

# October 2023

# CURRENT AFFAIRS

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



## The Eklavya IAS Academy

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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 October 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



### **International Day of Older Persons : 01 October :-**

Every year on October 1st, International Day of the Elderly is observed. The day is observed to raise awareness about the value of elderly persons in our society and to recognize their achievements. Senior folks bear a great deal of duty as society's leaders. They also carry the society's customs and culture and pass on knowledge to the next generation. In 2023, the 33rd commemoration of this significant day revolves around the theme of "Fulfilling the Promises of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights for Older Persons: Across Generations."



### **International Coffee Day : 01 October :-**

Coffee is one of the world's most popular beverages, enjoyed in practically every nation. Every year on October 1st, International Coffee Day is observed to promote and celebrate coffee consumption. The day is also used to raise awareness about the coffee industry's stakeholders. On October 1, 2015, the first International Coffee Day was observed. The International Coffee

Organization (ICO) organized it. When the first International Coffee Agreement (ICA) entered into force in 1963, the ICO was founded.



### **World Vegetarian Day : 01 October :-**

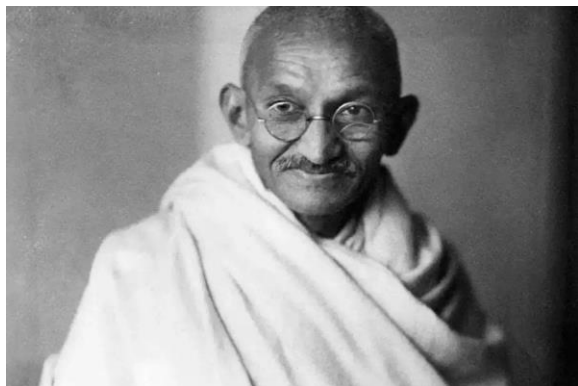
Every year on October 1st, World Vegetarian Day is observed to promote a vegetarian diet and create awareness about the health and humanitarian benefits of a vegetarian lifestyle. The North American Vegetarian Society (NAVS) established World Vegetarian Day in 1977 to promote awareness about the benefits of a vegetarian diet and to encourage people to spare animal life. In 1978, the International Vegetarian Union also endorsed the day. The 'Month of Vegetarian Food' begins at the beginning of October.



### **International Day of Non-violence : 02 October :-**

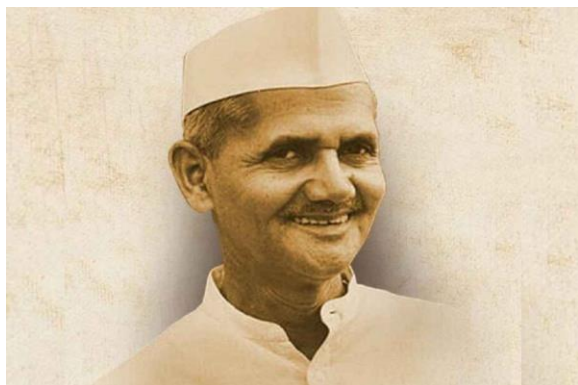
The International Day of Nonviolence is observed on October 2, the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi, the leader of the Indian freedom movement and the founder of the nonviolent philosophy and strategy. In a resolution passed on June 5, 2007, the United Nations General

Assembly established the International Day of Nonviolence as a means to spread the message of nonviolence, especially through education and public awareness. The resolution underlines the worldwide applicability of the nonviolent concept and the ambition to establish a culture of peace, tolerance, understanding, and nonviolence.



### **Gandhi Jayanti : 02 October :-**

Mahatma Gandhi was a political ethicist, nationalist, and lawyer who was also known as the Father of the Nation, Bapu, or Mahatma. The day is also observed globally as the International Day of Nonviolence. Mahatma Gandhi devoted his life to national freedom and fought for the path of peace, truth, and nonviolence. Gandhi Jayanti is observed every year on October 2. It falls on Monday this year and commemorates Mahatma Gandhi's 154th birthday. Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi was born in Porbandar, Gujarat, on October 2, 1869.



### **Lal Bahadur Shastri Jayanti : 02 October :-**

Lal Bahadur Shastri was one of India's finest leaders, and his commitment to the war against Britishers, as well as his role in the White Revolution and Green Revolution, continues to inspire millions. Lal Bahadur Shastri, often

known as Shastri Ji, was born on October 2, 1904 and served as India's second Prime Minister. Sharda Prasad Srivastava, his father, was a teacher, and Ramdulari Devi, his mother, was a housewife. In India, he launched the White Revolution and the Green Revolution, which increased milk supply and food grain production, respectively.



### **World Animal Day : 04 October:-**

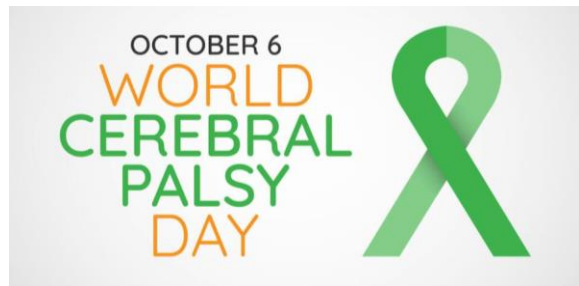
Every year on October 4, the world celebrates World Animal Day. The day's goal is to promote peaceful coexistence between animals and people, as well as to make the world a safer environment for animals. It also serves as a reminder of how animals improve our lives. Heinrich Zimmermann coordinated the inaugural World Animal Day celebration in Berlin in 1925. Zimmermann was the publisher of "Man and Dog," a German magazine for animal lovers. The purpose of the event was to raise awareness about animal welfare. World Animal Welfare Day 2023 theme is 'Great or small, love them all.'



### **World Teacher's Day : 05 October :-**

Every year on October 5, the world celebrates World Teachers' Day to recognize and celebrate the efforts of educators such as teachers, researchers, and professors.

The theme for International Teachers' Day 2023 is "The teachers we need for the education we want: The global imperative to reverse the teacher shortage". According to a statement on the UNESCO website, the subject for World Teachers' Day 2023 emphasizes the necessity of halting the fall in the number of teachers and then beginning to increase that number at the top of the global agenda.



### World Cerebral Palsy Day : 06 October :-

Every year on October 6, World Cerebral Palsy Day is commemorated to raise awareness about persons who have cerebral palsy and live with it. Cerebral Palsy, according to the International Classification of Diseases, is a collection of disorders that impact the development of movement and posture, and are frequently accompanied by problems in sensation, perception, cognition, and behavior. It is caused by injury to the unborn or infant's brain. The Cerebral Palsy Alliance established October 6 as World Cerebral Palsy Day in 2012. The theme for World Cerebral Palsy Day in 2023 is "Together Stronger."



### World Smile Day : 06 October :-

Every year on the first Friday in October, World Smile Day is observed, and this year it falls on October 6. World Smile Day was founded in 1999 by Harvey Ball, a commercial artist from Worcester, Massachusetts, best known for designing the distinctive smiley face emblem

in 1963. He wanted to encourage people to commit acts of kindness and promote happiness by just smiling. World Smile Day aims to promote goodwill and positivity by smiling at others and performing acts of kindness while serving as a reminder of the power of a simple smile to brighten someone's day and improve the world around us. The theme for World Smile Day every year remains the same which is "Do an act of kindness. Help one person smile." However, as per some media reports, this year's theme is "Radiate Joy."



### World Cotton Day : 07 October:-

On October 7, the world celebrates World Cotton Day to recognize the importance of cotton around the world. The World Trade Organization (WTO) sponsored the debut of World Cotton Day (WCD) on October 7, 2019, following an effort by the Cotton-4 countries of Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, and Mali. The goal of celebrating World Cotton Day (WCD) is to raise awareness about cotton. It is a worldwide product grown in over 75 nations across five continents. World Cotton Day 2023 theme is "Making cotton fair and sustainable for all, from farm to fashion".



### Indian Air Force Day : 08 October :-

The Indian Air Force (IAF) is the world's fourth largest air force, trailing only the United States, China, and Russia.

This year commemorates the 91st year of Indian Air Force Day, which is celebrated on October 8. The Indian Air Force, also known as the "Bhartiya Vayu Sena," was founded on October 8, 1932. Its first ac flight was place on April 1, 1933. As a result, the celebration of this day began formally on October 8, 1932, in order to raise awareness of the Indian air force in any organization of national security, both officially and popularly.



### World Post Day : 09 October :-

Every year on October 9, the world celebrates World Post Day to raise awareness about the role of the postal industry in everyday life. The day also aims to raise awareness of the positive benefits of the postal sector on global economic and social advancement. The Universal Postal Union (UPU) was established on October 9, 1874, in the Swiss capital of Bern. The UPU Congress in Tokyo, Japan, designated World Post Day in 1969. Since then, numerous countries have chosen the day to announce or promote new postal products and services. World Post Day 2023 theme is "Together for Trust: Collaborating for a safe and connected future."



### National Post Day : 10 October :-

Every year on October 10, National Post Day is observed as an extension of World Post Day, which is observed on

October 9. National Post Day commemorates the role of the Indian postal service over the last 150 years. The British established postal service in India. Lord Dalhousie founded it in 1854. It is currently administered by the Ministry of Communications and is the world's most broadly dispersed postal system. There are 23 postal circles and 9 postal zones in India, including the Army Post Office. Post offices in Indian follow a 6-digit PIN Code system, which was introduced in India in 1972.



### World Mental Health Day : 10 October :-

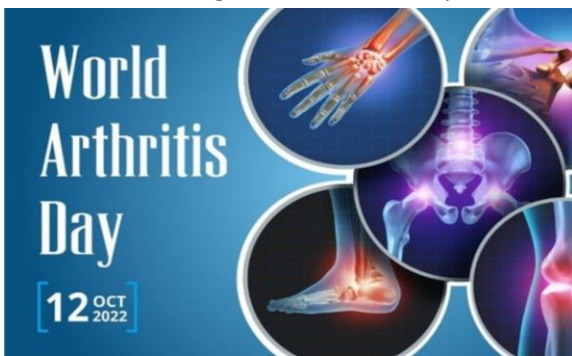
Every year on October 10, World Mental Health Day is commemorated to raise awareness about mental health concerns around the world and to mobilize initiatives in support of mental health. On October 10, 1992, the inaugural World Mental Health Day was observed. Richard Hunter, the World Federation for Mental Health's then-Deputy Secretary-General, established the day as an annual activity. The theme of World Mental Health Day 2023 is "Mental health is a universal human right." The theme aims to improve knowledge, raise awareness and drive actions that promote and protect everyone's mental health as a universal human right.



### International Day of Girl Child : 11 October :-



Every year on October 11, the International Day of the Girl Child is observed to highlight and call attention to the issues that girls confront. Every year since 2012, the International Day of the Girl Child has been observed. Its main goal is to empower women and assist them in obtaining their rights so that they can face obstacles around the world and meet their requirements. At the same time, global awareness is being raised concerning the elimination of gender anomalies against females. The theme of the International Day of the Girl Child 2023 "Invest in Girls' Rights: Our Leadership, Our Well-being."



### World Arthritis Day : 12 October :-

Every year on October 12, World Arthritis Day is observed. Arthritis is a joint condition that causes joint discomfort, swelling, redness on the skin, stiffness, and decreased motion in the affected joints. Notably, Arthritis in itself is an umbrella term for more than 100 types of rheumatic disease. Arthritis commonly develops with age and affects the fingers, hips, and knees. The Arthritis and Rheumatism International Foundation collaborated to mark the first World Arthritis Day in 1996. The theme for the World Arthritis Day 2023 is "Living with an RMD at all stages of life."



### World Sight Day : 12 October (Second Thursday of October):-

The World Sight Day is observed worldwide on the second Thursday of October and this year it falls on October 12. The day is marked to urge people to focus on eye health, blindness, vision impairment, and other eye-related issues. It also recognizes the work of ophthalmologists worldwide in restoring vision. Since 2000, the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB) has coordinated the global movement known as World Sight Day. The World Sight Day 2023 theme is, "Love your eyes at work".



### International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction : 13 October :-

On October 13, the world observes International Day for Disaster Reduction to raise awareness about the consequences of natural and man-made disasters. The International Day for Disaster Reduction was founded in 1989 in response to a proposal from the United Nations General Assembly for a day to promote risk awareness and catastrophe reduction around the world. Climate change has been a part in numerous natural disasters in recent years. "Fighting inequality for a resilient future", is the theme of this year's International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction.



### World Egg Day : 13 October (second Friday of October)

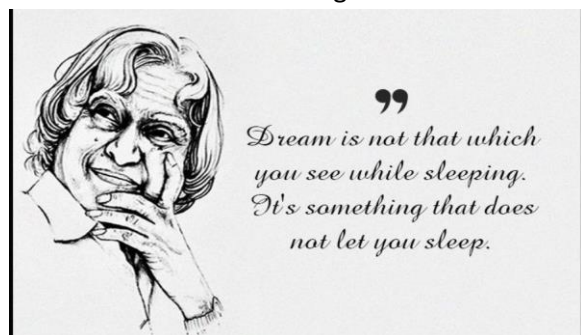
Eggs are one of the most popular and extensively consumed protein sources in the world, and they have

been proven to be beneficial to the heart, among other organs. As a result, every year on the second Friday of October, the world observes World Egg Day. The International Egg Commission (IEC) established World Egg Day in 1996 in Vienna. The IEC decided to establish the day to promote and recognize the value of eggs in human nutrition. Since 1996, more and more nations have come together to mark the day. This year the day falls on October 13. This year's theme is 'Eggs for a healthy future'.



### World Standards Day : 14 October :-

Every year on October 14, World Standards Day is observed. The purpose of the day is to inform consumers, governments, and businesses about the relevance of standardised metrics, technologies, and industries. The day's origins can be traced back to 1946, when delegates from 25 countries met in London. Then they established an international organization to facilitate standardization. However, the day was first observed in 1970. The aim of World Standard Day is to recognize the global need for standardizing. The theme of World Standards day 2023 is "Shared Vision for Better World Incorporating Sustainable Development Goal for Good Health and Well-Being".



### World Students Day : 15 October :-

On October 15, World Students' Day is widely observed to commemorate the birth anniversary of former President APJ Abdul Kalam. Though the United Nations has yet to declare October 15th as World Students' Day, it has been observed since 2010. The former President was so committed to education that he returned to teaching the day after ending his term as India's 11th President. Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam was born in Rameshwaram, Tamil Nadu, on October 15, 1931. Dr. Kalam received the Padma Vibhushan in 1990 and the Bharat Ratna in 1997.



### Global Handwashing Day : 15 October:-

Global Handwashing Day aims to raise awareness about the necessity of soap-free handwashing as an effective and inexpensive strategy to prevent disease and save lives. It is celebrated on October 15th. The day also emphasizes the need of handwashing with soap and water at home, in the community, and globally. The day also serves as a reminder that a simple procedure of handwashing with water and soap can prevent the transfer of germs to others, as well as the next step in avoiding illness. The 2023 Global Handwashing Day theme is "Clean hands are within reach."



### International Day of Rural Women : 15 October :-

The International Day of Rural Women is a day dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women in

rural regions. Every year on October 15th, it is observed. It recognizes the critical role that rural mothers, daughters, and grandmothers play in food production and agricultural and rural development around the world. On December 18, 2007, the United Nations General Assembly established this day to emphasize the importance of equal opportunity for women and girls in rural regions. The theme of this year's celebration of International Day of Rural Women is, "Rural Women Cultivating Good Food for All."



### **World Food Day : 16 October :-**

Every year on October 16, the global campaign of World Food Day is commemorated to create global awareness and emphasize each individual's fundamental food requirements. People of different races and religions gather on World Food Day to remember the creation of the Food and Agriculture Organization. The goal of this unique effort is also to draw attention to the millions of individuals throughout the world who cannot afford a balanced diet or have access to nutritious food. World Food Day 2023 will focus on the theme, 'Water is Life, Water is Food. Leave No One Behind'.



### **World Anaesthesia Day : 16 October :-**

On October 16, World Anesthesia Day commemorates the first successful demonstration of diethyl ether

anesthesia in 1846. It is regarded as one of the most significant occurrences in medical history and was delivered in an operating room at Massachusetts General Hospital. This finding enabled patients to endure surgical treatments without experiencing any discomfort. Since 1903, unique festivities have been planned to commemorate this historic day. The World Federation of Societies of Anaesthesiologists celebrates World Anaesthesia Day every year. The theme for World Anaesthesia Day 2023 is 'Anaesthesia and Cancer Care.'



### **World Spine Day : 16 October :-**

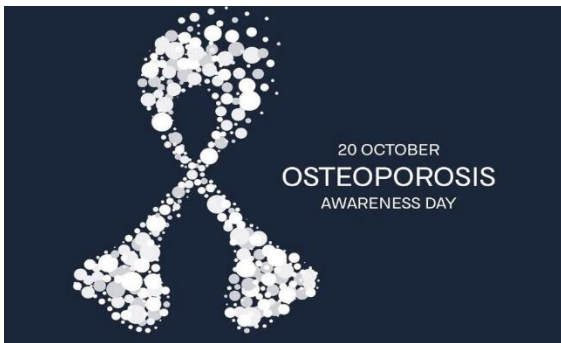
Every year on October 16, World Spine Day is celebrated to highlight the importance of spinal health and overall well-being. The World Federation of Chiropractic established World Spine Day in 2008. Back pain, spinal discomfort, and related disabilities affect over 1 billion people globally, spanning all age groups, genders, and ethnicities. Given these startling statistics, it's easy to see why World Spine Day is still an important initiative. The theme for world spine day 2023 is 'Move Your Spine' which spreads a message across people to take care of their spine by staying active.



### **International Day for the Eradication of Poverty : 17 October :-**

Every year on October 17, the world celebrates International Day for the Eradication of Poverty to raise

awareness about the people who are struggling and living in poverty. The General Assembly adopted Resolution 47/196 on 22 December 1992, designating 17 October as the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. All states and individuals are encouraged to promote the day and participate in various activities to combat poverty and destitution. The theme of International Day for the Eradication of Poverty 2023 is "Decent Work and Social Protection: Putting Dignity in Practice for All."



### **World Osteoporosis Day : 20 October :-**

The goal of World Osteoporosis Day is to raise global awareness about the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of osteoporosis and metabolic bone disease. Every year on October 20th, it is observed. The National Osteoporosis Society of the United Kingdom established the day on October 20, 1996, with the backing of the European Commission. Moreover, the World Health Organization (WHO), co-sponsored World Osteoporosis Day in 1998. This year the World Osteoporosis Day Theme is "Step Up for Bone Health – Build Better Bones."



### **Police Commemoration Day : 21 October:-**

Every year on October 21st, Police Commemoration Day is observed. The day commemorates the sacrifice of ten CRPF soldiers killed in a Chinese raid in 1959. Following

this tragedy, a resolution was voted at the Annual Conference of Inspectors General of Police of States and Union Territories in January 1960, recognizing October 21st as Police Commemoration Day. Notably, on Police Martyrs' Day, the National Police Memorial is extremely important. It is a poignant memorial in New Delhi. It is dedicated to the brave police officers.



### **International Stuttering Awareness Day : 22 October :-**

International Stuttering Awareness Day (ISAD) is observed on October 22. It is a global campaign committed to raising awareness about stuttering, also known as stammering, and fostering understanding and support for people who have this speech condition. Stuttering Awareness Day was established in 1998 by the European League of Stuttering Associations, the International Fluency Association, and the International Stuttering Association (ISA). The theme for International Stuttering Awareness Day 2023 is "One Size Does NOT Fit All".



### **United Nations Day : 24 October :-**

Every year on October 24, the United Nations Day is observed. It commemorates the official founding of the United Nations in 1945. On this day, the majority of signatories, including the five permanent members of

the Security Council, ratified the UN Charter, resulting in the official formation of the UN. The holiday was first observed in 1948. The United Nations also suggested that member countries commemorate it as a public holiday in 1971. This year will mark the intergovernmental organisation, United Nations' 78th year since the foundation.



### ITBP Raising Day : 24 October :-

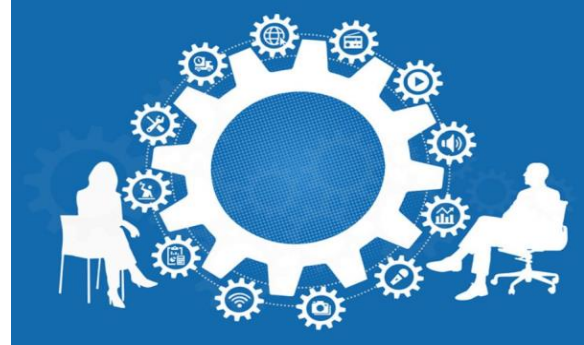
Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) will celebrate its 62nd raising day on 24th October. The force was established on this date in 1962. The Indo-Tibetan Border Police Force Act, 1992, was approved by Parliament in 1996 to provide the ITBP full autonomy. ITBP is stationed along the India-China border from Karakoram Pass in Ladakh to Jachep La in Arunachal Pradesh, a distance of 3488 kilometers. The force is responsible for guarding Border outposts at elevations ranging from 9000 feet to 18700 feet along the India-China border in the western, middle, and eastern areas.



### World Polio Day : 24 October :-

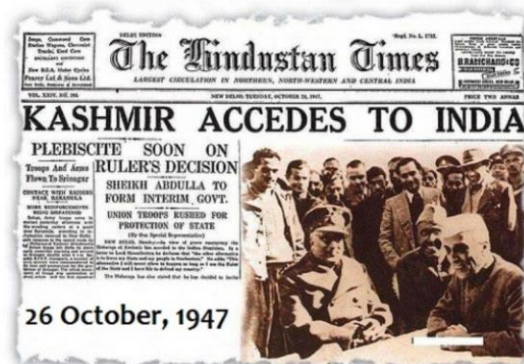
Every year on October 24, World Polio Day is observed to raise awareness about the importance of polio immunization in protecting children. The oral polio vaccine provides excellent polio protection. On January 13, this year, India celebrated 12 years of polio-free

status, a tremendous achievement; the last polio case in India was detected in 2011. In 2002, WHO European Region was declared polio-free and from that time on October 24 every year, the World Polio Day is celebrated annually.



### World Development Information Day : 24 October :-

Every year on October 24, the United Nations observes World Development Information Day. The United Nations General Assembly established World Development Information Day in 1972 to draw attention to developmental issues and the need to expand international cooperation to address them. The main aim of this day is to propagate information and mobilise public opinion in order to draw their attention and create awareness of the problems surrounding development, promoting efforts in the field of international cooperation for growth and development.



### J&K Accession Day – 26 October :-

The 76th Accession Day of Jammu and Kashmir with the Union of India is celebrated on 27<sup>th</sup> October across the Union Territory. Accession Day carries great significance as it was on this day in 1947 that the then Maharaja of Jammu and Kashmir, Hari Singh signed the Instrument of Accession to become part of the greatest democracy of

the world. Accession Day is a public holiday in the Union Territory. The day became an official public holiday in Jammu and Kashmir for the first time in 2020 after the abrogation of articles 370 and 35A on 5th August 2019..



**World Day for Audiovisual Heritage – 27 October :-**

The World Day for Audiovisual Heritage takes place every 27 October. This commemorative day was chosen by UNESCO (the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) in 2005 to raise awareness of the significance and preservation risks of recorded sound and audiovisual documents (films, sound and video recordings, radio and television programmes). The 2023 World Day for Audiovisual Heritage will be celebrated on 27 October under the theme “Your Window to the World”.



**World Stroke Day : 29 October :-**

World Stroke Day is observed annually on October 29 to raise public awareness about the catastrophic consequences of strokes and the steps that may be taken to reduce the burden of this potentially fatal condition. In 2010, the World Stroke Organization (WSO), which founded the annual event in 2006, declared stroke a public health emergency. In 2004, the World Stroke Congress in Vancouver, Canada, decided October 29th to be WSO World Stroke Day. The theme for World Stroke Day 2023 is “Together We Are #Greater Than Stroke”.



**National Unity Day : 31 October :-**

Every year on October 31, National Unity Day, also known as 'Rashtriya Ekta Diwas,' is observed to commemorate the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, India's first Home Minister. Since 2014, the Narendra Modi government has celebrated Sardar Patel's birth anniversary as "Rashtriya Ekta Diwas." Patel was born on October 31, 1875 in Nadiad, Gujarat. He is credited with uniting 560 princely kingdoms into the Union of India. This year marks the 148th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

**2: Agreements**



**NPCI International Payments Signed Agreement With AI Etihad Payments To Facilitate Cross-Border Transactions :-**

NPCI International Payments Ltd, the international arm of the National Payment Corporation of India, has signed an agreement with AI Etihad Payments in Abu Dhabi to facilitate cross-border transactions. The MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) was signed on development of domestic card scheme of UAE based on

India's RuPay debit and credit card stack. The agreement was signed in the presence of Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal. NPCI international is in talks to extend the UPI services in the US, European countries, and West Asia.



### India, Saudi Arabia Sign MoU For Electrical Interconnections, Green Hydrogen:-

In Riyadh, India and Saudi Arabia signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate on electrical interconnections, green and clean hydrogen, and supply chains. This Memorandum of Understanding aims to establish a general framework for cooperation between the two countries in the areas of electrical interconnection, exchange of electricity during peak times and emergencies, project co-development, co-production of green / clean hydrogen and renewable energy, and establishing secure, reliable, and resilient supply chains of materials used in the green / clean hydrogen and renewable energy sectors.



### Indian Space Research Organisation

### ISRO arm enters into MoU with Ahmedabad-based space tech firm :-

The Ahmedabad unit of the Indian Space Research Organization's (ISRO) Space Applications Centre (SAC) has signed a three-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with city-based Nav Wireless Technologies Pvt Ltd (NavTech) to use light-based high-speed communication for satellite communication in space. Making the shift to

optical wireless technologies from radio frequency in satellite communications, SAC will use "high-speed, secure quantum key communication using light from base station to satellite in space and terrestrial communication."



### Indian Navy & SBI Join Hands To Launch Nav-ECash' Card :-

The Indian Navy and the State Bank of India have launched the 'Nav-eCash' card, a one-of-a-kind e-cash card that can be used both online and offline. Navy Chief Admiral R Hari Kumar said during the inauguration of the Nav-eCash card, "India is leading the world with over 100 billion digital financial transactions being recorded annually and the number is steadily growing." This is a huge step forward as India strives towards ultimate self-sufficiency and digital transformation. The SBI Nav-eCash card will be used throughout the Navy. Navy Chief Admiral R Hari Kumar also announced the Indian Navy's decision to become entirely Aatmanirbhar by 2047.



### India, Tanzania Signed 15 Agreements :-

India and Tanzania has signed 15 agreements covering different areas of cooperation. The presidential visit from Tanzania to India took place after a span of more than eight years. "One of the objectives of this visit is precisely to enhance the trade volumes, to speak to the Indian business community here, to speak to the Indian government to see what barriers exist, what challenges

exist that impede the expansion of trade. And we believe that we can get to USD 10 billion bilateral trade in the next three years," said Tanzanian Foreign Minister January Yusuf Makamba.



### Supreme Court, IIT-Madras sign MoU to bring digital transformation of judiciary through AI:-

The Supreme Court and IIT Madras have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to promote the Indian judiciary's digital transformation and improve access to justice. "The MoU is aimed to facilitate the digital transformation of the Indian judiciary, aligning it with the vision for a more efficient and technologically advanced legal ecosystem to improve access to justice," according to a press release. It stated that the Supreme Court, led by CJI Chandrachud, is driving technology advancements to make its processes more automated, user-friendly, and citizen-centric in order to improve access to justice.



### UAE, Korea signed MoU to enhance bilateral air transport relations :-

The General Civil Aviation Authority (GCAA) of the United Arab Emirates has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Republic of Korea to strengthen bilateral air transport relations. This MoU contains a commitment to raise the number of national carrier flights between the two nations to 21 per week in

order to accommodate increased travel demand. This MoU was signed during meetings with leaders from both nations' aviation sectors in Seoul on October 12 and 13, 2023.



### IOC And Reliance Foundation Join Forces To Promote Olympic Values In India :-

The International Olympic Committee (IOC), the Olympic Museum, and the Reliance Foundation have signed an agreement to promote Olympic values among youth in the Mumbai region through sport. While there are hopes to spread the program throughout Maharashtra in the near future, the agreement will focus on grade-specific activities in chosen schools, sessions between athletes and students to promote physical activity, and creating awareness about Olympic values. Last year, the Abhinav Bindra Foundation in Odisha started the Olympics Value Education Programme (OVEP).



### Bridgestone Partners With Tata Power To Install EV Chargers For Four Wheelers :-

Bridgestone India announced a collaboration with Tata Power to deploy EV chargers for four-wheelers at its dealerships across the nation. According to Bridgestone India, Tata Power would install 25/30 Kwh capacity DC fast chargers capable of charging a four-wheeler in one hour, allowing 20-24 vehicles to be charged in a day. The



chargers will be available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, according to the business. Bridgestone customers and all EV owners will be able to use the chargers.



## life insurance

### **Bharti Group To Acquire French Insurer AXA's 49% Stake In Bharti AXA Life Insurance Co. :-**

Bharti Group and its partner AXA have agreed to buy the latter's 49 percent stake in Bharti AXA Life Insurance. According to a press statement, Bharti Life Ventures, the group's holding company for Bharti AXA Life Insurance, would become the sole owner of the life insurance following the stake sale. The transaction, which is slated to close in December 2023, is subject to regulatory approvals. Prior to this, the French multinational insurer had exited its other joint venture Bharti AXA General Insurance, as a part of the latter's merger with ICICI Lombard General in 2020.



### **IGNOU And ICAI Ink MoU For Academic Collaboration :-**

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) and the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) have recently renewed and reorganized their Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). This renewed cooperation intends to improve academic collaboration between these two distinguished institutions, ushering in a new era of educational options for Chartered Accountancy students. The significance of this

agreement is underscored by its alignment with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and the curriculum and credit framework set forth by the University Grants Commission (UGC).



### **India Likely To Sign Deal With US For 31 MQ-9B Drones By Feb 2024 :-**

According to defense sources, the deal with the US for 31 MQ-9B Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) is expected to be completed by February 2024, with delivery beginning in February 2027, three years after the contract was signed. General Atomics (GA) plans to develop a global Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul (MRO) facility in India as part of this strategy. However, the location has not yet been determined, according to the source, who added that it is likely to be in Bengaluru. "The deal is on track and the Letter of Offer and Acceptance [LOA] is now awaited from the U.S." said defence source.



### **Google And Qualcomm Partner To Make RISC-V Chip For Wearable Devices :-**

Chip designer Qualcomm announced a collaboration with Alphabet's Google to develop wearable devices such as smartwatches using RISC-V technology. RISC-V, pronounced "risk five," is an open-source technology that competes with Arm Holdings' proprietary technology. RISC-V can be used as a key ingredient for

anything from a smartphone chip to advanced processors for artificial intelligence. Qualcomm said it plans to commercialize the RISC-V-based wearables solution globally including the United States.



### India and Japan Strengthen Semiconductor Supply Chain Partnership :-

India and Japan inked a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) between the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and the Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry of Japan. This collaboration builds upon the 'India-Japan Digital Partnership' (IJDP), launched during Prime Minister Modi's visit to Japan in October 2018, with a focus on 'Digital ICT Technologies.' The Memorandum of Cooperation will come into effect from the date of its signing and is slated to remain in force for a period of five years.



### Reliance Jio Partners With Plume To Provide In-Home Services Enhanced By AI :-

Reliance Jio has teamed with Plume to provide services to around 200 million Indian households. Jio will deliver services such as whole-home adaptive WiFi, device performance optimization, cyberthreat protection, and parental controls using Plume's cloud platform. The collaboration will also enable Jio to improve its customer service and operations by utilizing Plume's support and operations package. Plume's partnership with Jio signals the company's entry into the Asian market, allowing Jio to swiftly expand its service offerings.



### Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) And Safran To Make Aircraft Engine Parts :-

Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) and Safran Aircraft Engines inked a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to expand industrial cooperation in commercial engine ring forging. As part of the agreement, HAL will manufacture LEAP (Leading Edge Aviation Propulsion, which powers the Airbus A320 Neo series and Boeing 737 Max) engine forgings at its Bengaluru foundry and forge facility. The MoU was signed by Mihir Kanti Mishra, CEO (Bengaluru Complex), HAL, and Dominique Dupuy, Senior Vice-President (Purchasing), Safran Aircraft Engines, in Bengaluru.

### 3: Appointments



**Banmali Agarwal Appointed Chairman Of Tata Advanced Systems :-**

According to persons familiar with the matter, Tata Sons, the holding company of the Tata Group, has appointed Banmali Agrawala as the next chairman of Tata Advanced Systems (TASL), the group's aerospace and defense solutions unit. Agrawala takes over for Vijay Singh, who has retired. Agarwal offers a plethora of experience and knowledge to his new position, including his previous roles as a senior advisor to Tata Sons and Chairman of Tata Electronics. Vijay Singh, the outgoing Chairman of TASL, is also the Vice Chairman of Tata Trust.



**Marico's Saugata Gupta Named As ASCI Chairman:-**

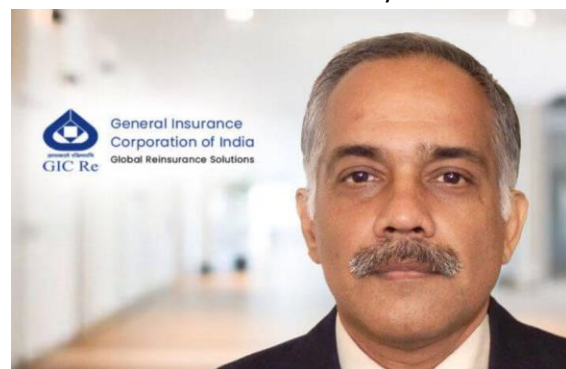
Marico's MD and CEO, Saugata Gupta, has been appointed chairperson of the Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI). Partha Sinha, president at BCCL, publisher of the Times of India and the Economic Times, was named vice chairman. Sudhanshu Vats, Pidilite Industries' deputy managing director, has been named honorary treasurer. ASCI is India's leading self-regulatory organization, focusing on communication norms in both

offline and internet advertising. It just developed the 'ASCI Academy' in order to improve self-regulation during the creative process.



**Aditya Puri Joins Deloitte As Senior Advisor :-**

Aditya Puri, an experienced banker and former Managing Director and CEO of HDFC Bank, has been appointed as a senior advisor to Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu India LLP (Deloitte). He was appointed CEO of HDFC Bank in 1994 and retired after 26 years of service, having been repeatedly rated one of the world's top business leaders. Prior to establishing HDFC, he worked for Citibank in India, Greece, Saudi Arabia, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and China for almost 20 years. His most recent position with Citibank was as CEO of its Malaysian business.



**Ramaswamy Narayanan appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of General Insurance Corporation of India :-**

Ramaswamy N has been chosen as the new Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC Re). This appointment is the result of a decision by the Government of India's Ministry

of Finance. Ramaswamy, a prominent veteran of the insurance sector, provides almost three decades of rich and broad experience to GIC Re. Ramaswamy Narayanan began his career with GIC Re as a direct recruit officer in 1988. He has demonstrated consistent passion and loyalty to the organization over the years.



### **Navneet Munot Elected As Chairman of the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) :-**

Navneet Munot, MD and CEO of HDFC Asset Management, has been chosen Chairman of the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI). Navneet Munot is a Chartered Accountant and a CFA charter holder with over three decades of expertise in financial services. AMFI's Board also appointed Mr. Anthony Heredia, MD and CEO of Mahindra Manulife Mutual Fund, as Vice-Chairman. Mr. Anthony Heredia is a Chartered Accountant and has over 26 years of experience in the investment management industry.



### **Arindam Bagchi Appointed As India's Ambassador To UN In Geneva :-**

Arindam Bagchi, the External Affairs Ministry's spokesperson, has been named India's permanent representative to the United Nations (UN) and other international organizations in Geneva. Bagchi would take

over for Indra Mani Pandey in Geneva. Pandey will return to New Delhi. Bagchi, an Indian Foreign Service (IFS) official from the 1995 batch, took over as spokesperson for the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) in March 2020. He deftly handled a number of critical issues and developments including the eastern Ladakh border row, India's Covid-19 response and New Delhi's G20 presidency.



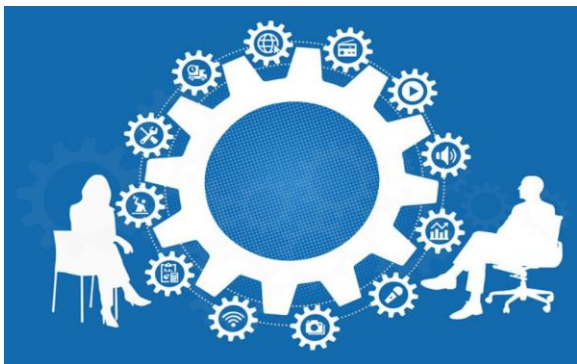
### **Dr Meenesh Shah Elected To Board Of International Dairy Federation :-**

Dr. Meenesh Shah, Chairman and Managing Director of the National Dairy Development Board (NDDDB), was elected to the Board of the International Dairy Federation (IDF) on October 15 during the IDF General Assembly, according to an official announcement. Accepting this responsibility and thanking the IDF delegates for their trust, Dr Shah mentioned that India, which contributes more than 23 percent of global milk production, has a representative on the IDF Board, which will ensure a more inclusive and better global dairying ecosystem.



### **HP Appoints Ipsita Dasgupta As Senior Vice President & MD For India:-**

Ipsita Dasgupta, a former Apple executive, has been named senior vice president and managing director of HP's India region. Ipsita will begin working for HP on October 30, reporting to David McQuarrie, the company's chief commercial officer, according to a release. Dasgupta previously worked as the senior director of marketing for Apple Services, based in Cupertino, California, where she was in charge of global synergy marketing, external partnership marketing, consumer insights, and market and competitive intelligence for Apple's subscription services.



### World Development Information Day : 24 October :-

Every year on October 24, the United Nations observes World Development Information Day. The United Nations General Assembly established World Development Information Day in 1972 to draw attention to developmental issues and the need to expand international cooperation to address them. The main aim of this day is to propagate information and mobilise public opinion in order to draw their attention and create awareness of the problems surrounding development, promoting efforts in the field of international cooperation for growth and development.



### Ashok Vaswani To Succeed Uday Kotak As New CEO Of Kotak Mahindra Bank :-

Kotak Mahindra Bank, headquartered in Mumbai, has announced that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has accepted the appointment of Ashok Vaswani as the bank's Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer for a three-year term beginning January 1, 2024. Vaswani will succeed Uday Kotak, who stepped down as the bank's CEO in September of this year. Uday Kotak was set to retire from his executive role in December but it was cut short by around four months. Kotak's exit from the bank was said to be due to personal reasons, as per news agency PTI.



### Mahendra Singh Dhoni becomes brand ambassador of Lay's :-

HDFC Lay's announced cricketer Mahendra Singh Dhoni as its brand ambassador, starring in a campaign – 'No Lay's, No Game' to deliver boundless joy to consumers and remind them to continue to elevate their match-viewing experience with Lay's chips. The packaged snacks segment has also witnessed an uptick during the festival season and Lay's is planning a lot of activations to capitalise on the mood of the nation," she added. The 'No Lay's No Game' global campaign has associated with football icons Thierry Henry and Lionel Messi in other markets.



### Robert Fico appointed as Slovakia's new PM:-

Robert Fico has been appointed as Slovakia's Prime Minister for the fourth time, following his Smer party's victory in the September election with 22.94 per cent of the votes. Slovak President Zuzana Caputova appointed the new government at the Primate's Palace in the nation's capital Bratislava in October 2023. The Smer party won 42 seats in the 150-member House, falling short of 75 seats. Twice elected as prime minister of this Eastern European country of 5.4 million inhabitants, Fico has come a long way after he was forced to resign in 2018.



### SBI Ropes In MS Dhoni As Brand Ambassador :-

The State Bank of India, the country's largest commercial bank, has announced a partnership with cricketing legend Mahendra Singh Dhoni as the bank's official Brand Ambassador. MS Dhoni, as SBI's brand ambassador, will play an important role in different marketing and promotional efforts. "His remarkable capacity to maintain composure in stressful situations and his renowned ability for clear thinking and rapid decision-making under duress makes him the ideal choice that resonates with SBI, to connect with its customers and stakeholders across the country," the company wrote in their press release.

## 4: Awards



### Ruixiang Zhang Will Be Awarded 2023 SASTRA Ramanujan Prize In Mathematics :-

Ruixiang Zhang, Assistant Professor at the University of California, Berkeley, will receive the SASTRA Ramanujan Prize in 2023 for his extraordinary contributions to mathematics. The annual cash award of USD 10,000 will be presented at an international conference in Number

Theory on December 20 and 22 at SASTRA University in Kumbakonam, the hometown of mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan. According to a press release, the age limit for the prize has been set at 32 due to Ramanujan's achievements throughout his limited life of 32 years.



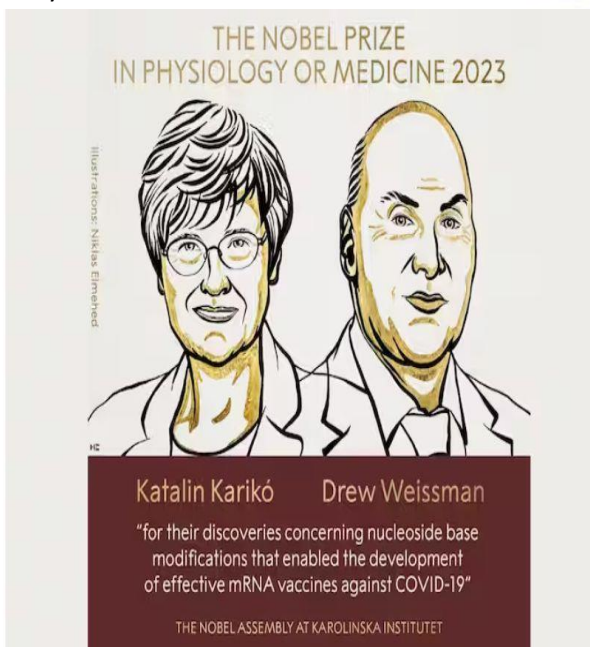
## Sudha Murty, The First Woman To Get Global Indian Award :-

The Canada India Foundation presented the Global Indian Award to Sudha Murty, acclaimed author, philanthropist, and wife of Infosys co-founder N. R. Narayana Murty. She was honored in a gala ceremony in Toronto by the Canada India Foundation. The Global Indian Award, worth \$50,000, is given each year to a notable Indian who has made a significant contribution in his or her chosen sector. Accepting the award from Indian High Commissioner Sanjay Kumar Verma, Sudha Murty said, "It is my honour to get this award from your country."



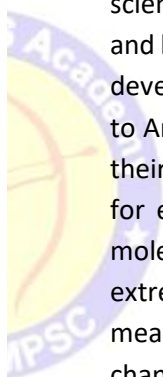
## Nobel Prize In Physics 2023 Awarded To Pierre Agostini, Ferenc Krausz And Anne L'Huillier :-

The Nobel Prize in Physics for 2023 was awarded to three scientists whose work improved electron observation and has potential applications in illness diagnosis and the development of electronic devices. The award was given to Anne L'Huillier, Pierre Agostini, and Ferenc Krausz for their experiments "which have given humanity new tools for exploring the world of electrons inside atoms and molecules. They have demonstrated a way to create extremely short pulses of light that can be used to measure the rapid processes in which electrons move or change energy," according to the Nobel Prizes website.



## Nobel Prize 2023 In Medicine Or Physiology Announced :-

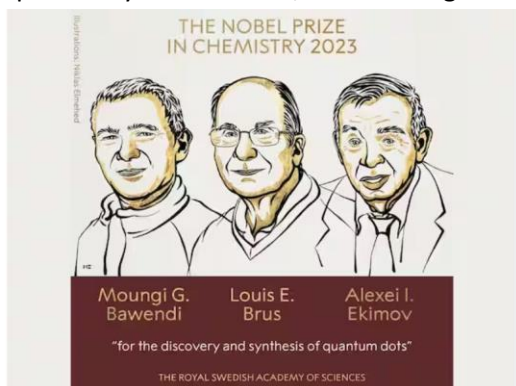
The 2023 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine has been announced by the Nobel Assembly at Karolinska Institutet. Katalin Kariko and Drew Weissman received the award for their findings that enabled the development of potent mRNA vaccines against Covid-19. This renowned medal honors outstanding achievements to medical science. Svante Paabo was last year's laureate, recognized for his revolutionary discoveries on Neandertal DNA sequences and their significance for understanding the origins of modern humans.



## Tamil Nadu Govt. Fetes 9 ISRO Scientists, Announces Award Of Rs 25 lakh :-

In honor of their services to the nation, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin announced a cash award of Rs 25 lakh to nine ISRO scientists from Tamil Nadu, including K Sivan and Mylswamy Annadurai. Stalin praised the scientists and gifted them with shawls and mementos for bringing honor to Tamil Nadu. Former ISRO chairman Sivan, Chandrayaan (1 and 2) project head Mylswamy

Annadurai, and V Narayanan, head of ISRO's Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre, were among those honored.



### **Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2023 awarded to Moungi G. Bawendi, Louis E. Brus and Alexei I. Ekimov :-**

Moungi G. Bawendi, Louis E. Brus, and Alexei I. Ekimov have been awarded the 2023 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for their work on the discovery and synthesis of quantum dots, according to the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences in Stockholm. Quantum dots have distinct features and are already emitting light from television screens and LED bulbs. According to the Academy, they catalyze chemical reactions and their clear light can illuminate tumor tissue for surgeons. According to the Academy, the 2023 Nobel Laureates in Chemistry have all been pioneers in the exploration of the nanoworld.



### **Professor Dr. Joyeeta Gupta Honored With Dutch Spinoza Prize :-**

Dr Joyeeta Gupta, an Indian-origin professor, was awarded the Spinoza Prize, the highest honor in Dutch science, during a ceremony in the Netherlands for her work on climate change. The medal was presented to the University of Amsterdam's (UvA) Professor of Environment and Development in the Global South by the Netherlands' Minister of Education, Science, and

Culture, Robert Dijkgraaf. The Dutch Research Council (NWO) prize is worth 1.5 million euros, which Gupta plans to use for scientific research and knowledge-based initiatives.



### **Nobel Prize 2023 In Economic Sciences Awarded To Claudia Goldin :-**

Claudia Goldin has been awarded the Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences in 2023 for her efforts to understanding the labor market outcomes of women. Her investigation uncovered the root drivers of change as well as the primary origins of the continuing gender gap. "Goldin trawled the archives and collected over 200 years of data, allowing her to demonstrate how and why gender differences in earnings and employment rates have changed," the committee said in a statement. The prize, announced by The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, is the final award of this year's Nobels season.



### **Bal Sahitya Puraskar in Manipuri language for Dilip Nongmaithem :-**

Dilip Nongmaithem has received the 'Bal Sahitya Puraskar' 2023 in Manipuri language from the Sahitya Akademi for his novel Ibemmas Amasung Ngabemma. The book was chosen based on recommendations made by



the Jury, which consisted of three members - Dr. Hamom Nabachandra Singha, Dr. Khundongbam Gokulchandra Singh, and Prof. Naorem Bidyasagar Singha - in accordance with the rules and procedure established for the purpose, according to a statement issued by the Sahitya Akademi. Dilip Nongmaithem is a versatile individual in addition to his literary abilities. He retired from the Public Health Engineering Department as an Assistant Engineer, demonstrating his commitment to public service.



### MRPL Secured 'Best Innovation In Refinery' Award For 2022-23 :-

Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd (MRPL) has won the ministry of petroleum and natural gas's 'Best Innovation In Refinery' award for the second year in a row. MRPL won the honor for fiscal year 2022-23, beating off industry titans such as IOCL, BPCL, and HPCL. The patent for an energy-efficient hydrocarbon distillation technique, which comprises a hydrocarbon gas composition capable of substituting energy-intensive stripping steam in the distillation process, is the cornerstone for MRPL R&D's success in claiming this award.



### ICAI Receives UN Award For Its Contribution To Sustainability Reporting :-

On October 17, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) revealed the winners of the sixth edition of the International Standards for Accounting and Reporting (ISAR) Honours. According to an ICAI press release, its sustainability initiatives achieved the highest score out of 70 received from around the world. ICAI also received the UNCTAD ISAR Chair for the 40th session, the second consecutive session, and CA (Dr) Sanjeev Kumar Singhal, Central Council Member from ICAI chaired the ISAR session during the World Investment Forum being held from October 16-20 in Abu Dhabi.



### Jina Mahsa Amini Wins EU's Sakharov Prize 2023:-

This year's Sakharov Prize has been presented posthumously to Kurdish lady Jina Mahsa Amini and the lady, Life, and Freedom Movement, which was inspired by her death in Iranian detention. Amini was arrested in September 2022 by Iran's morality police for reportedly wearing her headscarf in a way that violated the country's rigorous dress code. She died in captivity when she was 22 years old. Iranian authorities believe she died as a result of a previously unknown medical issue. Amini was from Saqez, a largely Kurdish city in western Iran.



## Gujarat's Dhordo Awarded UNWTO's Best Tourism Village 2023 :-

Dhordo, a village in Gujarat's Kutch area, is well-known as the gateway to the Great Rann of Kutch. This is also the village where Rann Utsav was first held in 2005. The United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) has awarded Dhordo the prestigious title of Best Tourism Village. Dhordo is currently one of 70 villages from nearly 40 nations to hold this coveted honor. Dhordo received this title at the Best Tourism Village - 2023 award ceremony organised by the UNWTO at the historic city of Samarkand in Uzbekistan on October 19, 2023.



## West Bengal Governor Presents 'Durga Bharat Samman' Awards :-

C V Ananda Bose, Governor of West Bengal, presented the first batch of Durga Bharat Awards at the Raj Bhavan. The renowned award ceremony was held in conjunction with the introduction of Raj Bhavan's 'Kala Kranti mission'. While Ajoy Chakraborty was honored for his

extraordinary contribution to music, the ISRO was recognized for the Chandrayaan Mission's recent accomplishment. Shantiniketan Visva Bharathi University was recognised for its contributions to education and the Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE) for the organization's achievements in shipbuilding, the release stated.



## CJI Chandrachud Honored With "Award For Global Leadership" By Harvard Law School :-

Chief Justice of India (CJI) DY Chandrachud has received the prestigious 'Award for Global Leadership' from his alma school, Harvard Law School. On January 11, this year, the Chief Justice was revealed as the laureate of the award in an online ceremony. The Chief Justice appeared at Harvard Law School for a fireside discussion with David Wilkins, a Harvard Law School professor and Faculty Director of the Center on the Legal Profession. The Harvard Law School is also celebrating the 100th anniversary of its Graduate Law Program.

## 5: Banking



## RBI Imposed Monetary Penalties On Three Co-Operative Banks :-

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced monetary penalties against three cooperative banks for regulation violations. Saraswat Co-operative Bank, Rajkot Nagarik Sahakari Bank, and Bassein Catholic Co-operative Bank are among them. The RBI fined Bassein Catholic Co-operative Bank, Rajkot Nagarik Sahakari Bank Ltd, and Saraswat Co-operative Bank, respectively, Rs 25 lakh, Rs 13 lakh, and Rs 23. The central bank stated in various press releases that the penalties were imposed due to

the banks' failure to comply with regulatory requirements.



### Fintech Unicorn Slice To Merge With North East Small Finance Bank:-

Following in the footsteps of other fintechs pursuing banking ambitions, credit card and payments unicorn Slice announced a merger with North East Small Finance Bank (NESFB). The Bengaluru-based fintech said in a statement that the proposal has gotten a no-objection certificate from the Reserve Bank of India and that they are awaiting shareholder approval and other regulatory approvals for the transaction. Slice, backed by New York-based Tiger Global and Japanese investor Gunosy, purchased a 5% interest in Guwahati-based NESFB on March 8 for less than Rs 30 crore.



### SBI Introduces 'Mobile Handheld Device' To Drive Financial Inclusion :-

In order to improve accessibility and convenience, the State Bank of India (SBI) has launched a 'Mobile Handheld Device' for its financial inclusion customers. The gadget will initially deliver five essential banking services, accounting for 75 percent of transactions made at customer service point (CSP) outlets. Cash withdrawals, cash deposits, fund transfers, balance enquiries, and mini statements are examples of these.

The company intends to broaden its offerings to include account opening, card-based operations, enrollment in social security systems, and remittance.



### RBI Doubles UCB Gold Loan Limit To Rs 4 Lakh:-

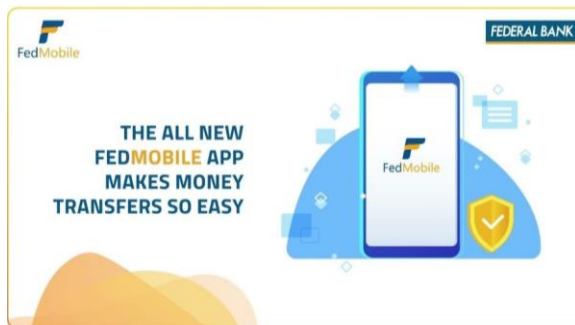
The Reserve Bank of India has raised the current limit for gold loans under the Bullet Repayment plan from Rs 2 lakh to Rs 4 lakh for Urban Co-operative Banks that met the overall and sub-targets under the Priority Sector Lending as of March 31. The action follows a dramatic increase in gold prices. In 2007, the RBI allowed bullet repayment of gold loans of up to Rs 1 lakh, which was later raised to Rs 2 lakh in 2014, with the repayment period limited to 12 months. Under bullet repayment, the principal and interest on a loan are paid in lump sum by a borrower to a lender at the end of the loan tenure.



### Irdai To Deploy Bima Vahak In Every Gram Panchayat Before End Of 2024 :-

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) plans to deploy Bima Vahaks in every Gram Panchayat by December 31, 2024, according to a circular issued by the regulator. The rules for 'Bima Vahaks (BV)' have been announced by IRDAI, with slight adjustments from the framework released in May 2023. The number of insurers with whom a Bima Vahak may work is not

limited under the new criteria. Meanwhile, the objective of Bima Vahak continues to be a women-centric, dedicated distribution channel that will ensure accessibility and availability of insurance in every nook and corner of the country.



### **Federal Bank has extended Unified Payments Interface (UPI) to NRE clients through its mobile banking platform, FedMobile :-**

Federal Bank has made Unified Payments Interface (UPI) available to NRE clients via its FedMobile mobile banking platform. With the integration of UPI, NRI clients residing in countries approved by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to allow UPI for NRIs can use UPI capabilities on FedMobile easily. Shalini Warriar, executive director, Federal Bank said, "The introduction of UPI for NRIs on FedMobile will enable our valued NR customers to transact seamlessly."



### **YES Bank Becomes The First Lender To Offer 'ONDC Network Gift Card' :-**

YES Bank has revealed that it is the first bank in the country to issue a 'ONDC Network Gift Card'. This represents a transformation in the way India shops, with the goal of revolutionizing the buying experience for Indian consumers. Unlike traditional gift cards, this concept allows users to use the gift card to buy products from any brand or seller across a wide range of categories, including food, fashion, handicrafts, technology, home basics, health and wellness, according

to the lender. This card leverages the Rupay network and offers the flexibility to load up to Rs 10,000.



### **Axis Bank launches India's first numberless credit card :-**

In collaboration with the fintech company Fibe, Axis Bank, one of India's top private sector banks, has launched the country's first numberless credit card. The card provides increased security because it lacks a card number, expiry date, or CVV, minimizing the danger of identity theft. Because this card is powered by RuPay, the consumer can link this credit card to UPI. It also has a tap-and-pay option for increased convenience. This card has zero joining fees and zero annual fees for a lifetime. The card will be accepted across all offline stores as well as all digital platforms (except international transactions).



### **RBI Stops Bank of Baroda From Adding New Customers On Its Mobile App :-**

The Reserve Bank of India has asked the state-run Bank of Baroda not to add any users to its mobile application, bob World. "This action is based on certain material supervisory concerns observed in the manner of onboarding of their customers onto this mobile application," the Reserve Bank of India said in a statement. Al Jazeera claimed in July that a Bank of

Baroda official had linked bank accounts to unrelated mobile numbers in order to meet strict targets for getting customers to join the app by March 2022. The app had been available for six months earlier.



### **RBI Initiates Pilot Run To Test E-Rupee For Inter-Bank Borrowing :-**

According to RBI Executive Director Ajay Kumar Choudhary, the Reserve Bank of India has launched a wholesale CBDC (Central Bank Digital Currency) trial for the call money market and is testing the market to evaluate use cases. "It is pilot to test the system and accounting," he explained, adding that I might not be able to remark on quantities at this time. "We are looking at different wholesale use cases and will accordingly look at how to proceed," Choudhary said on the sidelines of the ASSOCHAM Banking and NBFC Summit.



### **HDFC Bank Unveils XpressWay Digital Platform For Swift Loans :-**

HDFC Bank has created XpressWay, a digital banking platform. The platform intends to provide users with a quick, paperless, and self-service banking experience. It provides a wide range of financial options, from personal loans to credit cards and savings accounts, with over 30 banking products and over 14 services. Parag Rao, country head – payments, liability products, consumer

finance and marketing, HDFC Bank, said: "As we launch this platform, XpressWay, during the festive season, we open the door to a faster, more convenient, and enjoyable banking experience."



### **RBL Bank Introduces GO Savings Account :-**

RBL Bank has launched the GO Savings Account, a zero-balance digital banking product with a subscription-based concept. Account holders will receive competitive interest rates of up to 7.5% per annum, a premium debit card, vouchers worth Rs. 1,500 for renowned brands, comprehensive cyber insurance coverage, accident and travel insurance up to Rs. 1 crore, a complimentary CIBIL report, and a variety of premium banking services by paying this annual subscription fee. The subscription fee, which replaces the minimum balance requirement, works out to Rs. 1999 + taxes for the first year and an annual renewal fee of Rs. 599 + taxes thereafter.



### **RBI directed credit bureaus to resolve complaints filed by customers within 30 days :-**

The Reserve bank of India (RBI) on 26 October told lenders, financial institutions and credit bureaus to resolve complaints filed by customers within 30 days or pay a fine of ₹100 per day. The RBI also directed credit institutions (CIs) and credit information companies (CICs) to introduce a compensation framework for delayed updation or rectification of credit information. In other significant update, RBI asked the Private Sector Banks

and Wholly Owned Subsidiaries of Foreign Banks to have at least 2 Whole Time Directors ('WTD') to reduce the growing complexity of the banking sector.



**RBI Approves MobiKwik's Zaakpay To Operate As Payment Aggregator:-**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has granted Zaakpay, MobiKwik's secure payment gateway arm, in-principle approval to function as a payment aggregator. This authorization will enable Zaakpay to onboard additional merchants onto its network, facilitating rapid and easy online payment processing. The platform collaborates with various brands in e-commerce, mobility, and bill payments, offering over 100 different payment methods including UPI, debit and credit cards, net banking, and mobile wallets.

## 6: Books and Author



**Canna Patel's book launch at CEPT University:-**

Canna Patel's book "Meaning is More: Interior Design for India" was released at the CEPT University Campus. Canna Patel is the founder and chairperson of HCP Interior Design Pvt Ltd., a multi-disciplinary design business situated in Ahmedabad. She is a famous architect and interior designer with over 30 years of professional experience. Canna has held academic positions and served as a visiting faculty member at CEPT University. Canna Patel's inspirations, thought processes, methods, and design story of creating timeless and meaningful spaces are all revealed in the book.



**Prime Minister Modi launches four books celebrating India's successful G20 Presidency :-**

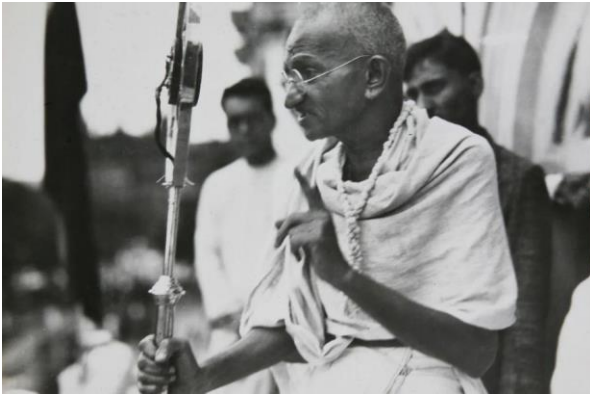
In an important ceremony, Prime Minister Narendra Modi released four books that reflect India's G20 presidency accomplishments. One of the publications, titled 'Showcasing Indian Culture at the G-20,' offers an informative look into the rich tapestry of Indian culture that was shown to G20 delegates across the country during India's presidency. The Prime Minister also unveiled three other publications on this occasion: "The Grand Success of G20 Bharat Presidency: Visionary Leadership, Inclusive Approach," "India's G20 Presidency: Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam," and "Compendium of G20 University Connect Programme."



**Navya Naveli Nanda and Tinkle Comics collaborate for 'Wonder Naari':-**

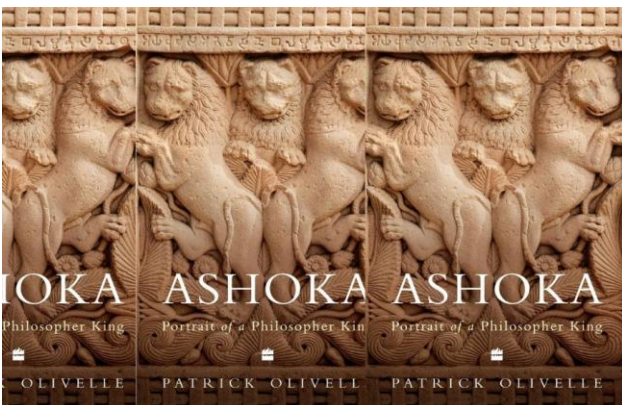
Navya Naveli Nanda, a star kid and social entrepreneur, has teamed with comics company 'Tinkle' on their book 'Wonder Naari,' which was launched at Mumbai's Dixit

Road BMC School. Navya, who is also an avid reader, worked with Tinkle's editorial staff to create stories for 'Wonder Naari'. The new book is a combination of four inspirational stories about legal awareness, entrepreneurship, mental health, and education. The book launch was followed by an interactive workshop where participants could learn about 'Wonder Naari' through games and activities.



### Andhra University Vice-Chancellor releases book on Mahatma Gandhi:-

P.V.G.D. Prasad, Vice-Chancellor of Andhra University, published a book titled "Beyond Self: M.K. Gandhi's My Experiments with Truth" at the Gandhian Studies Centre in Visakhapatnam. N. Satyanarayana, ANITS assistant professor, and G. Chenna Reddy, Acharya Nagarjuna University, Guntur, wrote the book. According to Prof. Reddy, the book addresses numerous facets of Mahatma Gandhi's life and thought in a simple and intelligible manner. It provides a thorough examination of Mahatma Gandhi's life, ideology, and the key elements that helped develop him into the famous figure of peace and nonviolence that he became.



### Inaugural book of the 'Indian Lives' series 'Ashoka' launched :-

"Ashoka was a self-aware, self-righteous man and that is what my book reflects," author Patrick Olivelle explained. He was addressing during the launch of his book 'Ashoka' at the India International Centre in New Delhi. The first of many upcoming books, 'Ashoka,' is the first book in the 'Indian Lives' series, which was established by Harper Collins publishing firm and curated and edited by Ramchandra Guha. Guha introduced the series, emphasizing that Ashoka, India's first monarch, was an appropriate starting point. While giving a summary of the subjects discussed in 'Ashoka,' author Olivelle stated that his work is not a standard biography.



### Medical Commission releases book on professional ethics :-

The National Medical Commission's first publication is a booklet titled "Professional Conduct Review - Lessons from Case Archives" by the Ethics and Medical Registration Board (EMRB). According to the booklet, in order to be a "Good Doctor," a Registered Medical Practitioner (RMP) must treat patients with compassion and understanding. The booklet deals with the unique doctor-patient relationship through a series of nine cases and notes that the most common cause of complaints against doctors is due to a communication gap.



## Green Man Viral Desai's 2nd Edition of 'Architect of Amritpath' released :-

Viral Desai, a renowned environmentalist and novelist fondly known as the "Green Man," has reached a significant literary milestone with the publication of the second edition of his debut book, 'Architect of Amritpath.' This wonderful occasion was made even more remarkable because it was inaugurated by Surat's special children, following the book's first edition's phenomenal success in both English and Gujarati languages in just two months. The first edition of the book was unveiled by Mr. Ajay Tomar, Police Commissioner of Surat city, along with the renowned writer Jay Vasavada.



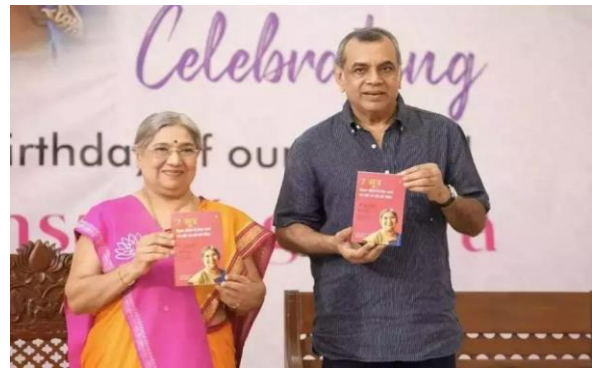
## Gujarati addition of Diamond Tycoon Govind Dholakia's autobiography book launched :-

Gujarat Governor Acharya Devvrat, Chief Minister Bhupendrabhai Patel, and Saint Shri Rameshbhai Ojha launched the Gujarati edition of leading businessman and Founder-Chairman of Shri Ramakrishna Exports Private Limited, Govindbhai Dholakia's autobiography titled 'Diamonds Are Forever, So Are Morals'. Govindbhai Dholakia's autobiography, 'Diamonds Are Forever, So Are Morals,' combines 40 to 50 years of significant experiences, according to Chief Minister Bhupendrabhai Patel. He hoped that the book would be a source of inspiration and moral direction for future generations.



## CUBEC launches pictorial field manual on flora in Western Ghats :-

The Center for Urban Ecology, Biodiversity, Evolution, and Climate Change (CUBEC), Jain (Deemed-to-be-University), and the Karnataka State Medicinal Board Authority issued "Trees of the Central Western Ghats - A Pictorial Field Manual." Dr. G Ramachandra Rao, Associate Professor, CUBEC, Jain (Deemed-to-be-University), Dr. T.V. Ramachandra, Vishnu D. Mukri, and Dr M.D. Subash Chandran wrote the book. It is a visual guide to the flora of the Western Ghats region in Karnataka. The book was published with the assistance of the Karnataka State Medicinal Board Authority, Karnataka Government.



## Paresh Rawal launches Dr. Hansaji Yogendra's book '7 Rules to Reset Your Body and Mind' in Hindi :-

Actor Paresh Rawal released the Hindi translation of Indian Yoga master and author Dr. Hansaji Yogendra's latest book '7 Rules to Reset Your Body and Mind' in Mumbai. The book launch was held at The Yoga Institute in Mumbai. Dr. Hansaji Yogendra imparts her profound wisdom on holistic well-being in '7 Rules to Reset Your Body and Mind,' which was initially published in English



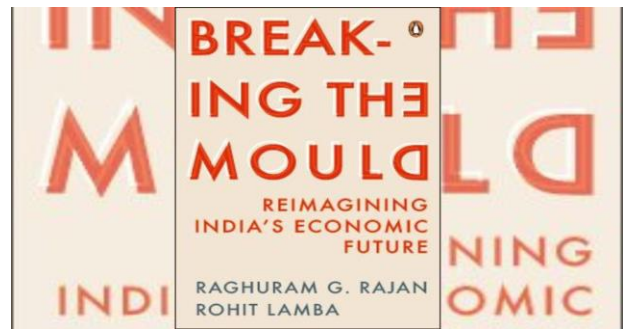
in February 2023. Yogendra said in a statement, "Yoga is a universal language, and I am delighted to share these transformative principles in Hindi."



### **'The Reverse Swing: Colonialism To Cooperation' Book Launched By Hardeep Singh Puri :-**

Hardeep Singh Puri, India's Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, has launched a book titled 'The Reverse Swing: Colonialism to Cooperation,' written by Ashok Tandon and published by Prabhat Prakashan. The novel depicts New India's march to glory, leaving behind the tragic and terrible memories of centuries of foreign tyranny. Since independence, the author has chronicled the historical events and alterations in Indo-UK ties. Ashok Tandon is a senior Indian journalist, writer, and

political analyst who has worked in print journalism, media relations, and media academics for over 50 years.



### **Raghuram Rajan's new book on future of Indian economy set for December release :-**

Former Reserve Bank of India (RBI) governor Raghuram Rajan's latest book 'Breaking the Mould' will be launched on December 7, according to Penguin Random House India. Rajan's newest book, co-written with fellow economist Rohit Lamba, will address India's economic progress in the future. The former central banker's latest book - his third since he exited the RBI governor's office in September 2016 - comes ahead of the national elections, which will likely be held in the second quarter of 2024.

## 7: Defence



### **IAF Receives First Dornier Do-228 Aircraft From HAL :-**

The Indian Air Force (IAF) has welcomed the first of six brand-new Dornier Do-228 aircraft made completely by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL). The aircraft has been refurbished with new engines, composite propellers, advanced avionics, and a modern glass cockpit. The Ministry of Defence signed the agreement in March, guaranteeing the purchase of six Dornier-228

aircraft from HAL for the Indian Air Force at a cost of Rs 667 crore. This next batch of six aircraft will be equipped with more fuel-efficient engines and five-bladed composite propellers.



### **Army launches Project Udbhav to 'rediscover profound Indic heritage of statecraft, warfare':-**

The Army is currently traveling through time to retrieve "India's age-old wisdom in statecraft, strategy,

diplomacy, and warfare" in order to prepare for future fights. According to an Army official, it has initiated "Project Udbhav," a "pioneering initiative to rediscover the profound Indic heritage of statecraft and strategic thoughts derived from ancient Indian texts." The initiative aims to build an indigenous strategic lexicon that is strongly anchored in India's rich philosophical and cultural tapestry, in addition to rediscovering these narratives.



### Indian Navy unveils cutting-edge autonomous weaponized boat swarms and underwater vessels at Swavlamban 2.0 :-

The second Swavlamban Naval Innovation and Indigenization Seminar of the Indian Navy, scheduled for October 4 and 5, is approaching, and anticipation is growing. The Autonomous Vessel Underwater (AUV) will be displayed for the first time at the exhibition, along with the Autonomous Weaponized Boat Swarms for the Indian Navy. The Indian Navy has entered into an agreement with Sagar Defence Engineering Pvt. Ltd for the development of Autonomous Weaponized Boat Swarms.



### Vice Admiral Tarun Sobti takes over as Navy's deputy chief :-

Vice Admiral Tarun Sobti has been appointed as the Navy's new deputy chief, where he will oversee the force's activities in the face of China's rising footprint in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) and its maritime collusion with Pakistan. Vice Admiral Sobti, who joined the Navy in July 1988, is a "navigation and direction specialist" who has commanded frontline vessels such as the missile corvette INS Kora, guided-missile destroyer INS Kolkata, and the Eastern Fleet. He was the director-general of Project Seabird, which deals with the expansion of the Karwar naval base, before assuming charge as the new deputy chief.



### India And Bangladesh Annual Joint Military Exercise "SAMPRITI":-

India and Bangladesh commenced the 11th edition of their annual joint military exercise, SAMPRITI, took off on Oct 3, 2023 in Umroi, Meghalaya. This coordinated effort, organized alternatively by both countries, illustrates the strength of their bilateral defense cooperation projects. SAMPRITI has successfully run ten editions since its commencement in Jorhat, Assam, in 2009. Over the course of 14 days, SAMPRITI-XI engages roughly 350 soldiers from both sides, emphasizing the importance of improving interoperability, sharing tactical maneuvers, and promoting best practices.



## Indian Air Force Set To Induct Astra BVR Air-To-Air Missile :-

With a substantial contract for indigenous Astra Beyond Visual Range (BVR) Air to Air Missiles, the Indian Air Force (IAF) is expected to strengthen its air defense capabilities. These contracts, awarded to Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL), are expected to boost India's defense industrial independence. The first batch of Astra missiles are planned to enter the IAF inventory by the end of 2023. Development work for the more advanced and longer-range Astra-Mk2 are already underway, marking a significant step forward in India's ambition for defense self-sufficiency.



## India's Fiscal Deficit Reaches 36% Of FY Target In August :-

According to government figures, India's budget deficit for the first five months of this fiscal year through August was 6.43 lakh crore rupees, or 36% of annual estimates. The fiscal deficit increased from 32.6% in the same period last year. Total receipts were 10.29 lakh crore rupees, whereas total spending was 16.72 lakh crore rupees from April to August. They represented 37.9% and 37.1% of the fiscal year's budget objective, respectively. Corporate tax receipts increased by more

than 15% year on year, hitting 2.39 trillion rupees from April to August.



## IAF Receives First LCA Trainer From HAL, Seven More To Come By March 2024 :-

The Indian Air Force (IAF) received the first Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) twin-seater trainer variant aircraft from Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) in Bengaluru. The LCA Tejas Twin Seater is an outstanding achievement, created with the strategic goal of transferring aspiring pilots from twin-seater variants to fighter pilots. HAL has received an order from the IAF for 18 twin-seaters, with intentions to deliver eight by fiscal year 2023-24 and the remaining ten by fiscal year 2026-27. With the successful production of the first twin-seater variant, HAL has further solidified its position to meet the IAF's training requirements and serve as a fighter aircraft when necessary.



## Army Concludes 70 Schemes Under EP-4 Worth Rs 11000 Crore :-

The Army has completed the fourth stage of Emergency Procurements (EP) from September 2022 to September 2023, with over 70 initiatives costing almost Rs 11,000 crore completed. Similarly, the Indian Air Force has

completed 64 EP-4 contracts worth around Rs 8,137 crore. About 6-7 schemes worth Rs 1,300 crores went for weapon systems, Rs 1,300 crore was used across 7-8 projects for protective equipment, and 9 to 10 schemes at about Rs 1,500 crore related to Intelligence, Reconnaissance, and Surveillance.



### Indian Air Force Unveils New Ensign On Its 91st Anniversary :-

On the occasion of the Indian Air Force's (IAF) 91st anniversary, Chief Air Chief Marshal (ACM) Vivek Ram Chaudhari unveiled a new Ensign. The Air Force Day parade was place this year at Air Force Station Bamrauli in Prayagraj. A few lakh people gathered on the banks of Triveni Sangam in the afternoon to see the aerial maneuvers. The freshly inducted C-295 transport aircraft made its first appearance in any Indian air demonstration, while the heritage MiG-21 Bison made what is likely its final appearance in an air display before being phased out by 2025.



### India, China Hold 20th Round Of Military Talks In Ladakh :-

On the 9th and 10th of October, India and China held the 20th round of corps commander-level meetings along the Chushul-Moldo frontier in Ladakh. Officials stated

that perspectives were expressed in a 'frank, open, and constructive manner' in attempt to resolve outstanding border concerns. The meeting was place on the Indian side, with the two parties continuing discussions in August through the same venue. As previously reported, Beijing suggested high-level military talks as a follow-up to late-August intensive discussions on the Depsang and Demchok friction locations.



### Operation Ajay Set To Evacuate Indian Nationals From Israel :-

India has started Operation Ajay to assist its residents who seek to return from Israel. External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar stated on social media that special charter flights and other arrangements are being made. In light of the continuing developments in Israel and Palestine, the Ministry of External Affairs has established a 24-hour Control Room to monitor the situation and give information and assistance. The Indian Embassy in Ramallah has also established a 24-hour emergency number.



### 360 Degree Appraisal System Introduced In The Indian Navy :-

The Indian Navy stated that it has institutionalized a "transformative" appraisal mechanism due to the

inherent restriction of a "top-down" approach in the current system. According to the report, the new '360 degree appraisal process' for promotion boards has been completed with an emphasis on having an agile and adaptive human resource management framework. According to the paper, the current appraisal method of periodic secret reports by senior officers has an inherent restriction of a "top-down" approach in that it does not account for or quantify a leader's impact on subordinates.



### Indian Navy Gets Third Guided Missile Destroyer Imphal :-

Imphal (Yard 12706), the third in a series of 15B Class stealth guided missile destroyers, has been delivered to the Indian Navy by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL). Imphal is the first naval warship with dedicated accommodation of women officers and sailors. The first ship of the P15B class, INS Visakhapatnam, was commissioned on November 21, 2021, and the second ship, INS Mormugao, on December 18, 2022. The third ship, Imphal, has been delivered, and the fourth ship, Surat, is nearing completion.



### Joint bilateral training exercise commenced between Indian & Malaysian Army:-

Joint bilateral training exercise "Exercise Harimau Shakti 2023", between Indian & Malaysian Army commenced in October 2023 in Umroi Cantonment, India. The Malaysian Army contingent comprises troops from 5th Royal Battalion of Malaysian Army. The Indian contingent is being represented by a Battalion of THE RAJPUT REGIMENT. Last edition of the Exercise was conducted in Pulai, Kluang, Malaysia in November 2022. Ex Harimau Shakti is aimed to enhance the level of defence co-operation between Indian Army and the Malaysian Army.



### Joint Military Exercise KAZIND-2023 :-

On October 29, an Indian Army and Indian Air Force contingent of 120 troops left for Kazakhstan to participate in the 7th edition of Joint Military 'Exercise KAZIND-2023'. The exercise will take place in Otar, Kazakhstan, from October 30 to November 11, 2023. A Battalion from the DOGRA Regiment leads a group of 90 Indian Army soldiers. Along with the Army contingents, 30 Air Force personnel from both sides will take part in the current iteration of the exercise. The Joint Exercise between India and Kazakhstan was instituted as 'Exercise PRABAL DOSTYK' in the year 2016. After the second edition, the Exercise was upgraded to a company-level exercise and renamed as 'Exercise KAZIND'.

## 8: Economy



### Google & HP Join Hands To Make Chromebooks In India

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In a key move linked with the Make in India mission, tech giants HP and Google have partnered to manufacture low-cost Chromebook laptops in India. This strategic alliance aims to target the low-cost notebook market, specifically students, educational institutions, and government procurement needs. As per the Times of India, the Chromebook devices are expected to be priced at approximately Rs 20,000, with potential for even lower rates in bulk purchases. Production will take place at the Flex facility near Chennai.



### Remission Of Duties And Taxes On Exported Products (RoDTEP) Scheme Extended Till 30th June 2024 :-

The union government announced that it has extended its support for the Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) plan until June 30, 2024. The RoDTEP Scheme was introduced by the government as a duty remission scheme for exports and is being implemented from 1 January 2021. The plan establishes a method for reimbursing taxes, tariffs, and levies that

are currently not repaid under any other mechanism at the federal, state, and municipal levels, but are incurred by export firms throughout the manufacturing and distribution of exported goods.



### Government Increases Windfall Tax On Crude Petroleum:-

After the government revised the windfall tax on domestically produced crude oil, oil and gas stocks were a mixed bag. The government increased the special additional excise duty (SAED) on crude petroleum to Rs 12,100 per tonne. A windfall tax is a tax imposed on a specific commodity, such as crude oil, when its price rises dramatically. The government has indirectly made exporting oil more expensive and hence discouraged it by raising windfall taxes. This ruling would have an impact on upstream corporations such as Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd (ONGC) and Oil India.



### India's Core Sector Records Robust Growth In August, Highest In 14 Months :-

India's core sector output increased to a 14-month high of 12.1% in August, up from 8.4% the previous month,

showing increased economic activity. "All in all, the data indicates that the recovery in the infrastructure industries is getting broad-based, which is a good sign for the economy," said Ind-Ra economists Paras Jasrai and Sunil Kumar Sinha. According to economists, the index of eight essential industries, which accounts for 40% of the index of industrial production, would likely translate into outstanding IIP growth in August.



### India's GST Revenue Growth Slows To 10.2% In September:-

Gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenue growth in India dipped to a 27-month low of 10.2% in September, down from roughly 10.8% in the preceding two months. However, collections increased by 2.3% over August to Rs 1,62,712 crore. Domestic transaction revenues, including service imports, were 14% more than tax revenue from similar sources in September 2022. The gross GST kitty has crossed the Rs 1.60 lakh crore barrier for the fourth time in 2023-24, according to the Finance Ministry.



### India's Diesel Exports To Europe Reached Their Peak In September 2023:-

India's diesel shipments to Europe increased dramatically in September 2023, reaching record highs

for the year. This increase was caused by a mix of causes, including reduced supplies from West Asia and the United States (US) owing to the autumn refinery maintenance season, as well as strong demand in Europe. Vortexa data on energy cargo tracking gives insight on this crucial advancement. India's diesel exports to Europe in September reached approximately 333,000 barrels per day (bpd), marking a substantial increase of nearly 47 percent from August.



### Air India Installs Massive Engineering Warehouse At Delhi Airport :-

Following many technical challenges during flight operations, Air India has opened a warehouse facility in Delhi to store over 1,000,000 engineering parts used in the maintenance, checks, and repairs of its aircraft and ground support equipment, according to an official. According to airline officials, the centralised warehouse, which spans 54,000 sq. ft. (approx.) and is located near Terminal 3 at the Cargo complex of Delhi Airport's Air Cargo Logistics division, will increase the quick turnaround of the airline's aircraft operating out of Delhi.



### BOB To Raise 10,000 Crore Rupees To Fund Affordable Housing, Infra:-

The Board of Directors of Bank of Baroda (BoB) has accepted a proposal to raise up to Rs 10,000 crore to

fund infrastructure and affordable housing projects. The sanction is for raising Long Term Bonds for Financing of Infrastructure and Affordable Housing worth up to Rs 10,000 crore in single or multiple tranches throughout 2023-24 and beyond, according to a regulatory filing by BoB. Earlier, the Reserve Bank of India barred state-owned BoB from onboarding new customers on its mobile app 'bob World' following material supervisory concerns.



### India Is Set To Become 4th Largest Spender In Global Travel By 2030 :-

Travel expenditures in India are predicted to exceed \$410 billion by 2030, making it the fourth-largest global spender on travel. Following the pandemic, the country's travel industry has made a strong comeback, with Indian visitors predicted to accomplish 5 billion journeys yearly by 2030. These insights are contained in the report "How India Travels," which was created by online travel service booking.com in collaboration with McKinsey. This report highlights the country's "golden age" in the travel industry and predicts an increase in aircraft numbers to cater to the aviation boom.



### Tata Motors To Invest Rs 150 Crore To Acquire 27% Stake In 'Freight Tiger' :-

Tata Motors and Freight Commerce Solutions Private Ltd inked a Securities Subscription Agreement (SSA) and a Shareholders Agreement (SHA) to acquire a 26.79% share in 'Freight Tiger' for Rs 150 crore. The SSA also includes a clause that allows Tata Motors to invest an additional Rs 100 crore over the next two years at the then-current market value. The 'Freight Tiger' digital platform offers end-to-end logistics value chain solutions for cargo movement in the country.



### RBI Approves Kotak Mahindra Bank To Acquire MFI Sonata Finance :-

The Reserve Bank of India has approved Kotak Mahindra Bank's Rs 537-crore acquisition of microlender Sonata Finance. On February 10 of this year, the city-based private sector lender declared its intention to buy Sonata. The RBI has approved Kotak to establish Sonata as its business correspondent subsidiary, and the entity is now a wholly-owned subsidiary of Kotak Mahindra Bank, according to the company. In February, Kotak had said that Sonata had Rs 1,903 crore of assets under management and serviced 9 lakh people as of December 2022.



### RBI Inaugurates Sub-Office In Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh :-

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced the establishment of a sub-office in Itanagar, Arunachal



Pradesh, in India's northeast. The sub-office was launched by Dr. Michael Debabrata Patra, deputy governor of the Reserve Bank of India. Abhijit Majumdar, General Manager (officer-in-charge), leads the sub-office, which is housed in the Arunachal Pradesh Forest Corporation Limited Building in Itanagar. With the opening of this office, the Reserve Bank now has presence in all the seven States of the north-eastern region (NER) viz., Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura.



### **Govt To Invest Rs 30,000 Crore To Expand Crop Insurance Portal Coverage :-**

According to two officials, the government intends to spend Rs 30,000 crore to expand the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) portal into a comprehensive platform that will extend insurance coverage beyond crops to include assets such as ponds, tractors, animals, and palm trees. The AIDE app, which was introduced in July, will drive this project, making crop insurance more accessible and convenient for farmers. Through this app, insurance intermediaries will not only enrol farmers for crop insurance, but also extend coverage to 40 million farmers for non-subsidized schemes.



### **RBI Imposes Rs 2.5 Crore Penalty On L&T Finance For Non Compliance :-**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a monetary penalty of Rs 2.50 crore (Rupees Two Crore Fifty Lakh only) on L&T Finance Limited. This action was taken as a

result of non-compliance with specified provisions of the Non-Banking Financial Company - Systemically Important Non-Deposit Taking Company and Deposit Taking Company (Reserve Bank) Directions, 2016. The RBI imposed the fine in accordance with the relevant clauses of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934.



### **Zomato Introduces Maternity Insurance Plan For Women Delivery Partners :-**

The food ordering and delivery company Zomato has launched a maternity insurance program for its female delivery partners. This insurance policy covers a variety of pregnancy-related expenses, such as childbirth and maternal problems. The maternity insurance program, which is run in conjunction with ACKO, is open to female delivery partners who have made 1,000 deliveries on the Zomato platform and have been active for at least 60 days prior to applying for this insurance.



### **Jio MAMI Film Festival Began In Mumbai After A Four-Year Break :-**

The Jio MAMI Mumbai Film Festival returned to Mumbai on October 27 after a four-year hiatus with a gala ceremony at the Nita Mukesh Ambani Cultural Centre (NMACC). The festival once again delivered to the city a

broad range of Indian, South Asian, and world film. The festival kicked off with a stunning master ceremony led by Jio MAMI chairman Priyanka Chopra Jonas. From October 27 to November 5, the Jio MAMI Mumbai Film Festival will unfold over ten days, showcasing more than 250 features and shorts across 20 screens in eight venues throughout Mumbai.



### Tata To Become India's First iPhone Manufacturer As Wistron Approves Factory Sale :-

Tata Electronics Pvt Ltd (TEPL), the Tata Group's manufacturing arm, has agreed to buy Wistron's Indian operations for \$125 million (Rs 1,000 crore). As a result, it will be the first Indian company to produce Apple iPhones. The board of directors of Taipei-based Wistron Corp has approved "signing the share purchase agreement with TEPL for the sale of its 100% indirect

stake in Wistron InfoComm Manufacturing (India) Pvt. Ltd (WMMI)." The transaction price is tentatively estimated as \$125 million (approximately NTD3.89 billion)," it said in a statement.



### Indian Government Tightens Disclosure Rules for Limited Liability Partnerships :-

The government has tightened the transparency standards for limited liability partnerships (LLPs), which must now keep a registry of partners containing information on their beneficial interests and both tangible and intangible contributions. According to the Ministry of Corporate Affairs' (MCA) Limited Liability Partnership (Third Amendment) Rules, 2023, even new LLPs must keep such a register at their registered offices within 30 days of creation. On October 28, the new rules went into effect.

## 9: International



### Russia To Boost Its Defence Spending By 70% In 2024 :-

Russia plans to increase defense spending by about 70% in 2024, according to a finance ministry document, as Moscow ramps up its offensive in Ukraine. According to the document, defense spending would increase by more than 68 percent year on year to about 10.8 trillion rubles (\$111.15 billion), accounting for around 6 percent of GDP – more than social policy spending. Since the start of the Ukraine crisis, Russia has taken a more assertive approach, not just on the battlefield but also in the economy.



## Taiwan Unveils 'Haikun', Its First Domestically Built Submarine :-

Taiwan has displayed its first domestically manufactured submarine, dubbed 'Haikun,' as part of its preparations for a future Chinese attack. President Tsai Ing-wen presided over the launch ceremony in Kaohsiung, Taiwan's port city. Officials in the United States have cautioned that China may be militarily capable of launching an invasion within the next few years. Taiwan is a self-governing island that China considers a renegade province that it intends to recover one day. Most analysts believe China would not attack the island anytime soon, and Beijing has stated that it wishes to achieve peaceful "reunification" with Taiwan.



## Eurozone Inflation Hits Two-Year Low :-

In September, eurozone inflation fell to its lowest level in two years, indicating that the European Central Bank's steady diet of interest rate hikes was successful in containing runaway prices, albeit at an increasing cost to economic development. According to Eurostat's flash reading, consumer prices in the eurozone's 20 member countries grew by 4.3% in September, the slowest rate since October 2021, from 5.2% the previous month. Retail sales in Germany declined in August, but unemployment surged in September, according to figures.



## ADB's Capital Reforms To Unlock \$100 Billion For Asia And Pacific:-

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has adopted capital management reforms that will release \$100 billion in funding over the next ten years to help Asia and the Pacific region manage a complex collection of overlapping crises and climate change issues. The revisions were implemented via an amendment to the ADB's Capital Adequacy Framework (CAF). They increased the bank's annual new commitments capacity to more than \$36 billion, an increase of around \$10 billion, or almost 40%.



## Tallest Statue Of B.R. Ambedkar To Be Unveiled In North America On October 14 :-

On October 14, the highest statue of BR Ambedkar outside of India will be unveiled in Maryland. The organizers have announced that this historic event will take place on October 14 in Maryland. The statue, which stands 19 feet tall, has been dubbed the Statue of Equality and is part of the Ambedkar International Centre (AIC), which is now under development on a 13-acre site in Accokeek, Maryland, about 35 kilometers south of Washington. Born on April 14, 1891, Dr. Bhim Rao

Ambedkar, fondly known as Babasaheb among his followers, served as the chairman of the Drafting Committee of the Constituent Assembly and earned the title of the Architect of the Indian Constitution.



### **Eurozone Economy Faces Contraction In Q3 Amidst Sliding Demand :-**

According to recent data and assessments, the eurozone economy fell in the third quarter of this year. In September, demand in the region fell significantly, at the fastest rate in over three years. Several factors, including increasing borrowing costs, higher prices, and cautious consumer spending among indebted households, contributed to the economic collapse. The final Composite Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI), compiled by S&P Global and considered a reliable indicator of overall economic health, inched up to 47.2 in September, compared to August's 46.7.



### **India's Historic Re-Election As AIBD GC President :-**

In an unprecedented development, India has been elected as President of the Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD) General Conference (GC) for the third consecutive term to lead the prestigious international organization. India previously served two terms as President of the AIBD GC from 2018

to 2021 and 2021 to 2023. On the aforementioned achievement, the Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting stated that this milestone occurred for the first time in the history of AIBD, which is a 50-year-old organization, and that it demonstrates the confidence of broadcasting organizations throughout Asia Pacific and the world in India.



### **EU Approves World's First Green Bond Standards To Combat Greenwashing :-**

European Union lawmakers have passed pioneering regulations for corporations issuing "green" bonds, a big step toward combating greenwashing and assisting investors in identifying truly sustainable enterprises. This guideline is intended to direct investors to really sustainable investment possibilities while giving issuing companies confidence in the acceptability of their bonds for environmentally concerned investors. This new initiative aims to promote transparency and credibility in the green bond market, preventing misleading climate-friendly claims.



### **Sheikh Hasina Unveils Largest Project Built With Chinese Aid:-**

Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has officially opened the 82-kilometer Padma Bridge Rail Link, the

country's largest infrastructure project constructed under China's Belt and Road Initiative. Hasina unveiled the Dhaka-Bhanga segment of the rail link connecting Dhaka and Jashore over the Padma Bridge from Munshiganj's Mawa Railway Station. The final section of the project connecting Jessore is scheduled to open in June of next year. The project is estimated to cost Tk 39,246.80 crore, with the Exim Bank of China providing a loan of Tk 21,036.70 crore, the report said.



### Japan Becomes First Nation To Launch An Electromagnetic Railgun From An Offshore Vessel :-

Japan successfully tested a medium-caliber maritime electromagnetic railgun, potentially signaling a shift in Tokyo's defense posture. The railgun, which launches projectiles at high speeds using electromagnetic force, might be used to target aerial threats at sea, such as hypersonic cruise and ballistic missiles. According to the War Zone, the test was a collaboration between the Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) and the Acquisition Technology & Logistics Agency (ATLA), which is part of Japan's Ministry of Defense (MOD).



### US Imposes Sanctions On Three Chinese Firms For Alleged Missile Component Supply To Pakistan:-

The United States has announced penalties against three Chinese businesses that have allegedly worked to deliver

missile-applicable components to Pakistan's ballistic missile program. According to the US State Department, the companies are General Technology Limited, Beijing Luo Luo Technology Development, and Changzhou Utek Composite Company. The State Department said that the sanctions were being imposed as part of the global nonproliferation regime. The US said it is committed to strengthening the global nonproliferation regime by taking action to disrupt procurement networks supporting proliferation activities of concern.



### Defense Minister of China Gen. Li Shangfu has been replaced :-

China has replaced Defense Minister Gen. Li Shangfu, who has been out of public view for almost two months. Li is the second senior Chinese official to disappear this year, following former Foreign Minister Qin Gang, who was removed from office in July with no explanation offered. Li, who became defense minister during a Cabinet reshuffle in March, hasn't been seen since giving a speech on Aug. 29. Li is under U.S. sanctions related to his overseeing weapon purchases from Russia that bar him from entering the country.



### 7th 'Future Investment Initiative' concluded in Riyadh :-

The Future Investment Initiative conference held in Riyadh in October 2023 with global and local investors

stressing the importance of exploiting the available opportunities to advance international alliances and develop strategies that shape tomorrow's economy. Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal attended it and also held discussions with his Saudi Arabian counterpart Majid bin Abdullah AlKassabi on ways to further promote trade ties between the two countries.



### Republican Mike Johnson Elected New US House Speaker :-

Mike Johnson, a relatively unknown Republican from Louisiana, has been installed as the new speaker of the United States House of Representatives, bringing an end to three weeks of political turmoil. Johnson, 51, is a staunch supporter of former President Donald Trump, who endorsed him for the position. The next speaker faces a difficult task due to infighting within his Republican party. The speaker chair of the House became vacant after Kevin McCarthy was removed on October 3 by the hard-right section of the Republican Party after McCarthy approved a bipartisan temporary funding bill to avoid government shutdown.



### CCI Becomes A Member Of International Competition Network Committee :-

After "consistent efforts," the Competition Commission of India (CCI) has been appointed to the renowned 18-member steering council of the International Competition Network (ICN). The ICN's governing body is

the steering committee. The ICN, which is made up of 140 competition agencies, normally serves as a specialized, although informal, arena for antitrust authorities to maintain regular contacts and handle practical competition concerns. The ICN is the only global body devoted exclusively to competition law enforcement and its members represent national and multinational competition authorities.



### Malaysia Picks Ruler Of Johor State As Country's New King :-

Under a unique rotating monarchy system, Malaysia's royal families have elected the powerful and rich ruler of southern Johor state as the country's new king. Sultan Ibrahim Ismail, 64, will be crowned on January 31 for a five-year tenure, in a statement, the palace said. His election was widely anticipated, as the ruler of Johor state, which borders Singapore, was the next in line, according to a rotation sequence established among the country's nine state rulers. Nine ethnic Malay state rulers take turns serving as Malaysia's king for five-year terms under the world's only such system, which has been maintained since the country's independence from Britain in 1957.



## Turkish Republic's 100th Anniversary Celebration :-

On October 29, the Turkish Republic commemorated its 100th anniversary, marking a century since its establishment as a modern, secular state following the fall of the Ottoman Empire. The festivities were somewhat low-key, with a firework and drone display in

Istanbul and a procession of 100 naval ships. Notably, no major gala event was held. Recent events, such as a horrific earthquake that killed 50,000 people and the Israeli-Hamas conflict that shook the Middle East, contributed to the gloomy mood.

## 10: Miscellaneous



## KVIC Inaugurated A New Khadi India Outlet At IIT Delhi:-

KVIC has opened a renovated Khadi India branch on the IIT Delhi campus in an effort to link Khadi with young people. The outlet in the IIT shopping complex was inaugurated by Manoj Kumar, Chairman of KVIC, according to a release from the Union Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises. Nagendra Raghuvanshi, a member of the KVIC, introduced a new range of garments designed by the Center of Excellence for Khadi (CoEK) in conjunction with Khadi institutions. The CoEK was conceived by the Ministry of MSME to support the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) in association with the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT).

## Ajay Jadeja Appointed As Mentor For Afghanistan Cricket Team In ICC Cricket World Cup 2023 :-

Former Indian batsman Ajay Jadeja has been named as the Afghanistan Cricket Team's Mentor for the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023. Ajay Jadeja appeared in 15 Test matches for India between 1992 and 2000, earning 576 runs at 26.18 with four half-centuries and a best of 96. He has also represented India in 196 One Day Internationals (ODIs) during the period, having scored 5359 runs at 37.47 with 6 hundred and 30 fifties to his name in the format, as per the Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) press release.



## Reliance's JioMart Ropes In MS Dhoni As Brand Ambassador :-

JioMart, Reliance Retail's major e-commerce business, has appointed cricketer and former India captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni as brand ambassador ahead of the festive season. "We found a perfect fit in MS Dhoni as our brand ambassador with his personality representing trust, reliability and assurance, just like JioMart," JioMart CEO Sandeep Varaganti stated. JioMart is Reliance Retail's e-tail business, which launched in 2020. Reliance Retail's e-commerce platform



JioMart increased its vendor base by 56% quarter on quarter, according to the company's Q4 data.



### Iran's Shadloui Becomes Costliest Player In Pro Kabaddi League Auction:-

Iran's Mohammadreza Shadloui Chiyaneh became the most expensive player in Pro Kabaddi League history after being purchased by Puneri Paltan for Rs 2.35 crore, while India's Maninder Singh was acquired by Bengal Warriors for Rs 2.12 crore. The 10th edition of the PKL will have 137 matches. Following 132 league stage matches, the playoff will consist of five matches: two eliminators, two semifinals, and the final. The base price in category A was Rs 30 lakh, category B was Rs 20 lakh whereas in categories C and D, the base prices were placed at Rs 13 lakh and Rs 9 lakh respectively.



### PM Narendra Modi Releases New Garba Song "Maadi" :-

Prime Minister Narendra Modi introduced a new Garba song titled "Maadi" on the auspicious occasion of Navrati. PM Modi wrote the song, which is sung by Divya Kumar and composed by the Meet Bros. He uploaded the footage to YouTube and X, formerly Twitter. He also expressed gratitude to the singer and composer "for giving voice and music to this Garba." The song lasts four minutes and forty seconds and is performed in Gujarati.

The video shows people dressed in colourful attire heading to various garba venues to swing to the beats while some are also seen with dandiya.



### SEBI Said To Probe Adani- Gulf Asia fund Ties :-

The relationship between the Adani Group and a fund formed in the British Virgin Islands is being investigated by India's market regulator to examine if there has been a violation of share ownership laws. Gulf Asia Trade & Investment is the name of the fund. According to last month's website inspections, it is owned by Dubai businessman Nasser Ali Shaban Ahli, although the site has since been removed. The fund has invested in several listed Adani firms, according to the Organised Crime and Corruption Reporting Project (OCCRP) and data that the investigative journalist group has provided to Reuters.



### Bhopal Mahila Thana Achieves ISO Certification :-

The Bhopal Mahila Thana, based in Bhopal, has reached an important milestone by obtaining ISO certification. This certification demonstrates the police station's dedication to upholding high standards in its operations and infrastructure. Over the past three years, the Bhopal Mahila Thana has dedicated efforts to improve its infrastructure. This transformation has led it to become the second ISO-certified police station in the city, with the Misrod police station being the first to achieve this recognition.





## Federal Bank Launched 'Mookkanoor Mission' Initiative At Its Founder's Village :-

On the 106th birthday of its founder, KP Hormis, the Federal Bank launched the 'Mookkanoor Mission', a Swachh Bharat Abhiyan effort. The Founder was born at Mookkanoor, a hamlet in the Ernakulam region. The bank developed a comprehensive strategy for digitizing the entire town, as well as a cleanliness campaign that will involve garbage management, tree planting, community development, renewable energy projects, and other initiatives that will be executed in stages. The programme named "Mookkanoor Mission" was launched by Shyam Srinivasan, MD & CEO at Sacred Heart English Medium School, Mookkanoor.



## S Jaishankar Unveils Mahatma Gandhi's Bust In Vietnam :-

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar recently attended the launching ceremony of a Mahatma Gandhi bust in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. Jaishankar emphasized the event's symbolic significance, underlining Gandhi's global acclaim for his ideas of truth, nonviolence, and freedom. He noted that Gandhi not only united India throughout its freedom fighting, but also inspired nations and people all over the world. The minister expressed the enduring influence of Gandhi's thoughts,

citing examples like India's Swachh Bharat Mission and efforts to address gender disparities.



## Hyderabad To Host Second Edition Of E-Prix In 2024:-

The Hyderabad EPrix Formula E event will return for a second year following year, on February 10, 2024. Following a period of uncertainty surrounding the race's future, the Federation Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA) and Formula E have confirmed Hyderabad's spot on the final calendar for Formula E's tenth season, which will have 16 events. Next year, there will be an Indian driver on the grid with Jehan Daruvala, set to debut in the all-electric single-seater championship driving for Maserati MSG Racing apart from the Indian team Mahindra Racing.



## Monte Carlo Home ropes in Raveena Tandon as brand ambassador :-

Monte Carlo Home, the company's latest vertical, has entered the home textile products market. The brand announced its official launch with Raveena Tandon as its brand ambassador. According to the brand press release, Monte Carlo Home hopes to raise the standards of the home textile industry through this collaboration. The goal of this collaboration with Tandon is to establish Monte Carlo Home as a market leader in the modern home design and lifestyle area. As the official brand

ambassador, Tandon embodies the values of originality, credibility and sophistication that Monte Carlo Home aims to represent.



### Rare Paintbrush Swift Butterfly discovered in Himachal Pradesh:-

The rare Paintbrush Swift butterfly, a species uncommon in the western Himalayas, has been sighted and documented for the first time in Himachal Pradesh's Chamba district. The Paintbrush Swift (*Baoris farri*) belongs to the Hesperidae family and was spotted and photographed during a field survey conducted under the Wild Bhattiyat Project initiated by the Bhattiyat Forest Range in 2022. This Paintbrush Swift had never been photographed in Himachal Pradesh since its discovery in 1878. It was first described by lepidopterist Frederic Moore over 145 years ago in the eastern Himalayas.



### Sri Lanka announced visa-free travel for Indians :-

Sri Lanka's Ministry of Tourism announced that travellers from seven countries – India, China, Russia, Malaysia, Japan, Indonesia and Thailand can now have a visa-free entry to Sri Lanka. This initiative is a pilot project and will be on till March 31, 2024. Before this, Indians travelling to Sri Lanka were required to travel with an Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA) document. Travellers were

required to present this document at the time of arrival. This Electronic Travel Authorisation document was valid for 30 days and would cost the travellers INR 2080.



### Swiss Watchmaker 'Rado' Appoints Katrina Kaif As Global Brand Ambassador :-

Rado, the iconic Swiss watchmaker known for material innovation to produce timeless designs, is pleased to welcome Bollywood Superstar Katrina Kaif as its Global Brand Ambassador. This amazing collaboration reaffirms Rado's dedication to create experiences that will last a lifetime. Katrina Kaif's ageless beauty and international appeal make her the ideal choice to represent Rado's long-standing dedication to accuracy, innovation, and workmanship. Katrina Kaif, known for her varied talent and personality, represents Rado's principles.



### Modi Government To Kick Off Nationwide Yatra To Promote Awareness About Welfare Schemes On November 15 :-

The government plans to launch the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra, a statewide outreach and awareness campaign, on the 15th of next month. On the occasion of Birsa Munda Jayanti-Jan Jaati Gaurav Diwas, Prime Minister Narendra Modi would flag off the Yatra by flagging off Information, Education, and Communication Vans. According to Information and Broadcasting

Secretary Apurva Chandra, the Yatra will begin in the tribal districts of Jharkhand and would cover the rest districts across the country from November 22nd to January 25th, 2024.



**114th Birth Anniversary Of Homi Jehangir Bhabha :-**

Dr. Homi Jehangir Bhabha, affectionately known as the "Father of India's Nuclear Programme," was a visionary scientist who set the country's founding policies in order for it to emerge as a scientific power. He was the one who envisioned a strong and self-sufficient India in nuclear research. Dr. Bhabha was born in Bombay on October 30, 1909, into a prominent Parsi family. Dr. Bhabha founded the Cosmic Ray Research Unit and was instrumental in establishing the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research in Mumbai. Following the same, in 1944 he started to research nuclear weapons and set up the Atomic Energy Commission.

## 11: National



**PM Launched 'Sankalp Saptah' On 30th September :-**

On September 30th, Prime Minister Narendra Modi started a one-of-a-kind week-long initiative for aspirational blocks in the country named 'Sankalp Saptah' at the Bharat Mandapam. According to the PMO, it aspires to improve governance at the block level in order to improve citizens quality of life. It is being implemented in 500 aspirational blocks across the country's 329 districts. From October 3 to October 9, 2023, each day in 'Sankalp Saptah' is dedicated to a single development theme on which all aspirational blocks will work.



**Country's First Cartography Museum Inaugurated In Mussoorie :-**

In Mussoorie, India, a cartography museum has been opened. The Park Estate, the old residence of surveyor Sir George Everest, after whom Mount Everest is called, houses the museum. Everest held the house from 1832 until 1843, and it was one of the first structures built in Mussoorie. The museum includes an Everest bust and historical facts about geographer Radhanath Sikdar, who determined Mount Everest's height. The museum also showcases equipment used by surveyors in the 19th and 20th centuries. The entry fee is nominal to encourage more visitors.



### Government Maintains GPF Interest Rate At 7.1% For 15th Consecutive Quarter :-

The government has kept the interest rate on General Provident Fund (GPF) investments at 7.1% for the October-December quarter, the 15th consecutive quarter that it has kept the rate on government employees' retirement savings unchanged. The GPF rate was last time reduced from 7.9% to 7.1% in the first quarter of 2020-21. While rates on select modest savings schemes have been boosted for five consecutive quarters, the popular Public Provident Fund (PPF) return has remained unchanged at 7.1% since the first quarter of 2020-21.



### Govt Launches Month-Long Celebration Drive For 8th National Ayurveda Day :-

The Ayush Ministry is planning a pan-India Ayurveda sensitization drive for students, farmers, and the general public, said Union Minister of Ayush Sarbananda Sonowal, while unveiling the month-long celebration drive to mark the 8th National Ayurveda Day-2023 with the focal theme 'Ayurveda for One Health'. The 8th Ayurveda Day will be marked on November 10 this year, with the goal of raising public awareness about health

issues and the possible role of Ayurveda in their prevention and treatment.



### Centre Approves 4% Hike In DA For Central Govt Employees :-

The central government has authorized a 4% increase in dearness allowance (DA). As a result, the DA and relief paid to central government employees will increase to 46% from 42% previously. The DA increase will take effect on July 1, 2023. The increased DA rates will be distributed to central government employees with their October paychecks. Since the new DA hike will be counted from July onwards, employees will get arrears for July, August, and September, with their October salaries. As many as 48 lakh central government employees and 65 lakh pensioners will benefit from this hike.



### Increase In Minimum Support Prices (MSP) For Rabi Crops In 2024-25 :-

The government has announced a rise in the minimum support price of wheat by Rs 150 to Rs 2,275 per quintal for the 2024-25 marketing season, ahead of the assembly elections in important wheat-growing regions. This is the largest rise in MSP for any marketing season since the

Modi government took office in 2014. Besides, the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for five other rabi crops -- gram, barley, lentil (masur), rapeseed-mustard seed and safflower -- have been hiked. Currently, the MSP of wheat stands at Rs 2,125 per quintal for the 2023-24 marketing season (April-March).



### India Extends Curbs On Sugar Exports To Calm Local Prices :-

According to a federal announcement, India has extended export restrictions on sugar beginning October 1, a measure that may result in a complete suspension of overseas sales for the first time in seven years due to a forecast drop in local output and the biggest worldwide scarcity in decades. The restrictions on international exports are intended to increase domestic availability throughout 2023-24 while keeping prices consistent during the current holiday season, when demand generally spikes. The decision will likely worsen a global supply crunch due to a smaller crop since India is a major international supplier.



### IRCTC Partners With Zomato For Delivery Of Pre-Booked Meals :-

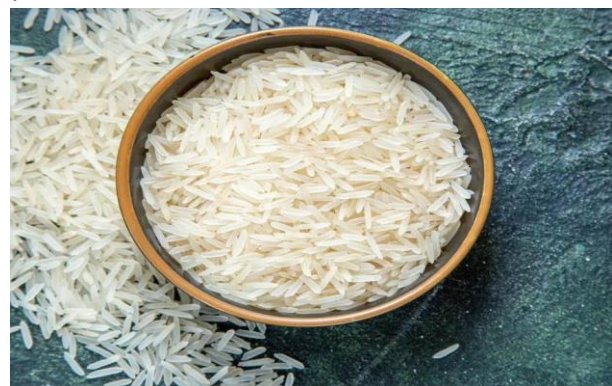
Through its E-Catering section, the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Ltd (IRCTC) has

teamed with Zomato to provide a larger range of culinary alternatives for rail travelers. IRCTC has begun a Proof of Concept (PoC) at five key railway stations as part of this collaboration: New Delhi, Prayagraj, Kanpur, Lucknow, and Varanasi. Passengers can easily book and receive preordered meals through the IRCTC E-Catering portal with the help of Zomato under this PoC. This strategic alliance is set to provide rail passengers with more choices and convenience when it comes to their culinary preferences.



### Defence Minister Inaugurated Indian Military Heritage Festival In New Delhi :-

The Indian Military Heritage Festival takes center stage in New Delhi's Manekshaw Centre. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh officiated at the occasion, which was also attended by Chief of Army Staff General Manoj Pande. The annual 'Indian Military Heritage Festival' was held by the United Service Institution of India (USI), India's oldest tri-service think tank, which has been in operation since 1870. This great occasion paid honor to India's rich military past and attempted to encourage the nation's youth.



### Indian Government Grants Approval For Non-Basmati Rice Exports :-

The Indian government has approved the export of 1.34 million tonnes of Non-Basmati White Rice to seven nations, a significant step. The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) has granted this export permit. The approved exports are intended for seven countries, namely Nepal, Cameroon, Cote D'Ivoire, Republic of Guinea, Malaysia, Philippines, and Seychelles. The Philippines will receive the largest quota, with up to 295,000 metric tonnes of non-Basmati white rice eligible for export.



### **NLC India Green Energy Limited To Boost India's Green Energy Capacity :-**

NLC India Limited, a Navratna central public sector initiative under the coal ministry, has announced the launch of its new wholly-owned subsidiary NLC India Green Energy Limited (NIGEL). This company was formed with the intention of pioneering all renewable energy (RE) activities. NLC India Green Energy Limited (NIGEL) Chairman Prasanna Kumar Motupalli said the new company, with a focus on renewable energy (RE) projects, will help to expand the renewable energy power generation capacity faster.



### **Indian Government approves Rs 22,303 crore fertiliser subsidy for Rabi season :-**

Union Minister Anurag Thakur approved a subsidy of Rs 22, 303 crore for Phosphatic and Potassic fertilisers. Subsidy for the Rabi season from 1st October 2023 till 31st March 2024 will be like this. For the nitrogen, it will be Rs 47.2 per Kg, phosphorus will be Rs 20.82 per Kg, potash subsidy will be Rs 2.38 per Kg. And the Sulphur subsidy will be Rs 1.89 per Kg. Subsidy on DAP will continue for Rs 4500 per ton and DAP will be available for Rs 1350 per bag as per the old rate. The NPK will be available at the price of Rs 1470 per bag.



### **Indian Government approves Jamrani Dam Multipurpose Project :-**

On October 25, 2023, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the inclusion of Jamrani Dam Multipurpose Project of Uttarakhand under the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana-Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (PMKSY-AIBP) of the Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation. The Union Cabinet has approved central assistance of Rs 1,557.18 crore to Uttarakhand for completion of the project at an estimated cost of Rs 2,584.10 crore by March 2028.



## Amit Shah Launched Logo, Website And Brochure Of NCEL In New Delhi :-

At a national symposium in the national capital, Cooperation Minister Amit Shah unveiled the logo, website, and brochure of a newly founded National Cooperative for Exports Limited (NCEL). During the symposium held in the Pusa complex in New Delhi, Shah handed distributed membership certificates to NCEL members. NCEL was founded after Shah stressed the importance of establishing a national-level multi-state cooperative society to serve as an umbrella organization for cooperative sector exports.



## Centre Launches 'Dark Patterns Buster Hackathon 2023' To Combat Deceptive Practices In E-Commerce :-

On October 26, the Centre started the 'Dark Patterns Buster Hackathon 2023' to create a new app or software-based solution to detect dark patterns on e-commerce platforms. The hackathon was launched by Nidhi Khare, Special Secretary, DoCA, in the presence of Consumer

Affairs Secretary Rohit Kumar Singh. It was organized by the Department of Consumer Affairs (DoCA) in partnership with IIT-(BHU). Divided into four rounds, the teams will fight for a reward of Rs 1 lakh. The second, third, fourth and fifth prizes are Rs five lakh, Rs three lakh, Rs two lakh and Rs one lakh, respectively.



## National level Saras Aajeevika Mela 2023 Kick Started in Gurugram, Haryana :-

On a national scale the Saras Aajeevika Mela 2023 began on October 26 in Gurugram, Haryana. The 17-day fair at Leisure Valley Ground in Gurugram will run till the 11th of next month. At the fair, around 800 women from 28 states will display a diverse range of products such as handicrafts, handlooms, and natural food items from rural areas across the country. SARAS Mela is an initiative by the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission of Ministry of Rural Development to bring the rural women Self Help Group members under one platform to showcase their skills, sell their products and help them build linkages with potential market players.

## 12: Obituaries



## Actor Michael Gambon, Who Played Professor Dumbledore In Harry Potter Passed Away :-

Michael Gambon, best known for playing Professor Dumbledore in the Harry Potter film series, died at the age of 82. Gambon was born in Ireland on October 19, 1940, and reared in London. Gambon made his acting debut in 1980, when he gave a spellbinding performance in Bertolt Brecht's "Life of Galileo" at London's National Theatre. Gambon's portrayal of Galileo garnered him an Olivier Award nomination for Best Actor. His depiction of

Eddie Carbone in Arthur Miller's "A View From the Bridge" in 1987, however, earned him the prestigious Oscar.



### Co-Founder Of Asian Paints, Ashwin Dani Passed Away At 79:-

Mr. Ashwin Suryakant Dani, the co-founder of Asian Paints Ltd, passed away on September 28 at the age of 79. Dani was a billionaire Indian businessman who was the non-executive chairman of India's largest paint firm (Asian corporation) with operations in 16 countries. Dani served as Chairman of the Board and CEO of the Company from 2018 until 2021. Suryakant, his father, was a co-founder of Asian Paints. According to the most recent Forbes report, Ashwin Dani and his family have a net worth of 7.7 billion USD (about Rs 64,000 crore), ranking 293 internationally.



### Cricket coach Mirza Rahmatullah Baig passes away :-

Mirza Rahmatullah Baig, one of Hyderabad's best cricket trainers, passed away. He was 84. He represented Services and Hyderabad in the Ranji Trophy, as well as the North and South Zones in the Duleep Trophy. Baig Saab, as he was affectionately known, had made the Lal Bahadur Stadium, Hyderabad's centre of cricketing

activity, his second home for decades. The stadium was also used by the Indian squad that won the World Cup in 1983. Baig trained players such as Kapil Dev, Ravi Shastri, Mohammad Azharuddin, Rahul Dravid, V.V.S. Laxman, and MSK Prasad.



### Kalpana Chawla's father Banarasi Lal Chawla passes away at 90 :-

Banarasi Lal Chawla, the late father of India's first female astronaut and aerospace engineer Kalpana Chawla, died at a private hospital in Karnal after a brief illness. He was 90. Kalpana Chawla, who was born and raised in Karnal, was the first Indian-born woman and the second Indian in history to go to space. In 1976, she graduated from Tagore Bal-Niketan School in Karnal. She perished on February 1, 2003, at the age of 41, along with six others, after the Space Shuttle Columbia destroyed over Texas during its re-entry into the Earth's atmosphere.



### Veteran Communist Party Leader Anathalavattom Anandan Passed Away :-

Anathalavattom Anandan, 86, a veteran communist politician and former CPM state secretariat member, died on October 5. Anandan joined the CPM state committee in 1985 as a mass leader who made significant contributions to the trade union sector. He

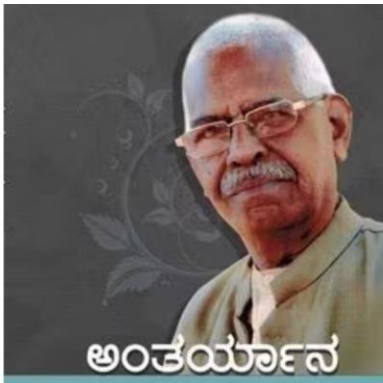


served three terms in the state assembly, representing the Attingal seat. Anandan was born in Varkala on April 22, 1937, as the son of V Krishnan and Nani Amma. He became a member in CPI in 1956 and preferred to be with the CPM when the party split in 1964. Chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan said the contributions of Anandan to the party and trade union sector were invaluable.



### British Filmmaker Terence Davies Dies At 77:-

Terence Davies, a British filmmaker noted for his thought-provoking and introspective films, died at the age of 77 at home following a brief illness. He is known for his critically acclaimed films such as "Distant Voices, Still Lives" and "The Long Day Closes." Davies adapted John Kennedy Toole's novel "The Neon Bible," which received a Bafta nomination for Best British Film in 1995. Davies' career took an unusual turn with the documentary "Of Time and the City," which showed outside of competition at Cannes in 2008.



### Senior Kannada journalist G.N. Ranganatha Rao passes away :-

G.N. Ranganatha Rao, an 81-year-old senior journalist, writer, and translator, died on October 9 in Bengaluru. Ranganatha Rao, who was born in 1942, studied journalism and began his career as a sub-editor with

Samyukta Karnataka in the early 1960s. He spent a long time with the Samyukta Karnataka and Prajavani organizations. He taught journalism for decades and was instrumental in developing the state's journalism curriculum. In 2009, he received the Khadri Shamanna honour for Journalism, Karnataka's highest honour for a journalist. In 2018, he was also given the Karnataka Rajyotsava Award.



### Noted Malayalam film producer P.V. Gangadharan passes away :-

P.V. Gangadharan, a well-known Malayalam film producer and the director of the Mathrubhumi group of publications, died on October 13, 2023 in Kozhikode. The director died at the age of 80. Gangadharan was noted for making critically acclaimed Malayalam films, such as the classic "Oru Vadakkan Veeragatha." His production company, Grihalakshmi Films, had produced over 20 films, winning him two National film awards and five Kerala state film awards. Gangadharan had also been involved in politics and served as chairman of the Kerala Film Development Corporation.



### American poet Louise Glück passes away at the age of 80 :-

Louise Glück, the former US Poet Laureate and 2020 Nobel Prize winner, died at the age of 80. Glück was a

multi-award-winning American poet who received the 1993 Pulitzer Prize in Poetry for her collection "The Wild Iris," the National Book Award for Poetry in 2014 for "Faithful and Virtuous Night," and the National Humanities Medal from then-President Barack Obama in 2015. Glück was born in 1943 in New York City and raised on Long Island. She was 23 when she completed her first published collection of poetry, 1968's "Firstborn."



## Senior Journalist KS Sachidananda Murthy Passes Away at 68 :-

K.S. Sachidananda Murthy, a senior journalist who worked as the resident editor of The Week and the Malayala Manorama daily in Delhi, died on Friday, October 13 in Bengaluru. He was 68. He has previously served as the Editors Guild of India's secretary general and as the head of the Lok Sabha Press Advisory Committee. He also served on the Central Press Accreditation Committee and the Press Council of India. A native of Kolar in Karnataka, Murthy was a recipient of the Karnataka Media Academy Award for lifetime contribution to journalism.



## Legendary Spinner And Former Indian Captain, Bishan Singh Bedi Passes Away At 77 :-

After a protracted illness, former India captain Bishan Singh Bedi died on October 23rd at the age of 77. Bedi, who was born on September 25, 1946, in Amritsar, is known for his excellent left-arm spin bowling. Bedi was a member of the Indian national cricket squad from 1966 to 1979, during which time he established himself as one of the sport's best spinners. Bedi's impact was seen in the limited-overs format as well, when he took seven wickets in ten one-day internationals. He was instrumental in India's first ODI success, most notably in the 1975 World Cup.



## Former Chinese Premier Li Keqiang Passed Away At The Age Of 68 :-

Former Premier Li Keqiang, China's senior economic officer for ten years, died of a heart attack at the age of 68. Li's authority dwindled as President Xi Jinping asserted greater control over the nation's economy. State industries became increasingly dominant during Xi's leadership, and control over tech sectors strengthened. During Li's tenure, the country faced issues such as an over-reliance on investments for growth and income disparities. From 2013 to 2023, Li held the position of China's second-in-command and was a proponent of private enterprise.



## Friends Star Matthew Perry Has Passed Away At 54:-

According to sources, Matthew Perry, best known for his role as Chandler Bing in the iconic TV comedy Friends, died at the age of 54. According to NBC News, Perry died in an apparent drowning at his home in Pacific Palisades, Los Angeles, citing sources including the actor's representative and law police. The cause of death has yet to be determined. Perry landed the role of Chandler Bing

in Friends after appearing in small roles in Growing Pains, Beverly Hills 90210, and Dream On. The comedy, about six friends living in New York City, quickly became a phenomenon, winning multiple Emmys and scoring record ratings; the 2004 finale reached more than 52 million viewers in the US, making it the most watched TV episode of the 2000s.

## 13: Ranks & Reports



## India's Power Demand Surges To Five-Year High In September: CRISIL Report:-

According to CRISIL MI&A estimates, September saw a considerable increase in power consumption, up 10-12% year on year, with demand hitting 140-142 billion units (BU). This comes despite a 7% drop from the previous month and one of the wettest Augusts in nearly a decade. Peak electricity demand reached 238 GW in August and increased to 240 GW in September, indicating a continued growth in demand. These record figures, consecutive for two months, have been influenced not only by the weak monsoon in August but also by increased industrial and manufacturing activities.



## TCS Tops Kantar BrandZ Top Most Valuable Indian Brands Report 2023 :-

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has kept its renowned position at the top of the latest edition of the Kantar BrandZ Top 75 Most Valuable Indian Brands Report for 2023, with an amazing brand worth of \$43 billion. The company's sustained performance and global reach have cemented its status as the most valuable brand in India. HDFC Bank, a long-standing player in the Indian banking industry, maintains its second-place rating. Its unwavering brand strength and customer trust contribute to its brand value. Infosys, a tech industry titan, maintains its third position in the rankings.



## Ookla's Speedtest Global Index :-

India's mobile download speed has increased significantly, propelling it into the top 50 of the Ookla Speedtest Global Index ranking. Ookla, based in Seattle, is well-known for its fixed broadband and mobile network testing applications, data, and analysis. According to the survey, India has risen 72 places to 47th place in the index, a success credited to the country's launch of 5G services. India is ahead of some G20 nations

like Mexico (90th), Turkey (68th), the UK (62nd), Japan (58th), Brazil (50th place), and South Africa (48th place).



### World Bank Retains India's FY24 GDP Growth At 6.3% Amidst Challenges :-

The World Bank has chosen to keep India's growth prediction for fiscal year 2023-24 at 6.3 percent. In April, the bank reduced its growth outlook for India. The World Bank praised India's exceptional resilience in a challenging global climate in its latest India Development Update, which was released in October 2023. The report underscored that India's economic resilience is built upon several pillars, including robust domestic demand, substantial public infrastructure investments, and a strengthening financial sector.



### Global Infrastructure Faces Staggering Annual Losses Of \$300 Billion Due To Worsening Climate Impacts:-

According to a biennial assessment from the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI), the global annual average loss (AAL) in the major infrastructure sectors due to catastrophes and climate change is currently between USD 301 and USD 330 billion. The inclusion of health and education infrastructure, and building stock, increases that range to USD 732 to USD 845 billion -- around one-

seventh of the global GDP growth in the financial year 2021-2022 -- with nearly half of this contingent liability held by the low-and-middle-income countries, the report said.



### UNCTAD Raises India's 2023 Growth Estimate To 6.6%:-

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) increased India's 2023 economic growth prediction to 6.6% from 6% in April. However, it anticipates that the country's growth will drop to 6.2% in 2024. The UNCTAD said in its trade and development report that it anticipates global economic output will slow to 2.4% in 2023 before rising to 2.5% in 2024. To avoid a lost decade, the multinational body urged for a shift in policy direction, including by leading central banks, as well as the associated institutional reforms pledged during the Covid-19 crisis.



### Global Hunger Index 2023: India's Decline To 111th Place :-

India was placed 111th out of 125 countries in the Global Hunger Index study released on October 12, 2023 by two European agencies. India dropped four positions from previous year. India is one of 40 countries with a 'serious' level of world hunger. According to the most recent data,

India's total GHI score is 28.7. This score is calculated using a 100-point scale. The higher the score, the worse the country's performance. According to the publishers, it is a peer-reviewed report which has been prepared annually from 2006.



### India's Fiscal Deficit Rose To Rs 6.42 Trillion, Which Is 36% Of The FY24 Target :-

According to figures issued by the Controller General of Accounts, India's fiscal deficit in the first five months of the fiscal year 2023-24 (FY24) was Rs 6.42 trillion, or 36% of the full-year projection of Rs 17.87 trillion. The fiscal deficit in FY23 was 32.6 percent of the full-year target over the same period. India wants to reduce its fiscal deficit to 5.9 percent of GDP by the end of the current fiscal year, down from 6.4 percent last year. The primary deficit, which shows fiscal deficit without the interest payment, stood at Rs 2.75 trillion, 38.9 per cent of the full-year target of Rs 7.06 trillion.



### IMF Raises India's FY24 GDP Growth Forecast To 6.3% :-

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has raised India's GDP forecast for FY24 from 6.1% to 6.3%, describing the country as one of the "growth engines in the world economy." According to the IMF's World Economic

Outlook (WEO), the upward revision reflects "stronger-than-expected consumption during April-June." The forecast for FY25 remains constant at 6.3%. The estimates do not take into account the latest geopolitical developments in West Asia following Hamas's attack on Israel and the latter's declaration of war.



### Mukesh Ambani Surpasses Gautam Adani As India's Richest On Hurun List :-

According to the Hurun India Rich List 2023, Mukesh Ambani, chairman of Reliance Industries Limited, has recaptured the title of richest Indian, beating Adani Group chairman Gautam Adani, who saw a significant decrease in wealth due to the damning Hindenburg Research investigation. Hurun India and 360 ONE Wealth have launched the Hurun India Rich List 2023. This is the 12th annual ranking of India's wealthiest persons. According to the report, Reliance Industries has invested more than \$150 billion in the last decade, more than any other firm in India.



### India's Net Direct Tax Collections Surge by 21.8%, Surpassing Half of Budget Projections :-

By October 9, India's net direct tax collections had increased by 21.8% to Rs 9.57 lakh crore, exceeding more

than half of the Budget estimates for the year, with personal income tax receipts climbing 32.5% and corporate tax revenues increasing 12.4%. While tax refunds totaling Rs 1.5 lakh crore have been distributed to taxpayers thus far, certain returns are being withheld due to pending tax claims from the past, which people are being given the opportunity to address. As on September 23, the number of income tax returns filed stood at 7.09 crore, and refunds made in 2.75 crore cases.



### Global Pension Index 2023: Countries With The Best Pension System :-

The 15th annual Mercer CFA Institute Global Pension Index (MCGPI) has been released, and it reveals that the Netherlands' retirement income system has once again taken first place. The Netherlands led the way with an overall index value of 85.0, followed by Iceland (83.5) and Denmark (81.3). The country with the lowest index value was Argentina (42.3). India slipped to 45th position out of 47 countries on the Global Pension Index 2023 as compared to 41st position out of 44 countries in 2022 and 40th out of 43 countries in 2021.



### Global Remote Work Index :-

According to a survey, India was placed 64th out of 108 countries for remote work, a dramatic decline of 15 positions from the previous year. This loss is primarily due to India's poor digital and physical infrastructure, as well as social safety. NordLayer's Global Remote Work Index (GRWI) evaluated countries based on four main criteria: cyber safety, economic safety, digital and physical infrastructure, and social safety. The report highlighted that India's e-infrastructure is among the least developed in the world, earning it the 95th position.



### EU Report Recommends 2% Global Wealth Tax On Billionaires To Curb Evasion :-

A new analysis suggests that billionaires should face a minimal tax rate after discovering that some of the world's mega-wealthy people pay little or no tax. According to the European Union (EU) Observatory, most people pay a higher tax rate than the super-rich, who can utilize complicated corporate structures to evade taxes. They suggested a minimum 2% tax rate on billionaires' global wealth would raise \$250 billion a year. According to the report, there are around 2,500 billionaires worldwide with a combined wealth of \$13 trillion.



## India Ranks Third In Fintech Unicorns, With United States At The Top :-

According to a CNBC-Statista research, India boasts one of the world's leading fintech ecosystems, with as many as 17 fintech 'unicorns', trailing only to the United States and the United Kingdom. According to the research, seven Indian firms are among the top 200 fintech companies in the globe. According to the research, the United States has 134 unicorns and hence produces the highest value in fintech. The United Kingdom, on the other hand, boasts 27 fintech unicorns, followed by India (17) and China, with six each in Brazil, Germany, and France.



## MGNREGS Reports A 7.5% Decrease In Active Workforce Participation :-

A data analysis by LibTech India - a consortium of academics and activists - for April-September 2023 reveals a 7.5% reduction in the number of active workers, from 15.49 crore in the previous fiscal year to 14.33 crore, according to data available until October 6,

2023, indicating a significant contraction in the workforce under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS). The LibTech's MGNREGS tracker for April-September 2023 provides a comparative analysis of data from preceding financial years 2021-22 and 2022-23 during the same time frame, using the data available with the Union Rural Development Ministry.



## Income Tax Returns Reveal Shifting Trends and Income Inequality in India :-

According to a survey from SBI Research that examined Income Tax Return (ITR) filings data, Indians are becoming more disciplined in filing tax returns, with late filings falling substantially this year. The proportion of returns filed beyond the due date (with a fee) has decreased significantly, from a high of 60% in assessment year (AY) 2020 to only 25% in AY23. The total ITRs filed during AY23 surged to 78 million from 73 million in AY22. Of these, 58 million or 75 per cent of the returns were filed on or before the due date, said the report.

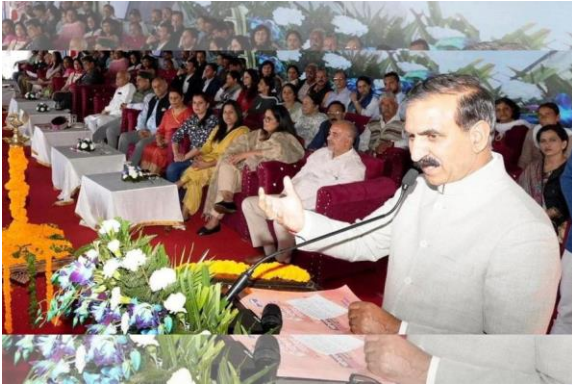
## 14: Schemes & Committees



## Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal Unveils 15-Point Winter Action Plan To Combat Air Pollution :-

Arvind Kejriwal, the Chief Minister of Delhi, has launched a 'Winter Action Plan' outlining how the Delhi government intends to minimize air pollution during the winter months. Every winter, air pollution in Delhi and other northern Indian states rises, owing primarily to weather conditions and pollution from stubble burning. To reduce air pollution in the national capital during the

winter months, the Delhi Chief Minister stated that the winter action plan will focus on 15 themes, including regulating stubble burning, vehicular pollution, open burning, and dust pollution, among others.



### Himachal Pradesh CM launched 'Mukhyamantri Sukh Ashraya Yojana' :-

Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, chief minister of Himachal Pradesh, formally launched the "Mukhyamantri Sukh Ashraya Yojana" in Shimla, which intends to provide comprehensive help to orphans, specially-abled children, poor women, and elderly people in the state. He stated that his government, in a first-of-its-kind initiative in the country, decided to adopt orphans and specially-abled children as 'children of the state' and work for their upliftment and wellbeing, providing them with all parental care, in addition to caring for destitute women and the elderly who have no one to look after.

অসম চৰকাৰ



GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM

### Mukhya Mantri Lok Sevak Arogya Yojana



Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma  
CHIEF MINISTER OF ASSAM

### Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma launched the Mukhya Mantri Lok Sevak Arogya Yojana :-

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma initiated the Mukhya Mantri Lok Sewak Arogya Yojana, an online medical bill reimbursement scheme for employees, retirees, and their dependents of the Government of

Assam. Medical expenditures will be reimbursed at rates comparable to Central Government Health Schemes (CGHS) and transferred directly to the accounts of claimant employees within a certain time frame under this scheme. According to an official release, the initiative will gradually include a cashless payment option.



### RBI Forms External Working Group On Expected Credit Loss Framework:-

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has formed a nine-member external working group to get independent opinions on an Expected Credit Loss (ECL)-based framework for bank provisioning. In January of this year, the RBI issued a discussion paper encouraging banks to use an expected loss-based strategy for loan loss provisioning. The RBI requested comments on the document until February 28. The RBI said several comments have been received from various stakeholders on the issues flagged in the discussion paper, which are being examined by it.



### Tamil Nadu government has announced a new Samadhan scheme :-

The Tamil Nadu government has launched a new Samadhan plan with waivers and concessions to pave the



way for the payment of around Rs 25,000 crore in pending tax dues, the majority of which are under the former Tamil Nadu Value Added Tax and other legacy tax legislations. The new Samadhan scheme, launched in the State Assembly by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin, aims to resolve outstanding tax arrears, disputes, and appeals between traders and the State commercial tax department.

## Harnessing Yuva Shakti for Nation Building

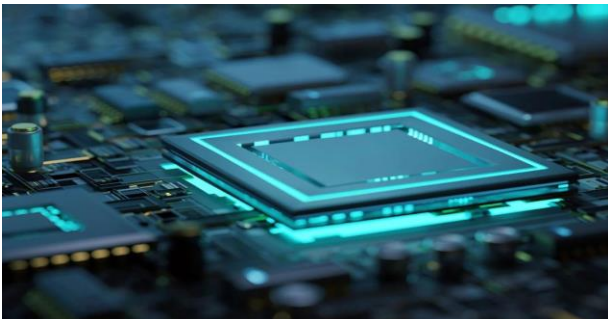
Establishment of autonomous  
body Mera Yuva Bharat  
(MY Bharat) Approved

Enabling youth to act as Yuva Setu between Govt  
& citizens

One-stop shop for young people to connect with

### Union Cabinet Approves Setting Up Of 'Mera Yuva Bharat' Autonomous Body For Youth Development :-

According to Union Minister Anurag Thakur, the Union Cabinet has approved the establishment of the "Mera Yuva Bharat" (My Bharat) autonomous body, an overarching institutional mechanism to instill a sense of duty among the youth (including those living abroad) towards the country in order to strengthen the movement to make India a developed nation. The body, backed by technology for youth development, would enable fair access to youngsters across the government to actualize their dreams and build a developed India.



### ISRC Report: Blueprint For India's Dominance In The Semiconductor Sector :-

Rajeev Chandrasekhar, Union Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology, received the report on the India Semiconductor Research Center

(ISRC) from the India Semiconductor R&D Committee. Chandrasekhar praised the efforts of the members of the India Semiconductor R&D Committee, saying, "After months of dedicated research, India Semiconductor R&D Committee has laid out a roadmap of ISRC, realizing what can be the architectural design of PM Modi's vision for the semiconductor ecosystem." Chandrasekhar praised all Committee members' contributions to comprehensively identifying ISRC's pillars.



### Google Launches DigiKavach Program To Fight Online Financial Frauds In India :-

Financial fraud has reached alarming levels, needing novel solutions to safeguard individuals and organizations. With the rise of internet banking, digital transactions, and the spread of financial technology (fintech), fraudsters have taken advantage of new chances to take advantage of naïve victims. To combat this expanding threat, Google established the DigiKavach effort, a cutting-edge early threat detection and warning system designed to detect and analyze emerging financial fraud trends before they cause widespread harm.



### Defence Minister Rajnath Singh Launches Project 'Udbhav' To Promote "Indianisation" :-

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh launched Project 'Udbhav' with the goal of rediscovering India's vast history of statecraft and strategic ideas inherited from ancient Indian writings. The Indian Army's 'Project Udbhav' is a visionary endeavor that tries to integrate traditional wisdom with modern military operations. The word 'Udbhav,' which means 'origin' or 'genesis,' represents the Indian Army's effort to return to the origins of India's military thoughts. The project's main goal is to combine ancient wisdom with modern military pedagogy.



**RCS- UDAN Completes 6 Successful Years :-**

According to data from the Union Civil Aviation Ministry, at least 10.6 million passengers flew under the government's ambitious Regional Connectivity Scheme-Udey Desh ka Aam Naagarik (RCS-UDAN), which completed six years on October 27. The UDAN initiative, which was launched in 2016, intends to meet the ambitions of the ordinary man by providing sophisticated aviation infrastructure and air connectivity in Category II and III towns. The airports under UDAN also include eight heliports and two water aerodromes. India operated 203,679 flights under UDAN from 70 regional airports on 439 routes, according to the ministry data.



**Jai Bhim Mukhyamantri Pratibha Vikas Yojna Is Set To Relaunch By Delhi Government :-**

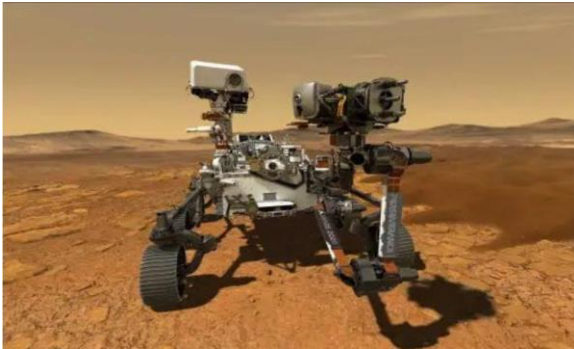
The Delhi government plans to reintroduce the Jai Bhim Mukhyamantri Pratibha Vikas Yojana, which offers free coaching to medical, engineering, and civil service candidates. The plan, which began in 2018, provides mentoring to students from low-income families as well as stipends for transportation and study materials. The revamped model will include more competitive exams as well as simplified payment mechanisms for tutoring organizations. The government plans to register reputable coaching institutes and incentivize students for clearing each level of examination.



**UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres Launches Advisory Body On Artificial Intelligence :-**

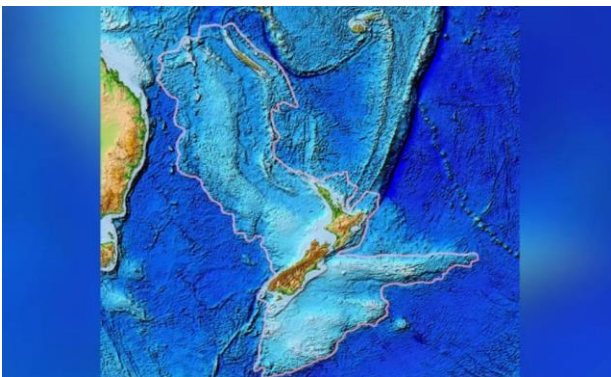
United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres established a 39-member advisory board tech company executives, government officials and academics from countries spanning six countries. More importantly, Sharad Sharma, co-founder of the iSPIRT Foundation from India, has been appointed to the newly formed United Nations advisory committee on Artificial Intelligence (AI). The 39-member advisory body, which includes senior Indian diplomat Amandeep Singh Gill, who serves as UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Technology, will work to establish a consensus on the global risks associated with AI and determine how international cooperation can mitigate these risks.

**15: Science & Technology**



**NASA's Perseverance Rover Sets Speed Record On Autopilot:-**

NASA's Perseverance rover and its automated navigation system have just established a new record on Mars by driving right through a particularly dangerous area of Martian terrain. As a result, this outstanding journey saved scientists weeks of valuable time, which they can now use to pursue additional science. Although the mission crew usually plots the itinerary of the Mars rover by hand, scientists say the AutoNav technology proved extraordinary in this occasion, safely guiding the Perseverance rover over rocks unseen from orbiter photographs used for planning.



**International Scientists Make Refined Map Of World's '8th Continent' Zealandia :-**

An international team of geologists and seismologists used data from dredging rock samples retrieved from the ocean floor to construct a freshly improved map of Zealandia, the 'eighth continent of the globe' beneath the Pacific Ocean. Their research on Zealandia, a massive continent 1.89 million square miles (4.9 million square

kilometers) in size that is roughly six times the size of Madagascar, was just published in the journal Tectonics. Zealandia is believed to be 94% under the sea—the remaining 6% make up New Zealand and surrounding islands.



**After Chandrayaan-3 mission success, ISRO is gearing up for Gaganyaan and Shukrayaan missions :-**

Following the successful launch of the Chandrayaan-3 mission, the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) is now focusing on two major projects: the Gaganyaan mission and the Shukrayaan mission, according to G. Appanna, Group Director of ISRO at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre. Addressing a press conference alongside K. Raghu, the chairman of Raghu Group of Institutions, on October 4, Appanna unveiled the commencement of the four-day World Space Week at Raghu Engineering College, Dakamarri. The festivities kicked off on October 5 and will conclude on October 8.



**ISRO transfers Optical Imaging System technology to Optimized Electrotech :-**

NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), the commercial arm of the Department of Space (DoS), has transferred the

Optical Imaging System (OIS) technology created by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) to Optimized Electrotech (OEPL). ISRO's Optical Imaging System offers long-distance surveillance over the visible and near-infrared spectral ranges of the electromagnetic spectrum. Notably, it runs well during twilight and mid-day illumination situations, thanks to a single sensor and a constant arrangement.



### WHO recommends Malaria vaccine made by Oxford and Serum Institute of India :-

The World Health Organization (WHO) has recommended the use of the R21/Matrix-M malaria vaccine produced by the University of Oxford and the Serum Institute of India after it met the required safety, quality, and effectiveness standards. The World Health Organization (WHO) has proposed the adoption of a second malaria vaccination to combat the potentially fatal disease borne by some mosquitos. R21/Matrix-M, developed by Britain's University of Oxford, will become available by mid-2024, WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said, adding that doses would cost between \$2 and \$4.



### Nokia Opens 6G Lab Facility In Bengaluru:-

Nokia has announced the establishment of a 6G Lab at its Global R&D facility in Bangalore. The 'first-of-its-kind'

project, according to the business, intends to speed the development of foundational technologies and new use cases powered by 6G technology that will answer the future needs of both industry and society. Ashwini Vaishnaw, the minister of railways, communications, electronics, and information technology, virtually inaugurated the facility. The lab is in line with India's "Bharat 6G Vision" and aims to establish India as a key player in 6G technology development.



### Second spaceport of ISRO to be set up in Tamil Nadu :-

The Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) second spaceport, which would be dedicated exclusively to Small Satellite Launch Vehicles (SSLVs) created by the commercial sector, will open in roughly two years in Kulasekarapattinam in Tamil Nadu's Thoothukudi district. Dr. Pawan Goenka, chairman, Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe) said, "We are developing a full launch centre in Thoothukudi district, which will be dedicated for SSLV launches. Right now, about 2,000 acres has been acquired and handed over to ISRO."



### ISRO to conduct first test flight of Gaganyaan mission on October 21 :-

The much-anticipated Gaganyaan mission, which will be India's first foray into manned space exploration, is

scheduled to launch on October 21, according to Jitendra Singh, Minister of State for Space, Science, and Technology, who made the official announcement. The forthcoming test flight will be executed at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, a renowned launch facility. The test mission entails launching the crew module into outer space and orchestrating its return to Earth, with a successful touchdown in the Bay of Bengal.



### **Vyommitra: The female robot ISRO is sending on Gaganyaan mission :-**

Jitendra Singh, the Union Minister of State for Space, has announced that trials for the Indian Space Research Organization's (ISRO) Gaganyaan missions will begin later this month. He also stated that the mission's second phase will include the launch of Vyommitra, a female spacefaring humanoid robot. Vyommitra, a name derived from the Sanskrit words "Vyoma" (meaning "Space") and "Mitra" (meaning "Friend"), will function as a prototype for the Gaganyaan missions. Vyommitra is equipped with the capability to monitor module parameters, issue alerts, and execute life support operations.



### **Tamil Nadu's AI-Powered Elephant Protection System Aims To Prevent Train Collisions :-**

Tamil Nadu is nearly finished with its ground-breaking artificial intelligence (AI)-based early warning system designed to protect wild elephants from train collisions. This ingenious project is being carried out along the Ettimadai-Walayar railway segment, providing an extra layer of safety for these majestic pachyderms. Tamil Nadu's AI-based early warning system is a remarkable project that aims to save the lives of wild elephants while also lowering the dangers involved with rail crashes.



### **MeitY, IBM To Accelerate Innovation In AI, Semiconductor & Quantum Computing :-**

IBM, the technology giant has inked three memorandums of understanding (MoUs) with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) in the fields of semiconductors, artificial intelligence (AI), and quantum computing. Both IBM and MeitY hope to use this collaboration to develop and accelerate AI, semiconductor, and quantum innovation in India. The action is significant because India is taking substantial moves to establish itself as a leader in cutting-edge new technology. IBM would be a knowledge partner of India Semi-Conductor Mission (ISM) for establishing a semiconductor research centre.



### **Skyroot unveils Vikram-1 Orbital Launch Vehicle :-**

Skyroot Aerospace, India's first private rocket company, has unveiled their Vikram-1 Orbital Launch Vehicle. Vikram-1 is a small-lift launch vehicle that's designed to carry small satellites into orbit. It's a reusable rocket, which means that it can be launched multiple times, reducing the cost of spaceflight. Science and Technology Minister Jitendra Singh also inaugurated 'The MAX-Q Campus', the new headquarters of the start-up at the GMR Aerospace and Industrial Park at Mamidipally in South Hyderabad.



### IndianOil has commenced the production of Reference Fuels :-

IndianOil has successfully commenced the production of Reference Gasoline and Diesel Fuels for the first time in India. These fuels are used for calibration and testing of vehicle by Automobile manufacturers and testing agencies like ICAT (International Centre for Automotive Technology) and ARAI (Automotive Research Association of India). Shri Hardeep Singh Puri, Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas and said that the Launch of Reference Fuels produced by Indian Oil, utilizing the intellectual talent available at IndianOil's Research & Development Centre, is a dynamic achievement.



### First Vertical Wind Tunnel Installed At Indian Army's Special Forces Training School In Himachal Pradesh :-

The Indian Army has opened its first vertical wind tunnel (VWT) at a training facility in Himachal Pradesh. The cutting-edge facility will imitate real-life free fall conditions, allowing military troops to hone their combat free fall (CFF) skills. The VWT simulates different CFF scenarios by creating a controlled atmosphere with specific air velocities. The VWT is being installed as part of the Indian Army's drive to upgrade its training infrastructure and increase operational preparedness.



### JioSpaceFiber: India's First Satellite-Based Gigabit Broadband Service :-

Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited, the world's largest private mobile data network, has launched JioSpaceFibre, India's first satellite-based giga-fibre service, to provide high-speed broadband connectivity to hard-to-reach places. On October 27, Jio introduced the new satellite broadband service at the India Mobile Congress. According to a press release, the business intends to make JioSpaceFiber available throughout the country at extremely low prices. Currently, Jio provides high-speed broadband services to more than 450 million consumers in India, offering both fixed-line and wireless options.



## Nasa-Isro radar mission to provide dynamic view of forests, wetlands :-

The Nisar project, a Nasa-Isro collaboration, will employ radar equipment to monitor changes in Earth's forest and wetland ecosystems and their impact on the global carbon cycle and climate change. The NISAR radar satellite mission, which will launch in early 2024, will

survey Earth's land and ice surfaces every 12 days, providing insights into carbon capture and release in forests and wetlands. The information gathered will assist researchers in better understanding the consequences of deforestation, degradation, and flooding on carbon emissions.

## 16: Sports



### Asian Games 2023, Palak Gulia Wins Gold In Women's 10m Air Pistol :-

Palak Gulia and Esha Singh, both Indian teenagers, won gold and silver medals in the 10m air pistol event at the Asian Games. With a score of 242.1, Palak set an Asian Games record, while Esha took silver with a score of 239.7. Palak, 17, emerged as the day's star, capturing the coveted gold medal with a spectacular score of 242.1 in the finals, setting an Asian Games record. This is her first major individual medal in international competition, a remarkable achievement given her relative newness to the shooting arena, having only started last year.



### Nepal Shatters Records with Historic Performance in Asian Games 2023 T20I Match:-

During the present Asian Games cricket competition in Hangzhou, China, Nepal's men's cricket side engraved their names in history. Their historic achievements occurred during the match against Mongolia, which marked the start of the men's cricket competition at this continental gathering. Nepal shown exceptional brilliance during the match, reaching a formidable score of 314/3 in the allowed 20 overs. This astounding achievement beats Afghanistan's previous greatest T20I total of 278/3 against Ireland in 2019.



### Asian Games 2023, Rohan Bopanna And Rutuja Bhosale Wins Gold In Tennis :-

Rohan Bopanna and Rutuja Bhosale won the mixed doubles title with a 2-6 6-3 10-4 victory over Yu-hsiou Hsu and Hao-ching Chan of Chinese Taipei. It was India's second medal in tennis at the continental event, following the silver medal earned by Ramkumar Ramanathan and Saketh Myneni in men's doubles. Bhosale improved her game just in time, while veteran Bopanna remained consistent with his powerful serves as India rallied from a set down to defeat Chinese Taipei's Tsung-hao Huang and En-shuo Liang 2-6, 6-3, 10-4 in the title match.



### Asian Games 2023, India Bag Gold With 2-1 Win Over Pakistan In Men's Squash:-

India won gold in the men's squash team event at the Asian Games after defeating Pakistan 2-1. In the last round of a closely contested competition, the side led by Abhav Singh outperformed their opponents. The best-of-three tie began with Mahesh M losing in consecutive games to Nasir Iqbal - 8-11, 3-11, 2-11. However, Saurav Ghosal's 11-5, 11-1, 11-3 victory over Muhammad Asim brought the match to a close. The final between Abhay Singh and Noor Zaman went the distance, but the Indian won 11-7, 9-11, 7-11, 11-9, 12-10.



### Asian Games 2023, Shooters Prithviraj Tondaiman, Kynan Chenai, Zoravar Singh Sandhu Win Gold Medal In Men's Trap :-

The Indian men's team of Kynan Chenai, Zoravar Singh Sandhu, and Prithviraj Tondaiman won gold in the Trap event, continuing India's outstanding shooting streak in the Asian Games 2023. Earlier in the day, India took silver in the women's trap team shooting event. Rajeshwari Kumari, Manisha Keer, and Preeti Rajak came in second with 337 points, trailing China. Indian shooters performed admirably at the 2023 Asian Games,

contributing considerably to the country's medal tally. This was redemption for the shooting team following their terrible result at the Olympics in Tokyo.



### Asian Games 2023: Tajinderpal Singh Toor Wins Shot Put Gold :-

Tajinderpal Singh Toor, the defending shot put champion, won India's 12th gold medal at the Asian Games 2023 with a stunning throw of 20.36m. Tajinder made history by defending his 2018 title and becoming only the fourth Indian shot putter to win back-to-back Gold medals at the Games. With his final throw of 20.36m, the Indian hero beat Saudi Arabia's Mohamed Daouda to the top award. India's Parduman Singh Brar (1954 and 1958), Joginder Singh (1966 and 1970) and Bahadur Singh Chouhan (1978 and 1982) were the three athletes to win back-to-back Gold medals in the shot put.



### Indian Men's Football Team Wins SAFF Under-19 Championship :-

In football, India won the South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Under-19 Championship after defeating Pakistan 3-0 in the finals at Kathmandu's Dashrath Rangasala Stadium. India's goals came from Manglenthang Kipgen and Gwgmwsar Goyary. Pakistan offered little threat to India's well-balanced team, which



dominated the game from the start. The first half finished goalless thanks to an excellent defensive performance by the Green Shirts, but they were unable to maintain the same effort throughout as India scored in the 64th minute.



### Asian Games 2023, Annu Rani wins gold in women's javelin throw :-

Annu Rani of India won the gold medal in the women's javelin throw with a throw of 62.92m at the Asian Games 2023 in Hangzhou. She became the first Indian woman in Asian Games history to win a javelin gold medal. Nadeesha Dilhan Lekamge Hatarabage of Sri Lanka won silver with 61.57 meters while Huihui Lyu of China won bronze with 61.29 meters. Rani began her first effort with a 56.99m throw and followed it up with a 60+. Her 61.28m throw in the second attempt put her in medal contention, but her 62.92m throw in the fourth attempt was enough for victory.



### Asian Games 2023, India Team wins archery mixed team compound gold:-

Jyothi Surekha Vennam and Pravin Ojas Deotale of India won gold in the Compound Archery Mixed Team. The pair defeated So Chaewon and Joo Jaehoon of South Korea 159-158 at the Fuyang Yinhu Sports Centre Final Field to win their second gold medal in archery at the

Asian Games in Hangzhou. This is the first gold for Archery in the ongoing Asian Games. The pair had moved to the semi-final after beating the Malaysian team by a scoreline of 158 – 155. The Recurve Mixed Team will also be in action and will compete for a medal.



### Asian Games 2023, Parul Chaudhary Wins 5000m Gold :-

Parul Chaudhary won the women's 5000m to become the third Indian track & field athlete to win gold at the 2023 Asian Games. Parul hung back for the majority of the race before pulling away from the pack, with Japan's Ririka Hironaka ahead of her. Parul has added to her silver medal from the 3000m steeplechase. Parul finished in 15:14.75 minutes. Parul's gold is India's third in track and field at the 2023 Asian Games, joining medalists Tajinderpal Singh Toor and Avinash Sable in the men's 3000m steeplechase.



### Asian Games 2023, Neeraj Chopra Wins Gold In Javelin Throw :-

World number one javelin thrower - India's Neeraj Chopra - claimed a gold medal with a season-best throw of 88.88m at the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou, China, creating yet another historic occasion. Chopra successfully defended his championship and maintained his world-leading position. He won the final throw with a

distance of 88.88 meters. President Droupadi Murmu took on X and congratulated Neeraj. She wrote, "I am delighted that India has won its highest ever number of medals in Asian Games." Apart from Neeraj, India's, Kishore Jena claims the silver medal with his best throw reaching 87.54 meters.



### **Jyothi, Aditi, Parneet Strike Gold In Compound Archery At Asian Games :-**

Jyothi Surekha Vennam, Aditi Swami, and Parneet Kaur added to India's great archery performance at the Asian Games 2023. They won gold by one point over Yi-Hsuan Chen, I-Jou Huang, and Lu-Yun Wang of Chinese Taipei in a tense final. The Indian trio breezed through the qualifying rounds. Earlier, they started off by knocking over Hong Kong China in the quarterfinal and then made light work of Indonesia in the semis. Jyothi, who has already won a gold medal at the Games with Ojas Pravin Deotale in the compound archery mixed team event led India's charge along with Aditi Gopichand Swami.



### **Asian Games 2023: Dipika Pallikal, Harinder Pal Sandhu clinch gold in Squash Mixed :-**

Dipika Pallikal and Harinder Pal Singh Sandhu of India made history when they became the first pair to win gold in the squash mixed doubles event at the Asian Games

2023 in Hangzhou. At the Games, this was the first mixed doubles event. This was India's second team gold medal at the 19th Games, following the men's team's victory. In a nail-biting final, the Indians defeated Malaysians Aifa Binti Azman and Mohammad Kamal. In a battle of nerves, it was Dipika and Harinder who prevailed to take the last point and the gold medal with an 11-10, 11-10 victory.



### **Indian Men's Hockey Team Clinches Gold At Asian Games 2023 :-**

Harmanpreet Singh captained the Indian men's hockey team magnificently as they defeated defending champions Japan 5-1 to recapture Asian Games gold, their fourth in the continental showcase, and qualify for next year's Paris Olympics. The Indians, who had to settle for a bronze medal in the previous edition in Jakarta, earned their fourth Asian Games gold medal and their first since the 2014 Incheon event. India also won gold medals in 1966 and 1998, both in Bangkok. South Korea earned the bronze medal with a 2-1 victory over hosts China.



### **Indian Women's Kabaddi Team Clinches Gold At Asian Games 2023 :-**

India surpassed the milestone 100-medal mark at the Asian Games after the women's kabaddi team overcame

Chinese Taipei 26-25 in a thrilling final in Hangzhou, China. The same opponent held India to a 34-34 draw in the group stage, but the women in blue managed to run down the clock with a one-point victory at the end of the top game. Pooja's great raid gave the Indian team a 14-9 lead at halftime. After the action resumed, it increased its lead to seven points until Chinese Taipei scored five consecutive points.



### Jyothi Surekha Vennam wins Gold in Women's Archery at Asian Games 2023 :-

Jyothi Surekha Vennam of India won gold in the women's compound archery event at the 19th Asian Games. The rising Indian archer defeated Chaewon So of South Korea by a score of 149-145. Vennam now holds three gold medals in total with her victory, including archery compound women's team and mixed team compound archery medals. Meanwhile, Aditi Gopichand also secured silver in the women's compound archery, defeating Indonesia's Ratih Zilizati Fadhy by a margin of 146-140.



### Asian Games 2023 Final Medals Tally: India records its best-ever haul, China tops with 201 gold medals :-

India's campaign at the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou ended with 28 gold, 38 silver and 41 bronze to a total of

107 medals and finished at fourth place. This is the Indian contingent's best performance at the continental event. This exceeded India's previous record score of 70 medals, set at the previous edition in Jakarta in 2018, when a 570-strong Indian squad collected 70 medals - 16 gold, 23 silver, and 31 bronze. China topped the list with 383 medals, including 201 gold, 111 silver, and 71 bronze. The 19th edition of the continental quadrennial multisport meet was set for 2022 but was pushed back a year owing to COVID-19.



### Kenya's Kelvin Kiptum Breaks Marathon World Record :-

In an unofficial timing of two hours and 35 seconds, Kenyan Kelvin Kiptum won the men's division of the Chicago Marathon, breaking the previous record. In order to win the 2022 Berlin Marathon, the 23-year-old broke the previous world record of 2:01:09 set by Kenya's Eliud Kipchoge. Over the 26.2-mile distance, it was Kiptum's third victory in as many starts. In December of last year, he won in Valencia, and then in April, he won the London Marathon. It marked the third time a men's world record had been set on the streets of Chicago but the first time since Morocco's Khalid Khannouchi in 1999.



### Karthikeyan Murali's Remarkable Victory Over Magnus Carlsen :-

In a shocking turn of events at the ongoing Qatar Masters, 24-year-old Indian chess grandmaster Karthikeyan Murali defeated the world's number one player, Magnus Carlsen. This remarkable victory was only the third time an Indian player has triumphed over the chess legend. Karthikeyan Murali's triumph over Magnus Carlsen in the Qatar Masters is a momentous occasion in the world of chess. It highlights the immense talent and potential of Indian chess players on the international stage.



### **Mohammed Shami Make History To Claim 2nd 5-Wicket Haul In World Cups :-**

Mohammed Shami, the Indian fast bowler, became the first to achieve multiple five-wicket hauls in ODI World Cups. Shami took five wickets against New Zealand in the first innings, bowling them out for 273 runs at the HPCA Stadium in Dharamshala. In India's ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023 match against New Zealand, Shami took the wickets of Will Young, Rachin Ravindra, Daryll Mitchell, Mitchell Santner, and Matt Henry. Shami finished with five wickets and 54 runs conceded in 10 overs.



### **Shubman Gill Becomes Fastest Batter To Score 2000 Runs In ODIs:-**

During India's World Cup match against New Zealand, Shubman Gill became the fastest player in ODI history to score 2000 runs. Gill reached the milestone in 38 innings and broke the record of South African Hashim Amla, who required 40 innings to score 2000 ODI runs. The 24-year-old Indian, who struck 53 against Bangladesh in his previous game, was 14 runs short of reaching the century mark going into the contest. He achieved the feat in the seventh over of the Indian run chase when he smashed Trent Boult for a boundary.



### **Paralympian Sumit Antil breaks World Record at Para-Asian Games :-**

Antil won gold in the men's javelin throw F-64 category at the Para Asian Games held in Hangzhou, China with a mammoth new world record of 73.29m, surpassing his own record of 70.83m that he had set just a few months before at the World Para Athletics Championships. Such was the level of his dominance that Antil only made three throws in the competition (66.22m, 70.48m and 73.29m) all of which would have won gold. Even Antil's poorest measured throw of the competition was over 2m bigger than the silver medal-winning effort of Sri Lanka's Arachige Kodithuwakku.



## Amol Muzumdar appointed as head coach of Indian women's cricket team :-

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) in October 2023 announced Amol Muzumdar as the new head coach of the Indian women's cricket team. The board's Cricket Advisory Committee comprising Sulakshana Naik, Ashok Malhotra, and Jatin Paranjape unanimously recommended Muzumdar to take over the position which has been vacant since Ramesh Powar was removed back in December last year as part of a BCCI internal restructuring, Muzumdar scored over 11,000 first-class runs in 171 matches including 30 centuries during his 21-year impressive career.



## Sundar Singh Gurjar Breaks World Record In Men's Javelin F46 Event With Gold :-

India's medal tally reached 64 (15 gold, 20 silver, 29 bronze), with this being the most successful day, where 17 of the 30 medals, including all six golds, came from athletics on the third day of the Hangzhou Asian Para

Games. Sundar Singh Gurjar broke the men's F46 javelin throw world record with a distance of 68.60m, breaking the previous record of 67.79m. In the men's F46 javelin throw event, Indian athletes swept all three medals, with Rinku and Ajeet Singh claiming silver and bronze, respectively.



## Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty exits from the French Open :-

Indian challenge ended at the French Open badminton tournament with PV Sindhu and Asian Games gold medallist men's doubles duo of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty bowing out in the second round. Sindhu had defeated seventh seed Gregoria Mariska Tunjung of Indonesia 12-21 21-18 21-15 in the opening round. Later in the day, the third seeded Satwik and Chirag were stunned by Indonesian pair of Mohammad Ahsan and Hendra Setiawan 23-25 21-19 19-21 in keenly-contest round of 16 match.

## 17: State



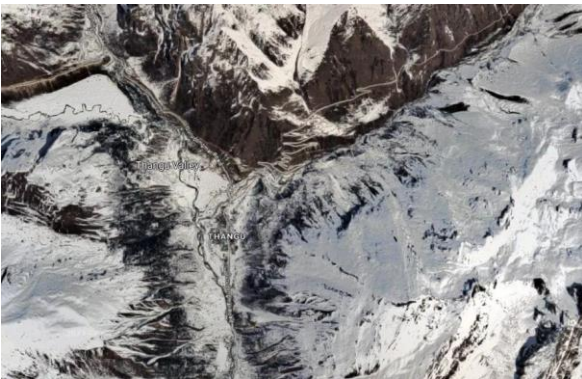
## Bihar To Establish Second Tiger Reserve In Kaimur District :-

Bihar is aiming to construct its second tiger reserve within the Kaimur district, which is an important development for wildlife protection. With the rising tiger population and the State Forest Department's coordinated efforts, this new reserve is projected to boost tiger conservation efforts and increase the state's biodiversity. The new tiger reserve in Kaimur district would supplement the existing Valmiki Tiger Reserve (VTR) in Bihar's West Champaran district. This increase illustrates the state's dedication to preserving its diverse animal heritage.



## Jammu And Kashmir's Renowned Pashmina Craft Receives GI Tag :-

An official spokesman announced that the Basohli Pashmina, a more than 100-year-old traditional art from Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua area, has been designated a Geographical Indication (GI) tag. The Department of Industries and Commerce reached the milestone in collaboration with NABARD Jammu and the Human Welfare Association of Varanasi, according to a spokesman. The Basohli Pashmina, a hand-spun product noted for its great softness, fineness, and light weight, has insulating capabilities and an extended life, according to the representative, adding that all of these attributes distinguish the Basohli Pashmina.



## Glacial Lake Burst In Sikkim Causes Devastation:-

According to the state government, more than 100 people remain missing in India's northeast after torrential rain forced a glacier lake to overflow, resulting in flash floods that blasted across the Himalayan state of Sikkim, killing at least 19 and washing away roads and bridges. The Indian Army claimed in a statement that a "sudden cloudburst" over Lhonak Lake in the state's northern half brought fast-moving torrents of water cascading down the Teesta River in Sikkim's Lachen

valley, raising water levels 15-20 feet higher than normal. A cloudburst is a very sudden and destructive rainstorm.



## India's largest pumped storage project has been inaugurated in Madhya Pradesh :-

Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, virtually launched India's largest pumped storage project in Madhya Pradesh. Greenko Group, India's largest energy storage company, is developing the project. The project, which is located in the Khemla block of the Neemuch district of Madhya Pradesh, has a capacity of 1440 megawatts (MW) with 7.5 hours of storage and is now being expanded to 1920 MW with 6 hours of storage to supply roughly 11 gigawatt hours (GWh) of storage daily. The overall investment will be Rs 11,500 crore over the next three years.



## Rajasthan To Have Three New Districts: CM Ashok Gehlot :-

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot has announced the formation of three new districts – Malpura, Sujangarh, and Kuchaman – ahead of the Assembly election, bringing the state's total number of districts to 53. In August of this year, the Congress governance established 19 new districts and three new divisions in the state. Mr. Gehlot stated that the three new districts were established to suit public demand and to follow the

recommendations of a high-level committee. Malpura would be formed from the existing Tonk district, Sujangarh from Churu, and Kuchaman from Nagaur.



### Tripura Becomes Fourth State To Implement E-Cabinet System:-

Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha introduced an e-cabinet system in Agartala to encourage the development of digital infrastructure and the digitization of government services and information. Tripura has now become the fourth state, and the second in the Northeast, to implement an e-cabinet system, following Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, and Arunachal Pradesh. All future cabinet meetings in the state will be paperless, reducing the carbon footprint and environmental degradation in the process, with ministers and bureaucrats using tablets.



### Geographical Indication (GI) Tags

### Churpi received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag :-

Arunachal Yak Churpi, the first yak milk product, has been granted Geographical Indication status. According to officials, two more distinctive goods from the border state, Khaw Tai (Khamti rice) and Tangsa textile, have also received GI certifications, which will now provide legal safeguards and increase their marketability with Arunachal as their place of origin. Churpi is made from the milk of Arunachali yak, a rare breed found in the state's West Kameng and Tawang districts. The ICAR-

National Research Centre on Yak, located in Dirang, West Kameng district, had sought for registration of this one-of-a-kind yak product.



### NLC India Ltd Secures 810 MW Solar PV Project In Rajasthan :-

Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Nigam (RRVUNL) has awarded NLC India (NLCIL) an 810 megawatt (MW) solar photovoltaic (PV) project in Bikaner district. According to the lignite miner, NLCIL has successfully obtained the complete capacity of the 810 MW tender filed by RRVUNL for building the project of 2,000 MW super mega solar park at Pugal tehsil in Rajasthan's Bikaner region. With this project, the capacity of Rajasthan's power projects will be 1.36 gigawatts (GW), including 1.1 GW of green power, resulting in economies of scale and reduced fixed costs.



### Bihar Govt Announces 10% Reservation For EWS In Judicial Services :-

Bihar's Nitish Kumar government has approved 10% reservation for economically weaker sections (EWS) in judicial services, law institutes, and universities. The decision was made during a cabinet meeting presided over by the chief minister. "The cabinet approved amendments in the guidelines of the State Judicial Services, 1951, allowing 10 per cent reservation for EWS category in judicial services and also in state-run law

institutes and universities," said Additional Chief Secretary (Cabinet Secretariat) S Siddhartha.



### **National Games 2023 To Be Held In Goa From Oct. 26 To Nov. 9 :-**

The 2023 National Games will begin on October 25 in Goa, according to the state's sports minister, Govind Gaude. The Games, according to Gaude, will be launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on October 25 and will conclude on November 9. He stated that the state government will provide Rs 2.54 crore as a grant to the associations and Rs 73 lakh in cash rewards to the medal winners. The government, according to Gaude, is willing to allow village panchayats, clubs, and groups to manage the fields in their respective districts. The minister further said that the sports associations should play a role in maintaining the existing infrastructure.



### **UP Declares Gangetic Dolphin As State Aquatic Animal :-**

The Gangetic Dolphin has been designated as the state aquatic animal by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. The Gangetic Dolphin is already a national aquatic animal, but its numbers have been dropping to critical levels in recent years due to river pollution, culling, and diminished river flow. "Dolphins are found in rivers like Ganga, Yamuna, Chambal, Ghaghra, Rapti, and Gerua. There is a need to maintain the purity of water in ponds

and rivers. The estimated population of Gangetic Dolphins in the state is around 2,000," the CM said.



### **India's First Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) Launched In UP :-**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the first corridor of Uttar Pradesh's Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) in Sahibabad on October 20 and waved off a RAPIDX, now 'Namo Bharat' train from the station. The Sahibabad RAPIDX station will serve as the starting point for the priority part of the Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut RRTS Corridor. According to a statement from the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), the prime minister will flag off a RAPIDX train connecting Sahibabad and Duhai Depot, thus launching RRTS in India. This train will be known as the "Namo Bharat".



### **Arunachal Cabinet Approves Formation Of Special Tiger Protection Force For 3 Tiger Reserves :-**

The Arunachal Pradesh State Cabinet has approved the formation of a Special Tiger Protection Force (STPF) in the state for three Tiger Reserves: Namdapha, Pakke, and Kamlang. As a result of this decision, 336 new regular positions will be created in the state. According to the cabinet, this will result in the protection of tigers and their habitats, the protection of animal habitats, and the prevention of other illegal activities in these tiger



reserves. In addition to it, the state cabinet also approved to provide a lump-sum monthly honorarium to all the Third Language Teachers of various tribes who have developed their own scripts.



### Cyclone 'Hamoon' passed over Bay Of Bengal :-

The deep depression over the Bay of Bengal strengthened into a cyclone, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), although it had little influence on the Indian coast. The cyclonic storm has been named 'Hamoon' by Iran. The system crossed the Bangladesh coast as a deep depression about 12 p.m. on October 25 between Khepupara and Chittagong. The (IMD) also issued a yellow alert for coastal districts in Odisha and West Bengal due to the expected impact of Cyclone Hamoon.



### Home Minister inaugurates Country's first Nano DAP plant in Gujarat :

Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah inaugurated the Country's first Nano DAP plant by IFFCO near Kalol in Gandhinagar. He lauded IFFCO's contribution in developing nano variants and coming up with successful alternatives to chemical fertilizers. The Nano liquid dap plant in Kalol has been set up by IFFCO at the cost of 300 crore rupees. The plant has been developed in tune with the Aatmnirbhar Bharat vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. IFFCO chairman Dilip Sanghani said while one bag of conventional DAP costs around 1300 rupees.



### 24th Hornbill Festival 2023 To Kick Off In Nagaland From December 1 :-

Hornbill is one of the year's most anticipated festivals. This vibrant event honors Nagaland's rich cultural legacy and attracts thousands of curious visitors from around the world. This year's festival will run from December 1 to December 10, 2023. Nagaland is a lovely state in India's northeast. The state is known as the "Land of Festivals," and Hornbill is one of the most grand festivities held each year by the State Tourism of Arts and Culture Department, Government of Nagaland.

## 18: Summits & Conferences



### 5th World Coffee Conference Held In Bangalore:-

The Coffee Board has arranged the 5th World Coffee Conference (WCC) for September 25-28, 2023, at the Bangalore Palace Grounds in Bengaluru. Around 1500 registered delegates and 10,000 business visitors from around the world attended. On September 25, Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal and

CEO and Secretary of the Coffee Board of India K G Jagadeesha launched the event. The International Coffee Organisation (ICO) organized the four-day event in partnership with the Coffee Board of India, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the Government of India, the Government of Karnataka, and the coffee industry.



### International conference concludes in NIT :-

From September 28 to 30, an international conference was held at the National Institute of Technology (NIT) in Warangal in conjunction with the 5th meeting of the Asia-Oceania Sonochemical Society. The Department of Chemical Engineering at NIT Warangal organized the conference. During the three-day meeting, scientists discussed the issues connected with real-world applications of sonochemistry and sono-technology. The conference was attended by approximately 250 delegates from China, Australia, Korea, Japan, Brazil, and Brunei.



### Global Sustainability Alliance's 5th SDG Summit :-

The 5th edition of the Global Sustainability Alliance (GSA) SDG conference was held at the ITC Maurya in New Delhi. This enthralling event brought together an extraordinary array of Indian and worldwide leaders, government officials, industrial titans, and sustainability specialists committed to improving sustainable development and environmental stewardship. The first day of the summit,

themed "Strengthening Economies – Collaboration! Financing! Resilience!", served as a vibrant platform displaying a variety of initiatives aiming to solve climate change concerns and promote sustainable development.



### National Investigation Agency

### NIA to host Anti-Terror Conference 2023 on October 05

On October 5, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) will convene a 'Anti-Terror Conference 2023' to discuss counter-terrorism concerns such as finance and affiliations to banned terror organizations. As the Chief Guest, Union Home Minister Amit Shah has been invited. The conference intends to build platforms for states to share knowledge and best practices. The Anti-Terrorist Squad of state police forces around the country, as well as other relevant officers from other forces and other departments under the Ministry of Home Affairs working in anti-terror programs, are expected to attend the conference, in addition to NIA officials.



### India Participates In The 5th Meeting Of Moscow Format:-

Special delegations and senior officials from India, Russia, China, Pakistan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan met in Kazan, Russia, for the fifth edition of the Moscow format consultation on Afghanistan. The meeting was also attended by the Taliban-appointed acting minister for foreign affairs in

Afghanistan, as well as representatives from Saudi Arabia, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, and Turkey. The participants in the meeting called on the Taliban to create a "truly inclusive system of government reflecting the interests of all key ethnopolitical groups in the country and also to step up counter-terrorism and anti-drug efforts".



#### 4th EMRS National Cultural & Literary Fest And Kala Utsav-2023:-

Union Minister for Tribal Affairs Arjun Munda inaugurated the 4th EMRS National Cultural & Literary Fest and Kala Utsav- 2023, in the presence of Chief Minister, Uttarakhand, Shri Pushkar Singh Dhama, at Dehradun on 3rd October, 2023. The event was organized by the National Education Society for Tribal Students (NESTS) under Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs, and hosted by Eklavya Vidyalaya Sangathan Samiti (EVSS), Uttarakhand at Maharana Pratap Sports College, Dehradun. The four-day event (3rd – 6th October) has witnessed performances from over 2000 tribal students from 22 States.



#### Two-Day Literature Festival To Be Held in Bengaluru :-

The Neev Literature Festival 2023 will be held on October 7th and 8th, 2023, at the Neev Academy in Yemalur, Bengaluru. This year's event topic is "What is childhood without stories?" The Neev Literature Festival was

launched in 2017, followed by the Neev Book Award in 2018. The purpose was to find and exhibit outstanding children's books about Indian experiences and stories. The festival will feature 76 speakers over two days, including renowned people such as actor Naseeruddin Shah and film director and screenwriter Ashim Ahluwalia.



#### Reserve Bank of India's Monetary Policy Committee Meeting : October 4-6:-

On October 6, members of the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) held the policy rate constant at 6.5 percent for the fourth time in a row. The meeting took place from October 4 to October 6. Previously, the RBI kept the repo rate at 6.5 percent in August. The Reserve Bank of India has raised the existing maximum for gold loans under the Bullet Repayment Scheme to Rs 4 lakh from Rs 2 lakh for Urban Co-operative Banks that have satisfied the overall and sub-targets under Priority Sector Lending as of March 31.



#### IDFC FIRST Bank and Outlook Group To Organise 'Outlook Money 40After40' Event:-

Outlook Group, in collaboration with IDFC FIRST Bank, has announced the commencement of its highly anticipated retirement planning event, "40After40." "40After40" is a one-of-a-kind platform that will take

place on January 23-24, 2024, at the Jio World Convention Centre in Mumbai. It's a one-stop shop for all discussions about opportune retirement, including panel discussions, chats, masterclasses, encounters with planners, product presentations, and so on. The event is an extension of Outlook Money's drive towards spreading awareness and creating conversations around the important but often-ignored need for retirement planning.



### All India Police Science Congress Held In Dehradun:-

On October 7, the Uttarakhand Police hosted the 49th All India Police Science Congress (AIPSC) with the theme "Policing in Amrit Kaal" at the Forest Research Institute in Dehradun. The event served as a forum for critical conversations and insights into today's security concerns. Delegates from various state police units and Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) in attendance also toured the Police Tech expo, which displayed the most recent breakthroughs in armament, cybercrime prevention, and drone technologies.



### 26th Energy Technology Meet Held At Bharat Mandapam :-

Centre for High Technology (CHT), under the aegis of the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Govt. of India has organised the 26th Energy Technology Meet (ETM), during 9-11 October 2023 at International Exhibition

Cum Convention Centre (Bharat Mandapam), Pragati Maidan, New Delhi with Engineers India Limited (EIL) and Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL) as co-hosts. The event was inaugurated by Petroleum & Natural Gas Minister Shri Hardeep Singh Puri in the august presence of Shri Rameswar Teli, Minister of State of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Labour and Employment.



### 9th G20 Parliamentary Speakers' Summit (P-20) In New Delhi :-

The G20 Parliamentary Speakers' Summit (P-20) will take place on October 13th and 14th, 2023, at the newly built India International Convention and Expo Center (IICC), Yashobhoomi, Dwarka, New Delhi. The Summit will be inaugurated on October 13, 2023, by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. These sessions will bring together G-20 members and guest countries for wide-ranging discussions on "how Parliaments can effectively advance the objectives of the P-20". Lok Sabha Speaker Shri Om Birla informed that the Summit will conclude with a joint statement urging G-20 governments to provide solutions to the major global challenges based on equality, inclusivity and peace.



### Power Minister R.K. Singh To Conduct ISA's Sixth Assembly In New Delhi From October 30 :-

According to a government release, the Sixth Assembly of the International Solar Alliance will be held in New

Delhi from October 30 to November 2, 2023. RK Singh, President of the ISA Assembly and Union Minister for Power, New and Renewable Energy, will preside over the Assembly. According to the release, ministers, missions, and delegates from the ISA's 116 Member and Signatory nations, as well as delegates from prospective nations, partner organizations, the commercial sector, and other stakeholders, will attend.



## Mid-Planning Conference For Multilateral Naval Exercise (MILAN) – 24 :-

From the 19th to the 27th of February 2024, the Indian Navy will organize the Mid-Planning Conference for MILAN 24 (Multilateral Naval Exercise- 2024) in Visakhapatnam. This event continues India's long tradition of hosting the MILAN exercise, demonstrating the country's commitment to strengthening international maritime cooperation. MILAN 22 took place in and around Visakhapatnam from February 25th to March 4th, 2022. This iteration had participation from 39 countries, demonstrating the exercise's expanding international appeal.



## India To Host World's Largest Textiles Event, Bharat Tex 2024:-

The Indian textile sector, in partnership with industry associations, is planning to stage "Bharat Tex 2024," billed as the world's largest textiles show. This massive

exhibition is set to take place in New Delhi from February 26 to February 29, 2024. Piyush Goyal, Union Minister of Textiles, Commerce and Industry, Consumer Affairs, and Food and Public Distribution, unveiled the event at a curtain raiser at Vanijya Bhavan in New Delhi. The initiative marks India's dedication to becoming a global textile powerhouse, combining innovation, collaboration, and the "Make in India" spirit.



## National Hackathon 'Vimarsh-2023' announced on 5G technology use for police:

A national hackathon called Vimarsh-2023 was announced with the objective of developing tools for the safe usage of 5G technology by law enforcement agencies (LEAs) during sensitive situations. The hackathon was initiated by the Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPRD) and the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C), both operating under the Union home ministry in India. Vimarsh 2023 aimed at developing India-specific use cases of Law Enforcement Agencies harnessing the capabilities of 5G and beyond technology. The official teaser for the hackathon was released on the website (<https://vimarsh.tcoe.in>).



## 43rd Edition Of PRAGATI, Chaired By The Prime Minister Modi :-

On October 27, Prime Minister Narendra Modi presided over the 43rd session of PRAGATI, which included the Centre and State governments. PRAGATI is a multi-modal ICT-based platform for proactive governance and timely implementation. He assessed eight significant projects spanning over seven states, totaling approximately 31 thousand crore rupees. Four of these projects were with water supply and irrigation, two with increasing National highways and connectivity, and two with rail and metro train connectivity. These are Bihar, Jharkhand, Haryana, Odisha, West Bengal, Gujarat and Maharashtra.



### PM Modi Inaugurated The 7th Edition Of Indian Mobile Congress (IMC) In New Delhi :-

On October 27, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the 7th Edition of the India Mobile Congress at Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. The Prime Minister was spotted talking with representatives from major telecommunications firms. Earlier, Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited exhibited 'JioSpaceFiber,' to provide high-speed broadband services to previously inaccessible geographies within India. Jio demonstrated its new satellite broadband.



### Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri Inaugurates 16th Urban Mobility India Conference & Exhibition 2023 In New Delhi :-

On October 27, Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri opened the 16th Urban Mobility India Conference and Exhibition 2023 in New Delhi. In his address to the audience, Mr Puri stated that the government has been successful in modifying the methods and tactics used to solve urban transportation difficulties. He stated that the country's metro system is currently 895 kilometers long and is on track to become the world's second-largest metro network in a few years. The Minister said that the government is working towards an e-mobility solution and is ready to introduce ten thousand electric buses.



### Ministry of Tourism participates in International Travel Exhibitions Asia, Singapore :-

The Government of India's Ministry of Tourism participated at this year's ITB Asia exhibition, which was held in Singapore from October 25 to October 27, focusing on inbound and sustainable tourism as it strives to portray India as a major worldwide destination. The Ministry's principal goal, according to the Ministry, was to promote inbound tourism to India globally, particularly in the Asia Pacific area, under the banner of 'Incredible India! Visit India Year 2023.' This year is designated as 'Visit India Year 2023,' with an emphasis on India's positioning in important international markets.

# SECTION 2

# Practice Questions with Answers



**PRACTICE QUESTIONS**

**1. Who among the following won the inaugural IndianOil Grand Prix of India held at Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh?**

- A) Fabio Quartararo
- B) Jorge Martin
- C) Marco Bezzecchi
- D) Pedro Acosta

**2. When World Rivers Day 2023 was observed?**

- A) 25 September 2023
- B) 24 September 2023
- C) 22 September 2023
- D) 21 September 2023

**3. Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve has recently been declared the 7th Tiger Reserve of which of the following states?**

- A) Madhya Pradesh
- B) Odisha
- C) Uttar Pradesh
- D) West Bengal

**4. Which of the following motor company delivered two Hydrogen Fuel Cell Electric Vehicle (FCEV) buses to Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOCL)?**

- A) Tata Motors Limited
- B) Maruti Suzuki India
- C) Mahindra & Mahindra Limited
- D) Hyundai Motor Company

**5. Which of the following country surpassed Hong Kong to become the world's freest economy in the Economic Freedom of the World (EFW) Annual Report by Fraser Institute?**

- A) Australia
- B) New Zealand
- C) Singapore
- D) Switzerland

**6. To issue co-branded credit cards with which of the following bank the Poonawalla Fincorp Limited has received approval from Reserve Bank of India (RBI)?**

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

D) YES Bank

**7. REC has inked an agreement with which of the following bank to co-finance infrastructure projects amounting to Rs 55,000 crore over 3 years?**

- A) Punjab National Bank
- B) Indian Bank
- C) Bank of India
- D) Bank of Baroda

**8. Ministry of Education and All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has partnered with which of the following company to prepare students with skills, gain exposure to new technology?**

- A) Google
- B) Infosys Limited
- C) Tata Consultancy Services
- D) Microsoft

**9. M Rajeshwar Rao has been re-appointed as the deputy governor of which of the following regulatory body?**

- A) Securities and Exchange Board of India
- B) Reserve Bank of India
- C) Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority
- D) Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India

**10. Who among the following was named as the first Indian Brand Ambassador of UNIQLO?**

- A) Alia Bhatt
- B) Deepika Padukone
- C) Kangana Ranaut
- D) Katrina Kaif

**11. To promote gender equality in food biz, FSSAI has introduced a new provision of \_\_\_\_\_ in the online Food Safety Compliance System (FoSCoS) portal.**

- A) Import Clearance
- B) Quality Control
- C) Risk Assessment
- D) Special Category



**12. In September 2023, which of the following Indian Armed Forces departed for Russia to participate in counter-terrorism meet?**

- A) Indian Navy
- B) Indian Army
- C) Indian Airforce
- D) Both A & B

**13. In response to the growing worldwide need to promote and improve sustainable finance, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) launched \_\_\_\_\_.**

- A) Peer2Peer Lending Mobile application
- B) Green Finance Lab
- C) e-Learning Programme
- D) Climate Finance Initiative

**14. Which of the following asset management company has partnered with the CBSE to launch an investor education initiative named "Seekho Paiso ki Bhasha"?**

- A) Axis Asset Management Company Ltd.
- B) HDFC Asset Management Company Ltd.
- C) ICICI Prudential Asset Management Company Ltd.
- D) Kotak Mahindra Asset Management Company Limited

**15. In September 2023, which of the following mutual fund company launched India's first Nifty 500 ETF?**

- A) Aditya Birla Sun Life Mutual Fund
- B) Bandhan Mutual Fund
- C) Motilal Oswal Mutual Fund
- D) UTI Mutual Fund

**16. Which of the following Hoysala temples in Karnataka were recently declared as UNESCO World Heritage Sites?**

- A) Somananthpura, Hampi, and Badami
- B) Puri, Konark, and Khajuraho
- C) Belur, Halebid, and Somananthpura
- D) Ajanta, Ellora, and Mahabalipuram

**17. Which of the following coastal security drill was conducted by the Indian Coast Guard along the west coast in September 2023?**

- A) Operation Samvedana
- B) Operation Sajagta
- C) Operation Sajag

D) Operation Jagruk

**18. Which of the following name was proposed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the old Indian Parliament building?**

- A) Samvidhan Sadan
- B) Parliament House
- C) Lutyens-Baker House
- D) Heritage House

**19. When the International Red Panda Day first observed?**

- A) 2018
- B) 2016
- C) 2010
- D) 2008

**20. In the Union Budget 2023-24 which of the following schemes was launched by the government to promote natural farming?**

- A) Bhartiya Prakritik Kheti Bio-Input Resource Centres
- B) Credit guarantee for MSMEs
- C) GOBARdhan Scheme
- D) National Hydrogen Mission

**21. The Union government has extended the RBI Deputy Governor M Rajeshwar Rao's tenure by how many years?**

- A) 04 years
- B) 03 years
- C) 02 years
- D) 01 year

**22. Who among the following lead a delegation of Parliament to the 9th BRICS Parliamentary Forum held in Johannesburg?**

- A) Harivansh Narayan Singh
- B) Om Birla
- C) Rajnath Singh
- D) Shashi Tharoor

**23. The IBSA Blind Football Intercontinental Cup 2023 was held in which of the following city?**

- A) Chennai
- B) Hyderabad
- C) Kochi
- D) Panaji

**24. Who among the following will be conferred with the Dadasaheb Phalke Lifetime Achievement Award?**

- A) Dharmendra
- B) Jaya Bachchan
- C) Rekha
- D) Waheeda Rehman

**25. Which of the following cricket team has achieved the milestone of hitting 3000 sixes in ODI cricket history?**

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

**26. Which of the following ministry has launched the 'CRIIIO 4 GOOD' life skills learning module in association with ICC, BCCI and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)?**

- A) Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports
- B) Ministry of Women and Child Development
- C) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
- D) Ministry of Education

**27. Along with the SahiBandhu which of the following bank has partnered to launch a 'doorstep gold loan' facility?**

- A) HDFC Bank
- B) Karnataka Bank
- C) RBL Bank
- D) South Indian Bank

**28. Which of the following company retained its top position as India's most valuable brand for the second consecutive year in the Kantar BrandZ Top 75 Most Valuable Indian Brands Report?**

- A) Airtel Limited
- B) HDFC Bank
- C) Infosys Limited
- D) Tata Consultancy Services

**29. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the appointment of KN Madhusoodanan as the part-time chairman of which of the following bank?**

- A) Dhanlaxmi Bank
- B) HDFC Bank
- C) RBL Bank

D) South Indian Bank

**30. In September 2023 Father of India's Green Revolution and Padma Awardee \_\_\_\_\_, passed away.**

- A) Durgesh Patel
- B) MS Swaminathan
- C) Nirpakh Tutej
- D) Sam Pitroda

**31. How many regular jobs were created annually from 2017 to 2019 in India as per the "State of Working India 2023: Social Identities and Labour Market Outcomes" report?**

- A) Three million
- B) Seven million
- C) One million
- D) Five million

**32. Which of the following nation is NOT a member of the Sahel States Alliance (AES)?**

- A) Burkina Faso
- B) Chad
- C) Mali
- D) Niger

**33. The inclusion of India in the JPMorgan Government Bond Index-Emerging Markets might result in foreign inflows of up to \$30 billion.**

- A) \$40 billion
- B) \$30 billion
- C) \$20 billion
- D) \$10 billion

**34. In September 2023 which of the following country has been placed on negative watch by JPMorgan?**

- A) Brazil
- B) Egypt
- C) South Africa
- D) Turkey

**35. In September 2023 which of the following state has achieved 100% ODF Plus status under the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) Phase II?**

- A) Telangana
- B) Gujarat
- C) Uttar Pradesh
- D) Andhra Pradesh

**36. Government has increased the interest rate on five-year recurring deposit scheme to \_\_\_\_\_ from 6.5% for the 3rd quarter of FY24.**

- A) 6.6%
- B) 6.7%
- C) 6.9%
- D) 7.0%

**37. SEBI extended deadline for demat account holders to provide account nominees, submit PAN, KYC details from September 30 2023 to \_\_\_\_\_.**

- A) 31 March 2024
- B) 31 January 2024
- C) 31 December 2023
- D) 30 November 2023

**38. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has granted approval to the International Finance Corporation (IFC) to acquire a 9.7 per cent stake in which of the following bank?**

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

**39. Which of the following airline company has acquired India's first Airbus A350-900 aircraft?**

- A) Vistara
- B) SpiceJet
- C) IndiGo
- D) Air India

**40. The first of six new Dornier Do-228 aircraft manufactured by \_\_\_\_\_ was inducted by the Indian Air Force (IAF).**

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

**41. Which of the following pension management company has launched a first-of-its-kind 'National Pension System (NPS) Preference Index'?**

- A) Kotak Mahindra Pension Fund Management
- B) ICICI Prudential Pension Fund Management
- C) HDFC Pension Management
- D) Aditya Birla Sun Life Pension Management

**42. Who among the following was nominated as the ambassador for the "War Against Waste" initiative in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K)?**

- A) Captain Yogendra Singh Yadav
- B) Captain Somnath Sharma
- C) Captain Sanjay Kumar
- D) Captain Bana Singh

**43. Mohamed Muizzu was elected as the new president of which of the following country?**

- A) South Sudan
- B) Maldives
- C) Libya
- D) Kenya

**44. Who among the following was elected as the Chairman of the Press Trust of India (PTI)?**

- A) Aveek Kumar Sarkar
- B) K.N. Shanth Kumar
- C) Mahendra Mohan Gupta
- D) Vineet Jain

**45. When the International Day of Older Persons was observed?**

- A) 30 September
- B) 01 October
- C) 02 October
- D) 03 October

**46. In September 2023, India's first solar roof cycling track was inaugurated in which of the following city?**

- A) Hyderabad
- B) Chennai
- C) Bengaluru
- D) Ahmedabad

**47. What is the rank of India in the Ookla's Speedtest Global Index?**

- A) 47
- B) 50
- C) 59
- D) 62

**48. For setting up compressed biogas (CBG) plants, board of which of the following company has approved to form joint ventures with EverEnviro Resource Management Pvt Ltd and GPS Renewables Pvt Ltd?**

- A) Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited

- B) Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited
- C) Indian Oil Corporation Limited
- D) Oil India Limited

**49. Who among the following was awarded with the 2023 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine?**

- A) Drew Weissman
- B) Katalin Karikó
- C) Svante Pääbo
- D) Both A & B

**50. Who among the following became the first female recipient of the Global Indian Award by the Canada India Foundation (CIF)?**

- A) Aditi Gupta
- B) Falguni Nayar
- C) Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw
- D) Sudha Murty

**51. In September 2023 India's unemployment rate fell to a 12-month low of \_\_\_\_\_, as per the Consumer Pyramids Household Survey released by Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE).**

- A) 8.5%
- B) 7.5%
- C) 7.1%
- D) 6.5%

**52. A new malaria vaccine named R21/Matrix-M developed by \_\_\_\_\_ has been recommended by the World Health Organization(WHO).**

- A) Gamaleya Research Institute of Epidemiology & Bharat Biotech International Ltd
- B) Gamaleya Research Institute of Epidemiology & Cadila Pharmaceuticals Ltd
- C) Jenner Institute, Oxford University & Bharat Biotech International Ltd
- D) University of Oxford and the Serum Institute of India

**53. Along with the Outlook Group which of the following bank has collaborated to launch a retirement planning event "40After40"?**

- A) Kotak Mahindra Bank
- B) IndusInd Bank
- C) IDFC FIRST Bank
- D) ICICI Bank

**54. Who among the following was awarded with the 2023 Nobel Prize in Physics?**

- A) Pierre Agostini
- B) Ferenc Krausz
- C) Anne L'Huillier
- D) All of the above

**55. Who among the following was named as the 'Global Ambassador' for the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023?**

- A) Sourav Ganguly
- B) Sachin Tendulkar
- C) Ravi Shastri
- D) Mahendra Singh Dhoni

**56. India along with which of the following country conducted the 11th edition of annual joint military exercise, SAMPRITI in Umroi, Meghalaya?**

- A) Bangladesh
- B) Indonesia
- C) Japan
- D) Sri Lanka

**57. Which of the following bank has launched its digital banking proposition - Open 2023 campaign?**

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

**58. Which of the following bank became the first bank in India to launch an 'ONDC Network Gift Card'?**

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

**59. Who among the following was promoted as the global CEO of PayU Global Payment Organisation (GPO)?**

- A) Reeju Dutta
- B) Anirban Mukherjee
- C) Akash Sinha
- D) Ajay Kumar

**60. Who among the following was appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of General Insurance Corporation of India Limited?**

- A) Atanu Kumar Das

- B) Bishnu Charan Patnaik
- C) Devesh Srivastava
- D) Ramaswamy Narayanan

**61. Who among the following will be awarded with the 2023 SASTRA Ramanujan Prize?**

- A) Xiumin Du
- B) Shaoming Guo
- C) Ruixiang Zhang
- D) None of the above

**62. The South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Under-19 Championship was held in which of the following country?**

- A) Bhutan
- B) India
- C) Nepal
- D) Pakistan

**63. For the October-December quarter, which ministry has announced the decision to keep the interest rate on General Provident Fund (GPF) savings unchanged at 7.1% recently?**

- A) Finance Ministry
- B) Ministry of Labour and Employment
- C) Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions
- D) Reserve Bank of India

**64. Which of the following is the glacial lake which overflowed by a cloudburst and caused the Sikkim flash flood?**

- A) East Lhonak
- B) North Lhonak
- C) South Lhonak
- D) West Lhonak

**65. In September 2023 which of the following state reported the highest growth in Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenues?**

- A) Arunachal Pradesh
- B) Jammu and Kashmir
- C) Manipur
- D) Telangana

**66. According to the World Bank's latest India Development Update (IDU) India's GDP growth prediction for 2023-24 is \_\_\_\_\_.**

- A) 6.3%
- B) 6.5%
- C) 6.7%
- D) 6.9%

**67. Who among the following was awarded the 2023 Nobel Peace Prize?**

- A) Arundhati Roy
- B) Dalai Lama
- C) Narges Mohammadi
- D) Sunita Krishnan

**68. Which of the following country has been elected as the president of the Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development General Conference?**

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

**69. Who among the following was awarded the 2023 Nobel prize in Literature?**

- A) Annie Arno
- B) Lewis Gluck
- C) Jon Fosse
- D) Peter Handke

**70. The RBI Monetary Policy Committee has kept the key policy repo rate unchanged at \_\_\_\_\_.**

- A) 6.0%
- B) 6.2%
- C) 6.5%
- D) 6.7%

**71. For establishment of common engineering facility center titled "Digital Twin Center for Emerging Automotive Systems" the Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI) has inked an MoU with which of the following IIT?**

- A) IIT Bombay
- B) IIT Delhi
- C) IIT Guwahati
- D) IIT Madras

**72. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has established a nine-member external working group on Expected**

**Credit Loss (ECL) based framework chaired by**

- A) B. P. Kanungo
- B) Muneesh Kapur
- C) R. Narayanaswamy
- D) Raghuram G. Rajan

**73. For Project Kuiper Satellite System, which of the following space agency has launched the first two prototype satellites named KuiperSat-1 and KuiperSat-2?**

- A) Amazon
- B) Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency
- C) Neuralink Corp
- D) SpaceX

**74. Who among the following won the bronze medal in the Badminton World Federation (BWF) World Junior Championships 2023?**

- A) Sankar Muthusamy
- B) Gaurav Kumar Singh
- C) Ayush Shetty
- D) Aditya Sharma

**75. The Ministry of Culture has identified how many sites for cleanliness across the country under special Swachhata Campaign 3.0?**

- A) 499
- B) 449
- C) 400
- D) 333

**76. In which of the following airport South Asia's first Aircraft Recovery Training School (ARTS) has been established?**

- A) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport
- B) Indira Gandhi International Airport
- C) Bangalore International Airport Limited
- D) Chennai International Airport

**77. Which of the following airport became the first airport in Asia to commission a "Disabled Aircraft Recovery Kit" (DARK)?**

- A) Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (Maharashtra, India)
- B) Don Mueang International Airport (Bangkok, Thailand)

- C) Indira Gandhi International Airport (New Delhi, India)
- D) Kempegowda International Airport (Karnataka, India)

**78. Which of the following insurance company has introduced surrogacy cover and oocyte donor cover to its women-centric policy?**

- A) Aditya Birla Health Insurance
- B) Care Health Insurance
- C) Niva Bupa Health Insurance
- D) Star Health and Allied Insurance

**79. Which of the following company sanctioned Rs 8,800 crore for airports, civil aviation infrastructure development in India?**

- A) Industrial Finance Corporation of India
- B) Infrastructure Development Finance Company
- C) National Bank For Financing Infrastructure And Development
- D) India Infrastructure Finance Company Limited

**80. Nandini Azad has been re-elected as a member of which of the following union/organisation?**

- A) International Telecommunication Union
- B) International Trade Union Confederation
- C) International Raiffeisen Union
- D) Universal Postal Union

**81. The Annual Joint Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Exercise (AJHE) – "CHAKRAVAT 2023" was conducted by the Indian Navy (IN) in which of the following state?**

- A) Goa
- B) Karnataka
- C) Maharashtra
- D) West Bengal

**82. Along with fintech startup Fibe which of the following bank has partnered to launch country's first-ever numberless credit card?**

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

**83. For its electric vehicle (EV) division, which of the following company has received the first tranche of Rs 300 crore from the International Finance Corporation (IFC)?**

- A) Euler Motors
- B) Kinetic Green
- C) Mahindra and Mahindra
- D) Piaggio Vehicles

**84. Which bank has launched UPI (Unified Payments Interface) integration for NRI clients through its mobile banking platform?**

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

**85. Who among the following won the Qatar GP 2023?**

- A) Carlos Sainz
- B) Charles Leclerc
- C) Lewis Hamilton
- D) Max Verstappen

**86. Who among the following chaired the 52nd Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council meeting in New Delhi?**

- A) Nirmala Sitharaman
- B) Ram Nath Kovind
- C) Narendra Modi
- D) Shaktikanta Das

**87. In September 2023, what was the Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) for India's services sector?**

- A) 54
- B) 13
- C) 60.1
- D) 61

**88. Who among the following is set to inaugurate the Vibrant Gujarat Summit in January 2024?**

- A) Amit Shah
- B) Bhupendrabhai Patel
- C) Narendra Modi
- D) S Jaishankar

**89. Rooppur nuclear power plant, the first nuclear power plant of Bangladesh is financed and constructed by \_\_\_\_\_,**

- A) United Nations

- B) Russia's Rosatom
- C) China's State Nuclear Power Technology Corporation
- D) Bangladesh Government

**90. Which of the following country tested the nuclear-powered missile 'Burevestnik'?**

- A) China
- B) France
- C) Russia
- D) US

**91. For water projects in Tanzania, India provided how much assistance?**

- A) USD 100 million
- B) USD 10 million
- C) USD 1 trillion
- D) USD 1 billion

**92. Who among the following is set to deploy 'Bima Wahaks' in every Gram Panchayat before December 31, 2024?**

- A) Gram Panchayat Council
- B) Indian Ministry of Finance
- C) IRDAI
- D) National Insurance Companies

**93. In April-June 2023, which of the following states/UTs had a higher urban unemployment rate than the national average?**

- A) West Bengal, Bihar, and Haryana
- B) Jammu and Kashmir, Kerala, and Punjab
- C) Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Chhattisgarh
- D) Delhi, Gujarat, and Maharashtra

**94. Following a surprise attack by Hamas, who among the following imposed a total siege on the Gaza Strip and cut off water supply?**

- A) Egypt
- B) Israel
- C) Palestine
- D) United Nations

**95. An 810 MW solar photovoltaic (PV) power project in Rajasthan has been secured by which of the following company?**

- A) Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited
- B) NLC India Ltd.
- C) Navratna Central Public Sector Enterprise

D) Ministry of Coal

**96. When the World Sight Day 2023 was observed?**

- A) 10 October
- B) 11 October
- C) 12 October
- D) 13 October

**97. Who among the following formally kicked off the 26th Energy Technology Meet in New Delhi's Bharat Mandapam?**

- A) Rajnath Singh
- B) Nitin Gadakari
- C) Hardeep Singh Puri
- D) None of the above

**98. Who among the following was elected as the Chairman of the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI)?**

- A) Rakesh Jhunjhunwala
- B) Nirmal Jain
- C) Navneet Munot
- D) A Balasubramanian

**99. What is the IMF's projection for Pakistan's economic growth in the current fiscal year?**

- A) 1.7%
- B) 2.0%
- C) 2.5%
- D) 3.0%

**100. India launched which of the following operation to assist its citizens in Israel?**

- A) Operation Ajay
- B) Operation Exodus
- C) Operation Rescue
- D) Operation Safeguard

**101. India's natural gas demand is expected to rise by how much percent in 2023 calendar year according to a report by the International Energy Agency?**

- A) 06%
- B) 05%
- C) 04%
- D) 02%

**102. In October 2023 the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD) has launched the 'A-HELP' program in which of the following state?**

A) Uttar Pradesh

B) Punjab

C) Kerala

D) Jharkhand

**103. To launch satellites on Vikram-I Rocket, which of the following company has signed two MoU with two France-based Space firms named Promethee Earth Intelligence and ConnectSAT?**

- A) Agnikul Cosmos
- B) Dhruva Space
- C) Skyroot Aerospace
- D) Tata Elxsi

**104. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved SBI Funds Management Limited (SBIFML) to acquire up to a 9.99% paid-up share capital in which of the following bank?**

- A) RBL Bank
- B) Karnataka Bank
- C) IndusInd Bank
- D) IDFC FIRST Bank

**105. Which of the following company has launched the first private suborbital European rocket 'MIURA 1 SN1'?**

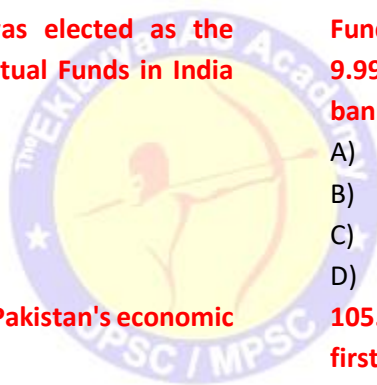
- A) Astra Express
- B) Orbital Express
- C) PLD Space
- D) Skyrora Space

**106. Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare Mansukh Mandaviya has inaugurated new facilities at the National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS) in which of the following city?**

- A) Bengaluru, Karnataka
- B) Chennai, Tamil Nadu
- C) Mumbai, Maharashtra
- D) New Delhi, Delhi

**107. "Aadi Mahotsav" – the National Tribal Festival inaugurated by the Union Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda was held in which of the following state?**

- A) Arunachal Pradesh
- B) Jharkhand
- C) Odisha
- D) Sikkim





**108. What is the rank of India in the Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2023?**

- A) 120
- B) 111
- C) 107
- D) 101

**109. Which of the following Payments Bank has received a monetary penalty of Rs 5.39 crore by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)?**

- A) Fino Payments Bank
- B) India Post Payments Bank
- C) Jio Payments Bank
- D) Paytm Payments Bank

**110. The Certificate of Registration (CoR) of which of the following housing finance company has been cancelled by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)?**

- A) PNB Housing Finance Limited
- B) LIC Housing Finance Limited
- C) Indiabulls Housing Finance Limited
- D) Ind Bank Housing Limited

**111. Which of the following police station became the country's first women-centric police station to be certified by the ISO?**

- A) Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh
- B) Noida, Uttar Pradesh
- C) Patna, Bihar
- D) Thane, Maharashtra

**112. Which of the following companies became the 15 & 16th Navratna Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSE) recently?**

- A) Dredging Corporation of India (DCI) & Ircon International Limited (IRCON)
- B) India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) & IRCTC
- C) Ircon International Limited (IRCON) & RITES Limited
- D) RITES Limited & Dredging Corporation of India (DCI)

**113. Which of the following country assumed the chairmanship of Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) for the period 2023 to 2025?**

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

D) Tanzania

**114. Army chief General Manoj Pande presented President's Colours to the Third Battalion of the which of the following regiment?**

- A) Sikh Regiment
- B) Punjab Regiment
- C) Naga Regiment
- D) Dogra Regiment

**115. To use light-based high-speed communication for satellite communication in space which of the following company has signed an MoU with the Space Applications Centre (SAC)?**

- A) Alethea Communications Technologies Pvt. Ltd
- B) Fimo Technologies and Services Pvt. Ltd
- C) Nav Wireless Technologies Pvt Ltd
- D) Sehaj Synergy Technologies Pvt. Ltd

**116. To launch the Super Power Retailer Program under the Skill India Mission, which of the following company has collaborated with National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)?**

- A) Varun Beverages Limited
- B) Orient Beverages Limited
- C) Dabur India Limited
- D) Coca-Cola India

**117. Which two-day comprehensive Coastal Security Exercise that was conducted in Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu & Puducherry to assess the effectiveness and strength of the coastal security system?**

- A) Sagar Kavach 02/23
- B) Exercise La Perouse 2023
- C) Sea Vigil 2023
- D) VARUNA 2023

**118. Who among the following was awarded with "Best Central Bank Award 2023" for being ranked 'A+' in the Global Finance Central Banker Report Cards 2023?**

- A) Victoria Rodriguez
- B) Mark Carney
- C) Mario Marcel
- D) Shaktikanta Das

**119. Daniel Noboa became the youngest president of which of the following country?**

- A) Brazil

- B) Ecuador
- C) El Salvador
- D) Venezuela

**120. Who among the following was elected as the 42nd Prime Minister of New Zealand?**

- A) Christopher Luxon
- B) Dame Jacinda Ardern
- C) Helen Clark
- D) Sir John Key

**121. What is the rank of the India in the 15th annual Mercer CFA Institute Global Pension Index (MCGPI) released in October 2023?**

- A) 46
- B) 45
- C) 43
- D) 40

**122. Which of the following country topped the 15th annual Mercer CFA Institute Global Pension Index (MCGPI) released in October 2023?**

- A) Denmark
- B) Iceland
- C) Bangladesh
- D) Netherlands

**123. Which organisation has approved \$181 million loan to build infrastructure in Ahmedabad's peri-urban areas recently?**

- A) Asian Development Bank
- B) International Monetary Fund
- C) United Nations Development Programme
- D) World Bank

**124. Which of the following bank became the first Russian bank to register with the SEBI as a foreign portfolio investor (FPI)?**

- A) Alfa Bank
- B) Gazprombank
- C) Sberbank
- D) VTB Bank

**125. For setting up renewable power plants, Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) will invest Rs \_\_\_\_\_ as equity in IndianOil NTPC Green Energy Pvt Ltd.**

- A) 1,660.15 crore
- B) 1,986.80 crore

- C) 2,589.34 crore
- D) 3,789.28 crore

**126. Which of the following institute has signed an MoU with the National Institute of Communication Finance (NICF) for academic and research collaboration to synergise professional capabilities of both institutions?**

- A) Indian Institute of Technology Delhi
- B) Indian Institute of Technology Bombay
- C) Indian Institute of Management Calcutta
- D) Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs

**127. Which of the following organisation has developed a web portal 'Apna Chandrayaan' for school students?**

- A) All India Council for Technical Education
- B) National Assessment and Accreditation Council
- C) National Council for Teacher Education
- D) NCERT

**128. Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the merger of IDFC Limited (IDFCL) with which of the following?**

- A) IDFC Project Equity
- B) IDFC FIRST Bank
- C) IDFC Financial Holding
- D) IDFC Asset Management

**129. When the Raising Day of the National Security Guard (NSG) was observed?**

- A) 15 October
- B) 16 October
- C) 17 October
- D) 18 October

**130. On 18th October 2023, Kati Bihu festival was celebrated in which of the following state?**

- A) Assam
- B) Odisha
- C) Tripura
- D) West Bengal

**131. What was the focus of 'Operation Chakra-2' carried out by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on October 26, 2023?**

- A) Crackdown on drug trafficking
- B) Combating terrorism
- C) Action against cyber criminals
- D) Investigating political corruption

**132. Who was named as the head coach of the India women's national cricket team on October 26, 2023?**

- A) Ramesh Powar
- B) Hrishikesh Kanitkar
- C) Amol Muzumdar
- D) Virat Kohli

**133. On October 26, 1795, what significant historical event occurred in France during the French Revolution?**

- A) The Storming of the Bastille
- B) The execution of King Louis XVI
- C) The National Convention was dispersed
- D) The Reign of Terror began

**134. What global issue did the study published in the journal BioScience on October 26, 2023, address?**

- A) Climate change
- B) Human rights
- C) Gender inequality
- D) Earth's vital signs worsening

**135. What were the two major issues protested during the one-day strike by women in Iceland on October 26, 2023?**

- A) High taxes and inflation
- B) Gender discrimination and gender-based violence
- C) Climate change and environmental pollution
- D) Economic inequality and unemployment

**136. What is the theme of the 16th Urban Mobility India Conference held in New Delhi in 2023?**

- A) Sustainable Urban Development
- B) Integrated and Resilient Urban Transport
- C) Smart Cities for the Future
- D) Environmental Conservation

**137. Who inaugurated the 16th Urban Mobility India Conference in New Delhi?**

- A) Prime Minister Narendra Modi
- B) Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri
- C) Piyush Goyal
- D) Manish Bhagat

**138. Which Indian para-badminton player won a gold medal at the Hangzhou Asian Para Games?**

- A) Pramod Bhagat
- B) Sukant Kadam
- C) Manish Bhagat

D) Mandeep Kaur

**139. What was the theme of the 6th Indian Coast Guard (ICG) Subordinate Officers' Conclave in 2023?**

- A) Maritime Security
- B) Towards an Inclusive Approach
- C) Coast Guard Operations
- D) Environmental Conservation

**140. Who has constituted a 12-member committee to simplify insurance policy wordings in India?**

- A) Reserve Bank of India
- B) Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)
- C) Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)
- D) Ministry of Finance

**141. Along with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) which of the following company has partnered to introduce the option of EMI on RuPay credit cards?**

- A) Amazon Pay India Private Limited
- B) Cashfree Payments Limited
- C) PhonePe Private Limited
- D) Razorpay Software Private Limited

**142. Who among the following won the Sakharov Prize 2023?**

- A) Mohtaram Eskandari
- B) Mana Shooshtari
- C) Mahnaz Parakand
- D) Mahsa Amini

**143. Raghubar Das has been appointed as the Governor of which of the following state?**

- A) Telangana
- B) Odisha
- C) Jharkhand
- D) Bihar

**144. When the National Solidarity Day was observed?**

- A) 20 October
- B) 19 October
- C) 18 October
- D) 17 October

**145. State cabinet of which of the following state has approved the creation of the Special Tiger Protection Force (STPF)?**

- A) Maharashtra
- B) Jharkhand
- C) Arunachal Pradesh
- D) Andhra Pradesh

**146. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has virtually launched 511 Pramod Mahajan Grameen Kaushalya Vikas Kendras in which of the following state recently?**

- A) Uttar Pradesh
- B) Maharashtra
- C) Madhya Pradesh
- D) Bihar

**147. Dr. Abhilaksh Likhi, secretary of which of the following Department has chaired a national level meeting on 'Ghar-Ghar Kisan Credit Card (KCC) Abhiyaan'?**

- A) Department of Health and Family Welfare
- B) Department of Fisheries
- C) Department of Commerce
- D) Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare

**148. A health insurance policy named 'Optima Secure' was launched by which of the following Insurance company?**

- A) Aditya Birla Health Insurance
- B) HDFC ERGO General Insurance
- C) Niva Bupa Health Insurance
- D) Star Health and Allied Insurance

**149. A digital banking platform named 'XpressWay' has been launched by which of the following bank?**

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

**150. Who among the following is set to get Mother Teresa Memorial Award for Social Justice in November 2023?**

- A) Mohtaram Eskandari
- B) Mana Shooshtari
- C) Mahnaz Parakand
- D) Nargis Mohammadi

## ANSWERS

**1. Correct Answer: C**

Marco Bezzecchi became the first rider to win the inaugural IndianOil Grand Prix of India on September 24, riding the Mooney VR46 Racing Team to the top of the podium at the Buddh International Circuit in Greater Noida. Spain's Jorge Martin finished second and France's Fabio Quartararo became the third to cross the finish line.

**2. Correct Answer: B**

World Rivers Day is celebrated annually on the fourth Sunday of September, which in 2023 falls on September 24th. It is a day to celebrate the importance of rivers and to raise awareness about the need to protect them.

**3. Correct Answer: A**

Madhya Pradesh, which is home to the most number of tigers in the country, has got a new protected area for the big cats named 'Veerangana Durgavati Tiger

Reserve', the seventh in the state, an official said. M.P. retained the "tiger state" status in the 2022 census with the number of big cats in the state rising to 785 from 526 in 2018.

**4. Correct Answer: A**

Tata Motors, India's largest commercial vehicle manufacturer, has delivered two Hydrogen Fuel Cell-powered (FCEV) buses to Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOCL). In June 2021, Tata Motors secured a contract from IOCL to supply 15 FCEV buses, aiming to explore the potential of hydrogen-powered PEM fuel-cell technology in India.

**5. Correct Answer: C**

Singapore has dethroned Hong Kong to become the world's freest economy, according to a report released by Canadian think tank Fraser Institute. For the first time since the Economic Freedom of the

World Index started in 1970, Hong Kong has slipped from its number one position to second place.

**6. Correct Answer: C**

Poonawalla Fincorp, a Cyrus Poonawalla group-promoted NBFC, has received Reserve Bank of India's approval to issue co-branded credit card with IndusInd Bank. The company envisages to launch this credit card within three months, Poonawalla Fincorp said in a statement.

**7. Correct Answer: A**

REC Limited and Punjab National Bank (PNB) has announced the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to jointly fund projects in the power sector and infrastructure & logistics sector. The collaboration aims to co-finance debts totaling Rs. 55,000 crore over the next three years under a consortium arrangement.

**8. Correct Answer: D**

With the objective of empowering students to be future ready, the Ministry of Education, All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and Microsoft have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). This collaboration is aimed at creating skilling and job readiness for students and educators associated with AICTE and its partner institutions.

**9. Correct Answer: B**

The government has approved the re-appointment of M Rajeshwar Rao as Deputy Governor of Reserve Bank for a period of one year with effect from October 9, 2023. Rao was appointed as the Deputy Governor of the central bank in October 2020 for a period of three years.

**10. Correct Answer: D**

Katrina Kaif became the first Indian brand ambassador for Japanese fashion giant UNIQLO. Known for their everyday staples and premium quality, UNIQLO's apparel has been a hit in fashion wardrobes. The brand launched in India in 2019 and

this month will be finally arriving in Mumbai with two new stores.

**11. Correct Answer: D**

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has introduced a new provision of 'Special Category' in the online Food Safety Compliance System (FoSCoS) portal. The newly launched provision aims at promoting gender equality and equal opportunities for women and transgender entrepreneurs in the food business sector.

**12. Correct Answer: B**

On September 23, an Indian Army contingent, comprising 32 soldiers representing the 14 Rajputana Rifles, departed for Russia to participate in the ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting Plus Expert Working Group on Counter Terrorism. Troops from India and all other participating nations engaged in a Yoga session.

**13. Correct Answer: C**

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has established an innovative e-Learning Programme in response to the growing worldwide need to promote and improve sustainable finance. This SDG Finance Academy initiative of the Sustainable Finance Hub aims to share UNDP's substantial knowledge of sustainable finance with global practitioners.

**14. Correct Answer: D**

Kotak Mahindra Asset Management Company Ltd, in collaboration with the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), has launched the 'Seekho Paiso ki Bhasha' investor education and awareness initiative. This initiative is dedicated to promoting financial literacy by conducting a series of educational and awareness programmes aimed at empowering teachers across India.

**15. Correct Answer: C**

Motilal Oswal Mutual Fund has introduced India's first Nifty 500 ETF (Exchange Traded Fund), an open-

ended scheme designed to replicate the performance of the Nifty 500 Total Return Index. This new fund offer (NFO) was open for subscription until September 29, 2023.

**16. Correct Answer: C**

The Hoysala temples at Belur, Halebid, and Somanathapur in Karnataka were recently declared as UNESCO World Heritage Sites. This has brought to the fore the rich repository of architectural and cultural properties in the State as well as the challenges involved in their conservation.

**17. Correct Answer: C**

'Operation Sajag', a drill involving all stakeholders of the coastal security construct, was conducted by the Indian Coast Guard along the west coast on September 18, 2023. The drill facilitates revalidation of the coastal security mechanism and bring awareness among the fishermen at sea.

**18. Correct Answer: A**

The old parliament building will be called "Samvidhan Sadan (Constitution House)," Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced in his last speech from the old building. He then led all MPs on foot to the new parliament building, which will be the official Indian parliament from now onwards.

**19. Correct Answer: C**

International Red Panda Day is observed on the third Saturday of every September, which this year falls on September 16. International Red Panda Day was initially established by the Red Panda Network in 2010 to raise the alarm about the significant decrease in the population of this enigmatic creature found in dense forests of Asia.

**20. Correct Answer: A**

The government has launched the Bhartiya Prakritik Kheti Bio-Input Resource Centres scheme to encourage natural farming. The initiative intends to establish 10,000 Bio-Input Resource Centres

throughout the country to offer farmers with access to natural farming inputs.

**21. Correct Answer: D**

The Central government has extended the term of RBI deputy governor M Rajeshwar Rao for a period of one year, the Reserve Bank said in a statement. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the "re-appointment of M Rajeshwar Rao as Deputy Governor of Reserve Bank for a period of one year with effect from October 9, 2023, or until further orders, whichever is earlier," the circular read.

**22. Correct Answer: A**

Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman, Harivansh Narayan Singh lead a delegation of the Parliament at the 9th BRICS Parliamentary Forum in Johannesburg from September 27-29. The main theme of the BRICS Parliamentary Forum is harnessing Multilateralism and Parliamentary Diplomacy to deepen BRICS and Africa Partnership.

**23. Correct Answer: C**

The 'BSA Blind Football Intercontinental Cup 2023' was held in Kochi from September 26 to October 2 at the United Sports Centre at Kakkanad. Teams from Costa Rica, Chile, Poland, Romania, Greece, Egypt, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Republic of Korea and India participated in the tournament.

**24. Correct Answer: D**

Veteran Bollywood actress Waheeda Rehman will be conferred with the prestigious Dadasaheb Phalke Lifetime Achievement Award this year, confirmed I&B Minister Anurag Thakur. She received the prestigious National Award for her performance in 1971 release Reshma Aur Shera, co-starring Sunil Dutt.

**25. Correct Answer: C**

Team India went past 3000 ODI sixes in the second ODI against Australia in Indore in September 2023. They scored 399/6 with as many as 18 sixes hit in the

innings. West Indies closely follows second on the list with 2953 sixes while Pakistan sit third with 2566 sixes.

**26. Correct Answer: D**

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan launched 'CRIIO 4 GOOD', a new online, life skills learning modules, to promote gender equality among girls and boys. The programme was launched in association with the International Cricket Council (ICC), UNICEF, and the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) at the Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad.

**27. Correct Answer: B**

Karnataka Bank has partnered with SahiBandhu, an aggregator platform for gold loans backed by the Manipal Group, for launching 'doorstep gold loan' facility named 'KBL-Swarna Bandhu'. A media statement said the bank will be able to provide gold loan services at customer's doorstep through this product.

**28. Correct Answer: D**

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has retained the top spot as India's most valuable brand, with a value of \$43 billion, according to Kantar's BrandZ India ranking. Other than TCS, HDFC Bank, Infosys, and Airtel have held on to their top four positions. Meanwhile, HCL Tech, a new entrant to the top 10 list, has displaced LIC.

**29. Correct Answer: A**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has cleared the appointment of K N Madhusoodanan as a part-time chairman of Kerala-based Dhanlaxmi Bank. This comes after a period of 21 months during which the company was without a chairman, following the resignation of G Subramonia Iyer in December 2021 for personal reasons.

**30. Correct Answer: B**

Renowned agricultural scientist MS Swaminathan, known as the father of India's Green Revolution, has

passed away at the age of 98. He founded the MS Swaminathan Research Foundation and played a vital role in developing high-yield variety seeds of wheat, which led to the green revolution in India.

**31. Correct Answer: D**

The share of workers with regular wage increased since 2004, with the country creating three million regular jobs annually till 2017 and five million jobs between 2017 and 2019, according to "State of Working India 2023: Social Identities and Labour Market Outcomes", a report prepared by a group of economists and researchers with the Azim Premji University.

**32. Correct Answer: B**

Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger have signed a mutual defence pact, as the three Sahel countries aim to help each other against possible threats of armed rebellion or external aggression. The charter, known as the Alliance of Sahel States, binds the signatories to assist one another – including militarily – in the event of an attack on any one of them.

**33. Correct Answer: B**

JPMorgan Chase & Co. will add Indian government bonds to its benchmark emerging-market index, a keenly awaited event that could drive billions of foreign inflows to the nation's debt market. The inclusion may prompt flows of as much as \$30 billion, according to HSBC Holdings Plc.

**34. Correct Answer: B**

Egypt has been placed on negative watch due to the material currency repatriation hurdles reported by investors, J P Morgan said. The country's index eligibility will be assessed over the next three to six months, it said.

**35. Correct Answer: C**

Uttar Pradesh has achieved yet another major milestone under the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) Phase II with all 95, 767 villages in the State i.e., 100% villages achieving ODF Plus status

under Phase II of the Mission. An ODF Plus village is one which has sustained its Open Defecation Free (ODF) status along with implementing either solid or liquid waste management systems.

**36. Correct Answer: B**

The government has increased the interest rate on five-year recurring deposit scheme by 20 basis points for the October-December quarter. The interest has been hiked from 6.5% to 6.7%. All other small savings instruments will offer the same interest rates.

**37. Correct Answer: C**

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), on September 26, 2023, extended the deadline to add nominees for demat accounts and submit PAN and KYC details for physical security holders till December 31, 2023. This extension comes after SEBI warned of freezing folios by September 30 if the above conditions were unmet.

**38. Correct Answer: A**

The International Finance Corporation (IFC) has received approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to increase its stake in Federal Bank to 9.70 per cent. On September 21, HDFC Asset Management Company (AMC) received approval to increase its stake in Federal Bank to 9.50 per cent.

**39. Correct Answer: D**

Air India has completed the acquisition of its first Airbus A350-900 aircraft through a finance lease transaction with HSBC. Apart from being the first aircraft financing transaction from Air India's massive 470-plane order, it is also the first such transaction by a scheduled airline through India's first International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) in the Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City).

**40. Correct Answer: D**

The Indian Air Force (IAF) has inducted the first of six new Dornier Do-228 aircraft manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), IAF officials

said. According to officials, "This new version of the aircraft is equipped with new engines, composite propellers, upgraded avionics and a glass cockpit."

**41. Correct Answer: C**

HDFC Pension has launched a first-of-its-kind NPS Preference Index that highlights the preference of NPS amongst different consumer groups. The NPS is a government-backed retirement savings program designed to provide financial security to Indian citizens during their retirement years.

**42. Correct Answer: D**

The Directorate of Rural Sanitation of Jammu and Kashmir nominated retired army Captain Bana Singh, a Param Vir Chakra recipient, as the ambassador for its "war against waste" initiative. The campaign was conducted from September 15 to October 2 to generate a mass movement through community participation and reinforce the concept of sanitation as everyone's business.

**43. Correct Answer: B**

Pro-China leader Mohamed Muizzu has won the Presidential election in Maldives. PM Narendra Modi also congratulated Muizzu on being elected as president of the Maldives. Muizzu, 45, helms a party that presided over an influx of Chinese loans when it last held power in the island nation, better known for its luxury beach resorts and celebrity tourists.

**44. Correct Answer: B**

K.N. Shanth Kumar of The Printers (Mysore) Pvt. Ltd was elected Chairman of the Press Trust of India's Board of Directors for a one-year term. Mr. Shanth Kumar's election took place at a meeting of PTI's Board of Directors following their Annual General Meeting at the news agency's headquarters in New Delhi.

**45. Correct Answer: B**

Every year on October 1 we celebrate the International Day of Older Persons. On 14 December 1990, the United Nations General Assembly



designated October 1 as the International Day of Older Persons. The observance serves as a reminder of the need for policies and actions that support the well-being, dignity and rights of older persons and promote a more inclusive and age-friendly world.

**46. Correct Answer: A**

In September, Hyderabad has officially inaugurated a 23-kilometer cycle track along the Outer Ring Road, known as the Healthway Cycling Track. The track is divided into two sections and will be accessible 24/7. It features 16,000 solar panels on its roof, making it India's first solar-covered cycle track.

**47. Correct Answer: A**

India has witnessed significant boost in mobile download speed, making it to the top 50 in the Ookla Speedtest Global Index list. According to the report, India has now jumped 72 places higher and clinched the 47th spot in the index, a feat attributed to the launch of 5G services in the country.

**48. Correct Answer: C**

The board of state-run Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) has approved joint ventures with EverEnviro Resource Management Pvt Ltd and GPS Renewables Pvt Ltd for setting up compressed biogas (CBG) plants. IOC is the lead implementation agency for the Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT) initiative.

**49. Correct Answer: D**

The Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine was awarded to Katalin Karikó and Drew Weissman for their work on mRNA vaccines. Their groundbreaking contributions have played a pivotal role in the global fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, presenting a potential paradigm shift in the way we approach the prevention and treatment of infectious diseases.

**50. Correct Answer: D**

Renowned author and philanthropist Sudha Murty, wife of Infosys co-founder N. R. Narayana Murty, was honored with the Global Indian Award by the Canada

India Foundation. The Global Indian Award, worth \$50,000, is given annually to prominent Indians who have excelled in their respective fields.

**51. Correct Answer: C**

Unemployment rate in India dropped to 7.1 per cent in September 2023 from 8.1 per cent in August. This is the lowest unemployment rate recorded since September of last year. The metric averaged at a little over 7.8 per cent in the past 12 months.

**52. Correct Answer: D**

The R21/Matrix-M malaria vaccine developed by the University of Oxford and the Serum Institute of India, leveraging Novavax's adjuvant technology, has been recommended for use by the World Health Organisation's Strategic Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE) and the Malaria Policy Advisory Group (MPAG) on October 2.

**53. Correct Answer: C**

Outlook Group announces the launch of its highly anticipated retirement planning event, "40After40", in association with IDFC FIRST Bank. A one-of-its-kind platform, "40After40" is a two-day event and expo, which will be held at Jio World Convention Centre in Mumbai on January 23-24, 2024.

**54. Correct Answer: D**

The 2023 Nobel Prize in Physics has been awarded to Pierre Agostini, Ferenc Krausz, and Anne L'Huillier "for experimental methods that generate attosecond pulses of light for the study of electro dynamics in matter." The three Nobel Laureates in Physics 2023 are being recognised for their experiments, which have given humanity new tools for exploring the world of electrons inside atoms and molecules.

**55. Correct Answer: B**

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has named legendary Sachin Tendulkar as the 'Global Ambassador' for the men's Cricket World Cup 2023. Tendulkar, who has an enviable record of featuring

in six 50 over World Cups in his decorated career, walked out with the World Cup trophy before the opening match between England and New Zealand, declaring the tournament open.

**56. Correct Answer: A**

India and Bangladesh commenced the 11th edition of annual joint military exercise, SAMPRITI on 03rd October 2023 in Umroi, Meghalaya. The exercise, scheduled for 14 days, underscores the importance of enhancing interoperability between the two armies, sharing tactical drills, and promoting best practices.

**57. Correct Answer: D**

Axis Bank has announced the launch of 'open by Axis Bank', its digital bank proposition in its latest advertising campaign that focuses on the Bank's digital capabilities. The Open 2023 campaign highlights the top 15 features of the Bank's digital offerings.

**58. Correct Answer: A**

YES Bank on Wednesday, October 4, announced that it has become the first bank in the country to issue an 'ONDC Network Gift Card'. The ONDC Network Gift Card, issued in partnership with Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC), is at the forefront of democratising digital commerce.

**59. Correct Answer: B**

Prosus-owned fintech major PayU India's Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Anirban Mukherjee has been promoted to the role of global CEO of PayU. This comes just two months after Netherlands-based investment firm Prosus announced that the fintech arm PayU is selling a part of its business to Israel's Rapyd for \$610 million.

**60. Correct Answer: D**

General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC Re) on Wednesday, October 4, announced the appointment of Ramaswamy Narayanan as its new Chairman and Managing Director (CMD), effective from October 1,

2023. This appointment follows the decision by the Ministry of Finance, Government of India.

**61. Correct Answer: C**

Ruixiang Zhang, Assistant Professor, University of California, Berkeley, USA will be awarded with the 2023 SASTRA Ramanujan Prize for his outstanding contributions in mathematics. The annual cash prize of USD 10,000 will be given at an international conference in Number Theory during December 20 and December 22 at SASTRA University in Kumbakonam, Tamil Nadu.

**62. Correct Answer: C**

In Football, India won the South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Under-19 Championship after defeating Pakistan 3-0 in a dominating display in the finals at the Dashrath Rangasala Stadium in Kathmandu, Nepal. Manglenthang Kipgen and Gwngwmsar Goyary scored for India.

**63. Correct Answer: A**

The Ministry of Finance has kept the interest rate of General Provident Fund (GPF) unchanged at 7.1 per cent for the October-December quarter of FY24. The government revises the interest rate on GPF every quarter. For the July-September quarter, the interest rate was 7.1 per cent.

**64. Correct Answer: C**

The Sikkim flash flood, in which more than 14 people have been killed and 102 others are missing, has been so intense because it was the result of a cloudburst causing a glacial lake to overflow. The South Lhonak Lake, a glacial lake in the upper reaches of Sikkim, burst its banks following a cloudburst in the area.

**65. Correct Answer: C**

Growth in India's gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenues slowed to a 27-month low of 10.2% in September, from around 10.8% in the previous two months. Revenues in strife-torn Manipur recorded the highest growth among States in September,

rising 47%; Bihar was the only State to record an actual contraction in GST collections, with revenues down 5%.

**66. Correct Answer: A**

The World Bank has decided to maintain its growth forecast for India in the fiscal year 2023-24 at 6.3 per cent. This decision comes as India continues to exhibit strong economic growth despite facing substantial external challenges.

**67. Correct Answer: C**

The 2023 Nobel Peace Prize has been awarded to jailed Iranian activist Narges Mohammadi for "her fight against the oppression of women in Iran and her fight to promote human rights and freedom for all," said the Norwegian Nobel Committee. Mohammadi, 51, has been sentenced to more than 30 years in prison, and has been banned from seeing her husband and children.

**68. Correct Answer: C**

India has been elected as President of Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development General Conference (AIBD GC) for the 3rd successive term to lead the prestigious international organisation. India had already served two terms as President from 2018–2021 and 2021–2023.

**69. Correct Answer: C**

The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences has awarded the 2023 Nobel Prize in Literature to Norwegian author Jon Fosse "for his innovative plays and prose which give voice to the unsayable", according to the Swedish Academy. In addition to more than two dozen plays, the prolific writer has also published novels, essays, collections of poetry and a string of children's books over a period of four decades.

**70. Correct Answer: C**

All 6 RBI MPC members unanimously voted to keep repo rate unchanged at 6.5%. This is the fourth meeting on the trot that the MPC decided to maintain the status quo on the repo rate. The MPC

last raised this rate from 6.25% to 6.50% at its meeting in February 2023.

**71. Correct Answer: C**

Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI) has signed an MoU with IIT Guwahati for establishing a common engineering facility center called "Digital Twin Center for Emerging Automotive Systems" in hub and spoke model. ARAI is an autonomous body under the aegis of the Ministry of Heavy Industries.

**72. Correct Answer: C**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has constituted a nine-member external working group chaired by Prof R Narayanaswamy to get independent views on Expected Credit Loss (ECL) based framework for provisioning by banks. The RBI said several comments have been received from various stakeholders on the issues flagged in the discussion paper, which are being examined by it.

**73. Correct Answer: A**

Amazon has taken a significant stride in its ambitious endeavor to establish a global satellite internet network, marking a pivotal moment in the realization of its Project Kuiper system. On 06 October, Amazon's maiden pair of Project Kuiper satellites, which will compete with Elon Musk's Starlink, embarked on their journey into space.

**74. Correct Answer: C**

Indian badminton player Ayush Shetty won a bronze medal at the BWF World Junior Championships 2023 in Spokane, USA after losing the men's singles semi-finals. This was India's 11th medal at the junior badminton world championships.

**75. Correct Answer: B**

The Ministry of Culture has identified 449 sites for cleanliness under special Swachhata Campaign 3.0, officials said. The ministry in a statement said it is undertaking the campaign within the ministry and its attached, subordinate and autonomous organisations located across the country.

**76. Correct Answer: C**

Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL) has established South Asia's first aircraft recovery training school (ARTS) on the premises of the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) in Bengaluru. According to BIAL, this institution is entirely dedicated to providing hands-on training for aircraft recovery and is equipped with state-of-the-art disabled aircraft recovery equipment (DARE).

**77. Correct Answer: A**

Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA) in Mumbai has become the first airport in Asia to commission a 'Disabled Aircraft Recovery Kit' (DARK). DARK is a facility that can quickly recover large commercial and transport aircraft involved in runway excursions or other incidents.

**78. Correct Answer: D**

Star Health and Allied Insurance Policy has introduced a surrogacy cover and oocyte donor cover in its women health insurance policy, Star Women Care Insurance Policy. This addition will bring health insurance cover to surrogate mothers and oocyte donors at no extra cost to the policyholders.

**79. Correct Answer: D**

India Infrastructure Finance Company Limited (IIFCL) has sanctioned loans worth Rs 8,800 crore for airports and civil aviation infrastructure development in the country. The company is one of the major financiers of airports in India and has supported airports with a total project outlay of about Rs 74,000 crore.

**80. Correct Answer: C**

Nandini Azad, president of the Chennai-based Indian Cooperative Network for Women (ICNW), has been elected to the board of the International Raiffeisen Union (IRU), one of the oldest cooperative bodies in the world responsible for evolving a global policy on cooperatives in agriculture and other allied sectors.

**81. Correct Answer: A**

The 2023 edition of the Annual Joint Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Exercise (AJHE) – "CHAKRAVAT 2023" exercise was hosted by the Indian Navy at Goa from 09 to 11 Oct 2023. The exercise has been conducted by Indian Army, Indian Navy and Indian AirForce in rotation since 2016. The last edition of exercise was conducted at Agra by Indian AirForce.

**82. Correct Answer: A**

Axis Bank, one of the leading private sector banks in India, has launched the country's first numberless credit card in partnership with fintech startup Fibe. The card offers enhanced security as it doesn't have a card number, expiry date, or CVV printed on it, reducing the risk of identity theft. It is powered by RuPay and can be linked to UPI.

**83. Correct Answer: C**

The Mahindra and Mahindra arm that makes three-wheelers and small commercial vehicles in various fuel options including electric, has received the first tranche of Rs 300 crore from International Finance Corporation. In March 2023, the IFC committed to invest Rs 600 Crore (in one or more tranches), at a valuation of up to Rs 6020 crore, in a new company housing the last mile mobility division of Mahindra Group.

**84. Correct Answer: A**

Federal Bank has extended Unified Payments Interface (UPI) to NRE clients through its mobile banking platform, FedMobile. With the integration of UPI, NRI customers residing in countries approved by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) permitting UPI for NRIs can seamlessly utilize UPI features through FedMobile.

**85. Correct Answer: D**

Newly-crowned three-time world champion Max Verstappen was back to his sparkling best at the 2023 F1 Qatar Grand Prix, securing his 14th win of

the season. The Dutch maestro, who clinched his third consecutive world title in sprint race, bounced back from a second-place finish, dominating the main event.

**86. Correct Answer: A**

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman chaired the 52nd GST Council meeting held on 7 October 2023 in New Delhi.

**87. Correct Answer: D**

India's services sector strengthened further in September, witnessing strongest output in 13 years. India's S&P Global's services PMI stood at 61 in September, up from 60.1 in August. The reading was above the 50-mark separating growth from contraction for a 26th consecutive month.

**88. Correct Answer: C**

The 10th edition of the Vibrant Gujarat Summit is scheduled to take place from January 10-12, 2024, at the Mahatma Mandir in Gandhinagar. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the 10th edition of the global Vibrant Gujarat Summit on January 10, Chief Minister Bhupendrabhai Patel said.

**89. Correct Answer: B**

Bangladesh has received the first Russian shipment of uranium fuel for its first nuclear power plant, making it the 33rd country in the world to produce nuclear energy. The South Asian country is building the first of two nuclear power plants in collaboration with Russian state-owned atomic company Rosatom.

**90. Correct Answer: C**

Russia has claimed to have successfully tested its nuclear-powered, nuclear-armed cruise missile, the Burevestnik. This missile is part of a series of new strategic weapons unveiled by Russian President Vladimir Putin in 2018.

**91. Correct Answer: D**

India has donated \$1 billion in aid to Tanzanian water projects. Water Projects in 24 towns of Tanzania

worth USD 500 Million through a Line of Credit scheme are presently being implemented. Once completed, it would provide easy access to safe drinking water to about 6 million residents of these regions.

**92. Correct Answer: C**

Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) to deploy Bima Vahaks in every Gram Panchayat before 31 December 2024, said the regulator in a circular. Meanwhile, the objective of Bima Vahak continues to be a women-centric, dedicated distribution channel that will ensure accessibility and availability of insurance in every nook and corner of the country.

**93. Correct Answer: C**

India's urban unemployment rate fell to 6.6% in the first quarter of 2023-24 from 6.8% in January-March. Some states/UTs surpassed the national average unemployment rate, including Himachal Pradesh (13.8%), Rajasthan (11.7%), Chhattisgarh (11.2%), Jammu and Kashmir (10.9%), and Kerala (10%).

**94. Correct Answer: B**

Israel imposed a total siege on the Gaza Strip on October 9 and cut off the water supply as it kept bombing targets in the crowded Palestinian enclave in response to the Hamas surprise assault. The United States has pledged "rock solid" support for Israel and said it would send munitions and military hardware to its key ally and divert an aircraft carrier group to the eastern Mediterranean.

**95. Correct Answer: B**

State-run NLC India (NLCIL) has secured a 810 megawatt (MW) solar photovoltaic (PV) project from Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Nigam (RRVUNL) in Bikaner district. With this project, the capacity of power projects in Rajasthan will be 1.36 gigawatts (GW), including 1.1 GW of green power, bringing economies of scale and optimised fixed costs.

**96. Correct Answer: C**

World Sight Day is a global event and it is observed annually on the second Thursday of October. This year it was observed on 12th October with the theme 'Love your eyes at work'. The focus is on raising the awareness of protecting people's vision at the workplace.

**97. Correct Answer: C**

Centre for High Technology (CHT), under the aegis of the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Govt. of India has organized the 26th Energy Technology Meet (ETM), during 9-11 October 2023 at International Exhibition Cum Convention Centre (Bharat Mandapam), Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. Hardeep Singh Puri, Hon'ble Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Housing and Urban Affairs inaugurated the 26th Energy Technology Meet.

**98. Correct Answer: C**

Navneet Munot, MD and CEO of HDFC Asset Management, has been elected as the Chairman of Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI). Navneet Munot is a Chartered Accountant and a CFA charter holder and has over three decades of experience in financial services.

**99. Correct Answer: C**

The IMF expects Pakistan's economy to perform better in the current and next fiscal years compared to other multilateral agencies' projections despite the macroeconomic challenges faced by the cash-strapped country. The International Monetary Fund's (IMF) World Economic Outlook for October, forecasts a growth of 2.5% for the country's economy in the current year, doubling to 5% in the next fiscal year.

**100. Correct Answer: A**

External affairs minister S Jaishankar announced the launch of Operation Ajay hours after his ministry set up a 24-hour control room to monitor the situation in Israel and Palestine and to provide assistance to citizens. The move comes at a time when several

countries, including Hungary, Poland, Italy and Mexico, have operated special flights to evacuate their citizens from Israel.

**101. Correct Answer: C**

India's natural gas demand is expected to rise by 4% in 2023 calendar year and will continue to increase at an average annual rate of about 8% till 2026, the International Energy Agency said. The growth in demand will be primarily supported by the power, petrochemical and fertiliser sectors.

**102. Correct Answer: D**

The Government of India's Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying recently launched the 'A-HELP' (Accredited Agent for Health and Extension of Livestock Production) initiative in the state of Jharkhand.

**103. Correct Answer: C**

Two French companies has inked pacts with Hyderabad-based Skyroot Aerospace to launch their constellation of satellites onboard its indigenously-developed Vikram-I rocket early next year. The MoUs signed at the Skyroot facility in Hyderabad are expected to turn into procurement of the startup's launch services over single or multi-launch agreements.

**104. Correct Answer: C**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) gave approval to the SBI Mutual Fund (SBIMF) to acquire up to 9.99 per cent of paid-up share capital or voting rights in the IndusInd Bank. SBIMF has been advised by RBI to acquire the aforesaid major shareholding in the Bank within a period of one year i.e., by October 10, 2024.

**105. Correct Answer: C**

The Spanish company PLD Space has made history after successfully completing the launch of the first private European rocket, MIURA 1. The launch also tested a technological device from the German Centre for Applied Space Technology and Microgravity (ZARM) under microgravity conditions.

**106. Correct Answer: A**

National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS) Bengaluru marked the World Mental Health Day 2023 by unveiling three new facilities – Centre for Brain and Mind, Platinum Jubilee Auditorium and Academic Facility, and Administrative Office Complex. Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya virtually inaugurated these.

**107. Correct Answer: B**

Union Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda inaugurated National Tribal Festival - 'Aadi Mahotsav' - in Jamshedpur, Jharkhand recently. The mega event was organized by the Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited (TRIFED), Ministry of Tribal Affairs, from 7th – 16th October 2023.

**108. Correct Answer: C**

India ranks 107 out of 121 countries on the Global Hunger Index in which it fares worse than all countries in South Asia barring war-torn Afghanistan. The Global Hunger Index (GHI) is a tool for comprehensively measuring and tracking hunger at global, regional, and national levels.

**109. Correct Answer: D**

The Reserve Bank of India has fined Paytm Payments Bank Rs 5.39 crore (\$721,000) for non-compliance with Know Your Customer (KYC) norms and other regulations. The central bank conducted a special scrutiny of the bank's KYC/AML procedures and a system audit.

**110. Correct Answer: D**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has cancelled the Certificate of Registration of Chennai-based Ind Bank Housing Ltd. Indian Bank and HUDCO (Housing and Urban Development Corporation Ltd) are major shareholders in the housing finance company, holding 51 per cent and 25 per cent stake, respectively. The company was set up in 1991.

**111. Correct Answer: A**

Bhopal's Mahila Thana has become the country's first women-centric police station to be certified by the ISO (International Organization for Standardization). The Misrod police station of Bhopal received the ISO certificate in May this year.

**112. Correct Answer: C**

Ircon International Limited and RITES Ltd under the Ministry of Railways, have been announced as the 15th and 16th Navratna among Central Public Sector Enterprise. Both the companies have been conferred Navratna status by the Ministry of Finance.

**113. Correct Answer: B**

Sri Lanka assumed the chairmanship of IORA for the period 2023 to 2025 at the Council of Ministers Meeting of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) on October 11. The IORA, an intergovernmental organization established in 1997, comprises 23 member states and 11 dialogue partners hailing from regions surrounding the Indian Ocean.

**114. Correct Answer: C**

General Manoj Pande, the Chief of Army Staff presented the prestigious 'President's Colours' to the Third Battalion of the Naga Regiment during an impressive Colour presentation parade held at Kumaon Regimental Centre, Ranikhet (Uttarakhand) on 13th October 2023.

**115. Correct Answer: C**

The Ahmedabad unit of Space Applications Centre (SAC) of the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) has signed a three-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with city-based Nav Wireless Technologies Pvt Ltd (NavTech) to use light-based high-speed communication for satellite communication in space, an official release stated.

**116. Correct Answer: D**

To empower the retailer community in the states of Odisha and Uttar Pradesh, the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), working under

the aegis of the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE) announced a partnership with Coca-Cola India to launch the Super Power Retailer Program under the Skill India Mission. The program is being piloted in the state of Odisha.

**117. Correct Answer: A**

A two-day comprehensive coastal security exercise Sagar Kavach 02/23 involving all maritime security agencies was conducted by the Indian Navy in Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and the UT of Puducherry from October 11 to 12.

**118. Correct Answer: D**

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das received the Award for being ranked 'A+' in the Global Finance Central Banker Report Cards 2023 in Marrakesh city of Morocco. The award recognizes those central bank governors whose strategies outperformed their peers through originality, creativity, and tenacity.

**119. Correct Answer: B**

Businessman Daniel Noboa, 35, is set to become the youngest president in Ecuador's history. With more than 97% of votes counted, Mr Noboa, a centrist, had a lead of four percentage points over his left-wing rival, Luisa González.

**120. Correct Answer: A**

Former Air New Zealand CEO Christopher Luxon became the 42nd Prime Minister of New Zealand. Luxon has emerged as a leader amid the cost of living crisis and three-decade high inflation in New Zealand. He has vowed to steer the country out of the economic mess and reduce government debt.

**121. Correct Answer: B**

India had an overall index value of 45.9 from 44.5 in 2022, ranking 45 out of the 47 retirement income systems analyzed primarily due to improvements in adequacy and sustainability sub-indices, according to the 15th annual Mercer CFA Institute Global Pension Index (MCGPI).

**122. Correct Answer: D**

The 15th annual Mercer CFA Institute Global Pension Index (MCGPI) has been published, and it shows that the Netherlands' retirement income system has once again secured the first position. Iceland and Denmark have claimed the second and third positions in the ranking, respectively.

**123. Correct Answer: A**

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) said it has approved a USD 181 million loan to build quality infrastructure and services toward improving urban livability and mobility in the peri-urban areas of Ahmedabad, Gujarat. The Ahmedabad Peri-urban Livability Improvement Project will also construct 166 kilometers (km) of water distribution network.

**124. Correct Answer: C**

Sberbank of Russia has become the first Russian bank to register with the Indian markets regulator SEBI as a foreign portfolio investor (FPI), according to data available on the website of National Stock Depository (NSDL). Sberbank of Russia, a state-owned bank which already has a presence in India, registered with the Indian markets regulator for a Category I FPI licence.

**125. Correct Answer: A**

Indian Oil Corporation, the nation's biggest oil firm, will invest Rs 1,660.15 crore as equity in a newly set up joint venture with energy major NTPC Ltd for setting up renewable power plants. In June, IOC and NTPC had formed a 50:50 joint venture company, IndianOil NTPC Green Energy Pvt Ltd, to set up renewable energy projects to meet round-the-clock power requirements of refineries of the oil company.

**126. Correct Answer: D**

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA) and National Institute of Communication Finance (NICF) recently. The MoU was signed by Prof



(Dr) Naveen Sirohi from IICA and Shri A K Singh, Deputy Director General from NICF.

**127. Correct Answer: D**

Union education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has launched a web portal and special modules on ISRO's Chandrayaan-3 mission for school students. Developed by NCERT, under the aegis of the Department of School Education & Literacy (DoSEL), Ministry of Education, this portal is meant for school students.

**128. Correct Answer: B**

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the merger of IDFC Ltd with IDFC FIRST Bank. The deal is subject to certain conditions, including the merger of IDFC Financial Holding into IDFC Ltd, followed by the amalgamation of IDFC with IDFC FIRST Bank.

**129. Correct Answer: B**

Every year, the Raising Day of the National Security Guard (NSG) is celebrated on 16 October. An elite striking force, the NSG was established in 1984 after the Union Cabinet decided to create a "Federal Contingency Force" that was "well trained to tackle the various manifestations of terrorism."

**130. Correct Answer: A**

Kati Bihu is an Assamese festival celebrated with joy and happiness. It marks the relocation of rice saplings and is known as Kongali Bihu. It is one of the three Bihu festivals celebrated in Assam, all connected to agriculture.

**131. Correct Answer: C**

Operation Chakra-2 involved a widespread crackdown on cyber criminals in India.

**132. Correct Answer: C**

Amol Muzumdar was named as the head coach of the India women's cricket team.

**133. Correct Answer: C**

The National Convention, the assembly that governed France during the Revolution, was dispersed on this date.

**134. Correct Answer: D**

The study highlighted that 20 of Earth's vital signs have worsened to the point of endangering life on Earth.

**135. Correct Answer: A**

The strike was to protest against gender discrimination and gender-based violence.

**136. Correct Answer: B**

The theme of the conference is "Integrated and Resilient Urban Transport."

**137. Correct Answer: B**

Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri inaugurated the conference.

**138. Correct Answer: A**

Pramod Bhagat won a gold medal in badminton at the Asian Para Games.

**139. Correct Answer: B**

The theme of the conclave was 'Towards an Inclusive Approach.'

**140. Correct Answer: C**

IRDAI has formed a committee to simplify insurance policy wordings.

**141. Correct Answer: A**

Indian e-commerce giant Amazon has introduced the option for RuPay credit card users to make payments on EMIs. With EMI emerging as the most used form of payment during the first 48 hours of the Great Indian Festival Sale, Amazon says 1 in 4 orders were paid for using instalments while 3 in every 4 people who paid using EMI used the No Cost EMI option.

**142. Correct Answer: D**

The European Union has awarded its top human rights prize to Mahsa Amini and the Iranian "Woman,

Life, Freedom" movement her death triggered. The 22-year-old died in custody after allegedly violating the strict Iranian hijab (headscarf) rule for women.

**143. Correct Answer: B**

The former chief minister of Jharkhand Raghubar Das and BJP leader Indra Sena Reddy Nallu were appointed as the governors of Odisha and Tripura, respectively. Das, currently a national vice president of the BJP, was the chief minister of Jharkhand from 2014 to 2019. Indra Sena Reddy Nallu is a BJP leader from Telangana.

**144. Correct Answer: A**

India commemorates National Solidarity Day on October 20 to honour the soldiers who fought during the Sino-Indian War of 1962, also known as the China-India War. This significant day marks the national integrity displayed by India in its conflict with China.

**145. Correct Answer: C**

The Arunachal Pradesh State Cabinet on 18 October approved the constitution of Special Tiger Protection Force (STPF) in the State for three Tiger Reserves of the State namely- Namdapha, Pakke and Kamlang. This decision will result in the creation of 336 regular posts in the state.

**146. Correct Answer: B**

The Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched 511 Pramod Mahajan Grameen Kaushalya Vikas Kendras in Maharashtra via video conferencing. Established across 34 rural districts of Maharashtra, these Kendras will conduct skill development training programs across various sectors to provide employment opportunities to rural youth.

**147. Correct Answer: B**

In a significant step towards enhancing financial inclusion and support for the fisheries sector, Dr. Abhilaksh Likhi, Secretary (Fisheries), chaired a meeting focusing on the 'Ghar-Ghar KCC Abhiyaan.' At the meeting, Likhi emphasized the need for expansion of the KCC facility to the last mile of the fisheries value chain, ensuring that every eligible individual is covered.

**148. Correct Answer: B**

HDFC ERGO General Insurance announced the launch of Optima Secure, providing 4X coverage at no additional cost, thereby redefining the value a customer can get from health insurance. Families and individuals can choose coverage from ₹5 lakhs to ₹2 crore, with different options available. This policy can be issued for a period of 1,2 or even 3 years.

**149. Correct Answer: C**

HDFC Bank has introduced XpressWay, a digital platform that offers various banking products and services, providing customers with a swift and convenient banking experience. The platform was launched during the festive season, giving customers easier access to finance for their seasonal shopping.

**150. Correct Answer: D**

The Mother Teresa Memorial Award for Social Justice 2023 will be conferred on jailed Iranian Nobel Laureate Nargis Mohammadi by the Harmony Foundation. The award recognizes Mohammadi's courage in advocating for human rights against the Iranian regime.

## SECTION 3

# Detailed Analysis of Important Events



## Economics

### Positive Indigenisation List (PIL) and Swavlamban 2.0



**रक्षा मंत्रालय**  
**MINISTRY OF**  
**DEFENCE**

सत्यमेव जयते

Defence Minister unveiled the fifth Positive Indigenisation List (PIL) consisting of 98 items to be procured by the armed services from domestic suppliers over specified timelines. Additionally, he launched the Indian Navy's updated indigenisation roadmap, known as Swavlamban 2.0.

#### What is Positive Indigenisation List (PIL)?

- Items on the Positive Indigenization List are those that are solely available for purchase by the Indian armed forces from domestic producers, including DPSUs and the private sector.
- This action is a component of the government's attempts to encourage domestic production of defense equipment and lessen dependency on imported weapons.
- The Defense Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020 introduced this idea.
- In the next five to ten years, it is anticipated that firm orders for large systems, critical platforms, weapon systems, sensors, and munitions would be placed; therefore, it places an emphasis on the import replacement of these components.

#### Items on the Indigenisation List

- **Diverse Range:** The PIL is home to a vast array of equipment, including guided weapon system test equipment, radars, automated mobile test systems, futuristic infantry combat vehicles, articulated all-terrain vehicles, different kinds of

unmanned aerial vehicles, and precision kill systems for artillery.

- **Strategic Importance:** By strengthening the nation's defense capabilities and lowering its dependency on outside sources, these goods are essential. They support India's efforts to become self-sufficient in the field of defense.

#### Swavlamban 2.0: Industry Challenges and Initiatives

- **76 Challenges:** As part of the 10th Defence India Start-up Challenges (DISC-10) and Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX), Defence Minister Singh also introduced 76 challenges for industry participants at the Swavlamban 2.0 event.
- **International Collaboration:** India's dedication to promoting international alliances for technical growth was demonstrated at the event, which also saw the release of two INDUS X challenges, an initiative between iDEX and the U.S. Department of Defence.

#### Vision of Self-Reliance

- **Navy's Commitment:** In keeping with India's 100th anniversary of independence, the Indian Navy is dedicated to achieving complete self-reliance by 2047.
- **strategic significance** The importance of independence has been highlighted by the COVID-19 epidemic and international wars, particularly in the defense industry. Reliance on outside resources for defense requirements is regarded as a strategic weakness that requires attention.
- **Accomplishments:** The Navy's initiatives to support domestic innovation have produced notable outcomes, including as technology agreements, collaborations with MSMEs and startups, and a growing network of defense suppliers.

#### Way forward

- **Future Objectives:** In keeping with its dedication to independence, the Indian Navy has set high

goals to create cutting-edge technologies in association with local MSMEs and startups.

- Expanding Ecosystem: As a result of the Navy's efforts, the defence ecosystem now includes over 100 new companies, with additional procurement orders on the horizon.
- A Strong India: By employing special ideas and skills created in India specifically for India, the goal is to create a force that embodies a powerful and advanced India.

**Bangladesh accepts first Uranium for Russia-backed Nuclear Plant**



Bangladesh celebrated a major turning point in its energy history when the first shipment of uranium for its nuclear power plant, supported by Russia, arrived. The \$12.65 billion initiative intends to fortify the country's electricity grid, which is beset by frequent blackouts. 90% of the project's cost is being financed by a loan from Moscow, demonstrating the tight ties between Bangladesh and Russia.

**Rooppur Nuclear Plant**

- In Rooppur hamlet, west of Dhaka, construction on the Rooppur nuclear facility started in 2017.
- It consists of two 1,200 megawatt units, the first of which is scheduled to start operating this year and the second of which is anticipated to reach full operation by 2025.
- When it is completely operational, it will have the biggest producing capacity of any power plant in Bangladesh.

**Bangladesh's Pursuit of Moscow's Friendship**

- Difficulties with Loan Repayment: In the past, US sanctions against Russian organizations, such as

the state nuclear agency Rosatom, have caused construction to be delayed since Bangladesh was unable to repay loans in US dollars.

- Chinese Yuan Payment: In order to get around the penalties, Bangladesh pledged in April to pay more than \$300 million in Chinese Yuan. However, these payments have not yet been made.

**Bangladesh's Energy Imperatives**

- Overcoming Energy Challenges: Millions of people in Bangladesh are impacted by daily power outages that can last up to 13 hours due to the country's acute energy crisis.
- Reducing Fossil Fuel Dependency: By utilizing nuclear energy and other cleaner sources, the nation hopes to lessen its reliance on fossil fuels.
- Mitigation of Climate Change: Bangladesh outlines its plans to use nuclear energy as part of its plan to fight climate change and drastically cut carbon emissions by 2030.

**Challenges and Concerns**

- Safety and Waste Management: The threats to public health and safety as well as the management of radioactive waste from nuclear energy plants continue to be concerns.
- Time-consuming Construction: While renewable energy sources can be deployed more quickly, nuclear facilities require several years to build.
- Energy Mix: To ensure a sustainable energy future, the country's energy journey combines economics, diplomacy, and environmental concerns in a nuanced manner.

**PUSA-44 Paddy Variety Ban in Punjab**



The state has decided to outlaw the production of the PUSA-44 paddy type, effective with the upcoming farming season, according to the Punjab Chief Minister. This action has sparked debate concerning the reasons behind the prohibition of such a well-liked paddy type and the potential effects on the state's agriculture.

### About PUSA-44

- **Origin:** PUSA-44 was created in 1993 by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and progressively gained traction among farmers in Punjab.
- **Quick Adoption:** Punjab's farmers began farming it more extensively because of its excellent yield, and today it makes up 70–80% of the region planted to paddy.

### Yield Comparison

- **High production:** PUSA-44 is preferred by farmers due to its remarkable production, which is approximately 85 to 100 quintals per acre as opposed to the 28 to 30 quintals produced by other types.
- **Economic Advantage:** The higher yield results in better income, with possible earnings above the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of Rs 15,000 to 22,000 per acre.

### Reasons for Ban

- **Long Maturity Period:** PUSA-44 takes a long time to mature—about 160 days—far longer than other cultivars. This means that 5–6 extra watering cycles are needed.
- **Groundwater Depletion:** Punjab is experiencing significant groundwater depletion. In an effort to save water resources, the government has banned PUSA-44 in an area that is becoming more and more covered with paddy.
- **Stubble Burning:** The problem of stubble burning is made worse by PUSA-44's prolonged maturity stage. Because there is not much time between harvest and wheat sowing, managing stubble becomes difficult, which increases the number of stubble burning events.

- **Air Pollution:** Burning stubble during the winter months in North India causes serious air pollution that has an adverse effect on public health.

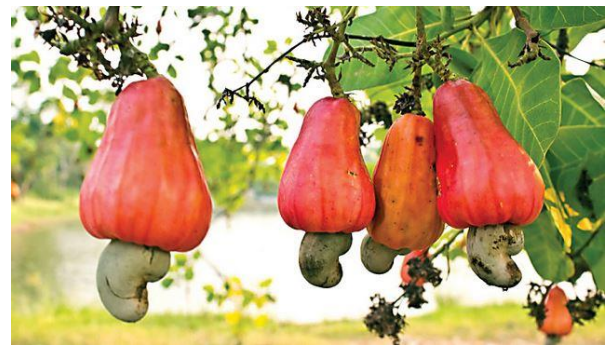
### Impact of PUSA-44 on Stubble Burning

- **Timing of Harvest:** PUSA-44 is harvested shortly before wheat is sown, providing a small window of time for removing stubble.
- **Stubble Quantity:** PUSA-44 exacerbates the issue of stubble burning by producing about 2 percent more stubble than shorter-duration cultivars.
- **High-Incidence Districts:** During the PUSA-44 harvest, there are more stubble-burning events in a number of Punjabi districts, including Barnala, Sangrur, Ludhiana, Moga, Patiala, Fatehgarh Sahib, Muktsar, Bathinda, Faridkot, and Mansa.

### Stubble Burning Statistics

- **Fire Incidents:** Due to the PUSA-44 crop, there was a high frequency of stubble fire in a number of districts in 2022.
- **Persistence:** Stubble burning usually started during the PUSA-44 harvest in the third week of October and went on until November 25.

### Goa's Cashew Industry receives GI Tag



The recent awarding of a Geographical Indication (GI) tag to Goa's cashew industry has ignited hope and enthusiasm among cashew manufacturers and processors in the state.

### Goa's Cashew Industry

- **Goa's Cashew Introduction:** In the sixteenth century, Portuguese settlers brought cashews to

Goa. It was originally grown mainly for afforestation and soil conservation.

- Finding of Edible Value: In the middle of the 18th century, during Goa's independence movement, the cashew nut's actual economic worth was ascertained. Goan captives who were banished to Mozambique, an African country ruled by Portugal, realized that cashew nuts could be eaten.
- Growth of the Cashew Industry: Driven primarily by demand in the USA, cashew production has grown from a cottage industry to a large-scale business. In 1926, Goa's first cashew factory opened for business, and in 1930, the first shipment of cashew kernels was shipped.
- Contribution from Foreign Trade: In 1961, the cashew processing sector made up almost 60% of Goa's total industrial production. Both imported and locally farmed cashew nuts were processed before being shipped to nations including Saudi Arabia, Japan, West Germany, and the United States of America.



- White-colored clay sticks with a smooth texture that resemble fingers are known as jaderi namakatti.
- They are applied to the foreheads of men, temple elephants, and idols.
- Jaderi is a little village in Tamil Nadu's Tiruvannamalai district.
- In Cheyyar taluk, namakatti making has been the principal occupation of about 120 families for over 300 years.

## [2] Basohli Pashmina



- The Kathua area of Jammu and Kashmir is home to the ancient craft of basohli pashmina. Its renowned softness, fineness, and sensation of lightness are its main selling points.
- Hand-spun yarns like as pashmina are prized for their exceptional softness, fineness, light weight, and warmth.
- Pashmina can be used to manufacture a wide range of items, including blankets, mufflers, baskets, and shawls for both men and women.
- Capra hircus is the species of mountain goat from which it originates. These goats can be found in sections of Ladakh and on the Changthang Plateau in Tibet.

## Understanding the GI Tag

- A Geographical Indication (GI) is a label applied to goods that are known for coming from a particular place and having characteristics or a certain reputation as a result.
- Nodal Agency: Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999, effective September 2003, was passed by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry, India. India is a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO).
- The WTO Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement defines GIs in Article 22 (1).
- The tag is good for ten years.

### Recent GI tags

#### GI Tags in News:

#### [1] Jaderi Namakatti

- The Changpa, a group of people from Ladakh, are renowned for producing Pashmina wool. They are nomadic, meaning they travel around a lot, and they reside on the Changthang plateau in Tibet.

### [3] Marcha Rice

- Grown in specific areas within six blocks in the Indian state of Bihar's West Champaran district. Mainatar, Gaunaha, Narkatiaganj, Ramnagar, Lauriya, and Chanpatia are some of these blocks.
- It has been assigned a Geographical Indication (GI) designation, signifying that the region in which it is grown contributes special attributes to it.
- Grown by the Marcha Dhan Utpadak Pragatisheel Samuh, a legally recognized association of West Champaran district paddy growers.
- Marcha Rice is a unique native kind of rice that is well-known for its unique flavor and scent.

### [4] Atreyapuram Pootharekulu



- Reyer's Puram Pootharekulu is a customary dessert that comes from the Andhra Pradesh village of Atreyapuram, which is located in the Konaseema district on the banks of the Godavari River.
- The literal translation of the word "Pootharekulu" is "coated sheets," however this explanation might seem a little ambiguous.
- This classic confection is renowned for its exceptional delicateness and unique flavor.
- It is made by layering paper-thin rice flour sheets that have been carefully covered in ghee, or

clarified butter, then folded to enclose sugar dust or powdered jaggery.

- Furthermore, some Pootharekulu variations could contain finely chopped roasted dry fruits, like cashews, almonds, and pistachios.
- The recipe depends on a particular kind of rice called MTU-3626, or Bondalu in the local vernacular.
- This type of rice is selected because it has a distinct flavor and has a sticky consistency, both of which are essential for making this dessert.

### Centre raises MSP for Rabi Crops



The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has increased the Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for all Rabi crops for the financial year 2024-25.

#### Understanding MSP

- **Policy Framework:** The government's MSP program was created to protect farmers' earnings. It is a component of administrative decision-making rather than an entitlement, in contrast to subsidized grains under the Public Distribution System (PDS).
- **Commodity MSPs:** Based on suggestions from the Commission on Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), the Center now sets MSPs for 23 agricultural commodities.
- **Absent Legal Support:** As of right now, neither a statute nor a regulation requiring their implementation supports these pricing.

#### Fixing MSPs

- **Elements Taken Into Account:** The cost of cultivation is one of the many elements that CACP takes into account when suggesting MSP for a product.

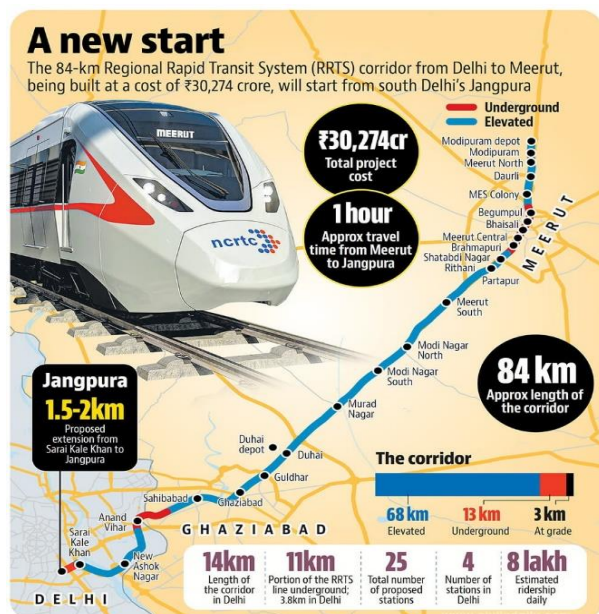


- Important factors: These factors include the dynamics of supply and demand, prices on the domestic and international markets, crop parity, effects on consumers and the environment, and terms of trade between the agricultural and non-agricultural sectors.
- The 2018–19 Budget adopted the "pre-determined principle," which states that MSPs should be established at 1.5 times the cost of production. This reduces the responsibility of CACP to only calculate production costs and apply the formula.

### Production Cost Calculation

- Three Cost Categories: At the state and national average levels, CACP determines three production cost categories for every crop.
- A2: Includes all expenses paid out to the farmer directly, including labor, gasoline, land lease, fertilizers, seeds, and irrigation.
- A2+FL: Comprises A2 and adds a value to account for unpaid family work.
- C2: A thorough cost accounting that includes A2+FL as well as rentals and forfeited interests on owned land and capital assets.

### Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS): Connecting Cities at High Speed



PM Modi has inaugurated the first segment of India's groundbreaking Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS), a high-speed rail network aimed at enhancing regional connectivity.

### Understanding the RRTS Project

- Integrated Mass transport Network: By improving connectivity and accessibility throughout the National Capital Region, the RRTS is an integrated mass transport network designed to support sustainable and balanced urban development.
- Source of the Concept: A 1998–1999 study commissioned by Indian Railways gave rise to the idea of RRTS, which envisioned quick commuter trains linking different NCR regions.
- Planning for the National Capital Region: The National Capital Region Planning Board (NCRPB) suggested eight RRTS corridors to connect NCR municipalities and accepted the RRTS idea when creating its "Functional Plan on Transport for NCR-2032."

### Development Agency

- Nodal Agency: The RRTS, sometimes referred to as "Namo Bharat," is being constructed by NCRTC, a joint venture between the Central government, Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh. The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs is in charge of it.
- Project Scope: The RRTS project covers an area of around 55,000 square kilometers in the enormous National Capital Region (NCR), providing services to more than 46 crore people, who have a combined GDP estimated at \$370 billion.

### How RRTS differ from existing Systems?

- Impressive Speed: RRTS trains have a 160 km/h operating speed and can achieve a 180 km/h maximum speed on design.
- Faster in comparison: The average speed of Delhi Metro trains is between 100 and 120 km per hour.

- Coverage: The RRTS has faster speeds than the current metro systems, which makes it perfect for quickly traveling relatively longer distances throughout the NCR.
- Comfort and Frequency: RRTS offers better passenger comfort and operates at higher frequency than Indian Railways, even though it travels fewer distances.
- foreign Models: The RRTS is modeled after other successful foreign systems, such as the SEPTA Regional Rail in the United States, the RER in Paris, and Regional-Express trains in Germany and Austria.

- Economic Growth: The RRTS aims to increase economic productivity in the area by enabling reduced travel times, which will enable more businesses to flourish in the suburbs of Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Haryana.

### Objectives of the RRTS Project

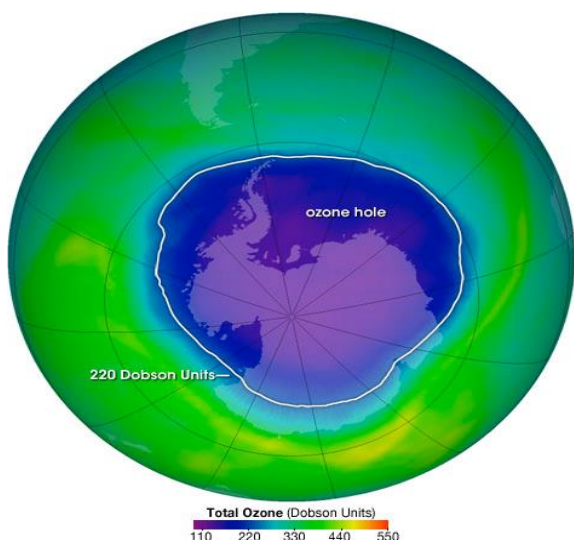
- Increasing Multimodal connection: By enhancing multimodal connection at current transportation hubs, the RRTS seeks to unleash the potential of the NCR.
- Decongesting Roads and Rails: Promoting public transit would help to reduce traffic on roads, highways, metro areas, and train lines. This is one of the main objectives.

### Corridors under the RRTS Project

- Eight Corridors: The RRTS project encompasses eight corridors, with three being developed under Phase I:
  1. Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut (82 km)
  2. Delhi-Gurugram-SNB-Alwar (164 km)
  3. Delhi-Panipat (103 km)
- Future Development: Future corridors include routes like Delhi – Faridabad – Ballabgarh – Palwal, Ghaziabad – Khurja, Delhi – Bahadurgarh – Rohtak, Ghaziabad-Hapur, and Delhi-Shahadra-Baraut.
- Sarai Kale Khan Hub: The RRTS station at Sarai Kale Khan will serve as the project’s central hub, connecting all three Phase I corridors, bridging the gap between Delhi and Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, and Rajasthan.

## Environment & Diversity

### Large Ozone Hole detected over Antarctica



Satellite measurements conducted over Antarctica have unveiled a gigantic hole in the ozone layer. Termed an “ozone-depleted area,” this region spans 26 million

square kilometers (10 million square miles), approximately three times the size of Brazil.

### Ozone Layer and Ozone Hole

<b>Location</b>	Stratosphere, approximately 10-30 km above Earth’s surface.
<b>Composition</b>	Composed of ozone (O <sub>3</sub> ) molecules. Unit of measurement: Dobson Unit (DU)
<b>Function</b>	Acts as a protective shield, absorbing and blocking a significant portion of harmful ultraviolet (UV) radiation from the sun.
<b>Importance</b>	Essential for protecting life on Earth by preventing excessive UV radiation, which can harm living organisms and the environment.

<b>Ozone-depleting Substances</b>	Threatened by ODS like chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), halons, and other synthetic compounds commonly used in refrigeration, air conditioning, and aerosol propellants.
<b>Montreal Protocol</b>	An international treaty adopted in 1987 to phase out the production and consumption of ODS, resulting in significant recovery of the ozone layer.
<b>Current Status</b>	The ozone layer is in the process of recovery due to the success of the Montreal Protocol.
<b>Environmental Impact</b>	Protects ecosystems, prevents skin cancer, cataracts, and other health issues in humans.
<b>Additional Facts</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The size of the ozone hole over Antarctica varies annually, opening in August and closing in November or December.</li> <li>Special winds caused by the Earth's rotation create a unique climate over Antarctica, preventing mixing with surrounding air.</li> <li>When these winds subside, the hole closes.</li> </ul>

**Potential Causes of the Giant Ozone Hole**

- **Volcanic Eruption in Tonga:** According to scientific speculation, volcanic eruptions in Hunga Tonga, Tonga, between December 2022 and January 2023, may be the cause of this year's large ozone hole. Through chemical interactions, the ozone layer was impacted by the emission of water vapor and other materials into the stratosphere by these eruptions.
- **Human-Induced Ozone Holes:** Scientists first observed substantial ozone depletion in the 1970s as a result of human activity, particularly the usage of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs). The ozone layer was weakened by these compounds' release of chlorine into the stratosphere.

- **Effective Mitigation:** The 1987 Montreal Protocol phased out chemicals that deplete the ozone layer in an effort to stop ozone depletion. Over time, the extent of ozone holes was successfully decreased by this international accord.

**Ozone Depletion and Climate Change**

- **Not the Main Cause of Climate Change:** Ozone depletion is not the main factor causing climate change in the world.
- **Effect of Rising Temperatures:** On the other hand, ozone holes might be impacted by rising global temperatures. Severe fires, like the ones that occurred in the southeast of Australia in 2020 and 2021, released smoke into the stratosphere, which may have contributed to the ozone hole.
- **Changing Seasons:** Ozone holes have the power to modify the course of the seasons by prolonging winter seasons by lengthening polar vortices.

**Violations of Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP)**



The National Green Tribunal (NGT) issued notices to Delhi and Punjab State administrations regarding the violations of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP). The GRAP involves implementing stricter measures to combat air pollution during the winter months.

**About Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP)**

- In 2014, a WHO research revealed Delhi to be the most polluted city in the world. This led to the creation of the GRAP.

- Following numerous expert discussions, the Supreme Court accepted GRAP in the 2016 case of M. C. Mehta v. Union of India.
- January 2017 saw the Ministry of Environment, Forests, and Climate Change notify GRAP for the first time.

### Implementation

- The implementation of GRAP has been transferred to the Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR & Adjoining Areas (CAQM) as of 2021.

- The Supreme Court-appointed EPCA will direct states to implement GRAP measures before 2021.
- The EPCA was dissolved in 2020, and the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) took its place.
- The Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM) and the India Meteorological Department (IMD) produce meteorological forecasts, which are the basis for the CAQM recommendations. The Air Quality Index (AQI) is also used.

## Governance

### TRAI can't regulate OTT platforms: TDSAT



In an interim ruling, the Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT) made it clear that Over-the-Top (OTT) services like Hotstar are not under the purview of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI). Rather, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) issued the Information Technology Rules, 2021, which control them.

#### Context for TDSAT's Decision

- The petition was started by the All India Digital Cable Federation (AIDCF), which claims that Star India's free mobile device streaming of ICC Cricket World Cup matches via Disney+ Hotstar violates TRAI regulations.
- This is because fans must subscribe and pay a monthly fee in order to watch matches on Star Sports TV networks.

#### Diverging Opinions on OTT Regulation

- IT Ministry v. DoT: Citing the Allocation of Business Rules, the IT Ministry argues that internet-based communication services, including over-the-top (OTT) platforms, are not subject to DoT jurisdiction.
- DoT's Draft Telecom Bill: The DoT put up a draft telecom bill that aims to regulate OTT platforms like telecom operators and categorizes them as telecommunications services. MeitY has voiced opposition to this approach.

#### TRAI's Attempt at OTT Regulation

- TRAI has changed its position and started consulting on regulating over-the-top (OTT) communication services after arguing for three years that no particular regulatory framework was needed for these services.
- Consultation Paper: In June, TRAI published a consultation paper asking for suggestions on how to regulate over-the-top (OTT) services and whether prohibiting certain OTT services could be a better option than completely shutting down the Internet.
- Demand from Telecom Operators: Telecom companies have long campaigned for regulatory action against over-the-top (OTT) platforms and for "same service, same rules."

#### Significance of TDSAT's Order

- TDSAT decision holds significance due to ongoing debates over the regulation of OTT services.

- TRAI and the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) have been attempting to regulate OTT platforms, while the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology opposes these efforts.

### Recommendations and Monitoring

- In September 2020, TRAI recommended against regulatory intervention for OTT platforms, suggesting that market forces should govern the sector.
- However, it also emphasized the need for monitoring and intervention at an “appropriate time.”

### Conclusion

- The ongoing discussion about the regulation of these services in India is made more complex by the recent TDSAT verdict on the jurisdiction of OTT platforms.
- The IT Ministry argues that these services are not covered by telecom regulations, even as TRAI and the DoT pursue regulatory actions.
- The changing environment emphasizes the necessity of using a sophisticated strategy to balance the interests of many parties, such as government agencies, telecom companies, and the general people.

## India's Digital Future: The Implications of the Digital India Act 2023



The Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT) has issued an interim order that explicitly states that Over-the-Top (OTT) services, such as Hotstar, are not governed by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of

India (TRAI). Instead, they are governed by the Information Technology Rules, 2021, which were released by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).

### Adapting to a Changing Digital Landscape

- The All India Digital Cable Federation (AIDCF), which initiated the petition, asserts that TRAI laws are broken by Star India's free mobile device streaming of ICC Cricket World Cup matches via Disney+ Hotstar.
- This is due to the fact that viewers of Star Sports TV networks must subscribe and pay a monthly subscription in order to watch matches.

### Key Provisions of the Digital India Act (DIA)

- Online Safety and Trust: DIA places a high priority on these topics while continuing to be flexible in response to changes in the global regulatory landscape and commercial realities.
- Responsible Technology Adoption: It promotes moral behavior and accountability by offering standards for the appropriate application of technology such as blockchain and artificial intelligence.
- Open Internet: DIA maintains the idea of an open internet while making sure that the essential rules are in place to safeguard users.
- Know Your Customer (KYC) for Wearable Devices: This law imposes strict KYC standards on wearable technology, which are further strengthened by penalties under the criminal code.
- Examination of the "Safe Harbour" Principle: The DIA is thinking about reviewing the "safe harbour" principle, which could change the requirements for online accountability.

### Challenges and Concerns

- Impact on Innovation: Tighter rules may hinder foreign investment and entrepreneurial endeavors, particularly in the area of developing technology.
- Freedom of Expression: A review of the "safe harbour" principle may cause online platforms to

behave cautiously, which could have an impact on the right to free speech.

- **Enforcement Challenges:** Achieving a balance amongst several stakeholders is a problem, and effective enforcement will necessitate a substantial investment of time, money, and infrastructure.

**Conclusion**

- A progressive step toward India's safe, responsible, and creative digital future is the Digital India Act 2023.
- It recognizes that the digital era is dynamic and has the power to influence how the country's digital landscape develops for upcoming generations.
- Vigilance and flexibility will be necessary as talks and discussions proceed in order to minimize unforeseen consequences and provide a fair approach to regulation in the digital sphere.

**Abortion Rights in India: Legal Complexities and Ethical Dilemmas**



India has a liberal, pro-choice abortion law that is well ahead of those of other nations, according to CJI DY Chandrachud. A married lady who wishes to end her 26-week pregnancy medically is the subject of the case being heard by SC. This calls into question both the current legal system and a woman's choice in choosing to abort.

**Woman's Perspective**

- **Unplanned Pregnancy:** According to a 27-year-old married mother of two, her pregnancy was not planned.

- **Financial Strain:** After the birth of her second kid, she is receiving therapy for postpartum depression, and she claims that her family's income is insufficient to sustain a second child.

**Court Decisions and AIIMS Report**

- **First Approval:** An abortion up to 24 weeks was first approved by a two-judge bench, which reasoned that an unintended pregnancy brought on by a contraceptive failure is similar to a forced pregnancy.
- **AIIMS Concern:** Given that the fetus is still alive, AIIMS, Delhi, has expressed concerns over the possibility of performing foeticide, or halting the foetal heart, prior to abortion.
- **Three-Judge Bench:** Chief Justice of India (CJI) D Y Chandrachud led the three-judge bench that took up the case. The bench demanded a new medical report to evaluate the health of the fetus and the lady.

**Understanding the Abortion Law**

- **Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act (MTP Act):** The MTP Act allows termination of pregnancy in three stages.
  1. Termination up to 20 weeks with the advice of one doctor.
  2. Pregnancy at 20-24 weeks requires the opinion of two registered medical practitioners, under specific conditions.
  3. After 24 weeks, a medical board in approved facilities assesses the termination based on substantial foetal abnormalities.

**Court's History of Allowing Late-Term Abortion**

- **Several Precedents:** The court has previously permitted terminations beyond 26 weeks in various cases, often in cases of rape or consensual relationships.
- **Marital Status Factor:** The current case distinguishes itself by the woman's marital status, implying that the conception is consensual and not a forced pregnancy.

**Balancing Rights: Woman vs. Unborn Child**

- **Ongoing Debate:** The CJ-led Bench oscillates between prioritizing a woman's rights over abortion and the need to balance the rights of the unborn child.
- **Liberal Approach:** India's law on abortion is considered liberal and pro-choice, with courts often favouring the woman's autonomy.

### Comparisons with International Standards

- **Foetal Viability:** In India, the idea of using "foetal viability" as a criterion for approving abortions is still relatively new. It is compliant with global norms.
- **USA Roe v. Wade:** In 1973, the US Supreme Court decided a historic judgment that permitted abortion up until the point of fetal viability. Viability was 28 weeks in 1973, however thanks to scientific discoveries, it is currently shorter.
- **Indian legislation is criticized for being unclear** by some since doctors, not women, decide whether to end a pregnancy after 20 weeks, which frequently requires judicial intervention.

### Autonomy vs. Unborn Child's Rights

- **Legislative Gap:** Although women's autonomy in reproductive decision-making is supported by the Indian legal framework, there are still gaps in the law, particularly with regard to impromptu interventions.
- **Ethical Debate:** Although Indian law favors women's liberty, there are moral conundrums with regard to the rights of unborn children.
- **Legal precedents:** The validity of the MTP Act with respect to an unborn child's right to life has been discussed in cases such as Nand Kishore Sharma versus Union of India.

### Conclusion

- Abortion in India is fraught with legal and ethical issues, as demonstrated by the current Supreme Court case.
- Although a woman's right to make her own decisions is protected by the law, striking a careful balance between personal freedom and the rights of the unborn child is difficult.

- This complicated case highlights the necessity for ongoing legal discussion and even legislative changes to meet changing reproductive rights issues as the court works through it.

### Money Laundering Probe against a Political Party



The Enforcement Directorate (ED) is contemplating adding a political party as an accused in a money laundering probe linked to the now-defunct Excise Policy of the Delhi government.

### Booking a Political Party for Money Laundering

- **Relevant Law:** In this instance, Section 70 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), which handles corporate offenses, may be applied.
- **What "Company" means:** Political parties are not considered "companies" under the Companies Act; nevertheless, the PMLA has an explanation that expands the definition to include "associations of individuals," which may include political parties.

### Precedent for such Cases

- This action might create a big legal precedent in India if it is pursued.
- Political parties have been the subject of Income Tax Act investigations in the past.
- According to a Finance Ministry announcement, trusts and non-governmental organizations are already covered by the PMLA.

### Connection between Charges and Political Party

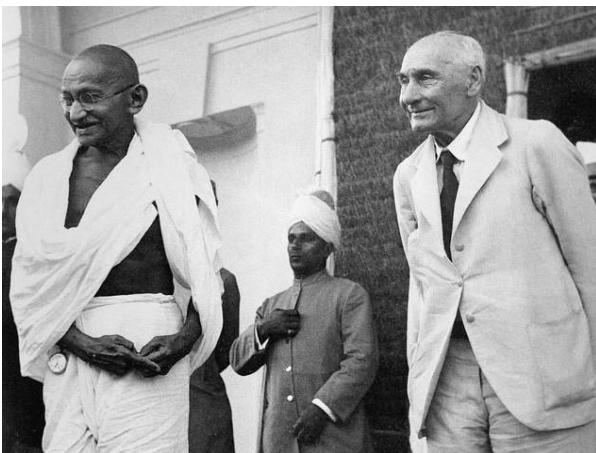
- The primary accusation made by the ED is that the political party was given the money obtained through the excise scam.
- Section 70 of the PMLA provides further clarification by stating that a firm can be punished regardless of whether the prosecution or conviction of any individual will depend on the

prosecution or conviction of another legal juridical person.

- This suggests that the party may still face separate prosecution for money laundering even in cases where cases involving party members are unsuccessful.

## History

### Story of Mahatma Gandhi's Portrait on Indian Banknotes



As the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi seems like an obvious choice to be the face of Indian money.

His picture didn't appear on official banknotes printed by the RBI, which serves as both the country's central bank and the supervisory body over the Indian banking industry, until 1996.

#### Gandhi's Portrait on Indian Currency

- Photographic Source: Gandhi's image on Indian banknotes is a cut-out from a 1946 photo of him with British politician Lord Frederick William Pethick-Lawrence, not a caricature.
- Expression Is Important: The portrait is a mirror image of the cut-out, and it was selected because it perfectly captures Gandhi's happy face.
- Unknown Cameramen: It's interesting that neither the photographer nor the person who chose the image are known.

#### Currency Design Process

- RBI's Responsibilities: The Department of Currency Management of the RBI is in charge of creating rupee notes, pending Union government and central bank clearance.
- Regulatory Framework: The RBI Act, 1934, Section 25, stipulates that the central government must approve the design, form, and material of banknotes after taking the central board's recommendations into account.

#### Gandhi's Debut on Indian Currency

- 1969 Commemoration: In 1969, Gandhi made his debut on Indian banknotes as part of a limited series released to mark the 100th anniversary of his birth. These notes, signed by RBI governor LK Jha, showed Gandhi with the Sevagram Ashram.
- 1987 Inclusion: A batch of Rs 500 banknotes with images of Gandhi were unveiled in October 1987.

#### The Transition to Independent India's Banknotes

- Post-Independence Currency: The RBI first issued colonial-era notes featuring King George VI after India attained independence in August 1947.
- Continuity of Design: The Lion Capital watermark was included on the banknotes that were subsequently released in 1950 in the values of Rs 2, 5, 10, and 100, so preserving the continuity of the prior designs.

#### Gandhi's Permanence on Banknotes

- Security Concerns in the 1990s: As reprographic technology advanced, the RBI realized in the 1990s that currency notes needed to have more



security features. It was decided that human faces were less likely to be faked than inanimate items.

- Sustaining in 2016: The Swachh Bharat Abhiyan logo and improved security features were added to the Gandhi portrait on the "Mahatma Gandhi New Series" banknotes, which were released in 2016.

## Conclusion

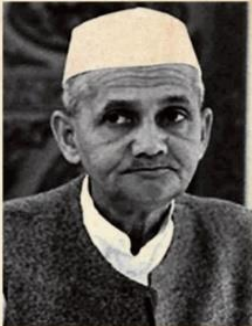
- Gandhi's Lasting Legacy: The fact that Mahatma Gandhi is featured on Indian banknotes is evidence of his lasting influence on the history and ideals of the country.
- Challenges to Change: Gandhi's symbolism and significance on banknotes are unshakable, reflecting his towering prominence in India's collective consciousness, despite the numerous proposals that have surfaced over the years.

## Lesser known facts about Lal Bahadur Shastri

### LAL BAHADUR SHASTRI

October 2, 1904 - January 11, 1966

- Lal Bahadur Shastri was the second Prime Minister of independent India.
- He popularized the slogan 'Jai Jawan Jai Kisan', recognizing the need for self-sustenance and self-reliance as the pillars to build a strong nation.
- He was against the prevailing caste system and therefore decided to drop his surname. The title "Shastri" was given after the completion of his graduation at Kashi Vidyapeeth, Varanasi in 1925. The title "Shastri" refers to a "scholar" or a person, adept in the "Holy Scriptures".
- In 1930, Mahatma Gandhi marched to the sea beach at Dandi and broke the imperial salt law. The symbolic gesture set the whole country ablaze. Lal Bahadur Shastri threw himself into the struggle for freedom with feverish energy.
- He led many defiant campaigns and spent a total of seven years in British jails.
- When the Congress Government was formed in 1946, he was called upon to play a constructive role in the governance of the country. He was appointed Parliamentary Secretary in his home State of Uttar Pradesh and soon rose to the position of Home Minister. His capacity for hard work and his efficiency became a byword in Uttar Pradesh. He moved to New Delhi in 1951 and held several portfolios in the Union Cabinet – Minister for Railways; Minister for Transport and Communications; Minister for Commerce and Industry; Home Minister; and during Nehru's illness Minister without portfolio. He was growing in stature constantly. He



- resigned his post as Minister for Railways because he felt responsible for a railway accident in which many lives were lost. The unprecedented gesture was greatly appreciated by Parliament and the country.
- Later, he came to be known as a man of great integrity and competence.
- Humble, tolerant, with great inner strength and resoluteness, he was a man of the people who understood their language.
- Lal Bahadur Shastri was deeply influenced by the political teachings of Mahatma Gandhi. "Hard work is equal to prayer," he once said, in accents profoundly reminiscent of his Master. In the direct tradition of Mahatma Gandhi, Lal Bahadur Shastri represented the best in Indian culture.

IANS GRAPHICS

On October 2, India commemorates the birth anniversaries of two great leaders: former prime minister Lal Bahadur Shastri and Mahatma Gandhi, known as the "Father of the Nation." Both leaders made important contributions to India's early years of nation-building and the country's war for independence.

### Lal Bahadur Shastri: A Man of Humble Origins

#### [A] Rising from Modest Beginnings

- Early Challenges: Shastri was born in Mughalsarai, Uttar Pradesh, in 1904, and experienced hardships from an early age. His father died not long after he was born.
- Ease: Having grown up in a lower middle class family, his meagre upbringing was symbolized by his mere possession of two kurtas and dhotis.
- A Name Change: Shastri gave up his birthname "Varma" as a sign of his early social consciousness. He added the title of "Shastri" (one who learns the Shastras) to his name in 1925 when he obtained it from the Kashi Vidyapeeth in Benaras.

#### [B] Resignation and Accountability

- A Serious Accident: In 1956, 112 people lost their lives in a catastrophic railway accident in Telangana while the Union Minister for Railways and Transport was in office.
- Taking Moral Responsibility: Shastri, who was profoundly impacted by the tragedy, submitted his resignation to Prime Minister Nehru after accepting moral responsibility. Shastri's second resignation, in November 1956, following another railway catastrophe in Tamil Nadu cemented his moral reputation, even though Nehru did not accept it at first.

#### [C] Championing the Slogan 'Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan'

- Shastri returned to the Union Cabinet, holding positions including Minister of Commerce and Industry and Minister of Home Affairs.
- Language Assurance: He promised that English would continue to be used alongside Hindi as an official language in response to worries about Hindi dominance.

- **Economic Challenges:** In 1965, Shastri urged traders to maintain fair prices, farmers to boost production, and consumers to practice moderation in the face of increased food demand and economic stagnation. "Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan" (Hail the army, hail the farmer!) is a famous slogan that he created.

## [D] Leadership during the 1965 India-Pakistan War and Tashkent Agreement

- **Unforeseen Conflict:** After the 1962 war with China, Pakistan felt India was weak and launched strikes in Jammu and Kashmir, sparking the 1965 war with Pakistan.
- **Firm Reaction:** Shastri gave the go-ahead for an Indian counteroffensive, which incited violence on both sides.
- **Tashkent Declaration:** On January 10, 1966, Soviet Premier Aleksey Kosygin welcomed General Ayub Khan of Pakistan and Shastri to Tashkent, Uzbekistan, where they signed a declaration pledging long-term peace.
- **Unexpected Death:** Shastri tragically died in Tashkent the next day from a heart attack, prompting rumors to circulate about what happened. That being said, the information that is now available rules out the possibility that there were other influences.

## Battle of Colachel



An important turning point in the history of India occurred during the Battle of Colachel in 1741, when King Marthanda Varma led the army of Travancore against the Dutch East India Company. The Dutch colonial ambitions in India were largely put on hold as it was the first instance of an Asian monarchy beating a European power. Significant effects of this conflict also extended to the creation of the united state of Travancore.

## Travancore's Complex Landscape Before 1741

- Previously known as Thiruvithamcode, Travancore was a network of south Malabar temple states and towns with scattered domains and chieftaincies rather than a single state.
- **Leadership of Marthanda Varma:** Born in 1705, Marthanda Varma rose to prominence and focused on uniting the kingdom by annexing nearby areas and putting a stop to internal dissent.
- **Territorial Expansion:** His desire to conquer more territory put the rulers of Kayamukulam, Kollam, Attingal, and other nearby regions in danger, prompting them to ask the Dutch for help against Varma.
- **English Connection:** The Dutch-Travancore relations were further strained by Varma's military relations with the English, who supplied equipment.

## Factors Leading to the Battle

- **Dutch Resistance:** The Dutch readied their forces in Colachel to oppose Travancore, alarmed by Varma's territorial disputes and aggressive expansion.
- **Internal Disagreements:** Due to internal disputes within the Dutch ranks, a number of Dutch officials, including Carl August Duijvenschot, deserted to Travancore.
- **Neighboring kings' Instigation:** In order to protect their borders, the kings of Kayamukulam and Cochin incited the Dutch against Varma.

## Battle of Colachel: Unfolds

- **Dutch Aggression:** The Dutch committed crimes and pillaged the area in February 1741 when

they launched raids on a number of villages and the army of Travancore.

- Marthanda Varma responded by sending his military chief, Rama Iyer Dalawah, to fight the Dutch and defend his realm.
- International Support: The English joined Varma's forces at the siege of Colachel, while the French helped him fight the Dutch.

### Siege and Surrender

- Prolonged Siege: The ongoing assaults and siege exhausted Dutch resources and personnel, creating a catastrophic state of affairs.
- Explosion and Surrender: The Dutch were severely damaged by a gunpowder explosion that took place in Colachel on August 5, 1741. They gave up two days later.
- Result: 389 muskets, cannons, and swords were taken by Travancore, and just 24 Dutchmen managed to escape.
- Mukkuvar Community: Travancore's triumph was greatly aided by the Mukkuvar fisherman community's refusal to provide the Dutch with supplies and fortifications.

### Aftermath and Legacy

- Resilience to Colonial control: Varma's plans for growth and opposition to colonial control were strengthened by the victory at Colachel.
- Dutch Retreat: The Dutch signed the Treaty of Mavelikkara in 1753, putting an end to their domination on the Kerala coast, never entirely recovering from their setback.
- Eustachius De Lannoy, who was captured during the fight, was instrumental in providing Travancore's soldiers with training and in fortifying the area. After 36 years of service, he was given the title of "Valia Kappithan," or senior admiral, and he served Travancore.



During an archeological dig close to Mangaluru, a renowned archaeologist uncovered an astounding discovery. They discovered an uncommon inscription connected to the Alupa dynasty, which provided fresh insight into the historical fabric of the area.

### About Alupa Dynasty

- Alupa Dynasty: The inscription is the earliest known reference to the Alupa dynasty, a historically significant Tulu Nadu ruling family.
- Regal Demise: Interestingly, the inscription honors the passing of an Alupa king, offering a rare window into the past of this antiquated dynasty.
- References to the Siri Cult: The inscription also includes terms that allude to the cultural and religious customs of the time, such as Siri, Dalya, and Chattara (Chatra).

### Archaeological Findings

- Keerthi Sthamba: The inscription emphasizes Kesava's contribution to the construction of a Kulashekara Alupendra monument. Within the inscription is a pillar known as a Keerthi sthamba, which is a reflection of an original pillar in the Mangaluru neighborhood of Kulashekara.
- Fine Details: The inscription, which announces the death of Alupendra I and has two panels at the top with Kannada script below, features characters from the 12th century.

## Rare Alupa Dynasty Inscription discovered

- **Royal Illustrations:** The inscription's human figures stand in for Kulashekara Alupendra. In one panel, he is shown carrying a gurani (shield) and brandishing a sword in the Tribhanga pose. The image of the king next to it shows him sitting in a contemplative position with his hands resting on his knees.

### Significance in Tuluva History

- **Tuluva Culture:** This finding sheds important light on the traditions, convictions, and social organization of the Alupa dynasty.
- **Soma Cult:** There is a link between this area and the Soma cult, which was founded in Gujarat in the eleventh century AD by Soma Sharma. The Someshwara temple, constructed during

Kulashekara Alupendra's reign as a tribute to Soma, is evidence of this blending of cultures.

### Who was Kulashekara Alupendra?

- **The Alupa Legacy:** Kulashekara Alupendra I, a well-known Alupa king of South Canara, was a major historical figure in the area.
- **City Establishment:** He established the city of Kulashekara in Mangaluru and passed strict laws governing temple management, which still have an impact on temple governance in the area.
- **Language and Culture:** Alupendra I supported the preservation and advancement of the Tulu language and culture. His rule lasted from 1156 to 1215 A.D. Based on palaeography, this inscription can be dated to the 12th century.

## International Relations

### Operation Ajay to evacuate Indian nationals from Israel



India launched Operation Ajay to remove its residents who want to leave Israel's unstable situation and return home. This operation was announced by External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, who emphasized the security and welfare of Indian nationals living overseas.

### Operation Ajay

- **Evacuation Plan:** In order to facilitate the return of Indian citizens from Israel, special chartered planes as well as other preparations are being made.
- **Second Evacuation:** This is the second evacuation operation of the year, after the

success of Operation Kaveri in April and May, which returned several thousand Indian people from the war-torn Sudan.

### Significance: Indian Jewish Community

- The Jewish community in India has a distinct history, having roots dating back more than two millennia.
- India has been a special place on the world map because it has been a warm place for them to live and prosper without running into anti-Semitism.
- But when Israel was founded in 1948 and India gained her freedom in 1947, the terrain shifted.
- With this shift, the relationship between India and Israel entered a new phase and Indian Jews began to migrate back to their holy homeland.

### Diverse Indian Jewish Groups

Indian Jews can be categorized into four main sects, each with its own historical origins and cultural traditions:

1. **Cochin Jews:** Tracing their arrival to India back to 50 CE, they primarily settled in the southern region.
1. **Bene Israel:** The largest group among Indian Jews, they settled in and around Maharashtra and Konkan.

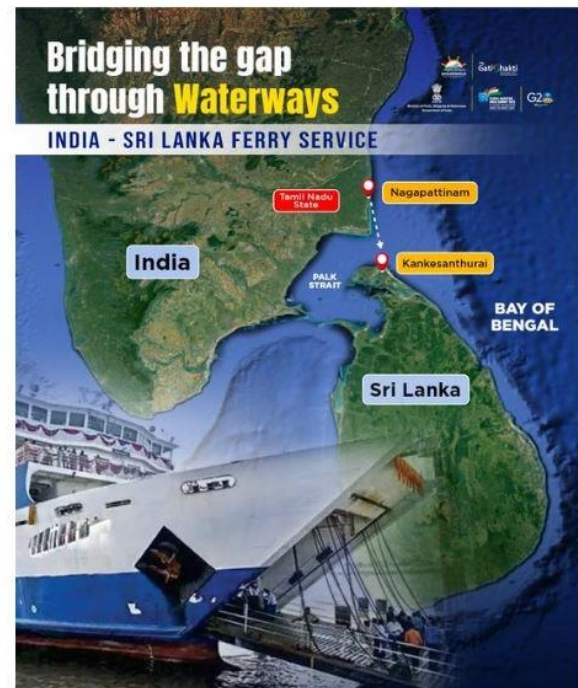
2. **Baghdadi Jews:** This group, part of the most recent wave of Jewish migration, established communities in port cities like Calcutta, Bombay, and Rangoon.
3. **Bnei Menashe:** Settled in the North East, they are another significant segment of Indian Jews.

**Complex Reception in Israel**

The migration of Indian Jews to Israel was not without challenges. Israeli society struggled to embrace them due to several factors:

- **Internal Divisions:** There were significant disparities and conflicts among the four Indian Jewish communities. The reception of Indian Jews was complicated, particularly in the early years of migration, by these internal divides as well as prejudice from Jews of European descent.
- **Discrimination:** When the Bene Israel, who were mostly from Maharashtra, arrived in Israel, they encountered a great deal of discrimination. Reports from the 1950s brought to light incidents of racism and unfair treatment, such as discrimination in employment and housing.
- **Different Reasons:** Indian Jews had a variety of reasons for moving abroad. Different treatment resulted from presumed motives: the Bene Israel were viewed as wanting better economic possibilities, whereas the Cochin Jews were seen as motivated by religious reasons.
- **Economic Disparities:** Anger was stoked by the disparities in wealth between the four groups. Some blamed poverty for the messianic ambitions of the Cochin Jews, while the Baghdadi Jews believed that the Bene Israel lacked adequate theological traditions.

**India-Sri Lanka Ferry Service**

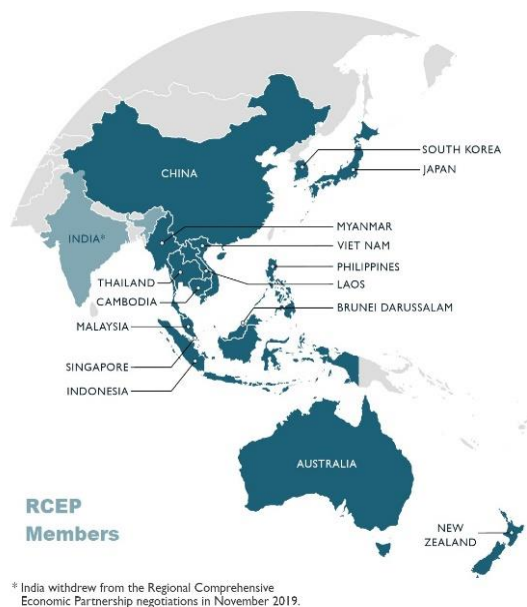


PM Modi inaugurated an international, high-speed passenger ferry service in Palk Strait between Nagapattinam in Tamil Nadu, India, and Kankesanthurai, near Jaffna in Sri Lanka.

**India-Sri Lanka Ferry**

- The Tamil Nadu Maritime Board and Shipping Corporation of India run the service.
- It will run every day and take around 3.5 hours to travel the distance of 60 nautical miles (110 kilometers).
- There is a 50kg free baggage allowance for passengers.
- Through the port of Thoothukudi, the Indo-Ceylon Express, also known as Board Mail, used to run between Chennai and Colombo.
- But because of the island nation's civil conflict, this came to an end in 1982.

**Sri Lanka and Bangladesh to explore RCEP Membership**



- ultimate Decision on RCEP participation by Bangladesh: Following its elections in January 2024, Bangladesh is anticipated to make a definitive decision on RCEP participation.

**India’s Stance on RCEP**

- Due to worries about the mobility of services, a possible influx of Chinese goods, and opposition from small enterprises and indigenous farmers, India withdrew from the RCEP negotiations in 2019.
- No Return Indication: India has not shown any indication that it will reevaluate its choice to leave the RCEP.

**Reasons for Sri Lanka and Bangladesh’s Interest**

- Learning from Crisis: Sri Lanka aims to expand its market and boost competitiveness because it recognizes the value of regional markets in times of crisis.
- As Bangladesh prepares to leave the Least Developed Countries list in 2026, participation in the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) might mitigate possible export losses and streamline free trade agreements.

Sri Lanka and Bangladesh are considering joining the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) after India’s withdrawal from the trade agreement in 2019.

**Recent update on RCEP**

- Application from Sri Lanka: In its application, Sri Lanka requests cooperation from China, Malaysia, Indonesia, Japan, and Thailand in order to become a member of the RCEP.

**Polity**

**How MPs ask Questions in Lok Sabha?**



The Lok Sabha Ethics Committee and the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) are questioning a parliamentarian on her purported involvement in "cash for query" allegations. This has brought attention to the significance and protocol of submitting questions to the Lok Sabha.

**Procedure for Raising Questions**

- Rules and Instructions: The "Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha" (Rules 32 to 54) and the Speaker of the Lok Sabha's Instructions (10 to 18) govern the procedure for raising questions.
- Submission of Notice: If more than one question is filed, MPs must start the procedure by sending a notice to the Secretary-General of the Lok Sabha that includes the content of the question, the relevant Minister, the preferred date for the answer, and the order of preference.
- Limitations: MPs may send up to five notices per day for both written and oral responses; any more notices will be carried over to the next session day.

- Notice Period: A question typically has a notice period of at least 15 days.
- Submission Methods: Members of Parliament may use paper forms that are accessible in the Parliamentary Notice Office or the internet "Member's Portal" with their login information to submit notices.

### Conditions for Admissibility of Questions

- The admissibility of questions is governed by a number of criteria, including a word limit of 150, the proscription of arguments and defamatory remarks, the avoidance of character or conduct references unless speaking in an official role, and the disapproval of inquiries pertaining to policies.
- Legal Matters: Inadmissible questions are those that relate to cases that are pending in court or that might jeopardize the integrity and unity of the country.

### Types of Questions

- Starred Questions: Members ask the Minister-in-Charge starred questions in order to receive an oral response. There is a limit of 20 questions stated for oral responses each day, and submission of these questions must occur at least 15 days in advance.
- Unstarred Questions: In addition to requiring submission 15 days in advance, unstarred questions are answered in writing by the Ministry. There is a daily cap of 230 open questions with written responses.
- Short Notice Questions: With a good justification, questions about pressing public issues may be raised with less than ten days' notice.
- Questions to Private Members: These are directed at the member directly and are asked when the topic is one of the bills, resolutions, or House-related issues that the member is responsible for.

### Importance of Raising Questions

- MPs possess an innate and unlimited parliamentary power to ask questions, which functions as a legislative check on executive activities.
- Information and Criticism: By asking probing questions, ministers can uncover inefficiencies, assess government programs, uncover administration and activity information, and be prompted to take remedial action.
- Government Feedback: Parliamentary commissions, inquiries, or legislative acts may result from queries posed to the public about attitudes toward administration and policy.

### How are Symbols allotted to Political Parties in India?

 44. HAT	 45. ICE CREAM	 31. DAO	 32. DIESEL PUMP
 47. JUG	 48. KETTLE	 34. ELECTRIC POLE	 35. ENVELOPE
			

A recent Supreme Court decision declining a plea by a political party in Telangana, questioning the allocation of election symbols, has thrown the spotlight on the intriguing world of political symbols in India.

### Symbols Allocation Authority: ECI

- Symbol allocation to political parties is the responsibility of the ECI, which follows The Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968.
- During elections, this order seeks to control symbol specification, reservation, choice, and allotment.

### Types of Election Symbols

- Reserved and Free Symbols: Symbols can be designated as "free" symbols, which are selected by candidates from unrecognized registered

parties, or as reserved symbols, which are only assigned to recognized political parties. Parties that have not satisfied the requirements for state party recognition are considered unrecognized.

- unique Symbols: As a mark of their established status, recognized national and state parties are awarded unique symbols.

### Symbol Selection by Parties

- Preference Lists: From the free symbol pool, ten favorite symbols are provided by unrecognized parties.
- Proposal of New Symbols: Parties may suggest up to three new symbols for consideration, as long as they don't portray animals or birds, have religious or community overtones, or mimic reserved or free symbols.
- Common Symbol Assignment: If the ECI determines that a proposed symbol is appropriate, it may designate it as the party's common symbol.

### Historical Origins of Symbols

- Drawing Process: MS Sethi, who left the ECI in 1992, drew the symbols at first. The idea behind these symbols was to find objects that the average person could relate to through brainstorming sessions.
- The genesis of many well-known symbols, like the bicycle, elephant, and broom, can be traced back to these meetings.
- Nontraditional Submissions: A variety of less well-known symbols, such as a necktie, a pair of glasses, and a nail clipper, were also proposed, demonstrating the range of concepts.
- Modern Additions: As time has gone on, new symbols that represent modern times have been added to the list, such as a bowl of noodles and a smartphone charger.

### Political Parties' Say

- Submission of Preferences: Unregistered parties provide their choices for symbols from the available list.

- New Symbol Proposal: Parties may submit up to three distinct new symbols, each with a distinct design and illustration.
- Requirements for Approval: Suggested symbols cannot represent animals or birds, have religious or societal overtones, or mimic currently used restricted or free emblems.

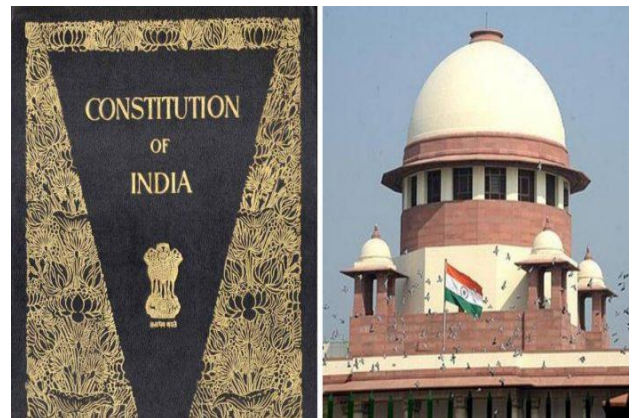
### Symbol Allocation in Split Parties

- ECI Decision: The ECI decides which symbol to assign when officially recognized political parties split. For instance, splits led to the evolution of the Congress party's emblem from a pair of bulls to the current hand sign.
- A recent example is when the ECI gave distinct insignia to rival Shiv Sena factions, letting one keep the bow and arrow symbol while giving the other side a flaming torch.

### Conclusion

- The ECI's guidelines control the careful process of allocating election emblems in India.
- In political campaigns, these symbols are extremely important since they symbolize the identities and philosophies of the various parties.
- Gaining knowledge of the complex history of symbol allocation might help one better understand India's ever-changing political environment.

### Article 142 of the Constitution



Using its unusual constitutional authority under Article 142, the Supreme Court has provided full justice to a



fifty-year-old man who had battled the postal department for almost thirty years, refusing to hire him even though his name was highly qualified.

### What is Article 142?

Article 142 titled 'Enforcement of decrees and orders of the Supreme Court and orders as to discovery, etc.' has two clauses:

#### [1] Article 142(1)

- In the course of exercising its authority, the Supreme Court may issue any decree or order required to ensure that any case or matter that is before it receives full and fair justice.
- Any such order or decree that is made or passed will be binding on all of India.
- It can be done in the way specified by or under any law passed by Parliament, and until such time as a provision is made, it can be done in the way that the President specifies by order.

#### [2] Article 142(2)

- The Supreme Court will have complete authority to issue whatever orders necessary to ensure that someone appears, that documents are

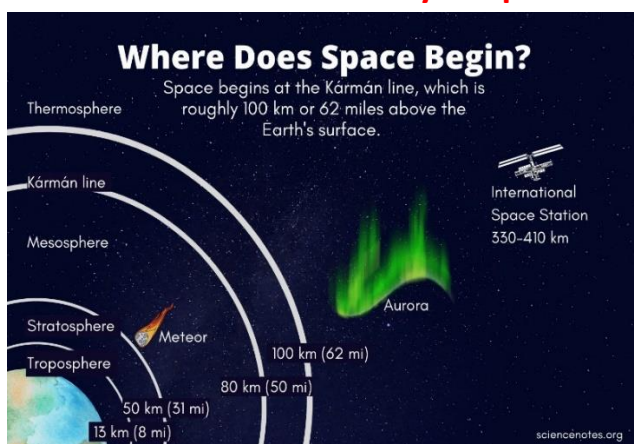
found or produced, that any contempt of court is looked into, or that someone is punished.

### Important instances when Article 142 was invoked

- In the Bhopal Gas tragedy case, the Supreme Court decided that "prohibitions or limitations or provisions contained in ordinary laws cannot, ipso facto, act as prohibitions or limitations on the constitutional powers under Article 142" and granted the victims \$470 million in compensation.
- Case involving the demolition of the Babri Masjid: The Supreme Court directed the Center to draft a plan for the establishment of a trust so that Ram Mandir could be built at the site of the Masjid in Ayodhya.
- Liquor sale ban case: To combat drunk driving, the Supreme Court outlawed liquor stores 500 meters or less from both State and National roadways.
- Ex-PM Assassin case: The Supreme Court used Article 142(1) in the Perarivalan case to grant itself the authority to issue any order required to ensure that any matter before it is fully tried.

## Science, Technology, Art & Culture

### Karman Line: The Boundary of Space



Boundaries are essential to scientific understanding because they give things that could otherwise blend together clarity and distinction. The Karman Line is one such important boundary that is essential for distinguishing Earth's atmosphere from space.

### What is Karman Line?

- Situated 100 kilometers above sea level, the Karman Line is an imaginary border.
- Establishing the boundary between Earth's atmosphere and the vastness of space is its main purpose.
- Most nations and space organizations recognize this distinction, despite the fact that not all scientists and space explorers do.
- It was originally founded in the 1960s by the Federation Aeronautique Internationale (FAI), an organization in charge of maintaining records.
- When someone crosses the Karman Line, they are considered astronauts.

### Challenges to the Karman Line's Significance

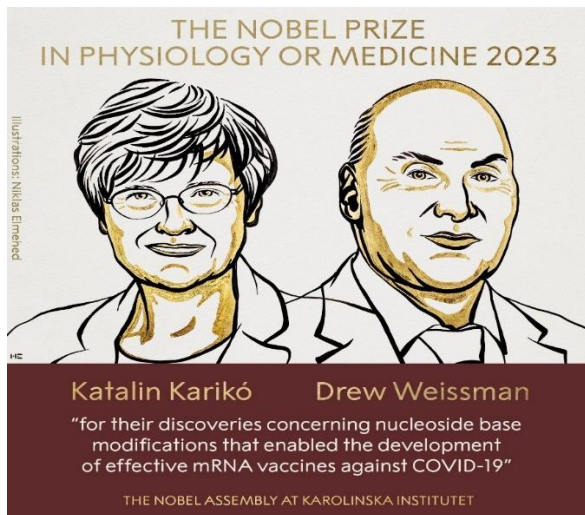
- Nature seldom follows limits drawn by humans.

- Crossing the Karman Line physically has no significant impact.
- There is not much variation in air pressure or composition in the nearby area.
- Both the atmosphere and Earth's gravitational pull continue past this point.

**Why is the Karman Line relevant?**

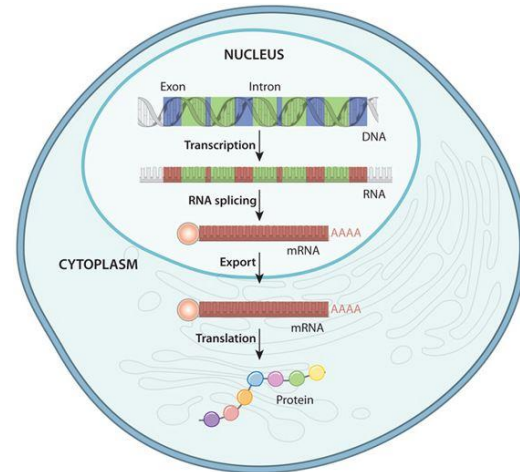
- **Airspace Regulation:** The main function of the Karman Line is to control airspace. It denotes a roughly defined altitude over which traditional airplanes cannot function efficiently. Beyond this point, propulsion technologies are needed for aircraft to overcome Earth's gravitational pull.
- **Legal Reference:** The Karman Line serves as a legal dividing line between space and airspace, which are areas that governments are able to claim. The fact that outer space is managed in a manner akin to that of international waters highlights the significance of this border in relation to governance and law.

**Medicine Nobel Prize 2023 for mRNA Vaccine Discovery**



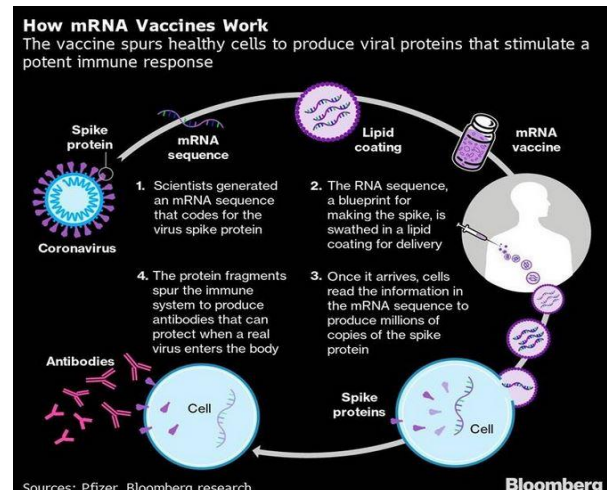
The 2023 Nobel laureates in medicine, Katalin Kariko and Drew Weissman, have garnered recognition for their revolutionary advancements in the realm of mRNA technology. Their research has revolutionized our knowledge of how mRNA interacts with the immune system, which has sped up the creation of vaccines, especially in light of the Covid-19 pandemic.

**What is mRNA?**



- A single-stranded RNA (ribonucleic acid) molecule corresponding to one of a gene's DNA strands is known as messenger RNA (mRNA).
- The gene's mRNA is an RNA version that travels from the cell nucleus to the cytoplasm, where proteins are produced.
- An organelle known as a ribosome travels along the mRNA during protein synthesis, scans its base sequence, and uses the genetic code to convert each codon—a triplet made up of three bases—into an amino acid.

**What are mRNA vaccines?**



- These vaccines work by utilizing messenger RNA molecules, which instruct cells within the body what kinds of proteins to produce.
- In this instance, the mRNA is programmed to instruct the cells to synthesize the spike protein

of the Covid-19-causing coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2.

- The coronavirus's spike protein, which is visible as spikes on its surface, is what starts the infection process by enabling the virus to enter cells and then multiply.
- Once administered into the body, an mRNA-based coronavirus vaccine will direct the body's cells to produce duplicates of the spike protein.
- It is anticipated that this will then cause the immune cells to produce antibodies in order to combat it.
- When and if the actual virus penetrates the human body, these antibodies will stay in the blood and combat it.

**What are other types of vaccines?**

**(1) Vector vaccine:**

- This kind of vaccination uses genetic material from the COVID-19 virus inserted into a viral vector, which is a modified form of another virus.
- Your cells receive genetic material from the COVID-19 virus through the viral vector, which instructs your cells to replicate the S protein.
- Your immune system reacts to the S proteins on your cells' surfaces by producing antibodies and protective white blood cells.
- The antibodies will combat the COVID-19 virus if you subsequently contract it.

**(2) Protein subunit vaccine:**

- Only the portions of a virus that optimally stimulate your immune system are included in subunit vaccinations.
- The COVID-19 vaccine of this kind includes safe S proteins.
- Your immune system produces protective white blood cells and antibodies as soon as it detects the S proteins.
- The antibodies will combat the COVID-19 virus if you subsequently contract it.

**Physics Nobel for Electron Dynamics**

**Nobel prize for physics 2023**



Work on the movement of electrons inside atoms and molecules



**Pierre Agostini**  
France

Ohio State University, United States

**Ferenc Krausz**  
Hungary/Austria

Max Planck Institute of Quantum Optics, Ludwig Maximilians University, Germany

**Anne L'Huillier**  
France/Sweden

Lund University, Sweden

- Awarded for demonstrating "a way to create extremely short pulses of light that can be used to measure the rapid processes in which electrons move or change energy"
- The three physicists succeeded in creating attosecond pulses of light. There are as many attoseconds in one second as there are seconds since the birth of the universe about 13.8 billion years

Anne L’Huillier, Pierre Agostini, and Ferenc Krausz have been honored the 2023 Physics Nobel Prize for their groundbreaking experiments, providing humanity with new tools to explore the inner workings of electrons within atoms and molecules.

**Measuring Rapid Electron Processes**

- Tracking electron motion: Their efforts have made it possible to produce incredibly brief light pulses that last barely ato-seconds ( $1 \times 10^{-18}$  of a second), which make it possible to measure the blazingly quick processes that electrons go through to migrate or alter their energy.
- Observing Subatomic Motion: Real-time observation is impossible due to the incredible speeds at which electrons, the minuscule particles that circle the atomic nucleus, move.
- High-Shutter-Speed Analogy: To obtain clear photos, a high-shutter-speed camera must freeze motion. This is how the trio's research works. In a similar vein, they have used incredibly brief light pulses to "freeze" electron motion.

**Their Journey to Success**

- The discovery made by Anne L'Huillier in 1987 was that certain electrons might receive additional energy from laser light waves interacting with noble gases, leading to the emission of light. She carried on refining this idea.

- Pierre Agostini's Breakthrough: Agostini produced a series of light pulses in 2001 that lasted only 250 attoseconds.
- What Ferenc Krausz Gave: Krausz's research simultaneously isolated individual 650 attosecond light pulses, yielding priceless insights into atomic processes.

### Significance of their Work

- Unveiling Electron World: Their work—known as atto-second physics—has made it possible to comprehend mechanisms that are controlled by electrons.
- Eva Olsson's Perspective: Eva Olsson, Chair of the Nobel Committee for Physics, said that this discovery opens up new avenues for understanding electron-driven events and investigating their useful applications.
- Possible Use in Medicine: Using these methods to study molecular-level changes in blood could help identify diseases.
- Cutting Edge Electronics: Developing a greater comprehension of electrons can help create electronic gadgets that are more effective.

## Chemistry Nobel for Quantum Dots discovery

**Nobel prize for chemistry 2023**

Alexei Ekimov, Louis Brus and Moungi Bawendi were awarded the Nobel prize for chemistry for the discovery and synthesis of quantum dots

Quantum dots are tiny crystals, often consisting of just a few thousand atoms, made from semiconductor materials

By manipulating their size, scientists can precisely control their properties and make them emit light of specific colours when they are excited by light

The size ratio of a quantum dot to a football is about the same as a football to the Earth

Because their size is reduced to the nanometre scale, they exhibit quantum effects that determine their characteristics

**SOME APPLICATIONS**

- TV screens / illumination sources
- Biomedical imaging
- Producing photons for quantum communication
- Making better and cheaper solar cells

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The 2023 Nobel Prize in Chemistry has been awarded to Mounqi G. Bawendi, Louis E. Brus and Alexei I. Ekimov for the discovery and synthesis of quantum dots.

### About the Nobel Laureates

- Alexei Ekimov was born in the former Soviet Union in 1945 and completed his doctorate at the Ioffe Physical-Technical Institute in 1974. At Nanocrystals Technology Inc. in New York, USA, he previously held the position of Chief Scientist.
- Louis Brus: A professor at Columbia University, Brus was born in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1943. In 1969, he earned his PhD there.
- Moungi Bawendi was born in Paris in 1961 and reared in France, Tunisia, and the United States. The University of Chicago awarded Bawendi a PhD in 1988. At the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), in the United States, he teaches.

### What are Quantum Dots?

- Man-made nanoscale crystals known as quantum dots (QDs) are prized for their special optical and electrical characteristics.
- When exposed to UV light, they can emit a variety of colors and transport electrons.
- Theoretical ideas from the 1970s led to the successful synthesis of these artificially created semiconductor nanoparticles in the early 1980s.
- Quantum effects cause small semiconductor particles to change their optical characteristics with respect to size.

### Working Principle

- Size Matters: Because wavelength (color) and energy levels are related, quantum dots can control light output based on size. They may emit or absorb particular colors of light by adjusting the size of their particles.
- Versatile Structures: There are many different types of quantum dots, and their characteristics are influenced by their size, shape, composition, and structure. They have a wide range of possible applications and can be used as active materials in single-electron transistors.

## Contributions of Ekimov, Brus, and Bawendi

- Ekimov's Soviet Discovery: Due to the limitations imposed by the Iron Curtain, Ekimov's groundbreaking discoveries in this field from 1981 remained mostly unnoticed.
- Brus's Independent Revelation: In the United States, Brus was utilizing cadmium sulfide particles to capture solar energy without being aware of Ekimov's research. He noticed that the size-dependent quantum effect was demonstrated by the fact that smaller particles absorbed light at various wavelengths.
- Bawendi's Innovations: Bawendi refined the processes for producing particles, which increased the quality of nanocrystals and allowed more scientists to investigate the special qualities of quantum dots.

## Applications of Quantum Dots

- In electronics, quantum dots are essential to QLED technology, which is utilized in computer and TV screens. They also provide different color temperatures by adjusting the light in LED lamps.
- Biochemistry and Medicine: In biochemistry, quantum dots are utilized for the mapping of cells and organs. In medicine, their potential for tracking cancerous tissue within the body is being investigated. To accelerate chemical reactions, chemists take advantage of their catalytic abilities.

## Indian-Built ARTIP Technology Revolutionizes Astronomy



With the aid of South Africa's MeerKAT Telescope, India's Automated Radio Telescope Image Processing Pipeline (ARTIP) technology has enabled some amazing discoveries from far-off galaxies. The Square Kilometre Array (SKA) Telescope, renowned for its exceptional sensitivity and capacity for sky surveys, is preceded by MeerKAT. To fully utilize MeerKAT's potential for ground-breaking research, ARTIP's state-of-the-art picture data processing is essential.

### What is ARTIP?

- Creation by Thoughtworks: The international technology consulting business Thoughtworks created ARTIP at its Bengaluru and Pune, India, offices.
- Automation of Data Processing: This partnership has been working to automate data processing, imaging, calibration, and flagging, among other crucial operations, since 2017.

### How ARTIP operates?

- Configurability: ARTIP is a highly flexible and configurable system that is intended to process data supplied by MeerKAT. Although it was designed with MeerKAT in mind, its flexibility enables it to handle data from VLA class telescopes as well as uGMRT.
- Pipeline Components: The pipeline is divided into four distinct sub-pipelines that serve distinct phases of the data processing workflow: diagnostics, cube imaging, continuum imaging, and calibration.
- Calibration (ARTIP-CAL): This part extracts the target source of interest by calibrating data against recognized astronomical sources.
- Cube Imaging (ARTIP-CUBE): This component is then utilized to create sky images based on the calibrated target.
- The goal of the Continuum Imaging (ARTIP-CONT) process is to produce images using the calibrated data.
- Diagnostics (ARTIP-DIAGNOSTICS): It serves as a pipeline for quality assurance and offers

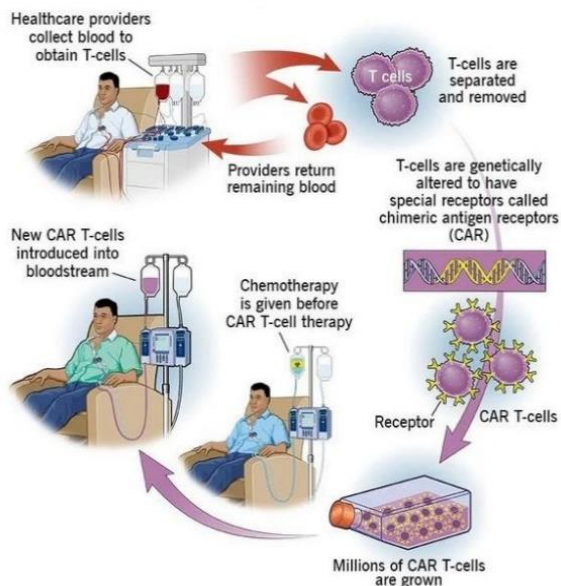
analytical insights into data processing and quality.

**Impactful Discoveries by ARTIP**

- Detection of the Hydroxyl Radical (OH): ARTIP has made important discoveries, such as identifying the hydroxyl radical (OH), a necessary chemical species present in a far-off galaxy's atmosphere.
- Hydrogen Atom Identification: It has also been instrumental in the identification of large hydrogen atoms (also known as Rydberg atoms) in a different far-off galaxy.
- Scientific Acknowledgment: The worldwide astronomical publication Proceedings of Science has recognized the MALS data processing using ARTIP for its contributions to these discoveries.

**CAR-T Cell Therapy approved for Cancer**

How CAR T-cell therapy is used to treat cancer



The revolutionary cancer treatment known as CAR-T (Chimeric Antigen Receptor-T) cell therapy, created by the IIT-Bombay spin-off ImmunoACT, has received market authorization from the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI). The path for its commercial introduction in India is paved by this authorization.

**About CAR-T Cell Therapy**

**What is it?**

- Chimeric antigen receptor T cell therapy is referred to as CAR-T cell therapy.
- This kind of cancer immunotherapy makes use of the patient's own T cells, which have been genetically altered in a lab to improve their capacity to identify and eliminate cancer cells.

**How does it work?**

- White blood cells called T cells are in charge of recognizing and combating infection and disease.
- Antigens are substances or compounds that the immune system recognizes, and each T cell has a receptor capable of identifying them.
- Antigens present in cancer cells may be recognized by the immune system as normal, so enabling the malignancy to elude the immunological response.
- In the lab, CAR-T cells are genetically modified to express a novel receptor that binds to cancer cells and kills them.

**Therapy Process**

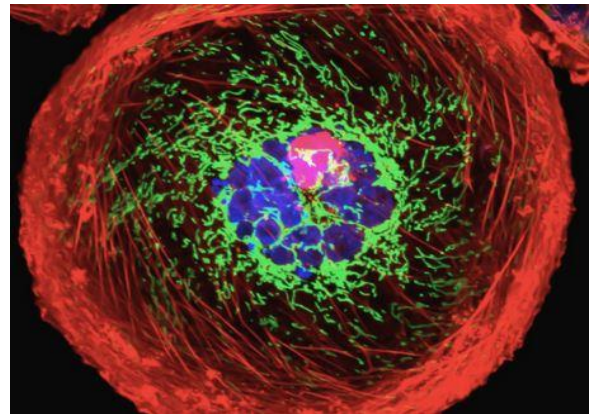
The process involves several steps, including:

- 1. Collecting T Cells:** Blood is drawn from the patient's arm, and T cells are separated from the blood using an apheresis machine.
- 2. Engineering T Cells:** In a laboratory, the T cells are modified by adding a manufactured CAR, and they are allowed to multiply and grow.
- 3. Infusing CAR-T Cells:** Once enough CAR-T cells are prepared, they are injected back into the patient's arm.
  - Chemotherapy may be recommended before CAR-T cell infusion to enhance treatment effectiveness.
  - The process can take place in an outpatient infusion center or a hospital setting.

**Cancers Treated**

- Certain cancers respond well to CAR-T cell therapy, especially when other therapies are failing.
- At the moment, the FDA has approved it for the treatment of hematological malignancies, such as multiple myeloma, lymphoma, and leukemia.

**Egypt attains WHO 'Gold Tier' status in Hepatitis C Elimination**



Egypt has become the first country to achieve the World Health Organization’s “gold tier” status on the path to elimination of Hepatitis C.

**Egypt’s “Gold Tier” Status**

- **Strict Requirements:** In order to qualify for the "gold tier," Egypt had to meet a number of requirements, such as guaranteeing 100% blood and injection safety, supplying injectable drug users with at least 150 needles or syringes annually, diagnosing and treating more than 80% of people with chronic hepatitis C virus (HCV), and setting up a surveillance program for liver cancer and other hepatitis sequelae.
- **Exemplary Outcomes:** Egypt has surpassed the WHO's gold tier targets by diagnosing 87% of its hepatitis C patients and treating 93% of those cases with curative therapy.

**How did Egypt achieve this?**

- **"100 Million Healthy Lives" Initiative:** According to the Africa CDC, Egypt's bold program significantly decreased the prevalence of hepatitis C, which was 10% in 2016 and down to 5% in 2018 and less than 1% in 2019.
- **Leadership Role:** Egypt offers assistance to other African nations in an effort to duplicate its accomplishments in the eradication of hepatitis C, including expanding access to reasonably priced treatment.

**How do some Cancer Cells survive Chemotherapy?**

A new study by researchers at the Netherlands Cancer Institute examined drug resistance in cancer cells, with a particular emphasis on resistance to the medication taxol. It examined the relationship between chemotherapy and cancer recurrence, specifically when a tiny percentage of cancer cells evade treatment and go dormant, which may trigger a disease comeback.

**Chemotherapy and its limitations**

- Uncontrolled and fast cell division is a hallmark of cancer cells.
- Chemotherapeutic medications work to stop this proliferation by frequently causing apoptosis, or programmed cell death, in reaction to stopped cell division.
- Unfortunately, there are negative side effects from this method as well, as it affects healthy dividing cells.

**Fine-Tuning Cancer Treatment**

- Finding an adequate medication dosage that eradicates cancer cells while limiting excruciating side effects for patients is a difficulty faced by oncologists.
- The creation of antibody-drug conjugates (ADCs), which target particular proteins mostly present on cancer cells while sparing non-cancerous cells, has been one strategy.

**Unraveling Drug Resistance**

- **P-gp Protein:** P-gp, or permeability glycoprotein, is a protein that functions as a pump to evacuate harmful substances, such as chemotherapy drugs, from cancer cells. This allows some cancer cells to evade medication therapies.

- **ABCB1 Gene:** The ABCB1 gene regulates the production of P-gp. Cells that overproduce P-gp are able to drain away chemotherapeutic medicines, preventing them from building up to the necessary amounts to cause apoptosis.

**Role of Cellular Location**

- **Recent Findings:** The placement of the ABCB1 gene within the cell nucleus is critical for understanding how sensitive cells are to Taxol.
- **Nuclear Envelope:** The ABCB1 gene is situated in close proximity to the nuclear envelope in cells that are sensitive. The amount of RNA connected to the ABCB1 gene has increased 100-fold in resistant cells as a result of the gene's detachment from the envelope and subsequent movement inside the nucleus.

**Key Protein: Lamin B Receptor (LBR)**

- **Influence of Lamin B Receptor (LBR):** Researchers have shown that the ABCB1 gene's position is influenced by the presence or lack of a protein known as LBR.
- **LBR depletion:** When cells are exposed to Taxol, they can activate the ABCB1 gene. Nevertheless, ABCB1 expression does not increase right away when the LBR gene is absent, suggesting the presence of other mechanisms.
- **Diverse Reactions:** The many ways that different cancer types react to LBR depletion underscore the intricate processes that control gene expression and silencing.
- **An example that highlights the diversity is this one:** While different cancer cell types rely on different ways to bind genes to the nuclear envelope, bathrooms offer a variety of alternatives for drying clothes.

**Significance**

- These results highlight the need for more investigation into the various mechanisms by which cancer cells express or repress genes.
- By comprehending the mechanisms underlying drug resistance, solutions to preserve the effectiveness of anti-cancer medications while

reducing their negative effects can be developed, ultimately helping patients on their road to recovery.

**Places in news: Edakkal Caves**



Kerala Tourism has launched a project to improve civic amenities around the Edakkal Caves in Wayanad, known for its rock art from prehistoric times.

**About Edakkal Caves**

- The Edakkal Caves are located on Ambukutty Mala, a notable hill in the area, in Kerala's Wayanad district.
- It's not your average cave; rather, it's a naturally occurring fissure, cleft, or rock shelter formed when a chunk of rock splits off from the main body.
- British police officer Fred Fawcett made the discovery in 1890.
- The locals believe that Rama's sons, Lava and Kusha, formed the caves, also known as "Ampukuthy Mala," by shooting arrows at the mountain.

**Significance of the caves**

- **Historical Significance:** The caverns have historical significance since they are located close to an old trade route that links the ports of the Malabar Coast with the high mountains of Mysore.
- **Writings in Pictures:** The Edakkal Caves include visual records from the Neolithic era that are thought to have been created at least 6,000 BCE.



- Unusual Stone Age Carvings: These are the sole known examples of Mesolithic-era sculptures from South India and are extremely rare.
- Cultural Significance: The discovered petroglyphs show a rich cultural and historical legacy, including human and animal figures,

objects used by people, and mysterious symbols that have not yet been decoded.

- Indus Valley Connection: There has been conjecture on a potential link to the Indus Valley civilization as a result of some of the paintings discovered in the Edakkal Caves, especially those depicting a "man with jar cup."

## Security Issues

### UAPA invoked against Media agency



#### Why in news?

- Reports against NewsClick: According to the NewsClick Federal Investigation Report, the company received illicit funds from China via the United States.
- Provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA): The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FIR) makes reference to multiple sections of the UAPA, primarily to Section 16, which addresses the penalties for terrorist acts.

#### Understanding UAPA Provisions

##### \*Section 15 – Definition of "Terrorist Act"

- The UAPA's Section 15 defines "terrorist act" and stipulates minimum five-year to life imprisonment. When an act results in death, the penalty is either death or life in jail.
- Acts of a grave and violent nature that could jeopardize India's sovereignty, unity, integrity, security, or economy are included in this section.
- It include acts like utilizing explosives, causing property damage or fatalities, stopping vital

services, and undermining the stability of the currency through counterfeiting.

#### Other UAPA Provisions Invoked

- Unlawful conduct (Section 13): This section addresses unlawful conduct and their repercussions.
- The topic of raising money for terrorist acts is covered in Section 17: Raising Funds for Terrorist Acts.
- Section 18: Conspiracy: Terrorist act-related conspiracy is covered in this section.
- Section 22(C) - Offenses by Companies, Trusts: This section addresses offenses carried out by trusts and companies.
- cited sections of the IPC: IPC sections 120B (criminal conspiracy) and 153 A (promoting hatred between different communities) are also included in the FIR.

#### Understanding the UAPA Framework

- Distinctive Criminal Law Framework: The UAPA offers a criminal law framework that is distinct from the fundamental ideas of criminal law.
- Enhanced State Powers: The UAPA gives the state more authority than the Indian Penal Code (IPC).
- Bail Provisions: The UAPA loosens the deadlines for the state to file chargesheets while imposing strict bail requirements.
- Refusing Bail: The court must present a "prima facie" case against the accused in order to refuse bail under the UAPA.
- Prima Facie Definition: The Supreme Court provided a restricted definition of "prima facie"

in 2019, holding that the court must take the "totality of the case" as put out by the state rather than examining the facts or evidence.

- Paragraph 43D(5): According to this clause, if the Public Prosecutor hasn't been consulted regarding the application for release, a person who is charged with a crime under Chapters IV or VI of the UAPA will not be released on bail or their own bond.

- Opinion of the Court: If the court determines that there are good reasons to suspect that the charges against the accused are initially accurate, it may refuse to grant bail.

### Conclusion

- The FIR against NewsClick under the UAPA underscores the seriousness of the allegations and the complex legal framework surrounding such cases.



The

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