks are valid only for three years. After expiry of validity, aspirant will have to take the test again to be eligible for admission to PG medical courses



The NEXt examination, a common qualifying criterion for final-year undergraduate medical students will be introduced in the year 2024.

National Exit Test (NEXt)

- **Objective:** The examination aims to bring uniformity in evaluation across the country, ensuring minimum common standards of education and training for medical graduates.
- **Two-Part Examination:** The NEXt exam will consist of two parts: NEXt 1, which will be a theoretical examination, and NEXt 2, which will include practical, clinical, and oral examinations covering seven clinical subjects or disciplines.
- **Mock Test:** A mock test may be conducted to familiarize students with the procedure and alleviate any anxiety before the official examination is rolled out.

National Medical Commission and Application of NEXt

- **Role of NMC:** The NMC is responsible for implementing the NEXt examination and ensuring a common standard for medical education in the country.
- **Applicability:** The NEXt examination will also apply to institutes of national importance, including the All India Institutes of Medical

Sciences (AIIMS), to maintain uniformity in medical education.

Significance

- **Quality professionals:** The NEXt examination is seen as a means to ensure quality and produce well-trained Indian medical graduates.
- **Expert Perspectives:** Experts in the medical field have welcomed the move, emphasizing the importance of uniform examination standards and the opportunity for interns to focus on their clinical training.

The reason behind the Ban on 14 FDC Drugs

UNION GOVERNMENT HAS BANNED THESE 14 FIXED DOSE COMBINATIONS (FDCs) DRUGS FOR USE IN INDIA

- 1 Nimesulide+Paracetamol dispersible tablets
- 2 Amoxicillin+ Bromhexine
- 3 Pholcodine + Promethazine
- 4 Chlorpheniramine maleate + Dextromethorphan + Guaiphenesin + Ammonium Chloride + Menthol
- 5 Chlorpheniramine Maleate + Codeine Syrup
- 6 Ammonium Chloride + Bromhexine + Dextromethorphan
- 7 Bromhexine + Dextromethorphan + Ammonium Chloride + Menthol
- 8 Dextromethorphan + Chlorpheniramine + Guaiphenesin + Ammonium Chloride
- 9 Dextromethorphan + Chlorpheniramine + Guaiphenesin + Ammonium Chloride
- 10 Salbutamol + Bromhexine
- 11 Chlorpheniramine + Codeine Phosphate + Menthol Syrup
- 12 Phenytoin + Phenobarbitone sodium
- 13 Ammonium Chloride + Sodium Citrate + Chlorpheniramine Maleate + Menthol (100mg + 40mg + 2.5mg + 0.9mg) , (125mg + 55mg + 4mg + 1mg) , (110mg + 46mg + 3mg + 0.9mg) & (130mg + 55mg + 3mg + 0.5mg) per 5ml syrup with immediate effect.
- 14 Salbutamol + Hydroxyethyltheophylline (Etofylline) + Bromhexine

Source: Gov's gazette notification



The Union government has banned 14 FDC drugs in India on the recommendation of an expert committee.

What are FDC Drugs?

- FDC medications are combinations of active components in a predetermined ratio that are frequently seen in a single pill or syrup.
- FDCs can lessen the burden of taking pills, increase adherence to medication, and cut expenses.

- Risks include the possibility for misuse, pharmacological incompatibility, and an increase in antibiotic resistance in certain combinations.

Issue of Irrational FDCs

- FDCs that have been licensed: Many older FDCs were licensed without adequate inspection, whereas FDCs that have just been introduced need prior permission.
- Lack of efficacy: A dearth of data on efficacy and safety led to the labeling of several licensed FDCs as illogical.
- Legal issues: The Delhi High Court stayed a ban on 344 FDCs in 2016, which prompted further study and led to a ban on 329 FDCs in 2018.

Government Action and Expert Review

- Referral to Drugs Technical Advisory Board: The Supreme Court charged the government's expert body with reviewing FDC medications.
- 14 FDCs licensed before 1988 should be banned, according to a committee of experts.
- The Supreme Court struck a balance between earlier approvals and inquiries when it exempted 15 FDCs licensed before 1988 from the ban but permitted an inquiry.

Implications of the Ban

- The restriction covers between 40–50 brands of medications used to treat cough, fever, discomfort, and other illnesses.
- Pediatricians Support the prohibition: Citing dangerous combinations of FDC medicines, many pediatricians support the prohibition.
- Calls for Further Review: Concerns have been raised about the hazards to the liver of using Nimesulide in a single dose.

Cautions Regarding Cough Syrups

- Conflicting Effects of Ingredients: Experts draw attention to how cough syrup ingredients may conflict with one another and lessen the effectiveness of the product.
- Discrepant Research on Cough Syrups Cough syrups may not appreciably shorten the length of a cough, according to scant research.
- Using cough suppressants with caution: It is encouraged to utilize prescription medication only, especially for people with underlying lung diseases.

Socioeconomic impact of the Ban

- Savings and Improved Quality of Life: The ban may result in financial savings for individuals as well as improved wellbeing.
- Access to safe drinking water is essential for maintaining the general well-being of the population.
- Making decisions using research and assessment to ensure the security and efficacy of medical interventions.
- Addressing Emerging Health Challenges: To combat developing health concerns, ongoing research and monitoring are required.
- Optimizing Healthcare Practices: Ongoing initiatives to enhance healthcare infrastructure and procedures to benefit patients.

Conclusion

- The recent ban on 14 fixed dose combination (FDC) drugs in India highlights the government's commitment to ensuring the safety and efficacy of pharmaceutical products.

History

Dr. M. Emperumal Naidu: A Gandhian Freedom Fighter



Naidu Hospital in Kottar (Nagercoil, TN), stands as a symbol of the forgotten heroes of the freedom movement, spearheaded by Dr. M. Emperumal Naidu, and their enduring impact on social justice

Who was Dr. M. Emperumal Naidu (1880-1958)?

- The Kottar-based Naidu Hospital is a notable medical facility with a long history of involvement in the struggle for social justice and the liberation movement.
- The hospital was founded by M. Emperumal Naidu, a liberation warrior and friend of Mahatma Gandhi.
- Contribution to the Vaikom agitation: Following in the footsteps of Periyar E.V. Ramasamy and his wife Nagammal, Naidu actively participated in the Vaikom temple street entry agitation.
- Throughout the agitation, Naidu overcame hardships such as being covered in limestone powder and having to stand in waist-deep rains with Gandhidas Muthusamy.

His Life and Achievements

- Family and Education: Naidu's father worked as an artist in the Travancore court, and his family originated in Andhra Pradesh. Naidu attended

the Madras Medical College after finishing his studies at Scott Christian College in Nagercoil.

- Participation in the Freedom Movement: While studying in England, Naidu actively participated in the freedom movement. He later turned down a scholarship offer from a medical school to continue his education in Glasgow, aligning himself with Gandhi's principles.
- Contributions to healthcare: In 1914, Naidu opened a hospital in Kottar that was among the first private facilities to offer cutting-edge medical services. He inscribed prescriptions with the letters 'HF' (Harijan Free) and provided Dalits with free medical care.
- Leadership and Relationships: Sarojini Naidu hosted Lala Lajpat Rai, C.F. Andrews, and Jawaharlal Nehru in Nagercoil while playing a significant role in the Indian National Congress.
- Gandhi's link: Naidu actively participated in many campaigns and Congress gatherings alongside Gandhi in Travancore, acting as a crucial link between the two of them.

Major contribution: Temple Entry Movement

- Temple Street Movement: Naidu actively participated in the Vaikom Temple Street Movement, arguing for equal rights while contending with arrests and repression. He did this alongside his wife and other volunteers.
- Continued Activism: Naidu continued to plan demonstrations and campaigns. He led a demonstration at Suchindram to demand that all communities in the Kanniyakumari area have access to temple streets.
- Achievements: In 1936, the Travancore government issued a decree opening temple doors and streets to all communities as a result of Naidu's tireless efforts for temple access and the welfare of Dalits.

International Relations

Places: Kakhovka Dam in Ukraine



Why in news?

- **Dnipro River Dam Breach:** In southern Ukraine, the Kakhovka Dam, built during the Soviet era, was breached, causing flooding to spread throughout the conflict area.
- **Conflicting Accounts:** Ukraine accused Russia of damaging the dam, while Russian officials offered conflicting explanations, speculating that it may have been caused by Ukrainian shelling or earlier damage.

The Kakhovka Dam

- **Construction and Use:** The Kakhovka Dam, which has a height of 30 meters (98 feet) and a length of 3.2 kilometers (2 miles), was erected in 1956 as a component of the Khakhovka hydroelectric power plant.
- **Water Supply:** The dam's reservoir provides water to the Zaporizhzhia nuclear reactor, which is also under Russian control, as well as the Crimean peninsula, which Russia has claimed as its own since 2014.
- **Reservoir Capacity:** The reservoir has a capacity of 18 cubic km, which is equivalent to the size of Utah's Great Salt Lake.

Accounts of the Dam Breach

- Ukraine accused Russia of being responsible, claiming that "Russian terrorists" had damaged the dam and that Russian occupation forces were to blame.
- **Russian Claims:** Russian-installed officials gave various explanations, with some accusing Ukraine of shelling the dam while others claimed that the dam broke under the weight of water and pre-existing damage.

Human Impact and Evacuations

- Potential flooding is a serious risk that could harm thousands of people in the impacted areas as a result of the rise in water levels.
- To safeguard the safety of civilians, evacuation efforts started on both sides of the battle line.
- Those who are at risk: In the southern Ukrainian province of Kherson, 22,000 people living in 14 settlements, according to Russian-installed officials, were at risk of flooding, while the Ukrainian Prime Minister highlighted that up to 80 settlements may be in jeopardy.

Impact on Crimea

- **Water Supply Issues:** The North Crimea Canal, which brings fresh water from the Dnipro River to the Crimean peninsula, is now at risk of flooding as a result of the dam's failure.
- **Dependence on Canal:** The canal is Crimea's only source of fresh water, and Ukraine's prior blockade of it during the takeover in 2014 led to water shortages in the area.
- **Possible Effects:** The Crimean water supply may be significantly impacted by the canal's declining water levels.

Other hotspots under threat: Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant

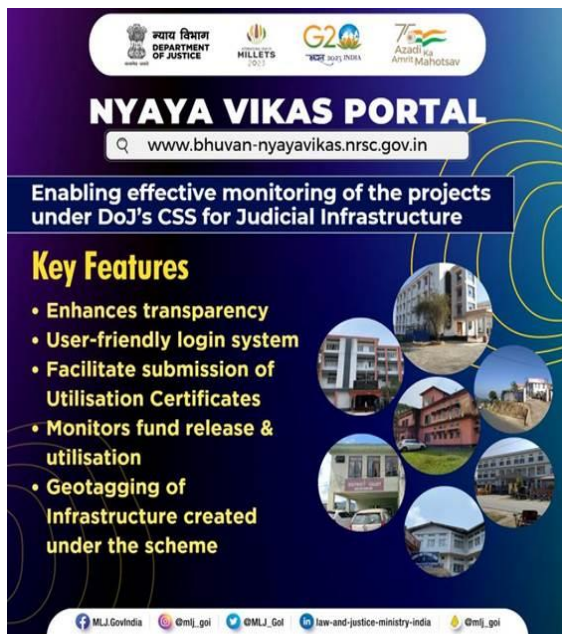
- The reservoir serves as a source of cooling water for the largest nuclear power plant in Europe, Zaporizhzhia.

- Russian Control: The factory is situated on the Russian-controlled southern edge of the conflict area.
- Nuclear Safety Assurance: According to the International Atomic Energy Agency and Russia's

state nuclear energy business, there is no imminent nuclear safety danger at the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant.

Polity

Nyaya Vikas Portal



The Nyaya Vikas Portal has been created for monitoring the implementation of the Centrally Sponsored, Nyaya Vikas Scheme.

What is Nyaya Vikas Program?

- Commenced in 1993–1994 by the Department of Justice.
- Aims to build infrastructure facilities for local judiciaries and regions.
- Offers centralized support to state governments and UT administrations for building courthouses and housing.
- Added conveniences including lawyers' hallways, restroom complexes, and digital computer rooms, and extended past March 31, 2021.
- Funding distribution is as follows: 100% for Union Territories, 90:10 for North Eastern and

Himalayan States, and 60:40 for state governments (excluding those in the North Eastern and Himalayan regions).

About Nyaya Vikas Portal

- To track the application of the CSS for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Districts and Subordinate Judiciary, the Nyaya Vikas Portal was developed.
- It offers seamless access to data on funding, paperwork, project monitoring, and approval by allowing stakeholders to log in using four effective methods.
- By giving stakeholders a consolidated platform to access data on funding, documentation, project monitoring, and approval processes, the portal ensures openness and accessibility.

Impact of the Scheme

- Better infrastructure: The monitoring features of the portal help to efficiently use funds for building courthouses, apartments, lawyers' lounges, restroom complexes, and digital computer rooms.
- Improved judicial services: The portal improves the delivery of judicial services to attorneys, litigants, and judicial officers by offering better infrastructure and facilities.
- Strengthened rule of law: By ensuring access to justice and a sufficient infrastructure for the judiciary, the efficient implementation of the plan through the portal improves the rule of law.

HC Observations over Right to Change Name



1. Create a petition outlining your wish to change the name as well as your justifications.
2. Create a notarized affidavit stating your desire to alter your name.
3. Publicize a notification about the name change in two neighborhood publications.
4. By contacting the Department of Publication, request a Gazette notification.
5. assemble supporting documentation, such as proof of identification and address.
6. In the proper court, submit the petition, affidavit, and supporting records.
7. Attend the court hearing and offer the pertinent justifications.
8. Obtain a name change approval order from the court.
9. Update all government records to reflect the new name.

Observations by the HCs

Allahabad High Court has allowed a man to change his name citing fundamental rights under Articles 19(1) (a), 21, and 14. Delhi High Court permitted two brothers to reflect their father's changed surname on their Board certificates, asserting the right to identity as an intrinsic part of the right to life under Article 21.

Right to Change Name

- According to Article 21 of the Constitution, which protects the right to life and personal freedom, the right to alter one's name is acknowledged as a basic freedom.
- It is frequently used to get beyond societal or cultural boundaries as well as personal preferences, religious conversions, marriage or divorce.
- People can alter their names to represent their gender identity, their religious convictions, or to better suit their careers or creative endeavors.

Process to change the name

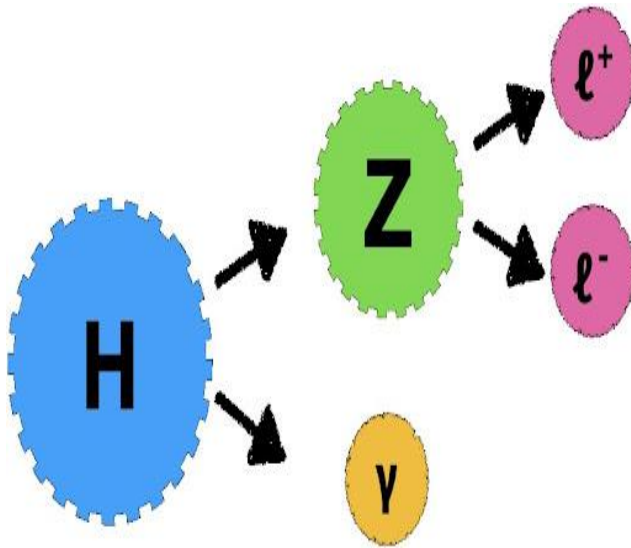
- According to the Allahabad High Court, the government's denial of name-change requests is a violation of the fundamental rights protected by Articles 19(1)(a), 21, and 14.
- It stressed the necessity for consistency across all identity-related papers as well as the avoidance of misunderstandings and potential abuse.
- According to Delhi High Court, Article 21's right to life includes the intrinsic right to one's identity.

Restrictions on the Right to Change Names

- Despite being a basic right, the ability to change one's name is subject to reasonable limitations.
- Laws must establish limitations that are fair, just, and reasonable.
- In assessing whether restrictions are acceptable, the proportionality principle and the value of human dignity are crucial considerations (Jeeja Ghosh v. Union of India, 2016).

Science, Technology, Art & Culture

Researchers observed rare Higgs Boson Decay



Physicists at CERN's Large Hadron Collider (LHC) reported detecting a rare decay of the Higgs boson into a Z boson and a photon. The decay process provides valuable insights into the Higgs boson and the nature of our universe.

Understanding the Higgs Boson

- The Higgs boson is a particular kind of subatomic particle that transports the momentum of particle motion through the Higgs field, which permeates the whole cosmos.
- A particle's mass is determined by its interaction with Higgs bosons, with stronger interaction resulting in greater mass.

Importance of Higgs Boson Decay

- Understanding the characteristics of Higgs bosons and studying how various particles interact with them aid in elucidating the nature of the universe.
- Notable insights are provided by the recent discovery of Higgs boson decay to a Z boson and a photon.

Role of Virtual Particles

- According to quantum field theory, there are virtual particles that are continually appearing and disappearing in subatomic space.
- When Higgs bosons are created, they briefly interact with virtual particles, generating a photon and the Z boson.

New Result and Probability

- The Higgs boson is expected to decay into a Z boson and a photon 0.1% of the time, according to the Standard Model.
- To track this decay path, the LHC needs to produce a large number of Higgs bosons.

Confirmation and Statistical Precision

- For greater statistical accuracy, the ATLAS and CMS detectors, which had previously witnessed the decay independently, pooled their data.
- The combined data improved the confirmation of the Higgs boson decay even though the relevance is not yet 100%.

Significance for the Standard Model

- The Standard Model's anticipated decay pathways for the Higgs boson are what physicists are looking for and hoping to find.
- The model's predictions are carefully tested to find any potential errors and to investigate novel physics theories.

Implications for New Theories

- Greater degradation rates along the observed pathway might lend evidence to novel hypotheses outside the realm of the Standard Model.
- The experimental data from the LHC might increase our understanding of science.

Varunastra: Indigenous Heavy Weight Torpedo



The indigenously designed and developed heavy weight torpedo (HWT) Varunastra was successfully test-fired by the Indian Navy, targeting an undersea target with a live warhead.

Varunastra: Feature Details

- Varunastra is an anti-submarine torpedo launched from ships that is fitted with advanced technologies such as autonomous guidance algorithms, low drift navigational systems, acoustic homing, enhanced acoustic countermeasures, an insensitive munitions warhead, and a GPS-based recovery aid for practice torpedoes.
- Varunastra was created and developed by the Naval Science and Technological Laboratory (NSTL), which is a division of the Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) and is situated in Vizag.
- Varunastra is manufactured by BDL, which is a division of Bharat Dynamics Ltd.

Technical Specifications and Capabilities

- Varunastra is capable of a top speed of 40 knots and a maximum operational depth of 600 meters. It is capable of several maneuvers and long-range travel.
- Acoustic homing and tracking: The torpedo has an acoustic homing system with a broad look angle that enables it to efficiently track silent objects.

- Varunastra uses advanced drift navigational systems and autonomous advanced guidance algorithms, allowing for precision targeting and operations over extended periods of time.

Significance of the test fire

- Anti-submarine warfare mainstay: Varunastra is slated to replace earlier torpedoes that could fire HWT as the main anti-submarine torpedo for all naval warships.
- Improved anti-submarine warfare: The Varunastra torpedo has been added to the Indian Navy's arsenal as the primary weapon against underwater threats.
- Self-sufficiency and native development: Varunastra's successful development and deployment demonstrate India's advancements in homegrown defense technologies and lessen reliance on imports.

IIT-M generates Hydrogen from Seawater

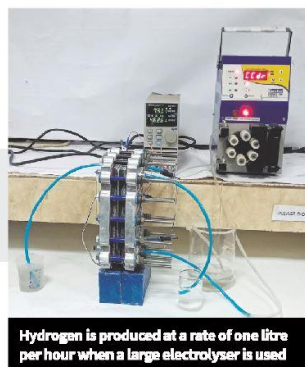
Green hydrogen production

Critical components have been developed for a highly efficient, cost-effective way to generate hydrogen by electrolyzing seawater using solar energy

- The electrolyser uses alkaline seawater, and a carbon-based support material developed by the IIT Madras team is used for the anode and the cathode to prevent corrosion

- A transition metal-based catalyst developed by the team is used for coating the support material of the electrodes

- The catalyst enhances the production of hydrogen and oxygen even when impurities and chemical deposition



Hydrogen is produced at a rate of one litre per hour when a large electrolyzer is used

takes place on the electrodes

- A cellulose-based separator developed in-house is very economical and allows hydroxide ions to pass through but prevents oxygen and hydrogen from crossing-over

- Two prototypes of different dimensions have been built to assess the viability of the catalyst

- All the cells have shown a shelf-life of more than six months, and the study is continuing

Researchers from IIT-Madras have developed components for a cost-effective method of electrolyzing seawater to produce green hydrogen. The current alkaline water electrolyzer technology is energy-intensive, requires an expensive oxide-polymer separator, and uses fresh water.

Generating Green Hydrogen

- The researchers created an electrolyzer that uses alkaline saltwater rather than fresh water.
- To reduce corrosion, carbon-based support material was used for the electrodes.
- In order to increase the synthesis of hydrogen and oxygen, transition metal-based catalysts were created to catalyze both oxygen and hydrogen evolution reactions.
- To allow hydroxide ions to flow through while prohibiting oxygen and hydrogen crossing, a cellulose-based separator was created.

How does Electrolysis take place?

- Two half-reactions take place at the anode and cathode of the alkaline water electrolyzer.
- Water splits into H⁺ and hydroxide ions near the cathode, where H⁺ ions turn into hydrogen.
- While oxygen is produced at the anode, hydrogen ions produced at the cathode flow through the separator.
- When seawater is utilized, the anode develops hypochlorite, which causes corrosion and lowers oxygen production. The hydrogen evolution reaction at the cathode is also impacted by impurities.

How were the Catalyst and Electrode designed?

- Both the cathode and the anode electrodes were supported by the carbon-based substance to avoid corrosion.
- The support material's catalyst coating improves the cathode's ability to produce hydrogen and the anode's ability to produce oxygen.
- The catalyst's transition bimetals are selective for the oxygen evolution reaction, which helps it overcome the problem of hypochlorite generation.
- The catalyst encourages hydrogen evolution, increasing hydrogen generation despite contaminants deposited on the cathode.

Experimental Results and Performance

- At 10 mA/sq cm and 26 degrees C, the assembled electrolyzer produced a seawater splitting voltage of 1.73 V.
- The electrolyzer can directly produce green hydrogen using photovoltaic voltage thanks to the optimal parameters.
- Two different-sized prototypes that can produce 250 ml or 1 liter of hydrogen per hour each were created.
- About 4 liters of hydrogen were produced each hour from a stack of three cells.

JATAN: Virtual Museum Software



The Union government plans to complete the 3D digitisation of all museums under its administrative control by the end of 2023. The digitisation initiative using JATAN software aims to enhance the conservation and preservation of artefacts.

What is JATAN Software?

- In Indian museums, JATAN, a virtual museum builder, is employed.
- It has been implemented in a number of national museums in India and allows for the construction of a digital collection management system.

- For the benefit of scholars, curators, and other interested parties, JATAN aims to digitally preserve and document museum objects.
- The Human Centers Design and Computing Group at the Centre for Development of Smart Computing (C-DAC) in Pune created and developed the program.
- The generation of digital impressions of preserved artifacts and monuments is made easier by JATAN.
- The public can access these digital imprints because they are incorporated into the national digital repository and site.

Benefits of 3D Digitisation

- Artefacts can be better conserved and preserved through 3D digitization, assuring their long-term protection.
- By giving visitors to museums new opportunities to interact with the collection, it improves accessibility and exploration.
- Digitally created 3D models can be utilized to create immersive learning opportunities through augmented reality, virtual reality, and interactive learning.
- The potential for 3D printing is also made possible by the digitization process, allowing for the replication and in-depth analysis of artifacts.

Betelgeuse: The Red Giant Star on the Brink of Supernova



Recent research has shed light on the Betelgeuse’s current stage and its potential fate as it approaches the end of its lifecycle.

Betelgeuse: The Bright Red Star in Orion

- Easily visible in the constellation Orion, Betelgeuse is a bright red star known as “*Thiruvathirai*” or “*Ardra*” in Indian astronomy.
- It is a massive star that undergoes the carbon-burning stage, leading to its eventual collapse into a supernova.

How is it dying?

- Massive stars like Betelgeuse exhaust their hydrogen fuel and transition to using helium to create carbon.
- The energy released during helium fusion is lower than that of hydrogen, requiring the star to burn more helium to maintain stability.
- Eventually, the helium is depleted, leading to the star’s progression through various burning stages, including carbon and silicon burning.

Pulsation and Betelgeuse’s Death Throes

- Betelgeuse's pulsing, which reveals its evolutionary stage, has been noticed by researchers researching the star.
- The measured pulse is consistent with theoretical predictions for the late stage of carbon burning, indicating that Betelgeuse is nearing the end of its life.
- By examining Betelgeuse's pulsation and related brightness changes, astronomers may determine when the star is expanding or contracting.
- Previous research have conflicting results about the fundamental pulsation period, with one team considering 417 days and the other team suggesting 2,190 days.
- Researchers draw the conclusion that it is in the terminal stages of burning carbon while recognizing the significance of the 2,190-day pulse.

Security Issues

Agni Prime Missile Successfully Tested



India successfully tested the new-generation Agni-Prime ballistic missile with a strike range of 1,000 to 2,000 kilometres.

About Agni Prime Missile

- Agni-P is a surface-to-surface, road-mobile, solid-fueled missile with two stages.
- Agni-P is launched using a canister, which offers transit convenience and operating flexibility.
- Advanced Systems: Agni-P features advanced navigation and guidance systems, composite rocket motor casings, and new propulsion systems.

History and Development

- Agni-P is being developed by DRDO as a replacement starting in 2016 to improve accuracy and dependability.
- Asia-Pacific Initiative: Agni-P is a component of India's plan to confront China's naval prowess and equalize its anti-access/area denial capabilities.
- International repercussions: The development of Agni-P places India in the regional power dynamics, which may have an effect on arms control treaties.

Missile Capabilities

- Agni-P's manoeuvrable reentry vehicle (MaRV) allows for accurate warhead delivery to a number of different places.
- The missile is stored in a tandem dual canister launcher that is hermetically sealed, making it easily transportable by road and rail.
- Weight reduction: To reduce weight and improve performance, composite materials are used in both Agni-P stages.

Strategic Importance

- Given its restricted range, Agni-P's counterforce capability is to dissuade nearby hostile forces from attacking.
- Improved Deterrence: The missile boosts India's deterrence potential and advances national security.
- Agni-P's development is a component of India's Indo-Pacific strategy, which has an effect on regional power dynamics.

India to procure MQ-9 Predator Drones



The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) has approved the procurement of armed Predator Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) at the cost of over \$3 billion. The UAVs will be procured from General Atomics Aeronautical Systems (GA-ASI), a United States-based aeronautics company.

Predator Drones: An Overview

- The MQ-9 model of Predator UAV is produced by GA-ASI.
- It can fly up to 50,000 feet, reach speeds of 240 KTAS, and last more than 27 hours.
- It can carry external storage weighing up to 3,000 pounds (1,361 kilograms) and a payload of 3,850 pounds (1,746 kilograms).

Benefits and Capabilities of the MQ-9 UAV

- In comparison to the MQ-1 Predator, the MQ-9 UAV can carry more payload and has more power.
- It gives the warfighter long endurance, ongoing monitoring, and strike capabilities.
- The MQ-9 UAV's Sea Guardian maritime variant has a range of more than 30 hours.

Enhancing Indian Armed Forces' Capabilities

- The acquisition of MQ-9 UAVs will improve the intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) capabilities of the Indian Armed Forces.
- These long-lasting, high-altitude drones will be able to conduct information gathering missions,

hit key marine and mountainous targets, and assist in a variety of military operations.

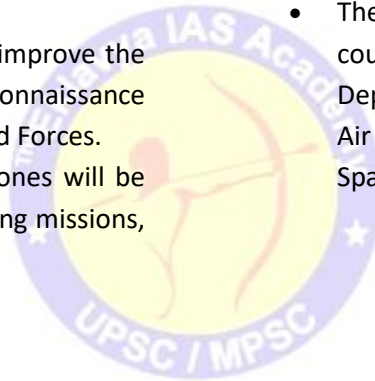
- A total of 31 MQ-9s are anticipated to be delivered to the Indian Armed Forces, with 15 going to the Navy and eight each going to the Army and Indian Air Force (IAF).

Previous Use of MQ-9 UAVs by India

- The Indian Navy had leased two MQ-9 UAVs following the skirmishes in Galwan Valley in 2020, and the lease has subsequently been renewed.
- The rented UAVs have completed 10,000 flight hours and have greatly aided the operations of the Indian Navy.

International Usage of MQ-9 UAVs

- The MQ-9 UAV has been acquired by various countries, including the United States Air Force, Department of Homeland Security, NASA, Royal Air Force, Italian Air Force, French Air Force, and Spanish Air Force.



The

EKLAVYA IAS ACADEMY

UPSC /MPSC (राज्यसेवा) Preparation Strategy

OFFLINE LECTURE

On Every Sunday

BY

IPS AKSHAY MAHADIK

(AIR 212)

UPSC|MPSC



**ADMISSION
STARTED
2023 - 24**



**REGISTRATION
COMPULSORY**

SHRIDHAR SIR
7506701541

AMIT SIR
7506701542

Our Branches

Ghatkopar (W)

Office No.4, Arvind Villa Bldg,
Near Bharat Café Hotel
Above Ghatkopar Book Depot,
Opp. Ghatkopar (W),
Railway Station.

Nerul (E)

B-203, 2nd Floor Nerul
Railway Station Complex
Nerul (E)

Chembur (E)

Shop No. 02, Rajashri Buildind,
N.G. Achary Marg, Behind Mahanagar
Co.-Operative Baank
Near Hotel Royal Orchid

New Panvel

Office No. A-18, Omkar Arcade (Building)
Sector 15A, Opposite - New
Panvel Railway Station
(Near Bikaner Sweets)