

April 2023

BOLT

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Banking & Finance

1. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) foundation day | April 1

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has turned 88.
- The Indian Central Bank was established on April 1, 1935.
- RBI was established in response to the Hilton Young Commission's recommendations.
- The Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 (II of 1934) establishes the legal framework for the Bank's operations, which began on April 1, 1935.

2. Aditya Birla Health Insurance inks bancassurance partnership with UCO Bank

- Aditya Birla Health Insurance Co Ltd (ABHICL), the health insurance joint venture of Aditya Birla Capital Ltd. (ABCL) has announced its bancassurance partnership with leading public sector lender, UCO Bank, for the distribution of health insurance products through the bank's branches across India.

3. India Post Payments Bank launches WhatsApp Banking Services

- India Post Payments Bank (IPPB), in collaboration with Airtel, has launched WhatsApp Banking Services to provide easy and convenient banking services to its customers.
- With this new service, customers can now easily access various banking services from their WhatsApp account.
- IPPB is a public sector bank that was launched in 2018.

4. Axis Bank, Shriram Housing Finance enter into co-lending pact

- Axis Bank has entered into a co-lending pact with housing finance company Shriram Housing Finance Limited (SHFL), through the YubiCo.Lend platform.
- Both the lenders will offer secured MSME and home loans to middle and low-income borrowers in rural and semi-urban regions.
- SHFL MD & CEO: Ravi Subramanian
- SHFL HQ: Chennai.

5. SEBI Approves Setting Up Rs 33,000-Crore Rescue Facility For Debt Mutual Funds

- SEBI approved the setting up of the corporate debt market development fund--an alternative investment fund that will act as a backstop facility for investment-grade corporate debt from specified mutual fund schemes during times of stress.
- The initial corpus of the fund will be Rs 3,000 crore, which will be contributed by asset management companies.
- "Corporate Debt Market Development Fund (CDMF), based on a guarantee to be

provided by National Credit Guarantee Trust Company, may raise funds for purchase of corporate debt securities during market dislocation,".

- The backstop facility will be managed by **SBI Mutual Fund**.

6. RBI releases data on India's International Investment Position for the end of December 2022

- The RBI released data on India's International Investment Position (IIP) for the end of December 2022.
- As per data released, net claims of non-residents in India declined by USD 12.0 billion during October-December 2022 and stood at USD 374.5 billion at end of December 2022. Further, trade credits & loans were primary contributors to rise in India's foreign liabilities.

Key Features of India's IIP in end-December 2022

- Net claims of non-residents on India declined by US\$ 12.0 billion during October-December 2022 and stood at US\$ 374.5 billion as at end-December 2022.
- The reduction in net claims was due to higher rise in Indian residents' overseas financial assets (US\$ 28.7 billion) as compared with the increase in foreign liabilities of Indians (US\$ 16.7 billion)
- The rise in Indian residents' foreign assets during Q3:2022-23 was mainly on account of an increase of US\$ 30.0 billion in reserve assets, which had earlier declined by US\$ 56.5 billion in the previous quarter.
- Reserve assets accounted for 64.3 per cent of India's international financial assets as at end-December 2022.
- Trade credits and loans were primary contributors to the rise in India's foreign liabilities.
- Variation in the exchange rate of rupee vis-a-vis other currencies impacted the change in liabilities, when valued in the US dollar terms, as the rupee depreciated by 1.49 per cent during the quarter.
- The share of debt liabilities in total external liabilities increased to 50.2 per cent as at end-December 2022 from 49.8 per cent a quarter ago and 48.4 per cent a year ago.

- India's international assets covered 70.0 per cent of India's international liabilities in December 2022 as compared with 72.5 per cent a year earlier.

7. Axis Bank launches business management solution for merchants

- Axis Bank in partnership with Visa launched an app that will empower merchants to accept payments through various digital modes and also enable them to manage their day-to-day business digitally.
- The app 'Digital Dukaan' has been specifically designed to address business requirements such as accepting digital payments, inventory management and billing.

8. Karur Vysya Bank ties up with SBI Life to market insurance schemes

- Karur Vysya Bank Ltd. (KVB) has entered into a pact with SBI Life Insurance to market the latter's insurance schemes through its branches.
- KVB is a major player in the South with strong presence in urban, semi-urban and rural locations.
- SBI Life Insurance would leverage the strengths of the bank to market its schemes.

9. DBS Bank India launches 'digiPortfolio' - Asian Wealth Management and Asian Private Banking

- DBS Bank India has announced an innovative investment solution, 'digiPortfolio', on its digibank platform.
- digiPortfolio uses both technology and human expertise to create a set of investment options curated by Morningstar that match the risk preferences of different investors.
- The platform is an easy, one-stop solution for users to invest money with ready-made baskets of mutual funds.
- DBS Bank India is one of the first banks in India to offer this type of digital solution.

10. Citi launches its branch in GIFT IFSC; to offer financing solutions

- Citi launched its branch at Gujarat International Financial Tec-City 'International Financial Services Center (GIFT-IFSC).
- This branch will offer corporate clients long- and short-term financing solutions through the IFSC branch, while providing an international financial banking experience within the India Standard Time (IST) zone.
- Ashu Khullar, CEO, Citi India.

11. RBI's retail pilot of the digital rupee goes live in 4 metro cities

- The pilot for retail digital rupee was launched on 1 December, 2022 in Mumbai, New Delhi, Bengaluru and Bhubaneswar.
- The retail digital rupee project saw participation of four leading lenders, including State Bank of India (SBI), ICICI Bank, Yes Bank and IDFC First Bank.
- According to the note, the Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) is RBI's official form of currency.
- It is known as the Digital Rupee or e-Rupee, is interchangeable one-to-one at par with the fiat currency and is the same as a sovereign currency.

12. Bank of Maharashtra launches digitised personal loans

- Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) has launched in select regions, a digitised personal loan for customers and enhanced its WhatsApp banking with the addition of 'apply for loan' and 'loan balance inquiry features' as part of its ease of banking initiative for customers.
- To make customer journey more efficient and strengthen bank's digitization journey, the bank launched, end-to-end digitised personal loans for customers in several regions viz. Pune region (Pune West, Pune City & Pune East), Bengaluru, Kolkata, Patna and Chandigarh, BoM said in a statement.

13. SBI to launch new current accounts and savings accounts in FY24 to attract deposits

- The State Bank of India (SBI) is planning to launch new variants of current account (with balances of '50,000 and '50 lakh) and 'Parivar' (family) savings account in FY24 to minimise the gap between deposit growth and credit growth.
- The new plans come in the wake of deposit growth lagging credit growth over the last few quarters.

14. ICICI Bank introduces EMI facility for UPI payments by scanning QR

- ICICI Bank announced that it has introduced easy EMI facility for UPI payments made by scanning QR code.
- Customers eligible for PayLater, the Bank's 'buy now, pay later' service can avail of the EMI facility in an instant, easy & seamless manner.
- Through this facility, ICICI Bank customers can pay transaction amounts above Rs 10,000 in easy instalments in 3, 6, or 9 months.
- "This first-of-its-kind facility enhances affordability of lakhs of the Bank's customers as they can now instantly buy products or services just by scanning the required merchant QR code at a store and making payments in EMIs."

15. Reserve Bank announces framework for acceptance of Green Deposits

- With a view to foster and develop a green finance eco-system in India, the Reserve Bank has put in place a framework for acceptance of Green Deposits.
- In a statement, RBI has said that the financial sector can play a pivotal role in mobilizing and allocating resources for green activities/projects.
- As per the framework, entities regulated by RBI can accept green deposits from customers and the proceeds shall be allocated for projects undertaken in sectors like renewable energy, energy efficiency, promoting climate resilience, and improvement of natural ecosystems and biodiversity.

16. NSE Indices Launches Nifty REITs & InvITs Index

- The National Stock Exchange's index services subsidiary, the NSE Indices Limited, 2023 launched India's first-ever Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) and Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs) Index 'the Nifty REITs & InvITs Index'.
- The Nifty REITs & InvITs index will track the performance of REITs and InvITs that are publicly listed and traded at the NSE

17. Sebi logo gets a new look on 35th foundation day

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) unveiled its new logo at a ceremony marking the regulatory body's 35th foundation day in Mumbai on April 12.
- The new SEBI logo retains its traditional blue colour palette, while also reflecting the "aspiration of a new and modern nation that works for the prosperity of every Indian".

18. Canara Bank, Bharat BillPay Tie Up For Cross Border Bill Payments For Indian Diaspora In Oman

- Canara Bank and NPCI Bharat BillPay Ltd (NBBL) have announced the launch of cross-border inward bill payment services for Indians based in Oman.
- NRIs can now leverage the robust platform offered by the Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS) to make bill payments on behalf of their families through the Musandam Exchange.
- This initiative signifies a milestone for Canara Bank as the first public sector bank in India to offer inbound cross-border bill payments through BBPS.
- With the development, Indians living in Oman will now be able to make quick, simple and secure payments of bills for services back home.

19. HDFC Bank Signs Agreement With Export Import Bank Of Korea For \$300 Million Credit Line

- HDFC Bank announced that it has signed a "Master Inter Bank Credit Agreement" with Export Import Bank of Korea for a \$300 million line of credit.
- The pact was signed by the two entities at GIFT City in Gujarat's capital Gandhinagar.
- This agreement will help HDFC Bank raise foreign currency funds which it would extend to Korea-related businesses.

20. YES Bank first Indian company with over 50 lakh shareholders

- Private sector lender YES Bank has become the first Indian company to have over 50 lakh shareholders, according to the shareholding pattern of the bank on March-end.
- Tata Power was a far second with 38.5 lakh shareholders, followed by Reliance Industries with 33.6 lakh shareholders, according to the December 2022 shareholding disclosures.

21. Market regulator Sebi sets up framework for upfront collection of funds

- Markets regulator SEBI put in place a framework for upfront collection of funds from eligible issuers of debt securities to build the Settlement Guarantee Fund of the Limited Purpose Clearing Corporation.
- The eligible issuers would be notified by the LPCC as per its risk management policy.

About LPCC:

- LPCC is an entity established to undertake the activity of clearing and settlement of repurchase agreement transactions.
- Under the framework, SEBI said that an amount of 0.5 basis points of the issuance value of debt securities per annum based on the maturity of debt securities will be collected by the stock exchanges and placed in an escrow account before the allotment of the debt securities.
- This amount is applicable on a public issue or private placement of debt securities.
- The stock exchanges would transfer the amounts so collected to the bank account of the LPCC within one working day of the receipt of the amount and inform the details of the same to the LPCC.
- The new framework will come into force from May 1, the regulator said.

- In its board meeting in September 2020, SEBI had approved a proposal to facilitate the setting up of an LPCC. The board had also decided that an amount of 0.5 basis points of the issuance value of debt securities per annum be collected upfront before the listing of such securities to build the Settlement Guarantee Fund of the LPCC.
- AMC Repo Clearing Limited (ARCL) has been granted recognition as LPCC by SEBI. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) also gave necessary approvals to ARCL to function as a Clearing Corporation with a limited purpose and to offer central counterparty services for repo transactions in debt securities.

22. Blackstone arm to launch India's first retail REIT, raise Rs 4,000 cr

- Global investment firm Blackstone is planning to launch the first retail REIT through its Nexus Select Trust early next month in India. The retail REIT public offer is expected to raise around Rs 4,000 crore, of which Rs 1,600 crore would be primary public offerings. Earlier, Blackstone had launched Embassy REIT in 2019 and Mindspace REIT in 2021.

About Retail REITs

- Retail REITs own and manage retail real estate and rent space in those properties to tenants
- Retail REITs include REITs that focus on large regional malls, outlet centers, grocery-anchored shopping centers and power centers that feature big box retailers.

23. SBI reintroduces 400 days 'Amrit Kalash' retail term deposit scheme

- State Bank of India has reintroduced retail term deposit scheme 'Amrit Kalash' of 400 days tenure at 7.10 per cent interest rate. The scheme is available from April 12, 2023 till June 30, 2023.
- Senior citizens will get additional interest of 50 basis points on the scheme.
- The interest will be payable on a monthly, quarterly, or half-yearly basis under Amrit Kalash.

24. CBIC likely to introduce new system of publishing daily currency exchange rates

- The CBIC is likely to soon introduce a system of publishing daily currency exchange rates on the integrated customs

portal, replacing the existing system of notifying rates fortnightly.

- The move would help capture daily exchange rate fluctuations and help importers and exporters to precisely calculate customs duties based on daily exchange rate.
- Currently, Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) manually notifies exchange rates of 22 currencies every fortnight -- 1st and 3rd Thursday of a month -- based of rates obtained from the State Bank of India (SBI).
- The rate notified comes into effect from midnight of the following day.

25. Canara HSBC Life Insurance Launches Pension Plan With Flexible Premiums, Annuities

- The Canara HSBC Life Insurance Company has launched a 'Smart Guaranteed Pension' plan offering flexibility in premium paying terms and guaranteed regular income.
- The Single Life Annuity plan under this scheme offers a fixed amount of money for the rest of your life.
- Customers can choose the premium amount and frequency based on their financial goals at the time of purchase.
- The premium payment tenure ranges from four to 10 years.
- The customer also has the option to choose the deferment period, the period from the commencement of the policy till they get the first annuity payment.
- The subscribers can also choose the frequency of their annuity payouts, i.e., monthly, quarterly, half-yearly or annually.
- A loan facility is available under all annuity options during the deferment period, provided the policy has acquired the Special Surrender Value. The policy acquires a special surrender value after payment of at least two full years' premium.
- The policyholder can avail of a loan up to 80 per cent of the surrender value subject to a minimum loan amount of Rs. 50,000

26. City Union Bank launches India's 1st Voice Biometric Authentication Banking App

- Kumbakonam - headquartered City Union Bank Limited (CUB) has launched a facility through which customers can now use Voice Biometric authentication for logging into the mobile banking app.
- The voice biometric service was developed by Chennai-based deeptech start-up, Kaizen Secure Voiz Pvt Ltd, under the guidance of the 5G use case lab of IDRBT.
- Institute for Development and Research in Banking Technology (IDRBT) is an RBI established institution focussed on research in banking technologies.

27. RBI imposes penalty on four cooperative banks for violation of various norms

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed penalties on four cooperative banks Bombay Mercantile Co-operative Bank, Tamil Nadu State Apex Co-operative Bank, Janata Sahakari Bank and Baran NagrikSahkari Bank for contravention of various norms.
- The Reserve Bank has imposed penalties totalling Rs 44 lakh on four cooperative banks, including a Rs 16 lakh penalty on Chennai-based The Tamil Nadu State Apex Co-operative Bank, for contravention of various norms.
- A penalty of Rs 13 lakh has been imposed on Bombay Mercantile Co-operative Bank as it failed to transfer eligible amount to Depositor Education and Awareness Fund (DEAF) within the prescribed period and transferred the same with delay.
- The central bank said a penalty of Rs 13 crore has been imposed on Janata Sahakari Bank, Pune for non-compliance with directions on 'Interest Rate on Deposits'

28. RBI cancels Adoor Co-operative Urban Bank's banking licence, allows to operate as NBFC

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) directed Kerala-based Adoor Co-operative Urban Bank to function only as a non-banking institution.
- Accordingly, the RBI cancelled the banking licence dated January 03, 1987 granted to the TheAdoor Co-operative Urban Bank.
- The cancellation of licence is with effect from the close of business on April 24, 2023.

29. SEBI bans brokers from creating bank guarantees on clients' funds

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India(Sebi) barred stock brokers from pledging clients' funds with banks.
- At present, stock brokers and clearing members pledge clients funds with banks which in turn issue bank guarantees to clearing corporations for higher amounts.
- All existing bank guarantees created out of clients' funds should be wound down by September 30, 2023.

30. Reliance General To Accept CBDC E-Rupee Through Yes Bank

- Reliance General Insurance has become a forerunner general insurance company in the country to accept the Reserve Bank of India's Central Bank Digital Currency e-Rupee for premium payments.
- The company has tied up with Yes Bank to facilitate the collection of premiums in the

digital mode using the bank's eRupee platform.

- Customers who have an active e-wallet with any bank can scan Reliance General Insurance's eRupee QR code to make immediate payment.
- With this pioneering launch, the company is presenting its customers with an easy, safe, instant and green payment solution, and taking its promise of providing excellent customer experience to the next level.

31. Indian banks' bad loans drop to 4.4% of total assets, says RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das.

- Indian banks have stayed resilient and bad loans have fallen substantially, according to Reserve Bank of India Governor Shaktikanta Das.
- The gross non-performing assets ratio of banks have fallen to 4.41% at end-2022.
- This is the lowest since March 2015 and compares with 5.8% in end-March 2022 and 7.3% as of March 31, 2021.
- The capital adequacy ratio of banks stood at 16.1% at the end of December, well above the regulatory requirement.

32. RBI launches the May 2023 round of Consumer Confidence Survey

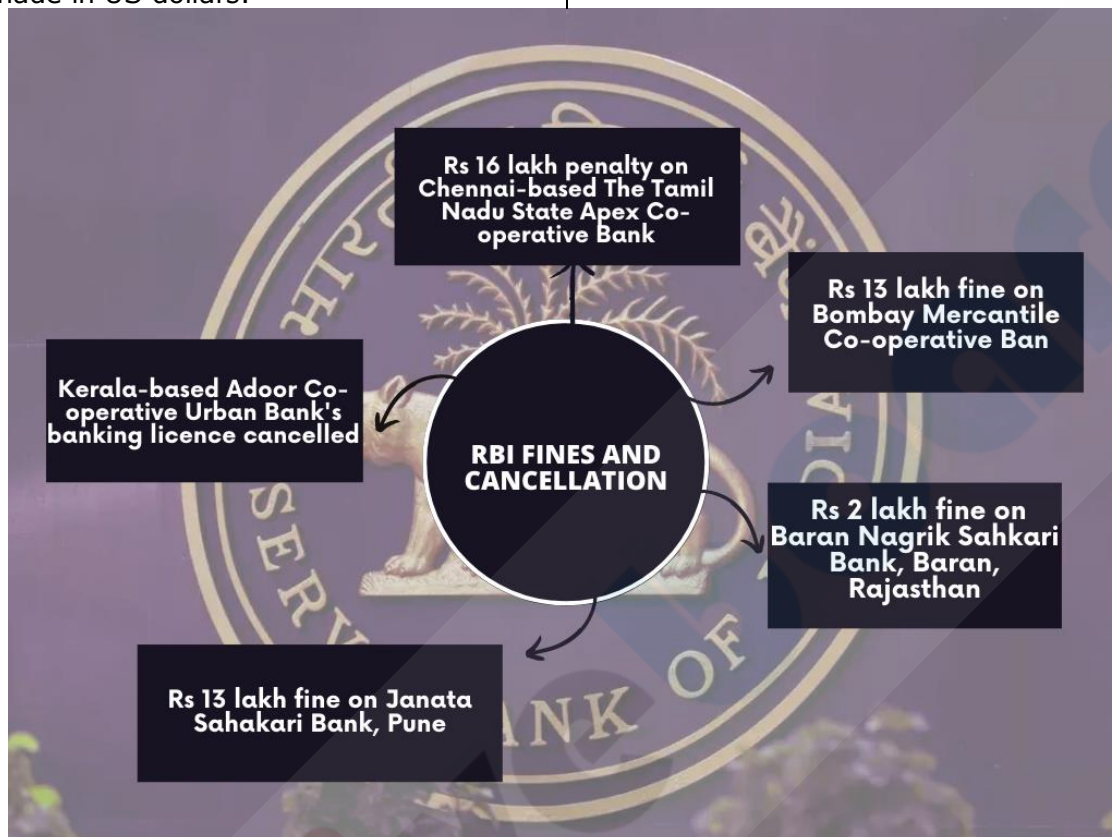
- The survey seeks qualitative responses from households, regarding their sentiments on the general economic situation, employment scenario, price level, households' income, and spending.
- M/s Hansa Research Group Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai has been engaged to conduct the survey of this round on behalf of the Reserve Bank of India.
- The results of this survey provide useful inputs for monetary policy.
- The survey is conducted regularly in 19 cities, viz., Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Bhopal, Bhubaneswar, Chandigarh, Chennai, Delhi, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Jammu, Kolkata, Lucknow, Mumbai, Nagpur, Patna, Raipur, Ranchi and Thiruvananthapuram.

33. Banks end FY23 with a robust 15.4 pc credit growth: RBI Data

- Scheduled commercial banks (SCBs) reported a robust credit growth of 15.4 per cent in FY23 against 9.7 per cent in FY22, powered by growth in personal loans, and loans to services sector and agriculture and allied activities.
- Personal loans registered a growth of 20.6 per cent in FY23 as compared with 12.6 per cent in the year ago period, primarily driven by 'housing loans'

34. State-owned NBFC firm REC raises \$750 mn through issuance of green bonds

- State-owned non-banking finance firm REC Ltd has raised USD 750 million through issuance of green bonds.
- These bonds will mature on April 11, 2028, and all principal and interest payments will be made in US dollars.
- These bonds will be listed on Global Securities Market of India International Exchange (India INX) and NSE IFSC.



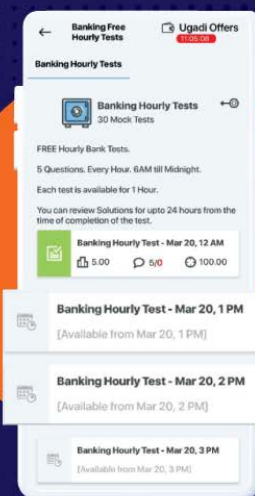
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Economy

1. Output of eight core industries jumps 6% in February, dip in crude oil

- Combined index for 8 core industries rose 6% in February as compared last year.
- According to data released by the Centre, the production of Fertilizers, Coal, Electricity, Cement, Steel, Refinery Products and Natural Gas increased in February 2023 over the corresponding month of last year.
- The only industry that saw a fall in production was crude oil.
- At 22.2 per cent year-on-year (YoY), the sharpest jump was noted in fertiliser production.
- It was followed by an 8.5 per cent jump in coal production and 7.6 per cent in electricity generation.
- The production in cement and steel industries grew 7.3 and 6.9 per cent respectively.
- The Eight Core Industries comprise 40.27 per cent of the weight of items included in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP).
- The index measures combined and individual performance of production of eight core industries namely Coal, Crude Oil, Natural Gas, Refinery Products, Fertilizers, Steel, Cement and Electricity.

2. India's Current Account Deficit Narrows To 2.2% Of GDP In Q3 FY23

- India's current account deficit continued to narrow in the December quarter amid lower merchandise trade deficit, coupled with robust services and private transfer receipts.
- India's current account deficit declined to \$18.2 billion (2.2% of GDP) in Q3 FY23 from \$30.9 billion (3.7% of GDP) in Q2 FY23 and \$22.2 billion (2.7% of GDP) a year ago.

Other Key Highlights

- Net outgo from the primary income account, mainly reflecting investment income payments, increased to \$12.7 billion from \$11.5 billion a year ago.
- Private transfer receipts, mainly representing remittances by Indians employed overseas, amounted to \$30.8 billion—an increase of 31.7% from their level a year ago.
- In the financial account, net foreign direct investment decreased to \$2.1 billion from \$4.6 billion a year ago.
- Net foreign portfolio investment recorded inflows of \$4.6 billion, as against an outflow of \$5.8 billion in Q3FY22.

- Net external commercial borrowings to India recorded an outflow of \$2.6 billion in Q3 FY23 as compared with an outflow of \$0.4 billion a year ago. Non-resident deposits recorded net inflows of \$2.6 billion as compared with net inflows of \$1.3 billion in Q3 FY22.
- Non-resident deposits recorded net inflows of \$2.6 billion as compared with net inflows of \$1.3 billion in Q3 FY22.
- There was an accretion to foreign exchange reserves (on a BoP basis) to the tune of \$11.1 billion in Q3 FY23 as compared with an accretion of \$0.5 billion in Q3 FY22.

3. India's March GST collection rises to second-highest Rs 1.60 lakh crore

- India's gross collection from Goods and Services Tax rose 13% from a year earlier to Rs 1,60,122 crore, registering 2nd highest collection since implementation of GST in July 2017.
- Gross GST collections crossed Rs 1.5 lakh crore mark for a month for the 4th time in the last financial year.
- Gross GST collection in the last fiscal year rose 22% on year to Rs 18.10 lakh crore.

4. Gross Direct Tax collections for Financial Year 2022-23 register over 20 per cent growth

- Gross Direct Tax collections for the Financial Year 2022-23 stood at 19.68 lakh crore Rupees registering a growth of over 20 percent.
- Provisional figures issued by the Ministry of Finance showed that the net collection for the Financial year 2022-23 are at 16.61 lakh crore rupees, representing an increase of 17.63 percent, as compared to preceding Financial Year 2021-22,
- Direct Tax collections for the Financial Year 2022-23 also exceed the Union Budget Estimates by 2.41 lakh crore rupees, which have exceeded by 16.97 percent.
- The Budget Estimates for Direct Tax revenue in the Union Budget for 2022-23 were fixed at Rs.14.20 lakh crore, which were revised and the Revised Estimates (RE) were fixed at 16.50 lakh crore.

5. Highest direct tax buoyancy in 15 years in FY22, shows CBDT data

- Direct tax buoyancy, which measures growth in the collection of personal income tax and corporation tax against the rise in

GDP, increased to 2.52 in FY22, the highest in the last 15 years, according to the time series data the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) released.

- Higher buoyancy reflects greater efficiency in tax collection.
- The CBDT highlighted the data for 22 years beginning 2000-21, and the highest buoyancy — 2.59 — was recorded in FY03 while it turned negative (-1.21) in FY20.

6. Country's overall exports register growth of 13.84 percent in 2022-23 over 2021-22

- The country's overall exports are projected to scale new heights in the financial year 2022-23 registering a growth of 13.84 percent over the financial year 2021-22.
- It is estimated to achieve 770.18 US billion dollars' worth of exports in the last financial year despite the global headwinds and steady domestic demand.
- According to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, merchandise exports have registered the highest ever annual exports of over 447 US billion dollars with over six percent growth during the financial year 2022-23.

7. Indian fintech start-up funding falls 55% YoY in Q1 2023, says report

- Indian fintech start-ups raised \$1.2 billion in the first quarter of 2023, down 55 per cent year-on-year (YoY) due to rising inflation and high interest rates.
- India was still the second-highest funded "geography" in the world, behind the US, in Q1 2023.
- It occupies a spot in the top five geographies in terms of total funding activities.

8. India's forex reserves up \$6.31 billion to \$584.76 billion, at 9-month high

- India's foreign exchange reserves increased by \$6.3 billion to jump to \$584.76 billion for the week ended 7 April, the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) statistical supplement showed.
- This the highest in nine months. Gold reserves rose by \$1.496 billion to \$46.696 billion, the RBI said.
- The Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) were up by \$58 million to \$18.45 billion.
- The four components of forex reserves are **foreign currency assets, gold, special drawing rights and the reserve position in the International Monetary Fund.**

9. Exports, trade gap hit record high in FY23

- India's merchandise exports rose 6% to \$447 billion during 2022-23, buoyed by outbound shipments of petroleum, pharma, chemicals and marine goods, official data released showed.

- Imports grew 16.5% to \$714 billion in 2022-23 against \$613 billion in 2021-22, leaving a record trade deficit in goods of \$266.78 billion in the year.
- The trade deficit widened to a three-month high of \$19.7 billion in March as exports contracted 14%.

10. India likely to move to upper-middle-income category by 2047: Bibek Debroy

- Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM) Chairman Bibek Debroy said that some states in India are already in the high-income category in purchasing power parity (PPP) terms, and the country is likely to move to the upper-middle-income country by 2047.
- According to the World Bank's definition, a country with a per capita annual income of over USD 12,000 is considered as a higher-income nation.
- India, which is the world's fifth largest economy, is currently classified as a developing nation.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has set an ambitious target of making India a developed nation by 2047.

11. Personal Income Tax To GDP Ratio Rises To 2.94% In FY22

- Personal income tax as a percentage of GDP has gone up from 2.11% in 2014-15 to 2.94% in 2021-22 fiscal, indicating that taxpayer base is widening.
- The personal income tax collection (including Securities Transaction Tax) increased to over Rs 6.96 lakh crore, from over Rs 2.65 lakh crore in 2014-15.

12. Index of Eight Core Industries increases by 3.6 percent in March 2023

- The combined Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI) increased by 3.6 percent (provisional) in March 2023 as compared to the Index of March 2022.
- The production of Coal, Fertilizers, Steel, Natural Gas, and Refinery Products increased in March 2023 over the corresponding month of last year.
- ICI measures combined and individual performance of the production of eight core industries viz. Coal, Crude Oil, Natural Gas, Refinery Products, Fertilizers, Steel, Cement, and Electricity.
- The Eight Core Industries comprise 40.27 percent of the weight of items included in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP).

13. FM Nirmala Sitharaman directs CBIC to implement action plan to increase taxpayer base through enhanced use of technology

- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has directed the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) to implement an action plan to increase the taxpayer base through

enhanced use of technology. Ms Sitharaman said this while chairing a review meeting with CBIC in New Delhi.

- During the meeting, the Finance Minister was briefed on the final revenue achievement in total Indirect Tax collections for 2022-23.
- It stood at Rs 13 lakh 82 thousand crore, as against Rs 12 lakh 89 thousand crore in 2021-22.

- On the GST side, the average gross monthly collection for the year 2022-23 stood at Rs one lakh 51 thousand crore.
- The monthly GST revenue collections exceeded Rs one lakh 40 thousand crore for 12 months in a row. The comprehensive review covered a variety of work areas including trade facilitation, taxpayer services, grievance redressal of the trade, finalisation of disciplinary cases and infrastructure projects.

INDIAN ECONOMY GROWTH PREDICTIONS



The International Monetary Fund (IMF) lowered projection for the current financial year to 5.9% from its earlier estimate of 6.1%



Lowers India FY24 growth forecast to 6.3% from 6.6%



RBI's rate-setting panel has projected India's real GDP to grow at 6.5% in FY24 from 6.4% forecast earlier.

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National

1. European Commission grants GI tag for Himachal's Kangra tea

- The European Commission (EC) has granted protected geographical indication (PGI) for India's unique Kangra tea, which is grown in Himachal Pradesh's Kangra district.
- The EC notified granting PGI on March 22 and this will come into effect from April 11, 2023.

About Kangra Tea:

- Grown since the mid-19th Century, Kangra tea is known for its unique flavour and taste.
- Grown since the mid-19th Century, Kangra tea is known for its unique flavour and taste. It is available as black and green teas.
- According to the Tea Board, Kangra tea is grown at an elevation ranging from 900 to 1,400 metres above sea level with the annual rainfall being 270-350 cm.
- The history of Kangra tea dates back to 1849 when Dr Jameson, then superintendent of the Botanical Tea Gardens, pronounced the region ideal for tea cultivation.
- Being one of India's smallest tea regions makes Kangra green and black teas all the more exclusive.

2. Department of Financial Services (DFS) launches 3-months-long campaign to boost micro-insurance Schemes at Gram Panchayat level

- In order to achieve saturation under Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY) and Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), an intensive three months saturation campaign is being rolled out from 01.04.2023 to 30.06.2023 by the Department of Financial Services (DFS), Ministry of Finance.
- PMJJBY provides insurance cover of Rs.2 lakh in the event of death due to any reason whereas PMSBY provides accidental insurance cover of Rs.2 lakh for death or full permanent disability and Rs.1 lakh in case of partial permanent disability.

3. PNGRB amends regulation to allow unified tariff for natural gas pipelines

- Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) notified a levelized unified tariff of '73.93 per metric million British thermal unit (MMBTU) and created three tariff zones for unified tariff, where the first zone is up to a distance of 300 kms from

gas source, second zone is 300 ' 1200 kms and third zone is beyond 1200 kms.

- The zonal unified tariffs are effective from 1 April 2023.

4. Rajya Sabha passes Competition Amendment Bill, 2023

- The Rajya Sabha has approved the Competition Amendment Bill, 2023, which seeks to reform the two-decade-old anti-trust law to make it in sync with the shifts in the economy.
- Having been cleared in both Houses of Parliament, the Bill is set to become law once it gets Presidential assent. Lok Sabha passed the Bill last week.
- A major change introduced by the Bill is to expedite the Competition Commission of India's (CCI) process of approving mergers and acquisitions.
- The Bill seeks to reduce the overall time limit for CCI to assess a deal from the existing 210 days to 150 days from the date of parties notifying the deal to the CCI.
- Also, CCI has to frame a first impression of transactions within 30 days of receiving such notice, failing which the deal will be deemed approved.
- The Bill also expands the scope of the regulatory framework of competition regulation.
- A party which participates or intends to participate in an anti-competitive agreement will also be covered along with parties to such an agreement.
- Besides, a limitation period of three years for filing information before CCI is introduced to ensure that only genuine cases that adversely affect competition in the market are considered by the Commission.

5. Adani's Dhamra LNG terminal in Odisha receives 1st cargo

- Mumbai Dhamra Port in Odisha, a unit of APSEZ, has marked the start of its LNG import terminal by receiving its first cargo aboard carrier Milaha Ras Laffan .
- According to industry officials, Dharma terminal will be able to berth the widest range of LNG vessels all year around and transport LNG/gas via pipelines or trucks

6. Second G-20 EMPOWER meeting of Ministry of Women & Child Development begins in Thiruvananthapuram

- The Second G20 EMPOWER (Empowerment and Progression of Women's Economic Representation) meeting of Ministry of Women & Child Development started in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala .

- The theme of the Meeting is 'Women's Empowerment: A Win-Win for Equity and Economy'.
- The G20 EMPOWER 2023 under India's presidency aims to take forward India's women-led development agenda.

7. Banarasi Paan, Langda Mango, 2 Other Products Awarded Geographical Indication Tag

- Banarasipaana and langda mango of Varanasi have finally been awarded the Geographical Indication (GI) tag which signifies that products from a specific geographical location possess qualities that are due to that origin. RamnagarBhanta (Brinjal) and Adamchini Rice have also been awarded the GI tag.
- Earlier, 18 products from Kashi and the Purvanchal region had GI tags.
- Banaras Brocade and Sarees, Handmade Bhadohi Carpets, Mirzapur Handmade Carpets, Banaras Metal Reposi Craft, Varanasi GulabiMeenakari, Varanasi Wooden lacquerware and Toys, Nizamabad Black Patri, Banaras Glass Beads, Varanasi SoftstoneJaali Work, Ghazipur Wall Hangig, Chunar Sandstone, Chunar Glaze Patari, Gorakhpur Terracotta Craft, Banaras Zardozi, Banaras Hand Block Print, Banaras Wood Carving, Mirzapur Brass Utensils and Mau Saree -18 products from Kashi and the Purvanchal region had GI tags.

8. Following lithium in J&K, large deposits of 15 rare earth elements found in Andhra Pradesh

- Hyderabad-based National Geophysical Research Institute has found large deposits of 15 rare earth elements (REE) in Andhra Pradesh's Anantapur district.
- The major REE identified were allanite, cerite, thorite, columbite, tantalite, apatite, zircon, monazite, pyrochlore euxenite and fluorite.
- REE of the lanthanide series are critical components in many electronic devices like cellphones, televisions, computers, automobiles used daily and in various industrial applications, the report said.

9. Govt unveils plans to add 250GW renewable energy capacity in next 5 years

- The government has announced a plan to add 250 GW of renewable energy capacity in the next five years to achieve its target of 500 GW of clean energy by 2030.
- The government has decided to invite bids for 50 GW of renewable energy capacity annually for the next five years i.e., from Financial Year 2023-24 till Financial Year 2027-28.
- These annual bids of ISTS (Inter-State Transmission) connected renewable energy

capacity will also include setting up of wind power capacity of at least 10 GW per annum.

- India currently has a total renewable energy capacity of 168.96 GW (as of 28th February 2023) with about 82 GW at various stages of implementation and about 41 GW under tendering stage.
- This includes 64.38 GW of Solar Power, 51.79 GW of Hydro Power, 42.02 GW of Wind Power and 10.77 GW of BioPower.

10. Govt approves Kirit Parikh panel recommendations on natural gas pricing

- The government has amended the domestic pricing model of natural gas in line with the recommendations of the Kirit Parikh committee on gas pricing.
- Prices of domestic natural gas will now be announced every month, and be pegged at 10 per cent of the international price of the Indian crude basket.
- Accepting all the major recommendations of the Parikh panel, the government has approved a floor price of \$4 per MMBtu (metric million British thermal units) for the next two years, to cover the cost of gas production by state-run firms Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and Oil India Ltd.
- The ceiling price will be set at \$6.5 per MMBtu.
- The reforms will lead to significant decrease in prices of Piped Natural Gas (PNG) for households and Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) for transport.
- The reduced prices shall also lower the fertilizer subsidy burden and help the domestic power sector, the government said

11. Amit Shah to launch Vibrant Villages Programme along LAC in Arunachal

- Union home minister Amit Shah will visit Kibithoo, a strategically key village near the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Arunachal Pradesh and launch the centrally sponsored 'Vibrant Villages Programme' (VVP) aimed at comprehensive development of villages at India-China border.

12. India to have seven mega textile parks, projects to generate over 20 lakh jobs

- Going big on the textile industry and its Make in India effort, the Indian government has planned to set up seven mega textile parks under PM Mega Integrated Textile Regions and Apparel (PM MITRA) scheme.
- These parks will come up in seven states Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.

13. PM Modi to launch big cats alliance to conserve seven cats

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will launch the International Big Cats Alliance (IBCA) during his visit to Karnataka.
- The launch of the alliance follows the clarion call given by the Prime Minister in July 2019, when he had called for an alliance of global leaders to obliterate demand and firmly curb poaching and illegal wildlife trade in Asia.

14. 16th Finance Commission to be set up by November

- The Centre will set up the Sixteenth Finance Commission (FC) by November to assess the tax resources of the Union government and suggest a formula for their devolution to states and among them, for the five years between FY27-FY31.
- The 16th FC has to submit its report by October 30, 2025 so that it is deliberated on and factored in the Budget for FY27 to be presented on Feb

15. Gold Imports Dip 30% To \$31.8 Billion in April 'February 2023

- India's gold imports, which have a bearing on the current account deficit, fell about 30% to \$31.8 billion during April'February 2023 due to high customs duty and global economic uncertainties, according to data from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- Imports of the yellow metal stood at \$45.2 billion in the corresponding period of 2021'22.
- The significant fall in gold imports though has not helped in narrowing the country's trade deficit—the difference between imports and exports.
- The merchandise trade deficit for April–February 2022–23 was estimated at \$247.52 billion against \$172.53 billion in the year-ago period.

16. Three-day International Conference on Defence Finance and Economics to begin in New Delhi today

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated a three-day International Conference on Defence Finance and Economics in New Delhi today.
- The conference will provide a unique platform to policymakers, academicians and government officials to share their insights and experiences on Defence Finance and Economics in the present evolving security challenges.
- Delegates from USA, UK, Japan, Australia, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Kenya will participate in the conference.

17. Shri ParshottamRupala to launch 'Animal Pandemic Preparedness Initiative (APPI)' under National One Health Mission

- Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Shri ParshottamRupala will be launching the 'Animal Pandemic Preparedness Initiative (APPI)' as well as the World Bank funded Animal Health System Support for One Health (AHSSOH) project under the aegis of National One Health Mission.
- The project will be implemented in five States and it envisages improving capacity building of stakeholders involved in animal health and disease management.

18. India's First Semi-High Speed Regional Rail Service Named 'RAPIDX'

- India's first semi-high-speed regional rail services have been named 'RAPIDX' by the National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC).
- The trains will run on the Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) corridors, being implemented to connect key urban nodes across the National Capital Region (NCR)

19. BHEL-led consortium bags order to supply 80 sleeper class Vande Bharat trains worth over Rs 9,600 crore

- A consortium led by state-owned Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL) has bagged an order worth more than Rs 9,600 crore to supply 80 sleeper class Vande Bharat trains to Indian Railways over a period of six years. There is a demand for running sleeper class Vande Bharat or Train18 trainsets as these can ply on long routes like Delhi-Mumbai and Delhi-Howrah.
- The consortium, comprising BHEL and Titagarh Wagons Ltd, is called Technology Partner.

20. Vishu, Rongali Bihu, Naba Barsha, Vaisakhadi, Meshadi, and PuthanduPirappu being celebrated in different parts of the country

- Vishu is a cultural festival celebrating the Hindu New Year in Kerala. Vishu falls on the first day of the month of Medam in the Malayalam Calendar.
- Rongali Bihu also called Xaat Bihu is a traditional ethnic festival celebrated in the Northeastern Indian state of Assam, and marks the beginning of the Assamese New Year.
- Naba Barsha is the celebration of the new year in **West Bengal** as per the Bengali Calendar. It is also popularly known as the PoilaBaisakh which literally translates to first Baisakhi.
- Vaisakhi, also pronounced Baisakhi, marks the first day of the month of Vaisakh. It is seen as a celebration of spring harvest primarily in Northern India.
- Puthandu, also known as Tamil New Year, is the first day of year on the Tamil calendar,

traditionally celebrated as a festival by Tamils as the first day of the Tamil month Chittirai.

- President Droupadi Murmu has extended greetings to countrymen and Indians living abroad on Vaisakhi, Vishu, Rongali Bihu, Naba Barsha, Vaisakhadi and Puthandu Pirappu. In a message, the President said that these farmers' festivals, celebrated in different parts of our country, present a glimpse of India's rich cultural heritage and diversity.

21. The Bharat Gaurav Tourist train tour on Ambedkar Circuit flagged off from New Delhi

- IRCTC in association with Ministry of Tourism is operating its first tour on the Ambedkar circuit on an 8 days special tour from Hazrat Nizamuddin station.
- The Yatra includes Visit to prominent places associated with life of Baba Saheb Ambedkar like New Delhi, Mhow, Nagpur and sacred Buddhist sites like Sanchi, Sarnath, Gaya and Rajgir and Nalanda in the tour itinerary.
- Bharat Gaurav Tourist Train launch is in line with the Government of India initiative "Dekho Apna Desh" to promote special interest circuits in domestic tourism.

22. India retains top status in International Flight Safety Standards

- India's International Aviation Safety Assessment rating will continue to remain in Category One as the country meets the international standards for aviation safety oversight.
- India received category one status after the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) of the United States conducted an audit of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) in multiple areas.
- FAA under its International Aviation Safety Assessment (IASA) program determines whether a country complies with safety standards established by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

23. Drone start-up Garuda Aerospace becomes first to receive agri drone subsidy

- Garuda Aerospace, a Made in India drone startup, has become the country's first company to receive a subsidy for making agri-drones, as a part of the government's efforts to promote the use of agricultural drones.
- DGCA-approved Garuda Kisan drones for farmers can manage and monitor crop health, and detect and identify areas that require water or fertilizer.

24. Best utilisation of MPLADS funds in Gujarat in FY23, UP gets most money

- In FY23, Gujarat had the highest utilisation-to-released fund ratio of MPLADS funds.

While '66 crore was allocated to the state, it had utilised '95.77 crore, 145.11 per cent.

- This is according to the data that the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation presented in the parliament.

25. Securitisation volume surged 33% to over '1.8-lakh crore in FY23

- Securitisation volume has surged 33 per cent to over '1.8-lakh crore in FY23, only a tad lower than the previous high of '1.9-lakh crore in FY19.
- With 160 originators and 110 investors executing 1,000 transactions in FY23, the market turned more extensive and diverse.
- This compares favourably with 130 originators and 90 investors participating in 700 transactions in FY22.

26. UAE is India's second biggest export destination, third biggest source for imports

- The UAE continues to be the second most important export destination for India, according to annual trade figures released by the Ministry of Commerce, the government of India.
- The US and the UAE retained the first and second places respectively in this category during the financial year 2022-23.
- The Netherlands rose to third place in this category during the same period, replacing China.
- The importance of The Netherlands was owed to a high level of refined petroleum products through the maritime nation last year.

27. Citi India completes first Blockchain Enabled Letter of Credit Transaction on Contour

- Citi India has completed its first blockchain-enabled Letter of Credit (LC) transaction on Contour for its client Cummins India Limited (Cummins), a diversified industrial manufacturing company.
- The transaction is a first for both Cummins and Citi India on Contour, as Citi continues to advance its trade digitization efforts and further enhance client experience.
- Contour is a global digital trade finance network, powered by blockchain technology, that enables multiple parties - banks, corporates, and logistic partners - to collaborate seamlessly and securely in real-time on a single platform.
- Citi is a founding member bank of Contour.

28. 20% ethanol blending by 2025-26: Oil minister

- Oil minister Hardeep Singh Puri said that petrol mixed with 20% ethanol will be available by 2025, five years ahead of the earlier rollout target of 2030. Currently, 10% ethanol is blended in petrol.

- The government has notified the National Policy on Biofuels, 2018 to increase usage of biofuels in the energy and transportation sectors of the country.

29. Centre re-introduces windfall tax on crude oil

- In a bid to rationalise the tax structure in the petroleum sector, the government reintroduced the windfall tax or special additional excise duty (SAED) on domestically produced crude oil from nil to '6,400 per tonne.
- The Centre also scrapped the duty on the export of diesel from '0.50 per litre to nil.
- The windfall tax on petrol and aviation turbine fuel (ATF) has, however, remained unchanged.
- The new rates are applicable with effect from April 19, 2023.

30. Govt to set up panel to work on model builder-buyer agreement

- The government has decided to set up a committee to work on a model buyer agreement to help streamline the homebuying process and protect consumers from potential abuses, among other.
- The committee that will draw members from judges, national and state consumer commissions, various consumer bodies, lawyers as well as from the Ministry of Consumer Affairs.
- Over 5.5 lakh cases are pending across various consumer courts in the country, with over 54,000 cases specific to the housing sector alone

31. Centre approves 8 projects worth '638 cr under NamamiGange

- Eight projects worth approximately '638 crore were approved in the 48th meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG).
- In an attempt to clean River Hindon, which is a tributary of River Yamuna, four projects worth Rs. 407.39 crore were approved for pollution abatement in the Shamli district.
- Hindon river is identified as Priority I polluted river stretch.
- The projects which were sanctioned are to prevent the flow of polluted water into Krishna River.

32. Rs 3,200 crore will be spent on sports facilities in next 5 years in India under Khelo India campaign: Sh. Anurag Thakur

- Union Minister of Youth Affairs & Sports and Information & Broadcasting Anurag Singh Thakur said in Himachal Pradesh that under the Khelo India campaign, an amount of about 3,200 crore rupees will be spent on sports facilities during 5 years.

- The minister inaugurated sports facilities at the SAI National Centre of Excellence (NCOE) at Anu in Hamirpur, district.

33. Saurashtra Tamil Sangamam inaugurated at Somnath, Gujarat

- The 10-day Saurashtra Tamil Sangamam under the Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat initiative has begun at Somnath in the presence of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel Telangana Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan and Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya.
- Other venues for the programmes are Dwarka, Rajkot and the Statue of Unity at Kevadia.
- The Sangamam would celebrate the cultural links between Gujarat and Tamil Nadu that have been formed due to the large Saurashtra Tamil community.
- This comes after the successful completion of the month-long Kashi Tamil Sangamam that celebrated the cultural and civilizational links between Kashi and Tamil Nadu.
- The community is believed to have migrated in the 11th century CE due to the repeated attacks of Mahmud of Ghazni on Gujarat. They were mostly silk traders and weavers.

35. NHAH to Create Around 10,000 km of Digital Highways by FY 2024 - 25

- NHAH is working towards the development of around 10,000 km of Optic Fibre Cables (OFC) infrastructure across the country by FY2024-25. National Highways Logistics Management Limited (NHLML), a fully owned SPV of NHAH, will implement the network of Digital Highways by developing integrated utility corridors along the National Highways to develop OFC infrastructure.
- Around 1,367 km on Delhi - Mumbai Expressway and 512 km on Hyderabad - Bangalore Corridor have been identified as pilot routes for the Digital Highway development.
- Providing internet connectivity to remote locations across the country, the OFC network will help to expedite the roll out of new age telecom technologies like 5G & 6G.
- Recently inaugurated, 246 km long Delhi - Dausa - Lalsot section of the Delhi - Mumbai Expressway features a three-meter-wide dedicated utility corridor used to lay Optical Fibre Cables, which will serve as the backbone for the roll out of the 5G network in the region. OFC laying work along the National Highways has started and is targeted for completion in about a year.

36. CCI Clears Berhanda's Stake Acquisition InSuen Pharma

- The Competition Commission of India said it has cleared Berhyanda Ltd's acquisition of a 76.10% stake in pharmaceutical firm Suven.
- Pharmaceuticals Ltd. Berhyanda Ltd. is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Berhyanda Midco Ltd., which is an affiliate of Advent International Corporation.
- Suven Pharmaceuticals Ltd is a biopharmaceutical company that offers its services to global pharmaceutical and agrochemical majors.

37. Cinematograph (Amendment) Bill 2023 Gets Cabinet Approval

- The Union Cabinet approved the Cinematograph (Amendment) Bill 2023 that has provisions to curb transmission of pirated film content on the internet, Information and Broadcasting.
- The Bill also has provisions to classify films on the basis of age group, instead of the current practice of 'U', 'A', and 'UA'.
- "U" is for unrestricted public exhibition and "A" is restricted to adult audiences, while "UA" is for unrestricted public exhibition subject to parental guidance for children below the age of 12.

38. India aims to make 121 airports carbon neutral by 2025

- Twenty-five airports in the country are using 100 per cent green energy, while another 121 airports will be made carbon neutral by 2025, Union Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia announced.
- Scindia made the comments in his virtual address at the two-day EU-India aviation summit.
- The EU-India Aviation Summit has been organised jointly by the European Commission and the Ministry of Civil Aviation of India with a focus on improving connectivity, promoting environmental sustainability, tackling infrastructure bottlenecks, fostering innovation and addressing regulatory issues

39. First 100% private-funded Gati Shakti terminal starts operations

- The Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India (DFCC) commenced operations on the Rewari Gati Shakti Cargo Terminal (GCT) in public-private-partnership (PPP) mode.
- This becomes the first operational GCT with complete investment from a private player and zero revenue-sharing on account of the Indian Railways.
- The Rs 8-crore GCT in Haryana, built solely for container traffic, along the edge of Line 10 of the New Rewari station on Western Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC), will be

operated by Pristine Mega Logistics Park, which got the project in a race against state-owned Container Corporation of India (Concor) and shipping major DP World.

40. India's first elevated taxiway to start operating in September

- India's first elevated taxiway for aircraft at Indira Gandhi International (IGI) airport may start operating this September.
- Security concerns are being addressed to avoid any obstructions on the new elevated cross taxiway (ECT).
- The 1.8 km terminal is the first of its kind in the country.

41. India to get its 1st water metro

- India will get its first water metro on 25 April. The first water metro will be launched in Kerala's Kochi district.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who will be on a visit to Kerala on April 25, will flag off India's first water metro.
- Manufactured by Cochin Shipyard Limited, the metro project will start with eight electric hybrid boats.
- Kochi water metro will connect 10 islands, in and around the port city.
- The dream project is funded by the Government of Kerala and German firm KfW.
- Overall KWM (Kochi Water Metro) project comprises 78 electric boats and 38 terminals.
- In the first phase, the KWM service will begin from the High Court-Vypin terminals and Vyttila-Kakkanad terminals.

42. Labour minister launches new features on eShram portal for unorganised workers

- Labour and Employment Minister Bhupender Yadav launched new features on the eShram portal aimed at enhancing its utility for unorganised workers in Delhi.
- The new features include connecting eShram registered workers with employment opportunities, skilling, pension schemes, digital skilling, and states' schemes through the eShram portal.
- A feature has also been added to capture family details of migrant workers to provide child education and women-centric schemes to migrant workers who have migrated with their families.

43. IGGL completes Asia's largest underwater hydrocarbon pipeline across Brahmaputra

- Asia's largest underwater hydro-carbon pipeline, below the river Brahmaputra connecting Jorhat and Majuli in Assam has been completed by the Indradhanush Gas Grid Limited (IGGL).
- The total length of the pipeline in this single HDD crossing is 4,080 metre across the main water channel of Brahmaputra river.

- This is the longest river crossing by any hydrocarbon pipeline of size 24-inch diameter and above in Asia and the second longest in the world.

44. UIDAI, NPCI to set up eKYC aggregator

- The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) and the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) are planning to set up an aggregator platform for eKYC (electronic know-your-customer).
- Aadhaar-based eKYC is used for paperless verification of a customer's credentials for new mobile connections and bank accounts.
- The new platform will enable entities that are regulated by the RBI, Sebi or the insurance and pension regulators to register on it.

45. Union Minister Sonowal inaugurates the technology arm of Shipping Ministry in TN

- Union Ports, Shipping and Waterways Minister Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurated the National Technology Centre for Ports, Waterways & Coasts (NTCPWC) at the Discovery Campus of IIT, Madras.
- The NTCPWC, the technology arm of Union Shipping Ministry will be expanded to include world-class multifunctional maritime laboratories in the areas of climate change, marine robotics etc.

46. Power Ministry Revises Framework To Supply Cheapest Lot First To Consumers

- Power Ministry Revises Framework To Supply Cheapest Lot First To Consumers and help state utilities to meet demand in a cost-effective manner.
- The power ministry has revised the structure of the Day-Ahead National level Merit Order Despatch Mechanism to lower the overall cost of electricity generation, which will translate into lower power prices for consumers.
- As per the revised mechanism, the cheapest generating resources (power) across the country will be despatched (supplied) first to meet the system demand.
- The gains out of the proposed Day-Ahead National Merit Order Dispatch Mechanism would be shared between generating stations and their consumers.
- This will result in increased annual savings for electricity consumers. The existing mechanism of merit order dispatch in real-time was made operational in April 2019.
- The mechanism optimised the total variable cost of generation pan-India while meeting technical and grid security constraints.

47. Cabinet Approves Medical Devices Policy To Help Sector Grow To \$50 Billion In Five Years

- The Union Cabinet approved National Medical Devices Policy 2023 to promote

domestic manufacturing and help the sunrise sector grow from the present \$11 billion to \$50 billion in the next five years and reduce import dependence.

- The policy focuses on six strategies to tap the potential of the sector with the 'implementation of action plan'.
- The six strategies planned under the policy are Regulatory Streamlining; Enabling Infrastructure; Facilitating R&D and Innovation; Attracting Investments in the Sector; Human Resources Development; and Brand Positioning and Awareness Creation.

48. Amit Shah launches IFFCO's nano DAP fertiliser for commercial sale

- Cooperation Minister Amit Shah exhorted farmers to maximise the use of liquid nano DAP and urea, saying extensive usage of these farm inputs will make India 'Atmanirbhar' in fertiliser production and reduce import dependence.
- The benefits of using liquid fertilisers include soil conservation, higher crop yield, and easy transportation, besides reducing import bills.
- Launching the IFFCO's nano (liquid) DAP fertiliser for commercial sale at Rs 600 per 500 ml bottle, less than half of the current price of conventional DAP (di-ammonium phosphate), will help increase quality and quantity of agriculture production, and also help in conserving soil health.

49. Cabinet Approves Establishment Of 157 New Nursing Colleges At A Cost Of Rs. 1570 Crores

- In a significant move towards strengthening nursing workforce in the country, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved establishment of 157 new nursing colleges in co-location with the existing medical colleges established since 2014.
- The step will add approximately 15,700 nursing graduates every year. The total financial implication will be Rs.1,570 crore.
- The initiative aims to address the geographical and rural-urban imbalances in the healthcare sector, which have led to the skewed availability of nursing professionals and impacted healthcare services in underserved areas.

50. Prime Minister Inaugurates 91 FM Radio Transmitters, To Benefit Border, Aspirational Districts

- In a move that will enhance the radio connectivity in the country, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated 91 new 100W FM Transmitters via video conferencing.
- The 91 new 100 W FM transmitters have been installed in 85 districts across 18 states and 2 Union Territories.

- The states and UTs which are covered include Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, West Bengal, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Haryana, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Telangana, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Ladakh and Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

51. MoA&FW and NAFED launch Millets Experience Centre (MEC)

- NAFED in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare established the Millets Experience Centre with an aim to raise awareness on Millets and encourage its

adoption among general public at Dilli Haat, INA, Delhi.

- Acting upon India's proposal supported by 72 countries, the UN General Assembly declared the year 2023 as the International Year of Millets.

52. Sarbananda Sonowal Flags Off International Yoga Mahotsav in Dibrugarh

- Union Minister for AYUSH, Sarbananda Sonowal flagged off an International Yoga Mahotsav in the Dibrugarh University Playground.
- This event has been organised to commemorate the International Day of Yoga 2023, which is just 75 days away.



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International

1. United Kingdom joins Asia-Pacific trade treaty

- The U.K., on March 31, 2023, acceded to the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP).
- The agreement will now need to be ratified by Westminster and each of the CPTPP countries.
- The deal would add GBP 1.8 billion (\$2.2 billion) annually to the U.K. economy in the long run.
- This, however, translates to a modest boost of 0.08% to GDP.

About CPTPP:

- CPTPP is a trade agreement among 11 countries so far.
- The Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), also known as TPP11 or TPP-11, is a trade agreement among Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, and Vietnam.
- It evolved from the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), which was never ratified due to the withdrawal of the United States.

2. Finland to be 31st member of NATO after Turkey's approval

- Finland will become the 31st member of NATO after Turkey's parliament voted to approve its application.
- Finland will now be formally admitted into NATO at its next summit in July.
- Fellow neighbour, Sweden, which applied to join NATO at the same time last May, is still being blocked by Turkey over similar concerns.
- Any NATO expansion needs the support of all its members.

3. ADB forecasts China, India to power strong growth in 2023

- China's recovery from the pandemic and strong demand in India will drive strong economic growth in Asia this year, the Asian Development Bank said in a report.
- The Manila, Philippines-based ADB's latest update forecasts an expansion of 4.8% in this year and the next, up from 4.2% in 2022.
- It said inflation would likely cool slightly this year and fall further in 2024.

4. World Bank lowers India FY24 growth forecast to 6.3%

- The World Bank said it has lowered its forecast for India's economic growth in the

current fiscal year that started on April 1 to 6.3% from 6.6%.

- Asia's third-largest economy recorded year-on-year growth of 4.4 per cent in October-December, down from 11.2 per cent a year back and 6.3 per cent in the preceding quarter.
- The World Bank estimated last fiscal year's growth at 6.9%.

5. UAE to host 3rd ICAO Conference on Aviation & Alternative Fuels

- The UAE, represented by the General Civil Aviation Authority (GCAA), has won the bid to host the third edition of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Conference on Aviation and Alternative Fuels.
- All member states of the ICAO unanimously accepted UAE's bid in a recent meeting of the Council held at the ICAO headquarters, Montreal in Canada.
- The conference is organized every seven years.

6. NASA names first woman, first Black astronauts for Artemis II lunar flyby

- NASA named the first woman and the first African-American ever assigned as astronauts to a lunar mission, introducing them as part of the four-member team chosen to fly as early as next year on what would be the first crewed voyage around the moon in more than 50 years.
- Christina Koch, an engineer who already holds the record for the longest continuous spaceflight by a woman, was named as a mission specialist, along with Victor Glover, a U.S. Navy aviator, who was selected as the Artemis II pilot.

7. India elected as member of UN Statistical Commission Narcotic Drugs and the Programme Coordinating Board of the Joint UN Program

- India has been elected as a member of the UN Statistical Commission, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Programme Coordinating Board of the Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) by the Economic and Social Council ECOSOC of the United Nations.
- These are important subsidiary bodies of the ECOSOC.
- The Statistical Commission is the highest body dealing with international statistical activities and is responsible for standards setting in the field of statistics.
- India was a member of the Statistical Commission last in 2004 and it is returning to the Commission after a gap of two decades.

8. Ghana becomes first country to approve Oxford malaria vaccine for children

- Ghana has become the first country in the world to approve an effective malaria vaccine developed at Oxford University.
- The R21/Matrix-M vaccine, the first to exceed the World Health Organization (WHO)'s target of 75 per cent efficacy, has been approved for use in children aged 5-36 months, the group most at risk of malaria death

9. G7 Ministers commit to move to carbon-free power by 2035

- Climate and Energy Ministers and envoys from Group of Seven (G7) countries committed to work towards ensuring carbon-free electricity production by 2035 and 'accelerating' the phase-out of coal.
- This was part of an agreement by the countries at the end of a two-day conference in Sapporo, Japan, ahead of the G7 summit in Hiroshima
- The participants also agreed to accelerate solar and wind energy investments to produce 1,000 gigawatt (GW) by 2030 from solar power and 150 GW of wind power from off-shore platforms

10. India gives '4.09 crore to UN entity for women empowerment

- India has made a generous contribution of \$500,000 ('4.09 crore) to the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, also known as UN Women.
- The cheque was handed over by Ruchira Kamboj, the Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations, towards the Indian government's contribution to the core voluntary budget of UN Women.

- The donation was received by Sima Sami Bahous, the Under Secretary General and Executive Director of UN Women.

11. AIIB to open first overseas office in Abu Dhabi

- Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) signed a host member agreement to officially open the bank's first overseas office, an Interim Operational Hub (the Hub), in Abu Dhabi.
- AIIB was formally established in January 2016 as a USD100 billion multilateral development bank (MDB) by its 57 founding members.

12. Mohammed Shahabuddin Sworn In As 22nd President Of Bangladesh

- Veteran freedom fighter, jurist and politician Md. Sahabuddin was sworn in as the 22nd President of Bangladesh in Dhaka.
- Parliament Speaker Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chowdhury administered the oath of office in the presence of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Chief Justice Hasan Foez Siddique, Cabinet members and other dignitaries

13. Emirates Unveils World's First Robotic Check-In Assistant

- Dubai-based airline Emirates has unveiled its latest innovation, the world's first robotic check-in assistant named Sara. The system is part of a new City Check-in and Travel Store that is set to launch in Dubai's financial district. Sara will match customers' faces with scanned passports, check passengers in, and guide them to the luggage drop area.
- The robot is equipped with facial recognition technology and can print boarding passes, making the check-in process more efficient.
- Sara is also portable and can move around to assist those who need help.




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Sports

1. IOC finally makes Lashinda Demus a 2012 Olympics champion

- American runner Lashinda Demus officially became an Olympic champion, at the age of 40 and more than a decade after the 2012 London Games.
- Demus was formally reallocated the gold medal in the 400-meter hurdles by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) because of the disqualification of Natalya Antyukh in fallout from the Russian doping scandal.
- Zuzana Hejnová of Czechia was upgraded to silver & bronze to Kaliese Spencer of Jamaica.
- On the London track on August 8, 2012, Demus finished 0.07 seconds behind Antyukh, who was implicated last year in the second doping case of her career.

2. CWG champion weightlifter Sanjita Chanu banned for four years for failing dope test

- Two-time Commonwealth Games champion Indian weightlifter Sanjita Chanu has been handed a four-year ban by the National Anti Doping Agency (NADA) for failing a dope test.
- Sanjita had tested positive for an anabolic steroid -- Drostanolone Metabolite -- that features in the World Anti-doping Agency's (WADA) prohibited list.

3. Peru removed as host of 2023 FIFA Under-17 Men's World Cup

- FIFA has regretfully withdrawn Peru's hosting rights to the FIFA U-17 World Cup 2023' following extensive discussions between FIFA and the Peruvian Football Federation (FPF).
- The tournament remains scheduled to take place from 10 November to 2 December 2023, but the Bureau of the FIFA Council will now designate a new host in due course.

4. MS Dhoni, Yuvraj Singh and Mithali Raj among five Indians to receive MCC's honorary life membership

- Former India World Cup winning captain MS Dhoni and the 2011 ODI World Cup Player of the tournament, Yuvraj Singh were named among the five Indians to have been inducted with the Marylebone Cricket Club's (MCC) honorary life membership.
- Among the former India women's cricketers, former India captain Mithali Raj and veteran pacer, Jhulan Goswami were also honored by the MCC.

5. World champions Argentina dethrone Brazil, back on top of FIFA rankings after six-year gap

- World champions Argentina dethroned Brazil and returned to the top of the FIFA rankings after a six-year gap.
- Argentina, who won last year's World Cup in Qatar by beating France in the final, achieved the No. 1 spot after Lionel Scaloni's side beat Panama 2-0 and Curacao 7-0 in friendlies.
- France moved up one place to second after a 4-0 win over the Netherlands and 1-0 victory in Ireland in Euro 2024 qualifiers, while Brazil slipped to third after losing 2-1 away to Morocco in a friendly.
- Belgium remained fourth, England were fifth followed by the Netherlands in sixth, Croatia seventh and Italy eighth. Portugal and Spain completed the top 10.

6. SAI integrates Khelo India Games Certificates with DigiLocker

- The Sports Authority of India (SAI) has integrated Khelo India Games Certificates with DigiLocker for the first time.
- With this, now the Khelo India Games participating athletes and other stakeholders will be able to access their certificates of merit and participation from the Khelo India Youth Games 2022 in Madhya Pradesh onwards.
- It will also allow for online sharing of Certificates with consent. It will provide for real-time verification of Certificates, as different stakeholders can directly verify the data after obtaining consent from the Certificate holder.

7. New Zealand's Kim Cotton becomes first woman on-field umpire in full-member men's T20Is

- New Zealand's Kim Cotton became the first woman on-field umpire in a full-member men's T20I during New Zealand's second match against Sri Lanka in Dunedin.
- Cotton, 48, has previously officiated in 54 women's T20Is, both as an on-field and TV umpire, besides 24 women's ODIs since 2018.
- Cotton first marked her presence in the men's game as a TV umpire in 2020 during a tied contest between India and New Zealand in Hamilton.

8. Weightlifter Sanjita Chanu handed four-year ban by NADA for failed dope test

- Indian weightlifter Sanjita Chanu, a two-time Commonwealth Games champion, was handed a four-year ban by India's National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) after she tested positive for a banned drug.
- Drostanolone's primary medical use is to treat advanced inoperable cases of breast cancer in women. The steroid, however, is

often misused by athletes as a performance enhancer.

9. India climbs five places to 101 in FIFA men's world ranking

- The Indian men's football team climbed up 5 places in the recent FIFA World Rankings and are now ranked 101st. Previously, there were ranked 106th in the world.
- World Champion Argentina has climbed to the top of FIFA ranking for the first time in over six years.
- Argentina was followed by Brazil, France, Belgium, and England.
- Morocco stayed at No. 11 to lead African teams.

10. Priyanshu Rajawat wins Orleans Masters, first Indian to clinch singles title on BWF tour in 2023

- Priyanshu Rajawat ended India's wait for a singles title in 2023 as the young shuttler won the Orleans Masters Super 300 tournament.
- Priyanshu defeated World No. 49 Magnus Johannesen in a battle of 21-year-olds in the men's singles final in France.

11. 15-year-old Chhattisgarh girl swims non-stop for 8 hours, enters Golden Book of World Records

- Chandrakala Ojha, a 15-year-old girl from Purai village in Chhattisgarh's Durg district, registered her name in the Golden Book of World Records by swimming continuously for 8 hours.
- She has won 3 gold and 2 silver medals in Junior Open National and State championships.

12. David Warner became the quickest to 6000 IPL runs

- David Warner is now the first overseas player in the history of the IPL to score 6000 runs.
- He is now the quickest to 6000 IPL runs as he broke Virat Kohli's record last night.
- The Delhi Capitals' captain took just 165 innings to achieve this feat while Kohli took 188 innings.

13. Indian GM Gukesh wins title at World Chess Armageddon Asia & Oceania event

- Teenaged Indian Grandmaster D. Gukesh stunned former world rapid champion Nodirbek Abdusattorov of Uzbekistan in the final to win the World Chess Armageddon Asia & Oceania event.
- Gukesh emerged winner in a topsy-turvy summit clash.
- The 16-year-old Indian won in a field that included former world classical champion Vladimir Kramnik, Daniil Dubov, Yangyi Yu (China), Vidit Gujrathi and Karthikeyan

Murali (both India) and Param Maghsoodloo (Iran), apart from Abdusattorov

14. Nisha Dahia wins Silver in Asian Wrestling Championships in Kazakhstan

- India's Nisha Dahia won silver at the Asian wrestling championships in Astana, Kazakhstan.
- This is the biggest-ever medal of her career in the women's 68kg category.
- Another Indian wrestler, Priya Malik clinched a bronze in 76 kg category. She defeated Japan's Mizuki Nagashima in the repechage round.

15. Saudi Arabia receives flag to host FEI World Cup Finals 2024

- The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia received the flag of hosting the FEI World Cup Finals 2024, during the World Cup Finals held in Omaha, Nebraska, USA.
- The FEI World Cup Finals 2024 will be held in April of next year, in Riyadh, marking the first time the event will be held in the Middle East.

16. India's Antim Pangal clinches silver at Asian Wrestling Championships in Astana, Kazakhstan

- India's Antim Pangal won silver at the 2023 Asian Wrestling Championships after losing to Japan's Akari Fujinami in the 53-kg category in Astana, Kazakhstan.
- Four other Indian wrestlers including Anshu Malik (57kg), Sonam Malik (62kg), Manisha (65kg) and Reetika (72kg) added to India's medal tally by winning their bronze medal bouts.

17. Aman Sehrawat clinches India's first gold medal at Asian Wrestling Championships

- Aman Sehrawat clinched India's first gold medal at the Asian Wrestling Championships 2023 in Astana, Kazakhstan.
- Sehrawat topped the podium in men's 57 kg freestyle category on the penultimate day of the competition. He defeated Kyrgyzstan's Almaz Smanbekov 9-4 to win the gold medal.
- Last year, Sehrawat was the first Indian wrestler to win gold at the Under-23 world championships in Spain.

18. Shaili Singh qualifies for Asian Games; logging 2nd longest jump in India's history

- At the Indian Grand Prix-4 in Bengaluru, Shaili Singh won in the women's long jump.
- with a personal best of 6.76 meters, she is now the holder of the 2nd longest jump in India's history and has qualified for the Asian Games.
- Athlete Shaili has been training hard at NCOE Bangalore and her dedication and commitment to her sport are truly inspiring.

19. Suryakumar Yadav named Wisden's leading T20I cricketer; Harmanpreet Kaur bags top honour

- The Indian duo of Suryakumar Yadav and Harmanpreet Kaur has added another feather to their outstanding crown after bagging the Wisden Almanack's leading cricketer in the World awards.
- Suryakumar Yadav was named the Widen T20I cricketer of the year male.
- Harmanpreet Kaur has become the first Indian female cricketer to be named a Wisden Cricketer of the Year.

20. Tennis legend Jaidip Mukerjee launches his autobiography

- Legendary tennis player Jaidip Mukerjee launched his autobiography 'Crosscourt'. It brings out the journey of Mukerjee, hailed as one of the best tennis players in the country.
- He was a member of the India Davis Cup team that reached the final in 1966.
- Mukerjee won India's only rubber in the final he and Ramanathan Krishnan defeated John Newcombe and Tony Roche in doubles
- Mukerjee was given the Arjuna Award in 1966.
- In 1962, he made the fourth round of the U.S. Championships.
- He reached the fourth round at Wimbledon in 1963 and 1964, and reached the fourth round at the French Championships in 1965.

- 1966 was Mukerjee's most successful year. He again reached the fourth round at the French Championships and Wimbledon.

21. Bhubaneswar to host 2023 Hero Intercontinental Cup in June

- The third edition of the Intercontinental Cup 2023 football tournament will be held in Bhubaneswar, Odisha from June 9 to 18.
- The four-team football tournament will be played in the FIFA international window. The competition was introduced in 2018 to replace the Nehru Cup.
- Besides hosts India, Lebanon, Mongolia and Vanuatu will be the other three teams participating. Igor Stimac is the head coach of Indian National Football team.
- India won the inaugural edition of the tournament held in Mumbai in 2018 but finished fourth in the second edition held in Ahmedabad in 2019, which was won by North Korea.

22. Argentina to replace Indonesia as under-20 World Cup host - FIFA

- Argentina will host the under-20 soccer World Cup, world governing body FIFA said following the decision to strip Indonesia of the right to stage the tournament.
- FIFA announced the decision to remove Indonesia as host on March 29 after the country's FA cancelled the draw to be held in Bali as its governor refused to host Israel's team.



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Agreements & MoUs

1. I&B Ministry and Amazon India sign collaboration agreement to boost India's creative economy and promote creative talent

- The Information and Broadcasting Ministry and Amazon India have signed a collaboration agreement in New Delhi to boost India's creative economy and promote creative talent in the country.
- As part of the agreement, Amazon Prime Video will sponsor scholarships, create internship programmes, and offer job opportunities for students of the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) and Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute.
- International Film Festival of India (IFFI) Award-winning films and films produced as part of India's international co-production treaties will be onboarded by Amazon Prime Video.

2. South Indian Bank partners with Cholamandalam MS General Insurance

- South Indian Bank announces partnership with Cholamandalam MS General Insurance, to offer health and general insurance products to the customers.
- This partnership would enable customers of South Indian Bank to access the diverse range of insurance products offered by Cholamandalam MS General Insurance, thus fulfilling their need for protection against damage/ loss.

3. India Signs MoU with IEA to Enhance Innovation for Clean Energy Transition

- As a joint program under Mission Innovation, the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), India's Ministry of Science and Technology, and the International Energy Agency (IEA) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) which aims at enhancing innovation for the clean energy transition. The parties signed the agreement in New Delhi.

4. TCS Bags Deal From Norwegian State Agency Bane NOR

- IT major Tata Consultancy Services has bagged a deal from Norwegian government agency Bane NOR to enable secure access to its digital infrastructure to employees, partners and train operators.
- Under the deal, TCS' teams based in Norway and across Europe will provide services spanning identity governance and administration, access management, identity lifecycle management.
- Bane NOR is responsible for maintaining, operating, and developing the Norwegian railway network.

5. Cipla Inks Licensing Pact With Novartis For Diabetes Drug

- Drug major Cipla Ltd has inked a licensing pact with Novartis Pharma AG to manufacture and market the Galvus range, used in the treatment of type 2 diabetes, starting Jan. 1, 2026.
- The Mumbai-based company has signed a perpetual license agreement with Novartis Pharma AG (Switzerland) to manufacture and market Galvus and Galvus combination brands, it said.

6. Asian Development Bank Commits Rs 150 Crore To Tata Power Delhi Distribution

- Asian Development Bank proposes to subscribe to non-convertible debentures worth Rs 150 crore of Tata Power Delhi Distribution Ltd. to enhance Delhi's power distribution through grid enhancements.
- Besides, the Asian Development Bank agreed to provide a \$2 million grant to partially finance the purchase and integration of a pilot battery energy storage system.

7. IIT-Bombay and UIDAI join hands to develop touchless biometric system

- The Unique Identification Authority of India signed a memorandum of understanding with the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay (IIT-Bombay), to develop a touchless biometric capture system for easier use, anytime and anywhere.
- Under the MoU, UIDAI and IIT Bombay will carry out joint research to build a mobile capture system for fingerprints along with the capture system.

8. IIT-K partners with defence PSU to focus on innovation

- IIT Kanpur's technology business incubator, the Startup Incubation and Innovation Centre (SIIC), has signed a CSR Agreement with Advanced Weapons and Equipment India Limited, one of the seven new Defence Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) formed by converting the Ordnance Factory Board into fully government-owned enterprises.
- The agreement was signed at the Ordnance Factory Kanpur in the presence of dignitaries from SIIC, IIT Kanpur, and Advanced Weapons and Equipment India Limited (AW&EIL).

9. Nepal, India to sign cross-border digital payments deal to boost trade

- Nepal and India are set to sign an agreement for cross-border digital payments using e-wallet, which is expected to boost trade and tourism by eliminating currency hassles.

- The accord will allow Indian tourists in Nepal to make digital payments using Indian e-wallets like BharatPe, PhonePe, Google Pay and Paytm.
- The National Payment Corporation of India and its international arm International Payments had joined hands with Gateway Payment Service and Manam Infotech to deploy a unified payment interface in Nepal.
- The system will enable payments for larger digital goods and boost inter-operable real-time person-to-person (P2P) and merchant payment transactions (P2M) in Nepal.
- The unified payment interface is a real-time payment system that provides person-to-person and person-to-merchant transactions simply, safely and securely in India.
- The system is currently not on a reciprocal basis, and Nepalis are not allowed to make payments through Bharat-QR while travelling to India.

10. IHMCL inks MoU with Srisailem Tiger Reserve to enable FASTag-based payments at forest entry points

- Indian Highways Management Company Limited (IHMCL), a company incorporated by NHAI to carry out Electronic Tolling, inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Nagarjunasagar-Srisailem Tiger Reserve spread across the states of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.
- The FASTag system employs Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology to enable automatic toll payments.
- This MoU will provide FASTag based payment system at Forest entry points and will extend the benefit of a collection of Ecosystem Management Coordination (EMC) fee via FASTag at various entrance points of the Tiger reserve

11. India signs MoU with World Food Programme for sending wheat to Afghanistan

- India signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the World Food Programme paving the way for sending 10,000 metric tonnes of wheat for the people of Afghanistan. The MoU marks the fifth tranche, to be shipped through the Chabahar Port, of humanitarian food assistance that India has committed.

About WFP:

- The World Food Programme is an international organization within the United Nations that provides food assistance worldwide.
- It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and the leading provider of school meals.
- Founded in 1961, WFP is headquartered in Rome

12. IIT-I collaborates with NASA to develop low cost camera setup

- Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Indore has collaborated with National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), Caltech, USA and University of Gothenburg, Sweden to develop a low-cost camera setup 'CL-FRAME', an economical set up that can be used in research in laboratories lacking high-end equipment and camera systems.
- The low-cost camera setup will provide snapshot multispectral imaging of four chemical species in a flame using a single DSLR camera.

13. Adani Green Energy Gets Certification From DNV For Water Conservation

- Adani Green Energy Ltd. has received recognition for conserving water against consumption.
- Adani Green Energy has been certified Water Positive by DNV, an independent global assurance agency. The verification statement signifies that AGEL's water conservation is greater than consumption.
- Adani Green Energy Ltd. is the renewable energy platform of Adani Portfolio.
- DNV conducted qualitative and quantitative assessment of water balance index for Adani Green Energy's operational sites having greater than 200 MW capacity in Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh.
- As per the assessment, the water balance index is 1.12 (positive), surpassing its target to become net water neutral by FY25, way ahead of time.
- Adani Green Energy has recorded a 99.5% lower freshwater consumption per unit of generation as against 3.5 KL/MWh statutory limit for thermal power in FY23.

14. Adani Power inks pact with MPSEZ Utilities for power supply

- Adani Power Ltd said it has signed an agreement with MPSEZ Utilities Limited (MUL) for power supply.
- Adani Power has entered into a long-term power supply agreement (PSA) with MUL for 360 MW capacity to be supplied from its 4,620 MW power plant at Mundra, Gujarat, for 15 years

15. India Signs Deals With EU For Cooperation In Aviation Safety, Air Traffic Control

- The Directorate General of Civil Aviation signed a memorandum of understanding with the European Union Aviation Safety Agency for cooperation in aviation safety.
- The agreement was signed on the first day of the EU-India Aviation Summit here where the Airport Authority of India also signed a declaration of intent with Eurocontrol, a pan-European, civil-military organisation.

- While the MoU between DGCA and EASA will focus on collaboration at regulatory level and safety level, the declaration of intent between AAI and Eurocontrol will be focused on the area of air traffic control.

16. ISRO, Moon Village Association tie up for Chandrayaan-3 outreach

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro) has joined hands with Vienna-based NGO Moon Village Association (MVA) to host global outreach activities in connection with Isro's upcoming lunar mission Chandrayaan-3.
- The partnership is aimed at increasing the impact of Isro's lunar programme at a global level and ensuring further international cooperation, Isro said.
- Giuseppe Reibaldi, president, MVA, said the collaboration will demonstrate the relevance of MVA as a platform to multiply national lunar programme out reach efforts.

About MVA:

- MVA was founded in 2017, was envisioned to create a permanent global informal forum for stakeholders interested in the development of the Moon Village.
- The NGO comprises more than 600 participants and 27 institutional members from more than 60 countries, representing technical, scientific, cultural, and interdisciplinary fields.

17. Infosys Partners With Walmart Commerce Tech To Deliver Omnichannel Solutions To Retailers

- Indian IT services company Infosys has joined hands with Walmart Commerce Technologies to help retailers harness technology solutions that simplify customer and store employee experiences.
- Infosys will help retailers implement and use Store Assist, which enables them to provide seamless omnichannel experiences' such as pickup, delivery and ship from store for both employees

18. India, Germany sign agreement on setting up quality infrastructure

- India's consumer affairs department and a German ministry signed an agreement on improve quality infrastructure.
- The work plan was signed at the ninth annual meeting of the Indo-German working group on quality infrastructure in Berlin.
- 'The technical dialogues of the working group address key areas of economic cooperation between the two countries.

19. Tesla Power USA Inks Pact With Indian Oil To Sell Batteries At Petrol Pumps

- Tesla Power USA has inked an agreement with Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. to sell and service batteries at the state-owned firm's petrol pumps.
- The partnership will enable Tesla Power to sell and service batteries at over 36,000 IOCL petrol pumps across India.
- This will be the first national-level tie-up with Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. for battery distribution.

20. NPCI International partners with PPRO to facilitate global e-commerce payments through UPI

- NPCI International Payments, a wholly-owned subsidiary of National Payments Corporation of India, entered into partnership with digital payments infrastructure provider PPRO to facilitate global e-commerce payments through UPI.
- The agreement is aimed at expanding RuPay card & UPI acceptance across global clients such as payment service providers & global merchant acquirers.

21. India, UK sign landmark agreement to collaborate on science and innovation

- The United Kingdom and India signed an agreement to collaborate on science and innovation.
- The agreement between the two nations was signed after the meeting between the Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology Jitendra Singh and UK Science Minister George Freeman.
- The memorandum of understanding signed between the two nations on research will enable quicker, deeper collaboration on science between the two science powerhouses that will drive economic growth, create skilled jobs and improve lives in two nations and worldwide.

Schemes

1. 'Captive Employment' initiative under Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY)

- Union Minister for Rural Development Sh. Giriraj Singh onboarded 19 Captive Employers, a unique initiative under the Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY) in New Delhi.
- The initiative is a shot in the arm for the DDU-GKY programme, assuring post-training placement of candidates for a minimum of six months with a minimum CTC of Rs 10,000/- In the 1st phase 19 Captive Employers will train & provide jobs to over 31000 rural youth

About Captive Employment:

- 'Captive Employment', is a first of its kind initiative aimed at addressing the vision of a dynamic and demand-based skilling ecosystem catering to the requirements of industry partners assuring sustainable placements for rural poor youth.
- The initiative is a shot in the arm for the DDU-GKY programme, assuring post-training placement of candidates for a minimum of six months with a minimum CTC of Rs 10,000/-.
- This program will be a big boon for rural poor to augment their job needs and improve their standard of living. This program shall also contribute to sustainable development goals.

About DDU-GKY:

- Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY) is a placement linked skilling program of the Ministry of Rural Development under the aegis of National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM).
- This program caters to the rural poor youth. It was launched on 25 September 2014 and is funded by MoRG, Govt of India. The program is currently being implemented in 27 States and 4 UTs for rural poor youth with an emphasis on placements.

2. Stand Up India Scheme completes seven years, Rs 40,600 cr loans sanctioned

- Loans worth about Rs 40,600 crore covering 1.8 lakh entrepreneurs have been sanctioned so far under the Stand Up India

Scheme, said Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

- Stand Up India Scheme was launched on April 5, 2016 to promote entrepreneurship at the grassroots level focusing on economic empowerment and job creation.
- The scheme is up to the year 2025.
- It facilitates bank loans between Rs10 lakh and Rs100 lakh to at least one Scheduled Caste/ Scheduled Tribe borrower and at least one woman borrower per bank branch of Scheduled Commercial Banks.
- Loans under the scheme are available for only green field projects, meaning first-time venture of the beneficiary.

3. MUDRA Loan: Microcredit scheme towards financial inclusion sanctioned 40.82 crore loans in eight years

- More than 40.82 crore loans amounting to Rs 23.2 lakh crore were sanctioned under Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana since its inception eight years ago in 2015.
- It aim to facilitate easy collateral-free micro credit of up to Rs 10 lakh to non-corporate, non-farm small and micro entrepreneurs for income generating activities.
- The loans under scheme are provided by Member Lending Institutions (MLIs), i.e., Banks, Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs), Micro Finance Institutions (MFIs) and other financial intermediaries.

4. Arjun Munda to launch scheme to promote tribal products from northeast

- Union Minister for Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda launched a scheme to promote tribal products from the northeastern region of the country.
- The scheme -- Marketing and Logistics Development for Promotion of Tribal Products from North-Eastern Region (PTP-NER) -- aims to enhance livelihood opportunities for tribal artisans in the region.
- It aims to provide backward and forward linkages through incubation support, aggregation, skill and entrepreneurship development, sourcing and procurement, marketing, transportation and publicity to tribal artisans in the region.
- As part of the scheme, 68 Tribal Artisan Melas (TAMs) will be organised from April to May in the northeast to empanel tribal artisans from the region.

5. Government Launches Fifth Round Of Regional Air Connectivity Scheme

- Under the fifth round of UdeDesh Ka Aam Nagrik (UDAN) or Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS), the focus will be on

Category-2 (20-80 seats) and Category-3 (more than 80 seats).

- Under UDAN 5.0, viability gap funding (VGF) will be capped at 600 kilometres stage length for both priority and non-priority areas, which was earlier capped at 500 km. UDAN scheme was launched in 2017.

6. Centre directs states to set up 100 food streets; To grant Rs 1 crore as aid per street

- The Union Health Ministry, in collaboration with the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, has written to the states and Union Territories to develop 100 food streets in 100 districts across country.
- Financial assistance to the states and Union Territories in the form of Rs 1 crore per food street or district will be provided to fill the critical gaps.
- The assistance will be provided under the National Health Mission in the 60:40 or 90:10.

7. Enrolments under Atal Pension Yojana (APY) cross 5.20 crore mark

- Total enrolment under Atal Pension Yojana crossed 5.20 crore mark as on 31 March 2023. The scheme enrolled more than 1.19 crore new subscribers in FY 2022-23 as compared to 99 lakh in the last financial year, depicting a growth of more than 20%. As on date, the total assets under management (AUM) in APY is more than Rs. 27,200 crore.

- The scheme has generated investment return of 8.69% since inception of the scheme.
- In the Public Sector Banks (PSBs) category, 9 banks achieved the annual target while Bank of India, State Bank of India, and Indian Bank sourced more than 100 APY accounts per branch.
- Under the Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) category, 32 banks achieved the annual target while Jharkhand Rajya Gramin Bank, Vidharbha Konkan Gramin Bank, Tripura Gramin Bank and Baroda Uttar Pradesh Gramin Bank sourced more than 160 APY accounts per branch. Also, Tamilnad Mercantile Bank, Dhanlaxmi Bank and Airtel Payments Bank achieved annual target allocated by Ministry of Finance.
- Under APY, a subscriber would receive a lifelong minimum guaranteed pension of Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 5,000 per month from the age of 60 years, depending on their contributions, which itself would vary based on the age of joining the APY.
- The same pension would be paid to the spouse of the subscriber after the demise of the subscriber and on the demise of both the subscriber and spouse, the pension wealth as accumulated till age 60 of the subscriber would be returned back to the nominee.



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Appointments & Resignations

1. Hero MotoCorp's Board appoints Niranjan Gupta as new CEO

- The Board of Hero MotoCorp appointed Niranjan Gupta as the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the company, effective May 1, elevating him from his current position of Chief Financial Officer (CFO), Head ' Strategy and M&A.
- Pawan Munjal will continue as the Executive Chairman and Whole-time Director on the Board.

2. Praveer Sinha reappointed Tata Power CEO & MD for 4 more years

- Tata Power said it has re-appointed Praveer Sinha as the company's Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Managing Director. His present tenure as a CEO and MD is scheduled to conclude on April 30, 2023.
- His re-appointment to the top post is for a period of four years from May 1, 2023, to April 30, 2027.

3. Vice Adm Atul Anand takes over as Director General Naval Operations

- Vice Admiral Atul Anand, AVSM, VSM on Saturday assumed charge as the Director General Naval Operations (DGNO).
- Vice Admiral Atul Anand was commissioned on January 1 1988 into the Executive Branch of the Indian Navy.
- He is a recipient of the AtiVishisht Seva Medal and Vishisht Seva Medal.

4. Vice Admiral Sanjay Jasjit Singh takes charge as Vice Chief of Navy

- Vice Admiral Sanjay Jasjit Singh assumed the charge of the vice chief of naval staff, the Indian Navy said. He succeeds Vice Admiral SN Ghormade who retired after over 39 years of service.
- Prior to taking over as the Vice Chief of Naval Staff, he was Deputy Chief of Integrated Defence Staff (Operations).

5. Neeraj Nigam new RBI executive director, will lead consumer education dept

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has appointed Neeraj Nigam as executive director (ED) with effect from April 3, 2023. He was the regional director of RBI's Bhopal office.
- As executive director, Nigam will look after the consumer education and protection department, financial inclusion and development department, legal department and secretary's department.

6. Kenichi Umeda Appointed As New Managing Director Of Suzuki Motorcycle India

- Suzuki Motorcycle India has appointed Kenichi Umeda as the company's new Managing Director. Umeda replaces Satoshi Uchida who has completed his term as the

MD of Suzuki Motor Corporation's Indian two-wheeler subsidiary.

- Umeda brings with him over 27 years of experience in the industry spread across various markets.

7. Sudha Shivkumar takes over as FICCI Ladies Organisation president

- Chennai-based Sudha Shivkumar took over as the 40th president of FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO), the oldest women-led and women-centric business chamber of Southeast Asia, at the 39th annual session.
- Under her leadership, the FLO will carry out many interventions towards fostering larger contributions of women in India's industrial and economic growth story.

8. Aleksander Ceferin re-elected UEFA president until 2027

- Aleksander Ceferin was re-elected as UEFA president unopposed during the Ordinary Congress of European soccer's governing body in Lisbon.
- He has been re-elected for a four-year term until 2027.
- Ceferin was elected UEFA's seventh president in 2016 to replace Michel Platini, who was banned from soccer administration in 2015.

9. Anshuman Singhania New Chairman Of Tyre Makers Body ATMA

- Anshuman Singhania, managing director of JK Tyre & Industries Ltd,, has been elected the new Chairman of Automotive Tyre Manufacturers' Association.
- Arnab Banerjee, managing director and chief executive officer CEAT Ltd. has taken over as the Vice-Chairman, ATMA said in a statement.

10. LIC appoints Ratnakar Patnaik as Chief Investment Officer, PC Paikray as Chief Risk Officer

- Life Corporation of India has appointed Ratnakar Patnaik as the Chief Investment Officer.
- Patnaik will replace PR Mishra, who ceased to be the CIO on April 10.
- It also appointed PC Paikray as the Chief Risk Officer, who replaced Tablesh Pandey on April 10.
- Patnaik is an industry veteran and has an experience of 32 years. Patnaik had joined LIC as a Direct Recruit Officer in September 1990.

11. RBI approves reappointment of Sanjay Agarwal as MD and CEO of AU Small Finance Bank

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) approved the reappointment of Sanjay Agarwal as

Managing Director and CEO of AU Small Finance Bank.

- Agarwal has been reappointed for a period of three years, from April 19, 2023, to April 18, 2026.
- Moreover, Uttam Tibrewal has been reappointed as Whole Time Director of the bank for the next three years.

12. Fabindia announces former Tata Group executive Rajeshwari Srinivasan as new CEO

- Ethnic apparel retailer Fab india has appointed Rajeshwari Srinivasan as its new chief executive officer (CEO) effective April 2023.
- Srinivasan will succeed Vinay Singh, who led the company as MD and CEO for seven years.
- Singh will continue as a non-executive director on the Fabindia board.
- Rajeshwari Srinivasan brings more than 30 years of experience in the FMCG, retail, luxury and hospitality sectors

13. A Madhavarao set to be next CMD of Bharat Dynamics Ltd

- A Madhavarao is set to be next Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) of Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL), a PSU under the Ministry of Defence. He has been recommended for the post by the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) panel.
- Headquartered in Hyderabad, Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL), was incorporated on 16 July, 1970 as a Public Sector Undertaking. PESB, Chairperson- Sh. Mallika Srinivasan.

14. RBI approves appointment of Kaizad Bharucha as deputy MD of HDFC Bank

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the appointment of Kaizad Bharucha as the deputy managing director of HDFC Bank for three years from April 19, 2023, the private sector lender told stock exchanges.
- The RBI also approved Bhavesh Zaveri's appointment as HDFC Bank's executive director for a period of three years, with effect from April 19.
- HDFC Bank, which is India's largest private sector lender, had recommended the two appointments to the central bank back in November 2022. It is appointing a deputy managing director five years after Paresh Sukthankar resigned

15. Vodafone Idea reappoints Kumar Mangalam Birla non-executive director

- Kumar Mangalam Birla has rejoined the board of Vodafone Idea (Vi) as an additional non-executive director.
- The company's board of directors approved his appointment, which will take effect on April 20.

- It also accepted the resignation of non-executive director K K Maheshwari from the board.

16. Reliance Retail Enters JV For Toy Manufacturing

- Reliance Retail, the country's leading retailer, which owns iconic British toy brand Hamleys and home-grown toy brand Rowan, has entered into a joint venture with a Haryana-based firm for local manufacturing to meet the growing demand.
- The company has entered into a joint venture with Sonipat, Haryana-based Circle E Retail to vertically integrate its toy business.
- Hamley's currently has a global footprint in over 15 countries. In India, Hamleys is the largest chain of toy stores, operating 100+ stores in 36 cities. In June 2022, Reliance Brands Ltd., a unit of RRVL, announced a joint venture with Italian company Plastic Legno SPA and acquired a 40% stake in the latter's toy manufacturing business in India.
- According to a joint report by industry bodies FICCI and KPMG, the Indian toy market was estimated to be worth around \$1 billion in 2019-20 and is expected to double to \$2 billion by 2024-25.

17. Anant Maheshwari Appointed Nasscom Chairperson For 2023-24

- IT Industry body Nasscom named Anant Maheshwari, president of Microsoft India Pvt., as its Chairperson for 2023-24.
- Maheshwari takes over the reins from Krishnan Ramanujam, president-business and technology services at Tata Consultancy Services Ltd., who served as chairperson for the year 2022-23.
- The apex association for software and IT services industry also announced the appointment of Rajesh Nambiar, chairman and managing director of Cognizant India Ltd., as its vice chairperson for 2023-24.

18. Former SEBI chief UK Sinha joins Nippon MF as independent director, board chairman

- Nippon India Life Asset Management (NAM India) announced the appointment of Upendra Kumar Sinha as an Independent Director and Chairman of the Board with effect from May 1.
- He has also been the Chairman and Managing Director of UTI Asset Management and Chairman of the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI).
- Nippon India Mutual Fund is the **fourth biggest asset management company** in the 42-member Indian mutual fund industry with average assets under management of Rs 2.93 lakh crore for the March 2023 quarter.

- NDTV recently appointed Sh. Sinha as an independent director and non-executive chairperson of the NDTV board of directors.

19. RBI Approves Reappointment Of N Kamakodi As City Union Bank MD And CEO

- The Reserve Bank of India has given its consent for the reappointment of N Kamakodi as managing director and CEO of private sector bank City Union Bank.
- The tenure of his re-appointment would be for a period of three years with effect from May 1, 2023

20. Hari Hara Mishra takes charge as CEO of Association of Asset Reconstruction Companies

- Hari Hara Mishra has taken charge as the Chief Executive Officer of the Association of Asset Reconstruction Companies.
- Mishra, who worked with State Bank of India from 1982 to 2004, Officer, has been associated with Asset Reconstruction Sector since those formative days (2004) till date, in various ARCs in executive and director level roles.
- The Association, which is the voice of all Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARCs), has been active for more than eight years. Currently, there are 28 ARCs registered with Reserve Bank of India.

21. Embassy REIT CEO VikaashKhdloya Resigns; Aravind Maiya To Become New CEO From July 1

- Embassy Office Parks REIT's CEO, VikaashKhdloya, has resigned, and the company has appointed Aravind Maiya as the new CEO with effect from July 1 this year.
- The Board also approved the appointment of Aravind Maiya as Chief Executive Officer with effect from July 1, 2023.

22. SpiceJet appoints Arun Kashyap as Chief Operating Officer

- No-frills carrier SpiceJet announced the appointment of Arun Kashyap as its Chief Operating Officer.
- Kashyap will be rejoining SpiceJet from Air India where he is the Chief Technical Officer. Earlier, he had served as the Chief Program & Transformation Officer at SpiceJet.

23. Vistara's SisiraKanta Dash to assume chief technical officer role in Air India from June

- SisiraKanta Dash, who presently serves as the head of engineering at Vistara, will be appointed as the Chief Technical Officer (Head of Engineering) at Air India in June of this year.
- Dash will take over the post from Arun Kashyap, who is leaving Air India shortly after a year in pursuit of other opportunities.



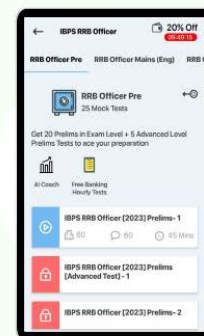
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Awards

1. Kiran Nadar conferred with France's highest civilian award

- Philanthropist and art collector Kiran Nadar was recently conferred "Chevalier de la Lgiond'Honneur" by French Ambassador to India Emmanuel Lenain.
- The highest French civilian award comes in recognition of Ms. Nadar's outstanding contribution in the field of art, her commitment to providing greater access to culture both nationally and internationally.
- Ms. Nadar, chairperson of the Kiran Nadar Museum of Art (KNMA) -- a philanthropic initiative in art -- and a trustee of the Shiv Nadar Foundation has played a vital role in advancing Indo-French cultural ties, and artistic cooperation

2. Indian-American physician honoured with young urologist of the year award

- An Indian-American physician and professor has been honoured with the Young Urologist of the Year Award conferred by the American Urological Association.
- Dr. Nitya Abraham is an Associate Professor at Albert Einstein College of Medicine and Program Director for the Montefiore Urology residency programme.

3. C.R. Rao wins top statistics award

- The Indian-American statistician Callyampudi Radhakrishna Rao has been awarded the 2023 International Prize in Statistics, which is statistics' equivalent of the Nobel Prize.
- It was established in 2016 and is awarded once every two years to an individual or team 'for major achievements using statistics to advance science, technology and human welfare.'

4. Bharat Biotech wins award at World Vaccine Congress

- Bharat Biotech has won the 'Best Production /Process Development' award as part of the Vaccine Industry Excellence (ViE) awards at the World Vaccine Congress 2023.
- The Congress was held during April 3-6 in Washington, USA.

5. Nilesh Sambare honored with the 'Maratha Udyog Ratna 2023' by Maratha Entrepreneurs Development and Guidance Institute Maharashtra

- Nilesh Bhagwan Sambare, also known as Appa, the founder of Jijau Educational and Social Foundation or Sanstha, was awarded the 'Maratha Udyog Ratna' in the 'Maratha Entrepreneurs Conference 2023' organized by the 'Maratha Entrepreneurs Development and Guidance Institute Maharashtra State.' 2023' at Mahakavi Kalidas Kalamandir, Nashik.

6. Kumar Mangalam Birla received AIMA's 'Business Leader of the Decade' award

- Kumar Mangalam Birla, Chairman of Aditya Birla Group, received the 'Business Leader of the Decade Award' at All India Management Association's (AIMA) 13th Managing India Awards ceremony
- Birla, won the award for his contributions to the Indian industry over the last decade.
- Tata Steel Chairman T V Narendran was facilitated with 'AIMA-JRD Tata Corporate Leadership' award.
- Leading engineering services company ABB India bagged the 'MNC in India of the Year' award.

7. Indian-American CEO Raj Subramaniam presented with PravasiBharatiya Samman

- Raj Subramaniam, the Indian-American CEO of global transportation giant FedEx, has been presented with the prestigious PravasiBharatiya Samman, the highest civilian award given by India to persons of Indian origin and Indian diaspora.
- Subramaniam is the president and CEO of FedEx Corporation, one of the world's largest transportation companies.

8. Nandini Gupta of Rajasthan crowned as Femina Miss India World 2023

- Rajasthan's Nandini Gupta has been crowned as the Femina Miss India World 2023 in the 59th edition of Femina Miss India 2023 Grand Finale held at Imphal.
- While the 19-year-old took the crown home, Shreya Poonja from Delhi was announced as the first runner-up and Thounaojam Strela Luwang from Manipur became the second runner-up. Now, the winner Nandini Gupta will represent India in Miss World 2024 contest.

9. Prestigious Santokbaa Humanitarian Award conferred to innovator Sonam Wangchuk

- The prestigious Santokbaa Humanitarian Award, an initiative of Shree Ramkrishna Exports (SRK) a leading diamond crafting and exports company, and its philanthropic arm Shree Ramkrishna Knowledge Foundation (SRKKF), has been conferred on Founder-Director of Students' Educational and Cultural Movement of Ladakh (SECMOL), Sonam Wangchuk. The award carries a cash prize of Rs. 1 crore.
- The award, which carries a cash prize of Rs. 1 crore, has been instituted in memory of SRK and SRKKF's Founder Chairman Govind Dholakia's mother Late Santokbaa Dholakia.
- The award was presented to Shri Sonam Wangchuk on the death anniversary of Santokbaa on April 10, 2023, at an award ceremony at Hotel Zen in Ladakh.

- Wanchuk is a notable engineer, innovator, educationist and sustainable development reformist and Founder-Director of Students' Educational and Cultural Movement of Ladakh (SECMOL).
- Wangchuk is the inventor of the Ice Stupa technique that creates artificial glaciers used for storing winter water in the form of a cone-shaped ice heap and addresses the water crisis faced in Ladakh. He is also working to address other environmental challenges.
- The SECMOL campus designed by him runs on solar energy and uses no fossil fuels for cooking, lighting or heating. His works have made life easier for people in Ladakh, and he is truly an inspiration to people who want to make a difference in the world.

10. Utsa Patnaik selected for Malcolm Adiseshiah Award 2023

- Utsa Patnaik, a renowned economist of national and international repute, has been selected for the Malcolm Adiseshiah Award 2023.
- The prestigious national award, given every year by the Malcolm & Elizabeth Adiseshiah Trust, honours outstanding social scientists
- The award consists of a citation and a cash prize of Rs. 2 lakh.
- Malcolm Satyanathan Adiseshiah was an Indian development economist and educator. He worked as the Associate General Secretary of the World University Service in Geneva from 1946 until 1948. In 1976 he was awarded the Padma Bhushan, India's third-highest civilian award.
- In 1998, UNESCO created the Malcolm Adiseshiah International Literacy Prize in recognition of his contribution to education and literacy. He was nominated to the Rajya Sabha, the upper house of the Parliament of India, in 1978.

11. Angela Merkel receives Germany's highest Order of Merit

- Germany's former chancellor Angela Merkel received the country's highest honour in a ceremony in Berlin.
- Grand Cross award was handed to her by President Frank-Walter Steinmeier.
- Merkel, Germany's first female Chancellor, led the country from 2005 to 2021.
- Only 2 former chancellors of Germany have received Grand Cross award previously, Konrad Adenauer and Helmut Kohl.

12. Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Administration 2022: State category

- Awards were given in three categories -- Centre, State and District.
- Mission Youth of Jammu and Kashmir and State Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (SOTTO), Gujarat won the

award under the "Innovation (State) category".

More Details on the award:

- The Prime Minister's Awards for Excellence in Public Administration 2022 for "Innovations" were given in three categories -- Centre, State and District. As many as 748 districts participated and 2,520 nominations were received for the awards.
- The National COVID-19 vaccination programme by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and PM GatiShakti National Master Plan by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade were chosen for the awards for Innovation (Centre) category.
- Mission Youth of Jammu and Kashmir and State Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (SOTTO), Gujarat won the award under the "Innovation (State) category".
- Gujarat developed a cadaver transplant programme in 2005 and further strengthened it in 2019 with the establishment of SOTTO, to save lives lost due to lack of organ donations.
- "Operation Parivartan" which is aimed at transforming the lives of people engaged in the illegal liquor trade in Maharashtra's Solapur district and the 'Sanvardhan' initiative in Uttar Pradesh's Rampur district to fulfil the nutritional requirement of children were also chosen for the honour under "Innovation (District) category".
- The New Age Learning Centre in Changlang, Arunachal Pradesh has also won the award under the same category.
- Madhya Pradesh's Burhanpur and Tamil Nadu's Kancheepuram got the award for being the best-performing districts under the Har Ghar Jal Yojana, which envisages that every household and public institution will have potable water supply in adequate quantity with prescribed quality on a regular and long-term basis by 2024.
- Uttar Pradesh's Chitrakoot and Gujarat's Mahesana were given the award for their exemplary work in promoting quality education with an equitable and inclusive

classroom environment through 'SamagraShiksha'.

- Maharashtra's Latur and Andhra Pradesh's Anakapalli have been adjudged the best-performing districts in promoting 'Swasth Bharat' through health and wellness centres.
- Baramulla in Jammu and Kashmir and Gumla in Jharkhand were chosen as best performing districts under the Aspirational Districts Programme.
- The awards under this category seek to recognise the achievements of the best-performing districts in the category of 112 most under-developed districts across the country.

13. Dalai Lama Gets 1959 Ramon Magsaysay Award In Person After 64 Years

- The 1959 Ramon Magsaysay Award was presented to Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama after 64 years.
- Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation president Susanna B Afan and Foundation Trustee Emily A Abrera met with the Dalai Lama, the Nobel Peace laureate, to personally present the 1959 Ramon Magsaysay Award.
- It was the first international award given to "His Holiness for Community Leadership in recognition of his leadership of the Tibetan community's gallant struggle in defense of the sacred religion that is the inspiration of their life and culture" by the Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation in the Philippines in August 1959.
- The Ramon Magsaysay Award, often called the 'Nobel Prize of Asia', is an annual award established to perpetuate former Philippine President Ramon Magsaysay's example of integrity in governance, courageous service to the people, and pragmatic idealism within a democratic society.

14. 68th Hyundai Filmfare Awards 2023: Alia Bhatt, Rajkummar Rao, Gangubai Kathiawadi Win Big

- The 68th Hyundai Filmfare Awards was held at the Jio Convention Centre, BKC, on April 28. The award show was hosted by Salman Khan, Maniesh Paul, and Ayushmann Khurrana.

More Details on the award:

- Best Film: Gangubai Kathiawadi
- Best Director: Sanjay Leela Bhansali (Gangubai Kathiawadi)
- **Best Film Critics:** Badhaai Do (Harshvardhan Kulkarni)

- **Best Actor In A Leading Role (Male):** Rajkummar Rao (Badhaai Do)
- **Best Actor Critics:** Sanjay Mishra (Vadh)
- **Best Actor In A Leading Role (Female):** Alia Bhatt (Gangubai Kathiawadi)
- **Best Actress Critics:** Tabu (Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2) Bhumi Pednekar (Badhaai Do)
- **Best Actor In A Supporting Role (Male):** Anil Kapoor (Jugjugg Jeeyo)
- **Best Actor In A Supporting Role (Female):** Sheeba Chaddha (Badhaai Do)
- **Best Lyrics:** Amitabh Bhattacharya (Kesariya- Brahmastra Part One: Shiva)
- **Best Music Album:** Pritam (Brahmastra Part One: Shiva)
- **Best Playback Singer (Male):** Arijit Singh (Kesariya- Brahmastra Part One: Shiva)
- **Best Playback Singer (Female):** Kavita Seth (Rangisari- Jugjugg Jeeyo)
- **Best Story:** Akshat Ghildial, Suman Adhikary (Badhaai Do)
- **Best Screenplay:** Akshat Ghildial, Suman Adhikary And Harshvardhan Kulkarni (Badhaai Do)
- **Best Dialogue:** Prakash Kapadia, Utkarshini Vashishtha (Gangubai Kathiawadi)
- **Best Background Score:** Sanchit Balhara And Ankit Balhara (Gangubai Kathiawadi)
- **Best Cinematography:** Sudeep Chatterjee (Gangubai Kathiawadi)
- **Best Production Design:** Subrata Chakraborty And Amit Ray (Gangubai Kathiawadi)
- **Best Costume Design:** Sheetal Iqbal Sharma (Gangubai Kathiawadi)
- **Best Sound Design:** Bishwadeep Dipak Chatterjee (Brahmastra Part One: Shiva)
- **Best Editing:** Ninad Khanolkar (An Action Hero)
- **Best Action:** Parvez Shaikh (Vikram Vedha)
- **Best Vfx:** Dneg, Redefine (Brahmastra Part One: Shiva)
- **Best Choreography:** Kruti Mahesh (Dholida- Gangubai Kathiawadi)

- **Best Debut Director:** Jaspal Singh Sandhu And Rajeev Barnwal (Vadh)
- **Best Debut Male:** Ankush Gedam (Jhund)
- **Best Debut Female:** Andrea Kevichusa (Anek)
- **Lifetime Achievement Award:** Prem Chopra
- **R D Burman Award For Upcoming Music Talent:** Jahnvi Shrimankar (Dholida- Gangubai Kathiawadi)

15. Indian-American Neeli Bendapudi to be conferred with this year's Immigrant Achievement Award

- Neeli Bendapudi, the Indian American president of Penn State University, will receive the prestigious Immigrant Achievement Award for her contributions to higher education in the US.
- The award is presented each year to an individual or organisation that exhibits a commitment and dedication to America's heritage as a nation of immigrants and advocacy for humane immigrants.



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Ranks & Reports

1. Delhi airport emerges as the world's 9th busiest airport in 2022: ACI

- Delhi airport has emerged as the ninth busiest airport in the world in 2022 with passenger traffic of more than 5.94 crore, according to Airports Council International (ACI) list.
- The IGI Airport was also the only airport from south and southeast Asia to make the top 10 list.
- ACI said the list of top 10 busiest airports in the world for 2022 is topped by Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport (ATL, 93.7 million passengers).
- It is followed by Dallas Fort Worth Airport (DFW, 73.4 million passengers, Denver Airport (DEN, 69.3 million passengers), and Chicago O'Hare Airport (ORD, 68.3 million passengers).

2. Global trade growth expected to be subpar at 1.7% in 2023: WTO

- Global merchandise trade is projected to grow 1.7 per cent, down from 2.7 per cent in 2022, as per WTO.
- Factors contributing to the sluggish growth include the war in Ukraine, inflation, tighter monetary policy, among others.
- Real global GDP growth is forecast to be 2.4 per cent for 2023.
- With this, the trade growth is below the 12-year average of 2.6 per cent since the trade collapse that followed the global financial crisis in 2008.

3. WBPDCCL ranks best performing power generation company for FY'23

- State-run West Bengal Power Development Corporation (WBPDCCL) has ranked best performing power generation company in the country for the financial year 2022-23, according to a list published by the Central Electricity Authority, Ministry of Power.
- Santaldih has been ranked second (PLF-91.37 per cent) followed by Sagardighi plant at fifth position (PLF-89.39 per cent)

4. UPI payments second most preferred by millennials for digital loans: CASHe

- Customers chose United Payments Interface (UPI) as their second most preferred method of repaying digital loans, coming at 27 per cent, only after e-NACH which was the preferred route for 36 per cent of the borrowers, as per, the Financial Mood of the Millennials Report by financial services platform CASHe for FY23.

5. Mumbai among cities with world's best public transport, finds survey

- Germany's Berlin was ranked as the city with the best public transport system

globally, followed by Czech Republic's capital Prague

- while Mumbai secured the 19th spot and was the top-ranked Indian city, according to a survey published by London based 'Time Out' - a media outlet that focuses on hospitality business and labels itself as a global brand 'dedicated to city life

6. Tiger numbers go up substantially in Shivalik Hills-Gangetic Plains, dip in Western Ghats: Govt report

- The tiger population has gone up in the Shivalik Hills-Gangetic Plains landscape, central India and the Sundarbans but their numbers have dwindled in the Western Ghats and the Northeast-Brahmaputra Plains due to habitat loss, fragmentation and poaching over the years, according to a government report released.
- According to the data, the tiger population in the country increased from 2,967 in 2018 to 3,167 in 2022.

7. Shah Rukh Khan Tops 2023 TIME100 Reader Poll; Surpasses Lionel Messi, Harry-Meghan

- Indian actor Shah Rukh Khan has topped Time magazine's poll for its annual TIME100 list, bagging more reader votes than football ace Lionel Messi, Prince Harry and Meghan Markle, Oscar winner Michelle Yeoh, and Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg.
- According to the American publication, the 'Pathaan' star got over 4% of the 1.2 million votes cast.

8. Power Minister R K Singh launched the State Energy Efficiency Index 2021-22 report

- Union Minister of Power and New & Renewable Energy, Shri R. K. Singh released the report of State Energy Efficiency Index 2021-22.
- In SEEI 2021-22, 5 states - Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Rajasthan and Telangana - are in the Front Runner category (>60 points) while 4 states - Assam, Haryana, Maharashtra, and Punjab - are in the Achiever category (50-60 points).
- Further, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Assam and Chandigarh are the top-performing states in their respective state groups.
- Telangana and Andhra Pradesh showed the most improvement since the last index

9. Freedom House Index: Tibet ranked world's least free country

- Freedom House, a global watchdog of human rights around the world, released its report titled "Freedom in the World 2023 Report."

- According to the news report, Freedom House ranked Tibet as the "World's least-free country," with South Sudan and Syria.
- According to Freedom House's report, both Chinese and Tibetans living in Tibet lack basic human rights.

10. World's 'most criminal countries' ranking: India behind US, UK at 77

- World of Statistics has shared the ranking of the world's "most criminal countries". On the list, Venezuela has been ranked top, followed by Papua New Guinea.
- India stood at 77 spots while the US and UK were ahead of India in the criminal ranking country.
- The USA was at 55th number and the UK at 65th rank, according to the World of Statistics.
- Turkey, Germany, and Japan were among the least criminal countries, ranking at 92nd, 100th, and 135th ranks.

11. India ranks 5th in countries with most AI investment

- India ranked fifth in terms of investments received by startups offering AI-based products and services in 2022, according to Stanford University Of AI Index Report.
- AI startups in India received investments of \$3.24 billion in total amount, leaving countries like South Korea, Germany, Canada and Australia behind.

12. India improves its ranking by 6 spots in global biz environment rankings

- India improved its ranking by six spots in the latest Business Environment Rankings (BER) globally, according to data released by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU).
- The upward shift is due to its improved score in parameters like technological readiness, political environment, and foreign investment among others.
- Of the 17 economies in the Asian region, India is ranked 10th in the 2023- 27 forecast period, up from 14th in 2018-22 period.

13. YS Jagan Mohan Reddy is India's wealthiest CM, Naveen 3rd richest: ADR report

- A total of 29 of the incumbent chief ministers are crorepatis in India with Andhra Pradesh's Jagan Mohan Reddy having the highest assets totaling '510 crore, according to poll affidavits analyzed by the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR). The report stated that West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee has the lowest total assets of about '15 lakh.
- The top three chief ministers in terms of assets are Andhra Pradesh's Jagan Mohan Reddy (over '510 crore), Arunachal Pradesh's Pema Khandu (over '163 crore),

and Odisha's Naveen Patnaik (over '63 crore), according to the ADR.

- The three CMs with the lowest declared assets are – West Bengal's Mamata Banerjee (over '15 lakh), Kerala's Pinarayi Vijayan (over '1 crore), and Haryana's Manohar Lal (over '1 crore), the ADR said.
- Both Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and Delhi's Arvind Kejriwal own assets worth over '3 crore, the report added.

14. US becomes India's biggest trading partner in FY23: Report

- The US has emerged as India's biggest trading partner in 2022-23 on account of increasing economic ties between the two countries.
- According to the provisional data of the commerce ministry, the bilateral trade between India and the US has increased by 7.65 per cent to USD 128.55 in 2022-23 as against USD 119.5 billion in 2021-22. It was USD 80.51 billion in 2020-21.
- Exports to the US rose by 2.81 per cent to USD 78.31 billion in 2022-23 as against USD 76.18 billion in 2021-22, while imports grew by about 16 per cent to USD 50.24 billion, the data showed. On the other hand, during 2022-23, India's two-way commerce with China declined by about 1.5 per cent to USD 113.83 billion as against USD 115.42 billion in 2021-22.

15. Syria becomes world's largest 'narco-state'

- Syria has witnessed a troubling transformation into the world's foremost narco-state, as its economic survival now depends heavily on the production and export of Captagon, also known as the "poor man's coke".
- This highly addictive amphetamine has become the primary lifeline of the country's economy, generating more than 90% of its foreign currency.
- The pervasive presence and profitability of Captagon in Syria have raised concerns about the devastating impact of drug trafficking on the country's social fabric, health, and security

16. IMF: China to be top world growth source in next five years

- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) said in its latest report, China will be the top contributor to global growth over the next five years, with its share set to be double that of the US, per Bloomberg.
- In total, 75% of global growth is expected to be concentrated in 20 countries and over half in the top four: China, India, the US and Indonesia.
- According to Bloomberg calculations using data the fund released in its World Economic

Outlook released last week, 'the nation's slice of global gross domestic product expansion is expected to represent 22.6% of total world growth through 2028

17. India gets over \$60 bn in PE-VC investments for third year straight: Report

- India last year got 20 per cent of the total private equity and venture capital (PE-VC) investments in the Asia Pacific, making the country a "bright spot" amid decelerating capital flow in the region.
- India got investments worth \$61.6 billion last year: the third time it topped the \$60-billion mark but moderating slightly from \$69.8 billion in 2021.
- According to the report written by consulting firm Bain & Company in collaboration with Indian Venture and Alternate Capital Association (IVCA).

18. Chennai ranks among top 5 in digital payment transactions in 2022: Report

- Chennai has emerged as one of the top digital payment transactions cities in 2022 in the country, a report by payment services firm Worldline India
- The capital city in terms of volume has made 14.3 million transactions with a value of USD 35.5 billion, Worldline India said in its report.
- Bengaluru emerged on top with 29 million transactions worth USD 65 billion followed by New Delhi 19.6 million transactions worth USD 50 billion, Mumbai (18.7 million transactions worth USD 49.5 billion), Pune (15 million transactions valued at USD 32.8 billion)

19. TCS tops LinkedIn's 2023 list of best places to work in India

- Tata Consultancy Services (#1) has been ranked as the top company in LinkedIn's 2023 Top Companies India list which showcases the best places to work, followed by Amazon (#2) and Morgan Stanley (#3).
- The 7th annual edition reveals the 25 best workplaces where professionals in India can grow their careers and many of these companies are currently hiring for specific roles.
- For the first time, companies such as Dream11 (#20) and Games24x7 (#24) from e-sports and gaming made it to the list, which is reflective of the growing popularity of gaming and the presence of this sector.

20. India is 1 of 3 countries where confidence in children's vaccines has increased: UNICEF report

- Only China, India, and Mexico, that is three out of the 55 countries studied for popular perception of the importance of vaccines for children, showed improvement as per data collected by The Vaccine Confidence Project

(London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine) and published by UNICEF India on April 20.

- UNICEF India released the agency's global flagship report 'The State of the World's Children 2023: For Every Child, Vaccination,' highlighting the significance of childhood immunization.
- Based on new data collected by The Vaccine Confidence Project* (London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine) and published by UNICEF, the report reveals that popular perception of the importance of vaccines for children held firm or improved only in China, India and Mexico out of 55 countries studied.
- The Report warns a total of 67 million children missed out on vaccinations between 2019 and 2021, with vaccination coverage levels decreasing in 112 countries. In 2022, for example, the number of measles cases was more than double the total in the previous year. The number of children paralysed by polio was up 16 per cent year-on-year in 2022. When comparing the 2019 to 2021 period with the previous three-year period, there was an eight-fold increase in the number of children paralysed by polio, highlighting the need to ensure vaccination efforts are sustained.

21. Pune tops ease of moving index, Mumbai and Coimbatore follow: Report

- Pune and Pimpri Chinchwad scored the highest in Ease of Moving in 2022.
- The twin cities were followed by Mumbai and Coimbatore in Ola Mobility Institute (OMI) foundation's Ease Of Moving Index (EoMI) India report 2022.
- Aizawl, Mizoram's capital, was the top performer in clean mobility and has the highest adoption of cashless payments for mobility services.
- A total of 12 cities received higher cleanliness ratings this year, indicating an improvement in the perception of public transport users towards its cleanliness.

22. Share of Govt Health Expenditure in country's total GDP increases from 1.13% in 2014-15 to 1.35% in 2019-20

- The share of Government Health Expenditure in country's total GDP has increased from 1.13 percent in 2014-15 to 1.35 percent in 2019-20.
- The share of Government Health Expenditure in Total Health Expenditure has increased also from 29 percent in 2014-15 to 41.4 percent in 2019-20.
- The report highlights the increased public spending in primary healthcare, which is in line with National Health policy 2017 which states that two-thirds of public health

spending must be in Primary Health systems. This is also a result of great developments and initiatives taken at grassroot level such as opening of over 1.6 lakh Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centres which are providing plethora of health services to the people.

23. India World's Fourth Largest Defence Spender In 2022, Says Report

- India was the world's fourth-largest military spender in 2022, with its defence spending increasing by around six percent as compared to 2021, a report by the Swedish think tank Stockholm International Peace Research Institute said.
- With a military expenditure of \$81.4 billion, India's spending was up by 6% from 2021 and by 47% as compared to 2013.
- The United States, accounting for 39% of the world's military spending in 2022, was the top spender, followed by China (13%),

Russia (3.9%), India (3.6%), and Saudi Arabia (3.3%).

24. ITC becomes India's 6th valuable company, overtakes Infosys

- FMCG giant ITC has now overtaken the market capitalisation of Infosys to become India's sixth most valuable company on the stock exchanges. The cigarette-to-hotel conglomerate surpassed the market capitalisation of IT major Infosys on Monday after overtaking home finance lender HDFC Ltd.

25. Pakistan is the largest recipient of ADB loans in Asia

- According to the ADB Annual Report 2022, released, out of total disbursement of over USD 31.8 billion to 40 countries, Pakistan received loans of USD 5.58 billion. However, these loans have been used by Pakistan to avert default. These loans were conditional on Pakistan obtaining loans from the IMF, which imposed its own conditionalities.

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Important Days

1. Prevention of Blindness Week 2023

- The Government of India organises the Prevention of Blindness Week from April 1-7 every year to raise awareness about the causes and prevention of blindness.
- Jawaharlal Nehru and Raj Kumari Amrit Kaur, the first health minister of India, established the National Society for the Prevention of Blindness and along with it, the observance of the week was started in 1960.
- According to the World Health Organization (WHO), at least 2.2 billion people globally have a near or distant vision problem while at least one billion cases could have been prevented with proper care. Also, half of these visual impairment cases are yet to be addressed.

2. World Autism Awareness Day | 2 April

- Every year on April 2, World Autism Awareness Day is celebrated across the globe with an aim to spread awareness about Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).
- This year, the theme for the day is 'Transforming the narrative: Contributions at home, at work, in the arts and in policymaking.'
- In 2008, UN announced April 2 to be observed as the World Autism Awareness Day.
- The day is also one of the only seven official health-specific UN Days.

3. International Day for Mine Awareness | 4 April

- In 2005, The United Nations declared April 4th as International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action.
- It highlights the pressing need to develop mine-action capacities in countries where mines and explosive remnants of war constitute a threat to the safety of civilians.
- This day is also about recognizing the work the United Nations Mines Action Service has done for the past 20 years.
- It helps, for example, to remove the remaining explosive devices in support of peace.

4. National Maritime Day 2023 | April 5

- National Maritime Day is celebrated on April 5 across the country to commemorate the sailing of the first Indian commercial vessel, SS Loyalty. The ship sailed from Mumbai to London.
- The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways started this day in 1964. This year will mark the 60th National Maritime Day.

5. International Day of Sport for Development and Peace 2023 | 6 April

- International Day of Sport for Development and Peace takes place on 6 April and is observed to celebrate the role of sports and physical activity in individual lives and communities across the globe.
- The theme for International Day of Sport for Development and peace for this year is 'Scoring for people and planet'.

6. World Health Day | 7 April

- Every year, World Health day is celebrated on 7th April to coincide with the setting up of the World Health Organization, WHO in 1948.
- The theme this year is Health for All.
- This year the world health body is observing its 75th anniversary.

7. World Homeopathy Day | April 10

- World Homeopathy Day is celebrated on April 10 to commemorate the birth anniversary of the founder of homeopathy, German physician Samuel Hahnemann. This day is observed to honour homeopathy and its contributions to the field of health.
- In India, World Homeopathy Day is celebrated under the aegis of the Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India.

8. International Day of Human Space Flight | 12 April

- The United Nations (UN) celebrates the International Day of Human Space Flight on April 12 each year.
- The day remembers the first human space flight on April 12, 1961.
- The day also aims to promote aspirations to explore and maintain outer space for peaceful purposes.

9. World Art Day | 15 April

- World Art Day is celebrated every year on April 15, to promote the development, diffusion, and enjoyment of art.
- The International Association of Art, a partner of UNESCO, created the day to promote creative activity around the world.
- In honor of Leonardo Da Vinci's birthday, the particular date of the holiday has been celebrated since 2012.
- The World Art Day 2023 theme is 'Art is Good for Health'.
- Architecture, Painting, Sculpting, Music, Literature, and Dance are the official categories of art (established in ancient Greece). Later, Cinema was added as the seventh art in 1911 by acclaimed cinematography professor and critic, Ricciotto Canudo.

10. Indian Army celebrates 39th Siachen Day

- Every year on April 13, the Siachen Warriors celebrate Siachen Day. This year marks the 39th anniversary of Operation Meghdoot,

launched by the Indian Army on April 13, 1984, to secure the Siachen Glacier, which was important from a strategic point of view since the glacier shares boundaries with Pakistan and China.

- The Glacier extends to 76 kilometres in the Karakoram ranges, and the sub-zero temperatures and frequent avalanches are the greatest challenges for human survival here.

11. World Hemophilia Day 2023 | 17 April

- April 17th is observed as World Hemophilia Day annually, commemorating the birthday of Frank Schnabel, who founded the World Federation of Hemophilia.
- This occasion serves as a platform to increase awareness and provide education about hemophilia and other bleeding disorders.
- Hemophilia is a rare disease characterized by the inability of the blood to clot properly due to a deficiency in specific clotting factors, resulting in prolonged bleeding that can be life-threatening in certain cases.

12. World Heritage Day 2023 | 18 April

- Every year on April 18, people celebrate World Heritage Day, also known as the International Day for Monuments and Sites.
- This day is dedicated to promoting the importance of cultural heritage and raising awareness about the need to preserve historical sites and monuments across the globe.
- The day celebrates the unique and diverse cultural heritage across the world and encourages people to appreciate and safeguard it for future generations.

13. World Liver Day 2023 | 19 April

- World Liver Day is celebrated on April 19 every year to spread awareness about the importance of liver health.
- Diseases like non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD), Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B, liver cirrhosis, and liver cancer are now affecting people more than ever before.

14. National Civil Services Day 2023 | 21 April

- Every year on April 21, National Civil Services Day is honoured. On this day, the Prime Minister of India awards officers from the central and state governments for their outstanding contributions to public administration.
- The civil service system is the backbone of the country's administrative functions. It is the Republic of India's permanent executive branch.
- Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel, the Home Member of Parliament, introduced the All India Services on April 21, 1947. The former Indian Civil Services under British India were later transformed into All India

Services under the total Indian administration.

15. Earth Day | April 22

- Earth Day is celebrated every year on April 22 in order to honor the environmental movement and raise awareness to protect natural resources.
- American senator Gaylord Nelson founded the Earth Day for environmental education.
- Generally the Earth Day is either celebrated on April 22 or on the day when the spring equinox occurs around the world. The theme for Earth Day 2023 is "Invest In Our Planet".
- Earth Day 2023 is celebrated on April 22. In present time, Earth Day Network (EDN) is spread over 20,000 partners and organizations in 190 countries.

16. World Book and Copyright Day - 23rd April

- World Book Day is observed on 23 April every year. It is organised by United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.
- The first World Book Day was celebrated on 23 April in 1995.
- Theme for 2023 is Indigenous Languages.
- April 23rd is the date on which several prominent authors, William Shakespeare, Miguel de Cervantes and Inca Garcilaso de la Vega all died. In 2023 Accra, the capital of Ghana was designated as the World Book Capital.
- On this occasion, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the international organizations representing the three major sectors of the book industry - publishers, booksellers and libraries, select the World Book Capital for a year to maintain, through its own initiatives, the impetus of the Day's celebrations. 23 April is a symbolic date in world literature. It is the date on which several prominent authors, William Shakespeare, Miguel de Cervantes and Inca Garcilaso de la Vega all died.
- This date was a natural choice for UNESCO's General Conference, held in Paris in 1995, to pay a world-wide tribute to books and authors on this date, encouraging everyone to access books.

17. English Language and Spanish Language Day | 23rd April

- English Language Day at the UN is celebrated on 23 April, the date traditionally observed as both the birthday and date of death of William Shakespeare.
- Spanish Language Day is observed on the anniversary of the death of the great genius of Spanish letters, Miguel de Cervantes.
- The Day is the result of a 2010 initiative by UN's Department of Global Communications.

- The Day is the result of a 2010 initiative by the Department of Global Communications, establishing language days for each of the Organization's six official languages. The purpose of the UN's language days is to celebrate multilingualism and cultural diversity, as well as to promote equal use of all six official languages throughout the Organization. Under the initiative, UN duty stations around the world celebrate six separate days, each dedicated to one of the Organization's six official languages. The days are as follows:
- Arabic (18 December)
- Chinese (20 April)
- English (23 April)
- French (20 March)
- Russian (6 June)
- Spanish (23 April)

18. International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace 2023 | 24 April

- The International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace is celebrated annually on 24 April. It seeks to reaffirm the UN Charter and its principles of resolving disputes among countries through peaceful means.
- The Day acknowledges the use of multilateral decision making and diplomacy in achieving peaceful resolutions to conflicts among nations.
- It was established on 12 December 2018 through resolution A/RES/73/127 and was first observed on 24 April 2019.

19. International Delegate's Day 2023 | 25 April

- International Delegate's Day is observed annually on April 25. It honours delegates who play a crucial role in the United Nations.
- Without them, there would be no United Nations. As representatives of their respective governments, United Nations delegates are committed to multilateralism.

20. World Dance Day | 29 April

- April 29 marks the observance of World Dance Day, which is a celebration of the diverse art of dance and its significant cultural impact across the world. World Dance Day was established by the International Dance Council (CID) in 1982.
- The CID is a non-profit organization. It is a part of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

21. Ayushman Bharat Diwas | 30 April

- Ayushman Bharat Diwas is observed on April 30 every year to commemorate the launch of the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana scheme by the government on Sept 23, 2018.

- It is a flagship health insurance scheme that provides financial protection to over 10 crore families, covering up to Rs. 5 lakhs per family for primary and tertiary hospital care.

Key Features of PM- JAY

- PM-JAY is the world's largest health insurance/ assurance scheme fully financed by the government.
- It provides a cover of Rs. 5 lakhs per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization across public and private empanelled hospitals in India.
- Over 12 crore poor and vulnerable entitled families (approximately 55 crore beneficiaries) are eligible for these benefits.
- PM-JAY provides cashless access to health care services for the beneficiary at the point of service, that is, the hospital.
- PM-JAY envisions to help mitigate catastrophic expenditure on medical treatment which pushes nearly 6 crore Indians into poverty each year.
- It covers up to 3 days of pre-hospitalization and 15 days post-hospitalization expenses such as diagnostics and medicines.
- There is no restriction on the family size, age or gender.
- All pre-existing conditions are covered from day one.
- Benefits of the scheme are portable across the country i.e. a beneficiary can visit any empanelled public or private hospital in India to avail cashless treatment.
- Services include approximately 1,929 procedures covering all the costs related to treatment, including but not limited to drugs, supplies, diagnostic services, physician's fees, room charges, surgeon charges, OT and ICU charges etc.
- Public hospitals are reimbursed for the healthcare services at par with the private hospitals.

Summit & Conferences

1. Joint Commanders' conference being held at Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the Joint Commanders' conference of the three services which is being held at Kushabhau Thackeray International Convention Center in Bhopal.
- The theme of the conference is 'Ready, Resurgent, Relevant'.
- Commanders of the three services and senior officials of the Ministry of Defense are participating.
- The focus of the Conference is on advancing the theatre command format for national security, increasing coordination among the three forces and working together in the future.
- Top commanders of the three forces including CDS General Anil Chauhan, Army Chief General Manoj Pandey, Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhary and Navy Chief Admiral R Hari Kumar are participating in this conference.

2. 1st Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group meeting under India's G20 Presidency held at Gandhinagar in Gujarat

- The First Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group meeting under India's G20 Presidency concluded on April 1st at Gandhinagar in Gujarat.
- Around 100 delegates from G20 Nations, Invitee Countries, and International Organisations participated in the 3-day event which focused on discussing progress made in implementing the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

3. Second Meeting of G20 Employment Working Group begins in Guwahati, Assam

- The Second Employment Working Group (EWG) Meeting under India's G20 Presidency took place in the city of Guwahati, Assam from April 03 to 05, 2023. The three-day event saw a gathering of over 72 delegates from over 19 G20 member countries, 7 guest countries and 5 International Organisations.
- The G20 EWG's second meeting is a crucial step towards building consensus on the outcomes of the 3 key priority areas for EWG 2023 under the Indian Presidency. The three areas are i). Addressing Global Skill Gaps ii). Gig and Platform Economy, and Social Protection iii). Sustainable Financing of Social Protection.

4. Ayush Ministry to hold 'Yoga Mahotsav' in Dibrugarh on April 7: Sarbananda Sonowal

- The Ministry of Ayush is set to organise the 'Yoga Mahotsav' on April 7, 2023, to commemorate the 75 days to International Day of Yoga at Dibrugarh University campus.
- The Yoga Mahotsav aims to promote inclusivity and celebrate diversity by involving different segments of society in activities that promote health.
- April 7 is observed as World Health Day. Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways and Ayush, Sarbananda Sonowal.

5. Bangladesh, Japan and India to hold connectivity meet in Tripura

- Bangladesh, Japan, and India will hold a meeting in Tripura on 11-12 April to put in place connectivity initiatives to harness the commercial potential of the region.
- Asian Confluence, a think tank based out of North East India, in collaboration with India's foreign ministry, is organising the event.
- Japan is investing in Northeast India and Bangladesh including the deep sea port at Matarbari that will connect the landlocked region with the Bay of Bengal.

6. W20 International Meeting to commence at Jaipur in Rajasthan

- A two-day Second Women 20 (W20) International Meeting commenced at Jaipur in Rajasthan.
- The meeting will bring together 120 women leaders from 18 G20 countries to address gender inequality issues and promote women's economic empowerment globally.
- Women 20 is an official G20 engagement group, and the meeting will focus on the theme of "Women-Led Development: Leverage Women's Untapped Potential to Accelerate Inclusive and Sustainable Future."

7. Global Conference on Compressed Biogas to be held in New Delhi

- A two-day Global Conference on Compressed Biogas will be held in New Delhi.
- The theme of the Conference is - Towards Progressive Policy Framework for a Robust CBG Foundation and Growth.
- The objective of this Conference is to appraise the industry regarding the initiatives taken by the Central Government for the development of the Compressed Biogas Industry.

- India is dedicated to achieving a net zero target by 2070 and the Government has taken several initiatives to reduce emissions.
- Compressed Biogas has also an important role in emission reduction and it is being promoted by Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation Scheme.

8. PM Modi to inaugurate first Global Buddhist Summit in New Delhi on 20th April

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the first Global Buddhist Summit in New Delhi on Thursday.
- The Ministry of Culture in collaboration with its grantee body International Buddhist Confederation will host the two-day Summit.
- The theme of the Global Buddhist Summit is Responses to Contemporary Challenges: Philosophy to Praxis.

9. Research and Innovation Initiative Gathering conference of G-20 to begin in Himachal Pradesh

- The Research and Innovation Initiative gathering conference of G-20 will begin at Dharamshala in Himachal Pradesh .
- Delegates from G-20 member States, international organizations and experts from the scientific community will attend the two-day conference.
- It will discuss building a sustainable eco-innovative energy conversion system.

10. MoS for Steel and Rural Development inaugurates 'India Steel 2023' in Mumbai

- A three-day conference and exhibition on the steel industry named 'India Steel 2023' was inaugurated by Union Minister of State for Steel and Rural Development Fagga Singh Kulaste in Mumbai.
- The Union Ministry of Steel, in association with the Department of Commerce, Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry and industry chamber FICCI has organized the event.

11. The 100th G20 Meeting under India's G20 Presidency, the Meeting of Agricultural Chief Scientists (MACS) concludes

- The Meeting of Agricultural Chief Scientists (MACS) of G20 nations on "Sustainable Agriculture and Food System for Healthy People and Planet" concluded successfully at Varanasi.
- General (Dr.) V K Singh (Retd.), Union Minister of State for Civil Aviation and Road Transport and Highways inaugurated the meeting.

12. India plans to host first global insurance summit to attract investments

- India plans to host the first state-sponsored global insurance summit later this year to flag challenges facing the industry, turn the global spotlight on Indian insurers and

attract investments at a time much of the developed world is bracing for an economic downturn.

- The event would coincide with India's ongoing G-20 presidency, and leverage the global focus on India.

13. Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan Inaugurates One Of Its Kind Exhibition On "Future Of Work" At G20 EdWG Meet Bhubaneswar

- Union Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Minister Dharmendra Pradhan inaugurated the 'Future of Work' exhibition in Bhubaneswar.
- The one-of-its-kind exhibition has been organized on the sidelines of the third Education Working Group (EdWG) meeting under the G20 presidency at Bhubaneswar's CSIR-Institute of Minerals and Materials Technology.

14. India MedTech Expo 2023 to be organized in August, alongside G-20 Health Ministers Meeting

- To highlight the capabilities of the Indian Medical Devices sector under the G-20 Indian Presidency, the first-ever expo being spearheaded by the government in association with the Indian medical devices industry, the three-day IMTE-23 will now be held in Gandhi Nagar, alongside the G-20 Health Ministers meeting in August 2023.
- The expo will showcase the capabilities of Indian medical devices Industry and to create opportunities to network and explore collaborations both for the sector's growth in India and its potential contribution globally.

15. 4th meeting of India-Mozambique Joint Defence Working Group held in Delhi

- The fourth meeting of India-Mozambique Joint Defence Working Group was held in New Delhi.
- The two sides discussed wide ranging issues, including military training and courses, exercises, medicine and capacity building with a view to deepen defence engagements.
- The Indian side highlighted the country's growing capabilities in the field of defence production and discussed ways to further bolster bilateral military ties.
- The Mozambican side also interacted with the representatives of defence industry separately

16. Australia to host third in-person Quad Summit on May 24 in Sydney

- Sydney will host the 2023 Quad Leaders' Summit on May 24, which will see the leaders of India, Japan, Australia and the US discuss ways to promote stability in the Indo-Pacific region.

- This will be the third in-person Quad Leaders' Summit and the first time Australia will be hosting the meeting. The first two Quad meetings were held in the US and Japan.

17. Union Agriculture Minister Inaugurates Farm Machinery Technology Summit, Small Farmers To Get Benefits

- The Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Narendra Singh Tomar, inaugurated the Summit on Farm Machinery Technology organized by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Tractor and Mechanization Association (TMA).

- He stated that the government has released Rs. 6120.85 crores to the states from 2014-15 to 2022-23 for various activities like training, testing, setting up of CHCs, hi-tech hubs, and Farm Machinery Banks (FMBs) under the **Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM)**. Additionally, 15.24 lakh farm machinery and equipment, including tractors, power tillers, and automated machinery, have been distributed at subsidized rates through state governments.



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Science & Technology

1. ISRO's EOS-06 satellite captures images in 13 wavelengths

- ISRO has shared stunning new images of the planet clicked using Ocean Colour Monitor in 13 distinct wavelengths on Earth Observation Satellite (EOS-06) also known as Oceansat-3.
- The pictures were created by combining 2,939 images and processing 300 GB of data to create a mosaic with a spatial resolution of 1 km. Oceansat-3 is a type of nanosatellite that was deployed by ISRO in November 2022.
- Oceansat-3 is a type of nanosatellite that was deployed by ISRO in November 2022, as a component of a larger grouping of satellites focused on the field of oceanography and atmospheric research.
- The satellite is equipped with three primary tools, which include the Ocean Color Monitor (OCM-3), the Sea Surface Temperature Monitor (SSTM), the Ku-Band Scatterometer (SCAT-3), as well as the ARGOS system. The satellite is able to identify potential fishing zones using chlorophyll and SST, wind speed, and land-based applications.

2. ISRO Successfully Launches 'Reusable Launch Vehicle Autonomous Landing Mission'

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully conducted the 'Reusable Launch Vehicle Autonomous Landing Mission' (RLV LEX). The test was conducted at the Aeronautical Test Range (ATR) at Chitradurga, Karnataka.
- The RLV took off by a Chinook Helicopter of the Indian Air Force as an underslung load and flew to a height of 4.5 km.
- ISRO had demonstrated the re-entry of its winged vehicle RLV-TD in the HEX mission in May 2016.
- The re-entry of a hypersonic sub-orbital vehicle marked : major accomplishment in developing Reusable Launch Vehicles.

3. Skyroot Aerospace Successfully Test Fires Its 3D-Printed Cryogenic Engine ' Dhawan-II'

- Private rocket maker Skyroot Aerospace said it had successfully test-fired its 3D-printed cryogenic engine called Dhawan-II for 200 seconds.
- According to Skyroot Aerospace, the test was done at Solar Industries propulsion test facility in Nagpur, Maharashtra, using the company's indigenously developed mobile cryogenic engine test pad.
- The cryogenic engine series is named in honour of Dr Satish Dhawan, an eminent Indian rocket scientist who played a crucial role in developing the Indian Space Programme.

4. Union govt approves Indian Space Policy 2023 to enhance role of Department of Space, boost ISRO's activities

- Union government has approved the Indian Space Policy 2023, which aims to boost the country's space department's role and give a larger participation to research, academia, startups, and industry.
- The policy lays down the roles and responsibilities of organizations such as the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), and private sector entities.
- The opening up of the space sector for private participation, which was initiated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has led to the growth of startups in ISRO, with the number reaching 150 within three years.
- The Indian Space Policy 2023 is expected to provide a framework for the country's space sector for the next decade.

5. Cabinet Approves India's Own LIGO Project - Gravitational-Wave Detector Worth Rs 2,600 Crore To Be Built By 2030

- The Union Cabinet has approved a gravitational-wave detector project in Maharashtra costing Rs 2,600 crore, estimated to be built by 2030.
- 174-acre land has been acquired in Hingoli district for its development.
- LIGO-India, the third observatory of its kind, will be built to match the specifications of the LIGO observatories in the US and will work alongside them.

6. NASA's High-Resolution Air Quality Control Instrument Launches

- A NASA instrument to provide unprecedented resolution of monitoring major air pollutants ' down to four square miles ' lifted off on its way to geostationary orbit.
- The Tropospheric Emissions: Monitoring of Pollution (TEMPO) instrument will improve life on Earth by revolutionizing the way scientists observe air quality from space.
- From a fixed geostationary orbit above the equator, TEMPO will be the first space-based instrument to measure air quality over North America hourly during the daytime and at spatial regions of several square miles – far better than existing limits of about 100 square miles in the U.S.
- TEMPO data will play an important role in the scientific analysis of pollution, including studies of rush hour pollution, the potential for improved air quality alerts, the effects of lightning on ozone, the movement of pollution from forest fires and volcanoes, and even the effects of fertilizer application.

7. DRDO Industry Academia Centre of Excellence inaugurated at IIT Hyderabad

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) Industry Academia Centre of Excellence (DIA-CoE) has been inaugurated at the Indian Institute of Technology -Hyderabad.
- This is the biggest such facility in the country. DRDO Chairman Dr Samir V Kamat
- The research cell, which marked the beginning of the collaboration between DRDO and IITH three years ago, has now been transformed into a Centre of Excellence.

8. Scientists probe characteristics of a form of plasma wave identified in the Indian Antarctic station, Maitri

- Scientists have identified Electromagnetic Ion Cyclotron waves, a form of plasma waves in the Indian Antarctic station, Maitri, and studied its characteristics.
- These waves play an important role in precipitation of killer electrons, which are hazardous to our space-borne technology/instruments
- More than 99% of the matter in the visible universe consists of plasma. Our Sun, solar wind, the interplanetary medium, near-Earth region, magnetosphere (the cavity in which the Earth lies and stays protected from the wrath of the Sun), and upper part of our atmosphere all consist of plasma—the fourth state of matter
- The study of plasma waves provides us with information on regions inaccessible to us, transport mass and energy across different regions, how they interact with charged particles, and control the overall dynamics of the Earth's magnetosphere.

9. Europe Successfully Launches Jupiter Moons Mission After Second Attempt

- The Jupiter Icy Moons Explorer (JUICE) plans to take a long and winding path to the gas giant, which is 628 million kilometres (390 million miles) from Earth. When the probe finally enters Jupiter's orbit in July 2031, its 10 scientific instruments will analyse the Solar System's largest planet as well as its three icy moons Europa, Ganymede, and Callisto.

- JUICE will focus on Ganymede, the Solar System's largest moon and the only one that has its own magnetic field, which protects it from radiation. In 2034, JUICE will slide into Ganymede's orbit, the first time a spacecraft will have done so around a moon other than our own.

10. Centre clarifies private sector, IN-SPACE role with Space Policy 2023

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro) formally published the Space Policy 2023.
- The policy formally laid down the regulations of privatizing space missions in India, and also denoted clear guidelines of operations for NewSpace India Limited (Nsil) ' Isro's commercial arm ' and Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACE).
- IN-SPACE, the nodal private space project authorization body, has been tasked with maintaining a 'stable and predictable regulatory framework to provide a level playing field to non-government entities (NGEs) in the space sector.
- NGEs in the space sector include corporate firms and startups, which as per the Policy will be "allowed to undertake end to end activities in space.

11. Isro's PSLV-C55 places two Singapore satellites in orbits, carries out experiments in space

- PSLV-C55/TeLEOS-2, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)'s dedicated commercial mission carrying two satellites from Singapore, will take off from Sriharikota on April 22.
- This is a dedicated commercial mission through NewSpace India Limited, the commercial arm of ISRO.
- It is the 57th flight of PSLV & the 16th mission of the PSLV Core Alone (PSLV-CA) variant.
- It carries seven non-separating payloads belonging to Isro, Indian Institute of Astrophysics and startups Bellatrix and Dhruva Space. After launching the two Singapore satellites, the last stage of the rocket (PS4-stage) will double up as an orbital platform for space experiments for the non-separating payloads.

Defence

1. India's Defence Exports At An All-Time High Of Rs 15,920 Crore In FY23

- Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh said that India's defence exports have reached an all-time high of 15 thousand 920 crore rupees in Financial Year 2022-2023.
- The country's defence exports in 2021-22 was Rs 12,814 crore, according to official data.
- The government has set the target of manufacturing defence hardware worth Rs 1,75,000 crore by FY25.

2. Maritime exercise SLINEX-23 to enhance interoperability between India, Sri Lanka navies

- The 10th edition of INDIA-SRILANKA bilateral maritime exercise SLINEX-23 is scheduled at Colombo from 3- 8 April 2023.
- The exercise is being conducted in two phases - the Harbour Phase in Colombo from 3-5 April , followed by Sea Phase from 6-8 April, off Colombo.
- Indian Navy is being represented by INS Kiltan, an indigenous Kamorta class ASW corvette and INS Savitri, an Offshore Patrol Vessel.
- The Sri Lanka Navy is being represented by SLNS Gajabahu and SLNS Sagara.

3. Joint Military Exercise 'Ex KAVACH' concludes at Andaman and Nicobar Command

- Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC) conducted a large-scale Joint Military Exercise 'Ex KAVACH' involving the assets of the Army, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard.
- The exercise, which began on February 23, 2023, concluded on April 07, 2023.
- The exercise was aimed at fine-tuning joint warfare capabilities & Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and enhancing interoperability and operational synergy between the forces.

4. Indian Air Force To Participate In Multilateral International Exercise Orion At Mont De Marsan, France

- An Indian Air Force (IAF) contingent departed today for France, to participate in Exercise Orion at Mont-de-Marsan, an Air Force base of the French Air and Space Force (FASF).
- The exercise will be conducted from 17 April to 05 May 2023, with the IAF Contingent comprising four Rafale, two C-17, two Il-78 aircraft and 165 air warriors.
- This would be the first overseas exercise for the IAF's Rafale aircraft.
- Besides the IAF and the FASF, Air Forces from Germany, Greece, Italy, Netherlands, United Kingdom, Spain and United States of

America would also be flying in this multilateral exercise

5. EXERCISE COPE INDIA 2023- India - US

- The second phase of Exercise Cope India 23 commenced at Air Force Station Kalaikunda. This segment of the exercise will witness participation of B1B bombers of the United States Air Force (USAF). F-15 fighter aircraft of the USAF will also join the exercise subsequently. The Indian Air Force (IAF) element will include the Su-30 MKI, Rafale, Tejas and Jaguar aircrafts.

6. Solar Industries To Supply UAV 'Nagastra' To Indian Army

- Solar Industries Nagpur said it had bagged an order to supply the unmanned aerial vehicle 'Nagastra' to the Indian Army, beating competitors from Israel and Poland.
- First indigenous Loiter Munition (LM), Nagastra'1, has been designed and developed by Economics Explosives Ltd (EEL), a 100% subsidiary of Solar Industries Nagpur, in association with Z-Motion, Bangalore.
- It said that in a 'Kamikaze mode' it can neutralise any hostile threat with GPS enabled precision strike with an accuracy of 2 m. The fixed wing electric UAV has an endurance of 60 min with a man-in-loop range of 15 km and autonomous mode range of 30 km.

7. IAF to participate in multilateral exercise, INIOCHOS-23, in Greece

- The Indian Air Force will participate in a mega multilateral exercise in Greece from April 24 to May 4. The exercise will be conducted at the Andravida air base, the IAF said, adding it will be participating with four Su-30 MKIs and two C-17 aircraft.
- It said the objective of the exercise is to enhance international cooperation, synergy and interoperability.

8. Two-day coastal security exercise held off Kerala coast to evaluate threats from sea: Defence Ministry

- A two-day coastal security exercise, 'Sagar Kavach', was conducted on April 18 and 19 off the coast of Kerala and Mahe to evaluate threats from the sea and validate the effectiveness of the security mechanisms.
- As part of the exercise, real time threats and contingencies were simulated to assess the preparedness level of the coastal security agencies.

9. Cope India 2023 concludes with spectacular aerial manoeuvres by Indian, US fighter jets

- A dazzling display of aerial manoeuvres by fighter jets of the air forces of India and the

US, including Rafales, Tejas and the F-15E marked the end the 15-day Cope India joint air exercise at Kalaikunda in West Bengals Paschim Medinipur district.

- A total of 24 fighter aircrafts eight transport planes and two force multipliers from both air forces participated in the event

10. Indo-Uk Joint Military Exercise 'Ajeya Warrior ' 2023' To Commence At Salisbury Plains, United Kingdom

- he 7th edition of joint military exercise 'AJEYA WARRIOR-23' between India and the United Kingdom is being conducted at Salisbury Plains, United Kingdom from 27 April to 11 May 2023.

- Exercise AJEYA WARRIOR is a biennial training event with the United Kingdom which is conducted alternatively in the United Kingdom and India.

11. First Batch of Women Officers Commissioned into Regiment of Artillery of Indian Army

- In the Indian army, for the first time, five Women Cadets got commissioned into the Regiment of Artillery at Officers Training Academy (OTA), Chennai. Out of total 186 Short Service Commissioned Officers, 121 men Cadets and 36 Women Cadets were inducted into various Arms and Services of the Indian Army while 29 officers are from Bhutan.

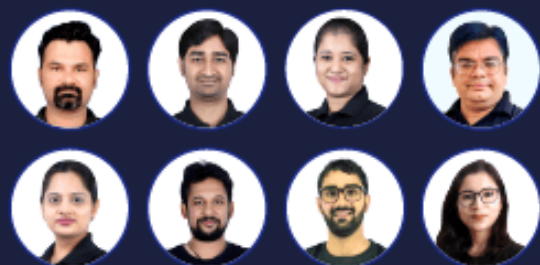
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Books & Authors

1. 'War and Women' book by Dr. MA Hasan

- A book titled 'War and Women' depicting war crimes during the Bangladesh Liberation War was released during the 52nd Session of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva.
- The book written by Dr MA Hasan documents the magnitude of sexual harassment, torture and killings committed by the Pakistan Army during the 1971 Liberation War.

2. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launches 'Reflections' a book authored by eminent banker Narayanan Vaghul

- Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman launched 'Reflections', a book authored by eminent banker Narayanan Vaghul, in Mumbai.
- The book carries a vivid account of Vaghul's experiences spanning decades in India's financial landscape. The Finance Minister commended Narayanan Vaghul for his extensive experience in banking and his leadership qualities

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Obituary

1. Noted author Sara Thomas, a two-time Sahitya Akademi award winner, dies at 88.

- Sara Thomas is a two-time recipient of the Kerala Sahitya Akademi award.
- Her noted work 'Narmadipudava' won the Kerala Sahitya Akademi award in 1979. She was also awarded the academy's award in 2010 for overall contribution to Malayalam literature.
- She has written 17 novels and more than 100 short stories.

2. Former India cricketer Salim Durani passes away aged 88

- Sh. Durani played 29 Tests for India and took 75 wickets, with the best bowling figure of 10 for 177. With the bat in hand, he scored 1202 runs with the highest score of 104 against West Indies in 1962.
- The former all-rounder was famous for his heroic performance in India's series victory against England in 1961-62.

3. Keshub Mahindra, former chairman of Mahindra & Mahindra passes away at 99

- Keshub Mahindra, Chairman Emeritus of Mahindra & Mahindra, passed away at 99. According to Forbes, Mr. Mahindra had a net worth of USD 1.2 billion. He played a key role in transforming the company from being an assembler of Willys Jeeps in India to business segments, such as IT, financial services, real estate, and hospitality.

4. Pakistani-Canadian journalist Tarek Fatah passes away after prolonged illness

- Among the many books he authored, popular one's included 'Chasing a Mirage: The Tragic Illusion of an Islamic State' and 'The Jew is Not My Enemy: Unveiling the Myths that Fuel Muslim Anti-Smitism'.
- Fatah became well-known in Indian intellectual circles for his progressive views on Islam and terrorism.

5. Asian Games gold medallist boxer Kaur Singh passes away

- Heavyweight boxer Kaur Singh, the lone home boxer to land a gold medal in the 1982 New Delhi Asian Games and who was also known for his exhibition bout with the legendary Muhammad Ali in 1980, passed away.
- Kaur Singh was the first from the Sikh Regiment to get the Arjuna Award and Padma Shri. He also competed in the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics.


6. Noted scientist and orator Dr N Gopalakrishnan passes away

- N Gopalakrishnan was a scientist at Advanced Seismic Testing and Research Laboratory (ASTaR) of CSIR- Structural Engineering Research Centre (SERC) and assumed charge as director at CSIR- Central Building Research Institute (CBRI).

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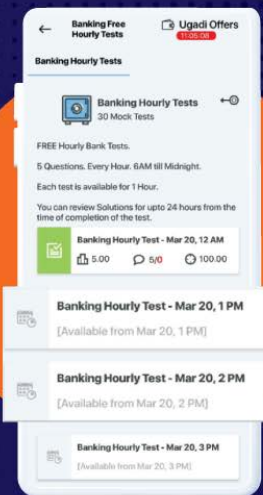
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Person in news

1. Sachin Tendulkar becomes the world's first 'Hand Ambassador' for SavlonSwasth India Mission's novel campaign

- SavlonSwasth India Mission roped in master blaster Sachin Tendulkar as the world's first 'Hand Ambassador'.
- While the brand coined this special term to catch the imagination of the public at large, the fundamental thought behind this campaign was to reinitiate the conversation around hand hygiene all over again with the masses for a healthier nation.
- October 15 is marked as Global Handwashing Day.
- Since its inception in 2016, the SavlonSwasth India Mission programme by ITC has been actively promoting cleanliness across the country, keeping the conversation around hygiene alive.

2. Mukesh Ambani beats Steve Ballmer to become richest sports owner in Forbes billionaire 2023 list

- Apart from regaining his spot as Asia's richest person in the Forbes Billionaire 2023 list, Mumbai Indians cricket team owner Mukesh Ambani has also become the richest sports owner of all in Forbes billionaire 2023 list.
- Ambani reclaimed the top spot from Los Angeles Clippers owner Steve Ballmer.
- Here are the 5 richest sports team owners:
- **1. Mukesh Ambani** (Citizenship: India | Team: Mumbai Indians | Net Worth: \$83.4 Billion)
- **2. Steve Ballmer** (Citizenship: US | Team: Los Angeles Clippers | Net Worth: \$80.7 Billion)
- **3. Rob Walton** (Citizenship: US | Team: Denver Broncos | Net Worth: \$57.6 Billion)
- **4. François Pinault & family** (Citizenship: France | Team: Stade Rennais F.C. | Net Worth: \$40.1 Billion)
- **5. Mark Mateschitz** (Citizenship: Austria | Team: New York Red Bulls, Red Bull Racing, RB Leipzig | Net Worth: \$34.7 Billion)

3. Deepika Misra becomes 1st Indian Air Force woman officer to get Gallantry Award

- Wing Commander Deepika Misra became the first woman officer in the Indian Air Force to be presented a gallantry award.
- A helicopter pilot who hails from Rajasthan, she was conferred a Vayu Sena Medal (Gallantry) by Indian Air Force chief Air Marshal for an act of 'exceptional courage' displayed during a flood relief operation in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. Indian Air Force (IAF) chief Air Marshal: Vivek Ram Chaudhari
- Wing Commander Deepika Misra is among 58 personnel who received the gallantry award during the investiture ceremony by the Air Force chief that included 57 army personnel and one from the Indian Army.

4. Star Sports signs Rishabh Pant as 'Believe Ambassador'

- Star Sports has signed India cricketer Rishabh Pant as its latest 'Believe Ambassador'.
- The Network said it also has other current cricketers as its 'Believe Ambassadors' like Hardik Pandya, Ravindra Jadeja, KL Rahul, and Shreyas Iyer.
- With this, Star Sports has expanded its roster from two ambassadors in 2017 to six now with Virat Kohli continuing his association.

5. HSBC India ropes in Virat Kohli as their brand influencer

- HSBC India has roped in Indian cricketer Virat Kohli as their Brand Influencer.
- As per the company, Virat Kohli will help to amplify HSBC's purpose of 'Opening up a world of opportunity' as it strives to support the ambitions of an aspirational India going global.

6. Sh. Ratan Tata awarded highest Australian civil honour

- Ratan Tata has been awarded the Order of Australia (AO) honour -- the highest civil honour in the country -- for his longstanding commitment to Indo-Australian ties specifically in the areas of trade, investment, and philanthropy.
- The Australian branch of Tata Consultancy, which was established in 1998, has the largest Australian workforce of any Indian firm. Barry 'O' Farrell, Australia's High Commissioner to India.

India & World

1. 4th Joint Defence Cooperation Committee meeting between India & Philippines held in New Delhi

- The Indian delegation was led by Joint Secretary, Ministry of Defence Shri Amitabh Prasad, while the Philippines delegation was headed by Assistant Secretary for Strategic Assessments and International Affairs, Department of National Defence Mr Pablo M Lorenzo.
- During the meeting, both sides reviewed the ongoing bilateral defence cooperation and discussed effective and practical initiatives to further expand the engagements. The co-chairs reaffirmed their commitment to implement 2006 agreement concerning defence cooperation, based on mutual trust and understanding, common interest and shared values of democracy and rule of law.

2. Odisha receives investment intent worth Rs 26K crore at business meet in Tokyo

- The Odisha government has received investment intents of over Rs 26,000 crore during the Odisha Business Meet, 2023 held in Tokyo.
- The state has received the investment intents in the sectors like logistics, metal ancillary, steel, metal downstream, green hydrogen and green ammonia, green energy equipment manufacturing and IT/ITeS.
- The government of Odisha in association with the Indian Embassy in Japan, the Japan External Trade Organisation (JETRO), and the Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), hosted the Tokyo meet, which was attended by over 200 delegates, representing various industries from across Japan.

3. Adani Power Limited (APL) commences supply to Bangladesh from Godda plant in Jharkhand

- APL announced the commissioning of its first 800 Mw ultra-super-critical thermal power generation unit at Godda in the Jharkhand state of India and begins supplying Bangladesh with 748 Mw of power.
- Godda power plant will source coal from the Carmichael mine in Australia, owned and operated by Adani Mining.
- In November 2017, BPDB signed a long-term Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with APL's wholly-owned subsidiary Adani Power Jharkhand Ltd (APJL) to procure 1,496 Mw net capacity power from the 2x800 Mw ultra-supercritical power project at Godda.

4. India, Japan and France launch common platform for Sri Lankan debt restructuring programme

- India, Japan and France have announced a common platform for talks among creditors to address the debt restructuring programme of Sri Lanka which is grappling with its worst economic crisis.
- Sri Lanka owes 7.1 billion dollar to bilateral creditors, with 3 billion dollar owed to China, followed by 2.4 billion dollar to the Paris Club and 1.6 billion dollar to India.

5. EAM Dr S Jaishankar inaugurates Buzi Bridge in Mozambique built by India

- Dr Jaishankar virtually inaugurated the Buzi Bridge, constructed as part of 132 km Tica-Buzi-Nova-Sofala Road project. The bridge has been built by India.
- He said, the bridge is a example of India Mozambique solidarity and friendship.
- EAM Dr S Jaishankar began his engagements in Maputo, Mozambique by meeting with President of Assembly Esperana Bias.

6. India and Russia crossed bilateral trade target of 30 billion dollars before target 2025

- The external affairs minister said the bilateral trade target of USD 30 billion has been crossed much before the target year of 2025, adding the trade volume was about USD 45 billion for the period April 2022 to February 2023.
- A rupee-rouble mechanism for trade between India and Russia was established to settle dues in rupees instead of US Dollar instead of US Dollars or Euros in view of the imposition of sanctions against Moscow by the West following the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

7. Bangladesh: India opens its 16th Visa application centre in Kushtia

- The High Commission of India opened its 16th Visa application centre in Kushtia town of Southwestern Bangladesh.
- The inauguration of the new Indian Visa Application Centre (IVAC) was done by High Commissioner Pranya Verma.
- This IVAC will provide greater ease and convenience to the residents of Kushtia and its adjoining areas seeking visa services for visiting India.

8. IndusInd Bank Inks \$100 Million Pact With JBIC

- IndusInd Bank said has entered into a \$100 million long-term loan agreement with JBIC to facilitate Indian entities interested in buying Japanese construction equipment. As per an official statement, the financing is being done through a special agreement signed with Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) by the lender's branch in the Gift City.

- Japan's Mizuho Bank, Shizuoka Bank, Singapore, and Jyoti Bank of Japan will also co-finance this facility.
- IndusInd Bank will provide credit facilities to companies that comprise the supply chain of the Japanese original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) in India.

9. India Launches 'Operation Kaveri' To Rescue Citizens From Violence-Hit Sudan

- India has launched Operation Kaveri to rescue its citizens stranded in war-torn Sudan, Foreign Minister S Jaishankar said.
- Jaishankar said the government was "committed to assist all our brethren in Sudan".

10. Commerce ministry terminates anti-dumping probe on Chinese chemical imports

- The commerce ministry has terminated an anti-dumping investigation into the import of a chemical, used in dying industry, from China following a request from the domestic industry.
- On September 30, 2022, Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) initiated a probe into alleged dumping of 'sulphur black' from China, following a complaint by a domestic firm Atul Ltd.
- Black Sulphur is mainly used for dying cellulose fiber, viscose staple fiber and yarn.

11. Indo-Korea Bilateral Trade Grows 17% To Record \$27.8 Billion In 2022

- The bilateral trade between India and Korea grew by 17.3% to \$27.8 billion in 2022,

according to Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency.

- In 2021, the value of bilateral trade between the two countries stood at \$23.7 billion.
- Korea's exports to India increased by 21% to \$18.9 billion, while imports increased by 10.5% to \$8.9 billion.

12. India-UAE agreement: Easier norms for gold import on the anvil

- India will soon open a fresh window for inviting new applications for FY24 towards importing gold from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) through an import quota system tariff rate quota (TRQ) as a part of the trade agreement between both countries.
- Gold TRQ will be allocated to old and new applicants as per the revised simpler eligibility norms and lesser compliance burden for Indian importers.

13. Imperial College London announces scholarships worth 400,000 for Indian students studying in the college

- Imperial College London has announced scholarships worth GBP four lakh for Indian students studying in the college.
- Out of which 50 per cent of the scholarship will be given to female students from India.
- Imperial College London is a public research university. In the last five years, Imperial academics co-authored over 1200 research publications with Indian institutions.

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Environment

1. Government Unveils Plans To Add 250GW Renewable Energy Capacity In Next Five Years

- The government announced a plan to add 250 GW of renewable energy capacity in the next five years to achieve its target of 500 GW of clean energy by 2030.
- The government has decided to invite bids for 50 GW of renewable energy capacity annually for the next five years, i.e., from fiscal 2023'24 to fiscal 2027'28, as per Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.

2. India's first vulture conservation and breeding centre in Gorakhpur

- India's first vulture conservation and breeding centre will be set up in Uttar Pradesh's Gorakhpur at BhariBaisi village in Farenda range of Gorakhpur forest division.
- The centre will be established on the lines of Haryana's Pinjore vulture conservation and breeding centre.
- The project is expected to be completed in 15 years at an expected cost of Rs 15 crore. The basic infrastructure such as lab, breeding centre, quarantine centre, a residential complex for doctors and staff will be completed in the four years.
- Also, the breeding and conservation of the red-headed king vulture will start by next year.

3. ITC to expand climate smart initiative to a million farmers

- Diversified conglomerate ITC is scaling up its climate-smart agriculture initiative to support farmers facing weather-related challenges.
- Launched in 2020 for de-risking farmers from erratic weather conditions, ITC aims at covering a million farmers and 3 million hectare (MH) of land under climate smart initiative in the next couple of years.
- The company's initiative has so far covered 1.8 MH of agricultural land in 17 states benefiting close to 0.6 million farmers.

4. India conducts first-ever census of water bodies

- For the first time in India, the government has conducted the first-ever census of water bodies.
- The census provided a comprehensive inventory of India's water resources, including natural and man-made water bodies like ponds, tanks, lakes, and more, and to collect data on the encroachment of water bodies.
- About 2,424,540 water bodies have been enumerated in the country by the Ministry of Jal Shakti, out of which 97.1 per cent are in rural areas and only 2.9 per cent are in urban areas.
- The top five states in terms of a number of water bodies are West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and Assam -- which constitute around 63 per cent of the total water bodies in the country.



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Apps & Portals

1. Union Minister Sonowal launches 'SAGAR-SETU' mobile app of National Logistics Portal Marine

- Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal on Friday launched the App Version of National Logistics Portal (Marine) 'Sagar-Setu'.
- The app has been envisaged with deliverables covering features like a Login Module, Service Catalogue, Common Application Format, Letter of Credit, Bank Guarantee, Certification, Track and Trace etc.
- It will provide real-time information on activities that are generally not within reach of the importer, exporter, and customs broker including vessel-related information, gate, container freight stations and transactions at fingertips. It also enables digital transactions for payments required for the clearance process of import and export like container freight station charges, shipping line charges, transportation charges, etc.

2. PhonePe Launches E-Commerce App PincodeOn Open Network

- Walmart Inc-backed digital payments firm PhonePe Pvt Ltd launched an app called Pincode on the Indian government's open network to strengthen its e-commerce business.
- Pincode, which will focus on hyperlocal commerce, is currently live only in Bengaluru and available on the Google Play Store and the App Store.

3. RBI to launch centralised portal PRAVAAH for licencing, approval applications

- Reserve Bank of India will launch a secured web-based centralized portal named 'PRAVAAH' to simplify and streamline application processes.
- The portal will show time limits for deciding on the applications/approvals sought.
- This measure will bring greater efficiencies into regulatory processes and facilitate ease of doing business for the regulated entities of RBI.
- The step has also been taken to comply with the Union Budget 2023-24 announcement regarding the need to simplify, ease and reduce cost of compliance by financial sector regulators within laid down time limits to decide the applications under various regulations.

4. Insurance Samadhan launches Polifyx, a one-stop solution for customers

- Insurance Samadhan, an insurance grievance redressal platform, has launched a new app called Polifyx, a one-stop solution

for policyholders facing issues related to their insurance policies.

- The app leverages Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology, which is capable of scanning insurance policies and providing policyholders with adequate and precise information to avoid claim rejections. One of the app's unique features is portfolio analysis, which enables customers to determine if their savings or insurance plans align with their financial goals. This is particularly important as it helps policyholders make informed decisions about their insurance policies and avoid potential losses.

5. Centre launches Unified Portal of Central Bureau of Narcotics

- Revenue Secretary Sanjay Malhotra launched the Unified Portal of the Central Bureau of Narcotics, which will instill efficiency and transparency and reduce the time taken by the pharma industry to get a trade license

The Central Bureau of Narcotics has taken measures to strengthen the vision of Digital India in the period of 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotav' by developing and unleashing the unified portal as one step solution for the user industry to facilitate the licensing and ExIM authorizations issued by the Bureau.

6. Union Agriculture Minister Shri Tomar launches Seed Traceability portal and mobile app

- Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Shri Narendra Singh Tomar launched the SATHI (Seed Traceability, Authentication, and Holistic Inventory) Portal and Mobile App, a Centralized Online System for seed traceability, authentication, and inventory designed to deal with the challenges of seed production, quality seed identification, and seed certification.
- It has been developed by the NIC in collaboration with the Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare on the theme of 'Uttam Beej – Samridh Kisan'.
- SATHI portal will ensure quality assurance system, identify the source of seed in the seed production chain.
- The system will consist of integrated 7 verticals of the seed chain - Research Organisation, Seed Certification, Seed Licensing, Seed Catalogue, Dealer to Farmer Sales, Farmer Registration and Seed DBT.
- Seeds with valid certification can only be sold by valid licensed dealers to centrally registered farmers who will receive subsidy

through DBT directly into their pre-validated bank accounts.

7. 'City Beauty Competition' portal launched by Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry recently made live

- The 'City Beauty Competition' portal, launched by the Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry recently, has been made live. Urban Local Bodies across the country can participate in the competition through an online process at www.citybeautycompetition.in. The objective of is to encourage and recognize

the transformational efforts made by cities and wards across the cities.

- The City Beauty Competition provides a unique opportunity to the wards and cities to showcase their interventions towards creating beautiful public spaces.
- The competition would promote heritage and culture, sustainable communities and ecological conservation and would also encourage peer learning among states and cities. The last date for participating in the Competition is 15th July of this year.



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Acquisitions & Mergers

1. Adani Ports completes acquisition of Karaikal Port in Puducherry

- Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd (APSEZ) completed the acquisition of Karaikal Port Pvt Ltd (KPPL) pursuant to National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) approval. Earlier, APSEZ was declared a successful resolution applicant under the Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP) of KPPL.
- The Karaikal Port was commissioned **in 2009** and was developed in the Karaikal District of the Union Territory of Puducherry, around 300 km south of Chennai.

2. CCI approves acquisition of stake in Mukand Sumi Special Steel Limited by Jamnalal Sons Private Limited from Mukand Limited

- The Competition Commission of India (CCI) approves acquisition of stake in Mukand Sumi Special Steel Limited by Jamnalal Sons Private Limited from Mukand Limited.
- The Proposed Combination envisages acquisition of 5.51% of the equity share capital of Mukand Sumi Special Steel Limited (MSSSL) by Jamnalal Sons Private Limited (JSPL) from Mukand Limited (Mukand).
- JSPL is said to be an unregistered core investment company holding shares in various Bajaj Group Companies. It is primarily an investment and lending company. MSSSL is engaged in the business of manufacturing, marketing, selling, distribution etc of special and alloy steel hot rolled bars and hot rolled wire rods.

3. SEBI Approves Transfer Of Controlling Stake Of HDFC AMC To HDFC Bank

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India, through its letter dated April 21, 2023, to HDFC AMC, a subsidiary of HDFC and the asset management company of HDFC Mutual Fund, has granted its approval for the proposed change in control of HDFC AMC, according to a regulatory filing.
- This approval will help pave the way for the merger of HDFC into HDFC Bank.
- Termed as the biggest transaction in India's corporate history, HDFC Bank on April 4 last year agreed to take over the biggest domestic mortgage lender in a deal valued at about \$40 billion, creating a financial services titan.

4. CCI Gives Nod To Blackstone-Emerson Electric Deal

- The Competition Commission of India (CCI) granted its approval for the stake acquisition in climate technologies' business of Emerson Electric Co by BCP Emerald Aggregator LP.
- BCP Emerald Aggregator LP is an affiliate of US-based alternative asset manager Blackstone.
- The deal has been cleared under the green channel route.
- The proposed transaction relates to the acquisition by BCP Emerald Aggregator LP (Buyer) of a majority stake in the climate technologies business of Emerson Electric Co (Seller), according to CCI.
- The regulator has also approved the proposed investment by Stamford Bridge Investment Pte Ltd, an SPV of GIC (Ventures) and Platinum Falcon B 2018 RSC Ltd (Platinum), in BCP Emerald Aggregator LP.
- GIC (Ventures) is a subsidiary of Singapore's sovereign wealth fund GIC, while Platinum is an affiliate of the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA).
- Under the green channel route, a transaction which does not raise any risk of an appreciable adverse effect on competition is deemed to be approved on being intimated to the fair-trade regulator.

5. Monetary Authority Of Singapore Clears Merger Of HDFC Investments With HDFC Bank

- HDFC Bank said the Monetary Authority of Singapore has given an approval for merger of HDFC Investments and HDFC Holdings with parent HDFC Ltd. As part of a composite scheme of amalgamation, Griha Pte, a wholly-owned subsidiary of HDFC Investments and a foreign step-down subsidiary of HDFC Ltd., received approval for the merger with HDFC Bank.

6. Godrej Consumer Products inks pact to buy Raymond Consumer Care's FMCG business for Rs 2,825 crore

- Godrej Consumer Products Ltd. is going to acquire the fast moving consumer goods business from the diversified group Raymond Ltd., which includes Park Avenue and KamaSutra brands.
- Raymond has two fundamental businesses lifestyle and real estate. Its revenue from FY22 was Rs 4,260.66 crore.
- Godrej Consumer Products had earlier acquired Bblunt.

FinTech

1. CRED launches UPI-based P2P payments

- CRED has launched its UPI-based peer-to-peer (P2P) payments, providing its users with a new payment option.
- The feature allows CRED members access to 'pay anyone' through their contact list, phone numbers, or UPI IDs.
- CRED's P2P payments has some additional features such as recommendations that provide reminders for recurring payments, nudges for payment protection in potentially risky scenarios, and a custom VPA for enhanced privacy.
- Furthermore, the "WIN-WIN" feature is activated when members use the P2P experience to pay "special contacts," rewarding both the payer and recipient with cashbacks credited to their CRED balance.

2. NPCI Bharat BillPay launches NOCS platform to process ONDC transactions

- NPCI Bharat BillPay Ltd (NBBL) has launched the NOCS platform to provide reconciliation and settlement services for transactions undertaken on the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) network.
- The services, provided under the guidance of RBI, will serve as the foundation for the ONDC network and enable smooth, secure and timely transfer of funds to network participants.

About ONDC

- Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) is an initiative aiming at promoting open networks for all aspects of exchange of goods and services over digital or electronic networks.
- ONDC is to be based on open-sourced methodology, using open specifications and open network protocols independent of any specific platform.
- Microsoft was the first multinational technology firm to join the government's open network for digital commerce (ONDC) platform.



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PSUs

1. ONGC acquires additional 23% stake in Mangalore SEZ Ltd (MSEZ) at Rs 40.32 cr

- State-run ONGC has increased its stake in Mangalore SEZ Ltd (MSEZ) from 26 percent to 49 percent by purchasing 1,15,20,000 equity shares from IL&FS. In a regulatory filing to the stock exchanges ,
- ONGC said that its board of directors has approved the 'acquisition of 1,15,20,000 equity shares of Mangalore SEZ Ltd (MSEZ) from IL&FS.

2. CCI Approves SREI Infra Finance's Acquisition By NARCL, IDRCL

- Fair-trade regulator CCI has approved the acquisition of SREI Infrastructure Finance Ltd. by National Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd. and India Debt Resolution Company Ltd.
- The deal has been cleared under the green channel route.
- The proposed transaction involves the acquisition of a majority of equity share capital of the Srei Infrastructure Finance by NARCL and IDRCL.
- National Asset Reconstruction Company is an asset reconstruction company, while India Debt Resolution Company provides debt management services to NARCL. Both entities are backed by the government of India.

3. Solar Energy Corporation of India gets 'Miniratna Category-I' status

- Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited (SECI) has been accorded the status of Miniratna Category-I Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) .
- A communication to this effect has been issued by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Govt. of India. Ms. Suman Sharma, Managing Director, SECI
- Incorporated in the year 2011, SECI is the primary implementing agency of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Govt. of India for Renewable Energy schemes/projects towards fulfillment of India's international commitments.

4. NTPC to list green energy arm in FY24; strategic investment plan fails

- India's largest power-generating company NTPC will publicly list its newly formed green energy arm ' NTPC Green Energy (NGEL) ' in 2023-24 (FY24).
- The company houses all the green energy and green fuel projects of the parent entity and aims at building 60 gigawatt (Gw) of green energy portfolio by 2030 - 3x of its planned new thermal capacity.
- The decision to go for an initial public offering (IPO) has come after talks failed to make any headway in getting a strategic investor aboard NGEL, said senior executives.
- They added the company is targeting to raise close to or more than Rs 5,000 crore. SBI Capital Markets has been appointed the transaction advisor.

5. Power Grid Conferred with Global Gold Award for CSR Activities

- Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. (PGCIL), a Maharatna CPSU of Ministry of Power, has been honoured with Global Gold Award by The Green Organisation for its CSR initiative. The recognition was given at the Green World Awards 2023 function held at Miami in the USA.
- This project, which will focus on farmers for 60 months, was launched in late October 2019.
- The award is a recognition of POWERGRID's CSR work for improving agriculture productivity and rural livelihood through watershed management, community participation and better crop management practices in ten villages of Jaipatna Block of Kalahandi District in Odisha.

States/UTs

Andhra Pradesh

1. Telangana CM KCR unveils 125-ft-tall Ambedkar statue in Hyderabad

- Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhara Reddy unveiled the 125-ft tall bronze statue of BR Ambedkar in Hyderabad, to mark the 132nd birth anniversary of the architect of the Indian Constitution.
- The statue in Hyderabad is India's tallest statue of Ambedkar. Ambedkar's grandson Prakash Ambedkar was invited as the sole chief guest at the event.

Assam

1. Bihu performance by over 11,000 folk dancers and drummers in Guwahati enters Guinness World Records

- Assam etched its name in the Guinness World Records with 11,304 dancers and drummers performing 'Bihu' dance and playing 'dhol' in a single venue.
- The Assam government selected the artists from all across the state and their performances have been nurtured by master Bihu trainers.
- As a token of appreciation, state government announced to give 25,000 rupees to each artist.

2. Assam, Arunachal ink agreement to end decade-old border issue

- The Assam and the Arunachal Pradesh governments signed an agreement in presence of Union Home Minister Amit Shah here to resolve their decades old border disputes.
- Assam and Arunachal Pradesh share an 804.1-km-long border.
- The two states have been in discussions to resolve the border dispute with Sarma and Khundu signing the Namsai Declaration on July 15 last year wherein they had pledged to find a solution soon. The two states decided to resolve the dispute in 123 villages. Shah termed the border agreement as a "historic" event and said it ended decades long disputes.

Bihar

1. Bihar's aromatic 'Marcha Rice' gets GI tag

- Bihar's famous 'Marcha Rice' which is known for its aroma and palatability was awarded the Geographical Indication tag, according to the GI registry.
- Marcha is a short indigenous cultivar of rice found in West Champaran district of Bihar.
- By its size and shape, its grain appears like black pepper so it is known as 'Mircha' or 'Marcha Rice'.

Gujarat

1. Gujarat: Centre approves over Rs 123 crore Oil Jetty development project at Deendayal Port

- The Centre has approved the project of development of an Oil Jetty at Deendayal Port, Kandla in Gujarat for over 123 crore rupees.
- The proposed project is designed to increase the cargo handling capacity of the port, which will attribute to a reduction in the turn-around time of liquid vessels.

2. PM Modi to attend 20th anniversary of SWAGAT initiative in Gujarat via video conferencing

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the 20th anniversary of the State Wide Attention on Grievances by Application of Technology -SWAGAT initiative in Gujarat.
- During the event, Mr. Modi also interacted with the past beneficiaries of the scheme.
- The scheme was started by Prime Minister Modi in April 2003 during his tenure as the Chief Minister of Gujarat.
- The main purpose of the scheme was to bridge the gap between citizens and the government by using technology to resolve their day-to-day grievances in a quick, efficient, and time-bound manner.
- Over the past twenty years, over 94 percent of the grievances have been solved through the programme.

Haryana

1. Railways completes 100% electrification of rail network in Haryana

- Indian Railways has achieved a significant milestone, by completing 100% electrification of Railway network in Haryana State.
- The existing Broad Gauge network of Haryana, 1,701 Route kilometre, is now 100% electrified.
- Haryana state's territory falls in Northern, North Central & North Western Railway's jurisdiction.

Kerala

1. NGT slaps Rs 10 crore on Kerala for its failure to protect Ramsar sites

- The National Green Tribunal (NGT) imposed a penalty of Rs 10 crore on the Kerala government for failing to protect the Vembanad and Ashtamudi lakes, which are included in the Ramsar list of wetlands.
- The Principal bench in New Delhi, chaired by Adarsh Kumar Goel, noted that the penalty levied per the 'polluter pays principle' should be deposited in a ring-fenced account.
- The Vembanadu – Kol wetlands, one of the richest wetland habitats and the largest on the southwestern coast of India, has been

identified as a Ramsar site as per the guidelines of the Ramsar Convention of 1971. It was declared as a Ramsar site of international importance in 2002.

- Ashtamudi lake, home to several plant and bird species, was included in the Ramsar list on August 19, 2002. The 8 arms or channels of the Ashtamudi Lake are what gave it its name.
- The National Green Tribunal has been established on 18.10.2010 under the National Green Tribunal Act 2010.
- New Delhi is the Principal Place of Sitting of the Tribunal and Bhopal, Pune, Kolkata and Chennai shall be the other four place of sitting of the Tribunal.
- The Tribunal is mandated to make and endeavour for disposal of applications or appeals finally within 6 months of filing of the same.

2. Kerala tops GI tag list in FY 2022-23

- Kerala has topped the list of states in the country with most number of products securing the Geographical Indication (GI) tag in financial year 2022-23, a data shared by the GI Registry.
- Attappady Aattukombu Avara, Attappady Thuvvara, Onattukara Ellu, Kanthalloor Vattavada Veluthuli, Kodungallur Pottuvellari were picked for the GI recognition tag.

3. Kerala's first solar-powered tourist vessel 'Sooryamshu' launched in Kochi

- Kochi has taken a major step towards Kerala's tourism sector by introducing the first solar-powered tourist vessel named 'Sooryamshu'
- The vessel can accommodate up to 100 passengers at a time and has now begun operations in the waters of Ernakulam

4. In a first, Kerala adopts water budget to tackle summer water shortage

- Kerala became the first state to adopt a water budget in a bid to come up with a solution to water scarcity in certain regions there.
- The first phase of the project would cover 94 gram panchayats and 15 block panchayats.
- The idea of a water budget was first mooted by the state in 2019.

5. Kerala launches 'One Panchayat, One Playground' to revive sports culture

- The Kerala government launched The 'One Panchayat, One Playground' project for reviving the sports culture in the State by opening quality playgrounds in every panchayat of the southern state.
- The project will address the lack of quality playgrounds in around 450 local bodies in the State.

6. PM Modi inaugurates development projects in Kerala

- Prime minister Narendra Modi inaugurated slew of developmental projects worth more than '3,200 crore at Central Stadium in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.
- These projects include the Kochi Water Metro, various rail projects, and the Digital Science Park in Thiruvananthapuram. PM Modi also flagged off Kerala's first Vande Bharat Express between Thiruvananthapuram and Kasargod.

7. Most colourful & spectacular of all temple festivals in Kerala, the world-famous Thrissur Pooram held

- The most colourful and spectacular of all temple festivals in Kerala, the world-famous Thrissur Pooram is being held. Processions of deities from ten smaller temples in and around Thrissur will converge at the Vadukkumnathan Temple to pay obeisance to Lord Shiva. This will be followed by Madathil VaravuPanchavadyam, an orchestra involving five instruments.
- This is will be followed by ChempadaMelam and later Ilanjitharamelam, a percussion ensemble at the Vadakkumnathan temple premises.

Madhya Pradesh

1. PM flags off Bhopal-New Delhi Vande Bharat Express at Rani Kamlapati Railway Station

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off the Vande Bharat Express train between Rani Kamlapati Railway Station in Madhya Pradesh and Hazrat Nizamuddin railway station in Delhi.
- The train will cover a distance of 701 kilometres in 7 hours 30 minutes and will run on all days except Saturday. It will have stoppages at VeeranganaLaxmibai Jhansi, Gwalior and Agra.
- This will be the 11th Vande Bharat service and 12th Vande Bharat train in the country.

2. Madhya Pradesh's Gond painting gets GI tag

- The famed Gond painting of Madhya Pradesh has received the prestigious Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- The main source of Gond painting has been Dindori, it has been expanded from place to place in Dindori. Getting the GI tag means that the authority has accepted that its original source is Dindori district

Manipur

1. Manipur CM inaugurates Hun-Thadou cultural festival at Kangpokpi

- The 5th edition of HUN- a Thadou Cultural Festival 2023 kicked off at Thomas Ground in Kangpokpi district of Manipur.

- HUN festival is an annual cultural festival and a civilising act of the Thadou community of Manipur and it is celebrated at the arrival of the new year according to the community.

Nagaland

1. Kohima, Nagaland to host fourth B20 conference of the Northeast Region from 4th-6th April 2023

- B20 Conferences in the North East Region of India in partnership with the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII), Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of External Affairs and North Eastern State Governments under India's G20 Presidency have been organized for exploring partnerships among business communities.
- The conferences would aid the development of critical sectors of the economy in the North East and would facilitate economic growth.
- The B20 is the official G20 dialogue forum representing the global business community.
- It is among the most prominent engagement groups in G20, with companies and business organizations as participants.

Odisha

1. Utkal Divas 2023

- Utkal Divas or Odisha Day is celebrated every year on 1 April. This year is the 88th foundation day.
- The day recognizes the separation of the Odisha from the Bihar and Orissa province on 1 April 1936.
- Odisha achieved statehood in 1950.
- Odisha Day is also known as Odisha Foundation Day and Utkala Dibasa.
- Orissa was renamed as Odisha on 1 November 2011.

Rajasthan

1. CM Ashok Gehlot to inaugurate 'Mehngai Rahat Camp' in Rajasthan

- Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot has inaugurated the 'Mehngai Rahat Camp' at Mahapura village panchayat of Sanganer, April 24, to provide relief to people from rising prices.
- The camp will continue till June 30 this year.
- Under these camps, the general public and deprived sections will be provided relief from inflation by connecting them with the public welfare schemes of the state government.

Tamil Nadu

1. Tamil Nadu govt's 'TN REACH' initiative to use 80+ unused helipads soon

- More than 80 unused helipads across Tamil Nadu will soon be put to use with helicopter services planned by the State government.

- An institution mechanism (Tamil Nadu Regional Aerial Connectivity through Helicopters 'TN REACH') will be formulated to use helicopters for travel between cities and towns.

2. T.N. Governor Ravi grants assent to Bill banning online gambling

- Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi on April 10, 2023, granted his assent to the re-adopted Tamil Nadu Prohibition of Online Gambling and Regulation of Online Games Bill, 2022 (L.A. Bill No. 53 of 2022). The Governor had earlier returned the Bill, following which the Assembly re-adopted it and sent it to the Raj Bhavan.

3. Tamil Nadu assembly passes Bill allowing 12-hour work days

- The Tamil Nadu assembly passed a Bill seeking amendment in the Factories Act, 1948, extending the daily working hours from 8 to 12 hours.
- The Bill was tabled in the assembly on 12 April.
- With the latest amendment, the government introduced a new provision 'Section 65 A in the existing Factories Act.
- By way of the amendment made to the Factories Act, 1948, section 65A is inserted into the Act, which enables the state government to exempt any factory or group of factories from sections 51 (weekly hours), 52 (weekly holidays), 54 (daily hours), 55 (intervals for rest), 56 (spread over), and 59 (prohibition of overlapping shifts) of the Factories Act.
- While this amendment also implements a four-day work week if 12-hour shifts are followed, if certain factories are exempted, it might enable employers to not follow these legal provisions.
- In February, the Karnataka Assembly also passed The Factories (Karnataka Amendment) Bill, 2023, which permits industries to have a 12 hours work day, but with maximum of 48 hours of work in a week.
- According to reports, in May 2020, as many as 10 states — Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Goa, Uttarakhand, Assam, Punjab, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh had proposed tweaking labour laws during pandemic, revising the working hours to 12 hours.
- The UP government had also issued an order increasing the daily working hours from 8 hours to 12, but withdrew it in May 2020.

Tripura

1. Tripura becomes best performer in northeast in e-procurement, receives award

- Tripura has been awarded as the best performing state among North Eastern states in implementation of e-procurement.
- In this context, Tripura has been rewarded for completing the work in stipulated time under Saubhagya Yojana of the Electricity Department.
- The Tripura government has made e-procurement mandatory in the Delegation of Financial Rules of Tripura for the purchase of goods and services above Rs 25000. Procurement has the advantage of bringing transparency in government sales and leaving no opportunity for vendors to collude. E-procurement system helps small and medium industrialists in procurement.

Uttar Pradesh

1. UP inks MoU for establishment of textile parks spread over 1,000-acres in Lucknow, Hardoi

- Under the PM Mega Integrated Textiles and Apparel (PM Mitra) scheme, the Uttar Pradesh government signed an MoU with the Government of India at Lok Bhawan in Lucknow for the establishment of 1,000-acres-wide textile parks in Lucknow and Hardoi districts.

Uttarakhand

1. A HELP Program launched in the State of Uttarakhand

- The Chief Minister of Uttarakhand, Mr. Pushkar Singh Dhami launched 'A-HELP' programme in the State of Uttarakhand.
- Under this program trained A-HELPS will give their vital contribution in preventing

various infectious diseases of animals, artificial insemination under Rashtriya Gokul Mission(RGM), tagging of animals and animal insurance. A-HELP' -Accredited Agent for Health and Extension of Livestock Production

Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu

1. PM Modi inaugurates NAMO Medical Education and Research Institute in Silvassa

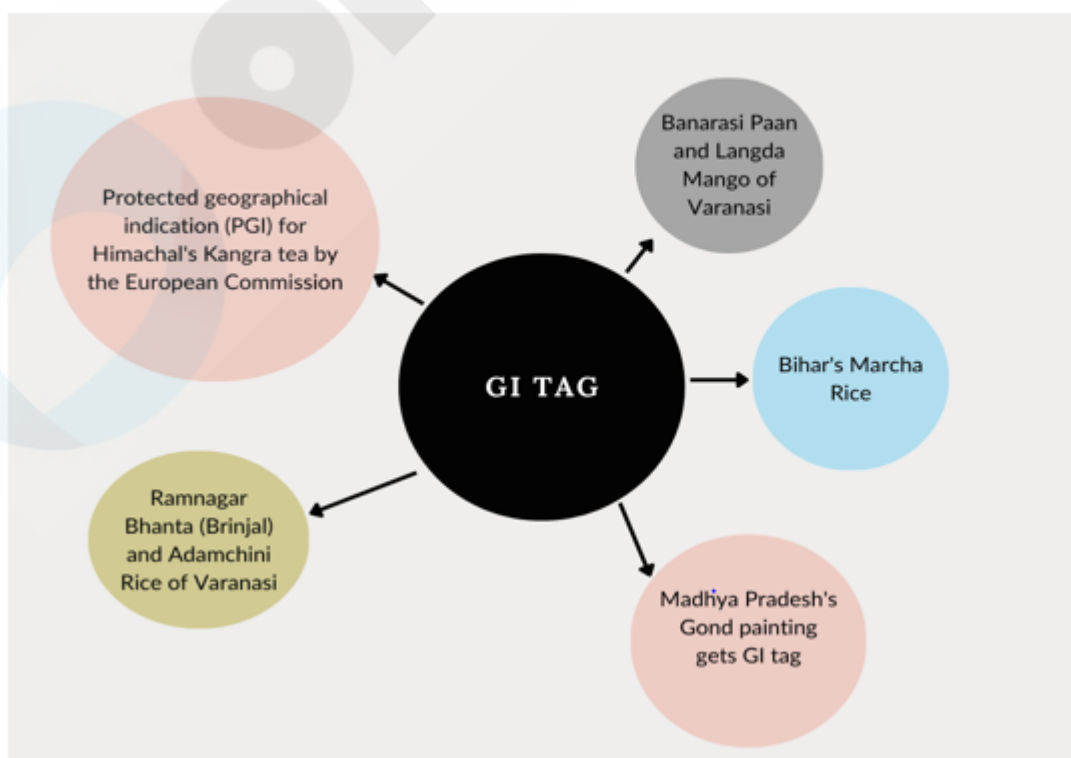
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi who was on a visit to Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, inaugurated NAMO Medical Education and Research Institute in Silvassa.
- Notably, the foundation stone of NAMO Medical Education and Research Institute was also laid by the Prime Minister himself in January 2019.

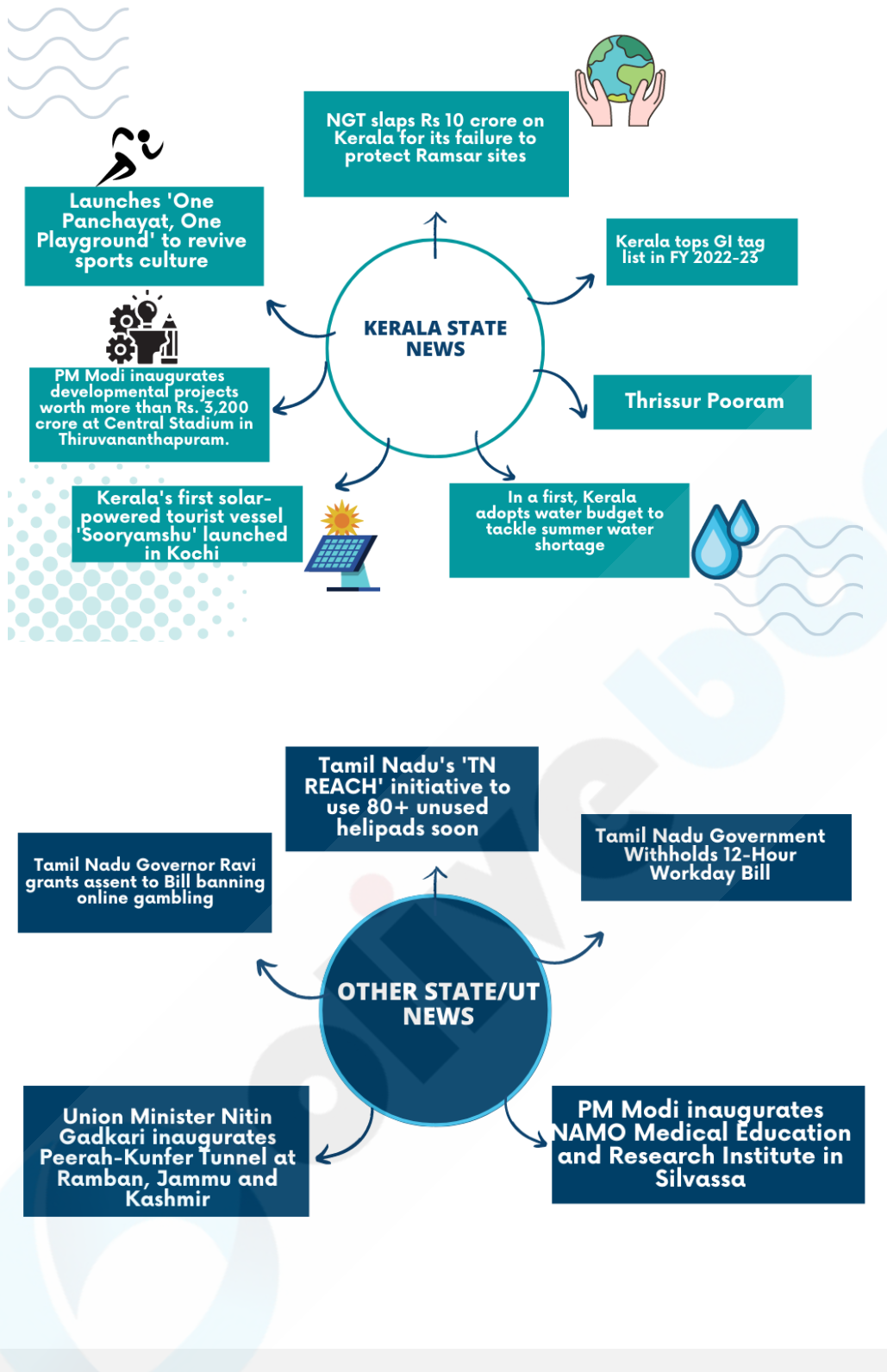
Jammu and Kashmir

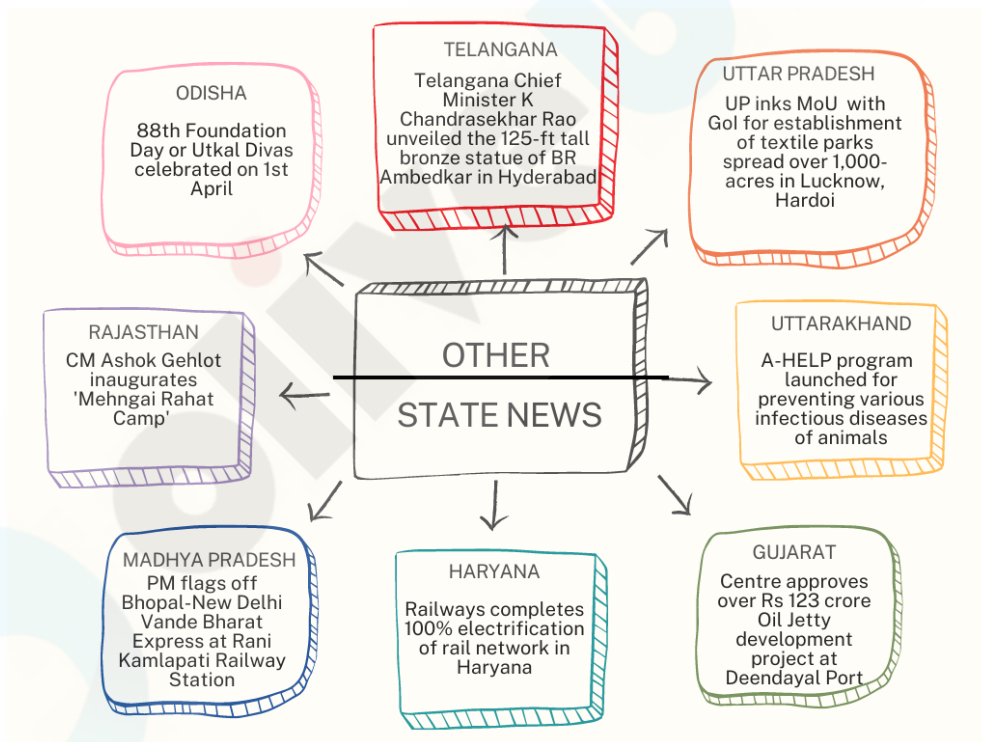
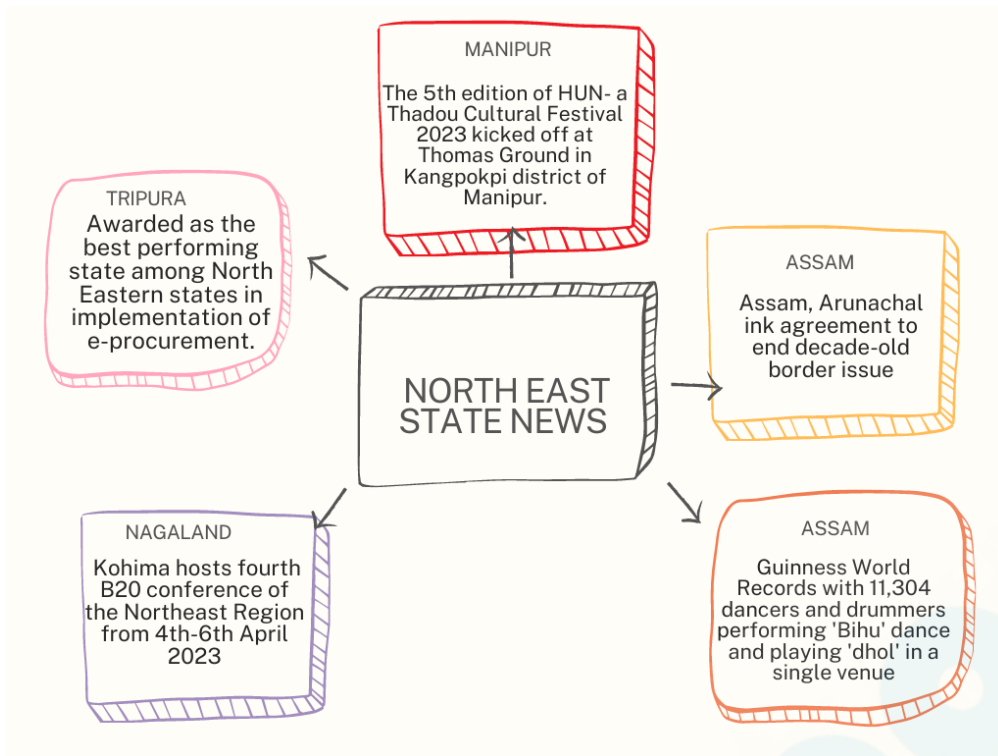
1. J&K: Union Minister Nitin Gadkari inaugurates Peerah-Kunfer Tunnel at Ramban

- Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari inaugurated Peerah-Kunfer Tunnel at Ramban.
- The 924 meters long Tube 1 of the Peeda-Kunfer Tunnel would bypass 2.9 km congested, zigzag, and the accident-prone area between Nashri and Ramban.
- The tunnel is a part of the ongoing four-lane project of the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) between Udhampur and Ramban on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway.

STATES/UT NEWS AT A GLANCE:







Important CA

1. Indian-origin engineer Amit Kshatriya to lead NASA's Moon to Mars programme

- Indian-origin software and robotics engineer Amit Kshatriya has been appointed to head NASA's newly-established 'Moon to Mars' programme.
- He will serve as the first head of office for the programme with immediate effect and will help the agency ensure a long-term lunar presence needed to prepare for humanity's next giant leap to the Red planet.

Possible Question: Which of the following Indian-origin engineer is set to lead NASA's Moon to Mars programme?

2. Indian Oil Corporation Signs Deal With Russia's Rosneft To Raise Oil Imports

- Indian Oil Corporation signed a deal to raise oil imports from Russia's Rosneft. Rosneft Oil Company and Indian Oil signed a term agreement to substantially increase oil supplies as well as diversify the grades to India.
- Igor Sechin, CEO of Rosneft Oil Company, and Shrikant Madhav Vaidya, Chairman of Indian Oil Corporation Ltd, signed the agreement.

Possible Question: Which of the following companies has signed a deal to raise oil imports from Russia's Rosneft?

3. LIC, GIC Re, New India Remain Domestic Systemically Important Insurers: IRDAI

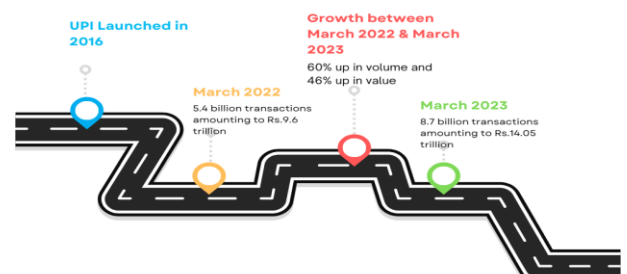
- LIC, GIC Re., and New India continue to be identified as Domestic Systemically Important Insurers (D-SIIs), as in the 2021-22 list of D-SIIs, the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India said while releasing the list of D-SIIs for the year 2022-23.
- It said D-SIIs are perceived as insurers that are "too big or too important to fail."
- Domestic Systemically Important Insurers refer to insurers of such size, market importance, and domestic and global interconnectedness, whose distress or failure would cause a significant dislocation in the domestic financial system.

Possible Question: IRDAI released the list of Domestic Systemically Important Insurers (D-SIIs) for the year 2022-23. Which of the following insurers are included in the list? I.Life Insurance Corporation II.GIC Re. III.United India Insurance Company IV.New India Assurance Company V.Oriental Insurance Company Select the correct option.

4. UPI processes 8.7 billion transactions in March, highest ever since inception

- Unified Payments Interface (UPI) 'ended the financial year (FY23) on a high, with March seeing 8.7 billion transactions being processed on the platform, the highest ever since its inception, amounting to Rs 14.05 trillion.
- Launched in 2016, it took the platform three years to reach the milestone of processing a billion transactions a month in October 2019. Dilip Asbe: Managing Director & CEO at National Payments Corporation Of India (NPCI).
- According to National Payments Corporation of India's (NPCI) data, **UPI transactions in March 2023 were over 60 per cent and 46 per cent higher in volume and value terms from the year-ago period.** Last year in March, UPI had processed 5.4 billion transactions, amounting to Rs 9.6 trillion.
- Recently the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) governor Shaktikanta Das said that the platform has the bandwidth to process one billion transactions per day. UPI, on average, processes about 30 crore transactions a day currently.
- According to NPCI, **99.9 per cent of the transactions on the UPI platform are account-to-account transfers.**
- RBI has now allowed linking RuPay credit cards to UPI and merchant payments through prepaid instruments (PPIs) on the UPI guard rails. With these additions to UPI, customers now have a choice of using bank accounts, RuPay credit cards, and PPIs on UPI-enabled apps. This is expected to aid the volume of transactions on the platform.

UPI Transaction Milestones



Possible Question: UPI processed its highest ever transactions since inception in March 2023 with _____ transactions.

5. India Justice Report 2022 | Karnataka tops among 18 large States in delivery of justice

- Karnataka topped the third India Justice Report among 18 large and mid-size states having a population of over 1 crore each, it was followed by Tamil Nadu & Telangana.
- The list of seven small states, having a population of less than one crore each, was headed by Sikkim, followed by Arunachal Pradesh and Tripura.
- The IJR is an initiative of the Tata Trusts launched in 2019.

Possible Question: As per the India Justice Report 2022, which state in India tops the list of states and Union Territories in providing access to justice?

6. Jal Jeevan Mission Achieves 60% Coverage Milestone

- More than 1.55 lakh villages, (25% of total number of villages), in India have so far reported 'Har Ghar Jal', i.e., every household in these villages has access to clean drinking water through taps at their household premises.
- 1.66 Crore Households & 58 Crore People Now Have Access To Clean Drinking Water Through Taps At Home.
- Jal Jeevan Mission was announced by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on **15th August, 2019** with the aim to provide all rural households with adequate quantity (55 lpcd) water of prescribed quality in adequate pressure, on regular and long-term basis.
- The overall financial commitment for Jal Jeevan Mission is INR 3600 billion (US \$ 43.80 billion) which makes it one of the largest welfare programmes in the world.

Possible Question: The overall financial commitment for Jal Jeevan Mission is _____.

7. Romania, India sign treaty on defense cooperation for first time in history

- During her visit to India, Romania's secretary of state Simona Cojocaru led a session of political-military consultations with Indian defence secretary Giridhar Aramane, her counterpart at the Indian Ministry of Defense, to discuss the security situation in the Black Sea and Indo-Pacific regions, multilateral cooperation, and the prospects for bilateral cooperation.

Possible Question: Which among the following countries has recently signed treaty on defence cooperation with India for the first time?

8. RBI imposes monetary penalty on The Jamnagar People's Co-operative Bank Ltd., Jamnagar (Gujarat)

- RBI imposed a monetary penalty of '1.00 lakh on The Jamnagar people's Co-operative Bank Ltd., Jamnagar (Gujarat) (the bank) for contravention of directions issued by RBI on 'Income Recognition, Asset Classification and Provisioning Norms for Loans and Advances' and 'Reserve Bank of India (Co-operative Banks - Interest Rate on Deposits) Directions, 2016'.
- This penalty has been imposed in exercise of powers vested in the RBI under the provisions of **Section 47 A (1) (c) read with Section 46 (4) (i) and Section 56 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949**, taking into account the failure of the bank to adhere to the aforesaid directions issued by RBI.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) also imposed a monetary penalty of '4.00 lakh (Rupees Four Lakh only) on Shree Chhani Nagarik Sahakari Bank Limited, Vadodara (Gujarat) (the bank) for contravention of directions issued by RBI on 'Board of Directors of Urban Co-operative Banks - Professionalisation and their Role - Do's and Don'ts', 'Prudential Norms Income Recognition, Asset Classification, Provisioning and Other Related Matters', 'Loans and advances to directors etc.- directors as surety/guarantors- Clarification', 'Frauds in UCBs: Changes in Monitoring and Reporting mechanism' and 'Master Direction - Know Your Customer (KYC) Direction, 2016'.
- This penalty has been imposed in exercise of powers vested in the RBI under the provisions of **Section 47 A (1) (c) read with Sections 46 (4) (i) and 56 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949**, taking into account the failure of the bank to adhere to the aforesaid directions issued by RBI.

Possible Question: Recently, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed a monetary penalty on Jamnagar People's Co-operative Bank Ltd. for contravention of directions issued by RBI on 'Income Recognition, Asset Classification, etc. Which among the following acts empower the RBI to impose such restrictions?

9. Amitabh Kant To Head Real Estate Committee; To Look Into Stalled Housing Projects

- The Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry has set up a 14-member committee headed by former NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant, to examine issues related to stalled

real estate projects and recommend various ways for their completion.

- Panel has been set up nearly a year after it was decided by the Central Advisory Council (CAC) headed by the Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry.
- The panel will deliberate on the issues of legacy stalled projects and suggest ways to complete and hand over these projects to homebuyers in a time-bound manner, the Ministry order states.
- According to the mandate, the Committee will submit a report within six months from the date of its first meeting.
- The third meeting of the CAC was constituted under the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016 (RERA) held in April 2022 to deliberate issues related to the implementation of RERA in states and union territories (UTs).
- The Council took several decisions to protect the interest of the homebuyers. It was also decided to set up a sub-committee under the Council to look into grievances and issues concerning the stakeholders, including homebuyers.
- It was resolved to conduct Council meeting at least once in a year and sub-group consisting of concerned stakeholders to meet once in six months, under the chairmanship of the secretary, MoHUA.
- Regarding the issue of structural safety of projects, the Council decided that the development authorities might ask for a structural safety certificate from the site engineer and promoter, at the time of applying for a completion certificate.
- Amitabh Kant has been appointed as the chairman of the panel with senior government officials, and heads of RERA from Uttar Pradesh and Haryana as its members.
- Officials from various Ministries and Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI), National Housing Bank (NHB), and a professor from National Law University (NLU) are among other members of the committee. The panel has been given the authority to appoint more members if needed.

Possible Question: The Government of India has set up a 14-member Real Estate Committee, headed by who among the following to examine issues related to stalled real estate projects and recommend various ways for their completion?

10. RBI Monetary Policy : Status Quo On Repo Rate; Inflation Seen At 5.2%, GDP Growth At 6.5% In FY24

- Key takeaways from RBI Governor's speech:
- Decision to keep repo rate unchanged at 6.5% was unanimous.
- The standing deposit facility rate, pegged 25 bps below the repo rate, is at 6.25%.
- The marginal standing facility rate, which is 25 bps above the repo rate, is at 6.75%.
- The MPC decided with 5:1 majority to remain focused on withdrawal of accommodation.
- The committee had first raised rates by 40 basis points at an unscheduled meeting in May last year, followed by 50 basis points each in June, August and September. It raised rates by a further 35 basis points in December last year, followed by a hike of 25 basis points in February this year.
- The RBI governor has announced a grievance redressal mechanism for credit reporting institutes, which includes: Compensation mechanism for delayed updates to consumer reports. Provision for SMS/email alerts for credit information checks. Time frame of inclusions of data received by credit information firms. Disclosure of customer complaints received by credit information firms.

Possible Question: As per Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of RBI, what is the projected GDP growth rate in Financial Year 2024?

11. IIFL Finance raises USD 100 mn from Export Development Canada, Deutsche Bank

- NBFC IIFL Finance secured USD 100 million (about Rs 819 crore) in long-term funding from Export Development Canada and Deutsche Bank.
- It has received USD 50 million each from Export Development Canada and Deutsche Bank, and this round is the second investment by the Canadian institution, Canadian institution, which had invested USD 100 million in 2019.

Possible Question: Recently, the IIFL Finance has raised USD 100 mn from Export Development Canada and Deutsche Bank. IIFL Finance is a/an_____.

12. RBI Imposes Penalty On M&M Financial Services, Indian Bank, Muthoot Money

- The Reserve Bank of India has imposed a fine of '6.77 crore on Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services Ltd, Mumbai for not disclosing interest rates to borrowers at the time of sanctioning loans, a release from the central bank.

- On Indian Bank, a penalty of '55 lakh was imposed by the central bank for contravention of certain Know Your Customer (KYC)) norms.
- RBI has also penalized Muthoot Money Limited, Ernakulam with '10.50 lakh for not complying with provisions related to 'Monitoring of Frauds in NBFCs (Reserve Bank) Directions, 2016.

Possible Question: In April 2023, The Reserve Bank of India has imposed a fine of _____ on Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services Ltd, Mumbai for not disclosing interest rates to borrowers

13. RBI approves expanding UPI transactions to allow credit payments

- Individuals with pre-approved credit lines from banks will soon be able to use it to make payments over the Unified Payments Interface (UPI), the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said, setting the stage for new credit products over the homegrown payments platform.
- In other words, UPI network will facilitate payments financed by credit from banks.
- UPI currently accounts for 75% of retail digital payments volume in India.
- In March alone, it recorded 8.7 billion transactions worth '14.1 trillion, showed data from NPCI.
- At present, UPI transactions are enabled between deposit accounts at banks, sometimes intermediated by pre-paid instruments including wallets. It is now proposed to expand the scope of UPI by enabling transfer to/from pre-sanctioned credit lines at banks, in addition to deposit accounts.

14. Unclaimed deposits of Rs 35,012 crore with PSU banks transferred to RBI: MoS Finance Bhagwat Karad

- About Rs 35,000 crore unclaimed deposits as of February 2023 were transferred to the Reserve Bank by public sector banks (PSBs) in respect of deposits which have not been operated for 10 years or more.
- These unclaimed deposits belong to 10.24 crore accounts transferred to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) as of the end of February 2023.
- State Bank of India (SBI) tops the chart of unclaimed deposits worth Rs 8,086 crore followed by Punjab National Bank Rs 5,340 crore, Canara Bank Rs 4,558 crore and Bank of Baroda Rs 3,904 crore.

Possible Question: Any public deposits which remained unclaimed for a period of 10 years or more are transferred to the _____.

15. RBI launches Quarterly Order Books, Inventories and Capacity Utilisation Survey: January - March 2023 (Round 61)

- The Reserve Bank of India launched the 61st round of its Order Books, Inventories, and Capacity Utilisation Survey (OBICUS). The survey is for the reference period January - March 2023 (Q4:2022-23).
- The Reserve Bank has been conducting the Order Books, Inventories, and Capacity Utilisation Survey (OBICUS) of the manufacturing sector on a quarterly basis since 2008.
- The information collected in the survey includes quantitative data on new orders received during the reference quarter, backlog of orders at the beginning of the quarter, pending orders at the end of the quarter, total inventories with a breakup between Finished nished goods (FG), work-in-progress (WiP) and raw material (RM) inventories at the end of the quarter, item-wise production in terms of quantity and value during the quarter *vis-à-vis* the installed capacity from the targeted group and the reasons for changes in production / installed capacity during the quarter. The level of capacity utilisation (CU) is estimated from these responses. The survey provides valuable input for monetary policy formulation.

Possible Question: The 'Order Books, Inventories, and Capacity Utilisation Survey (OBICUS)', was recently launched by _____

16. EAM S Jaishankar launches 'Tulsi Ghat Restoration Project' in Uganda

- External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar launched the 'Tulsi Ghat Restoration Project' of Varanasi, during his visit to Uganda's Kampala.
- Earlier he met Uganda's President Yoweri K Museveni at his farm in Rwakitura and congratulated the country on assuming the chairship of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).
- The NAM chair position rotates every 3 years during summit conferences.
- Uganda was endorsed to chair the **Non-Aligned Movement** on behalf of Africa for the period from 2022 to 2025.
- From April 13-15, Jaishankar visited Mozambique. "The first-ever visit by an External Affairs Minister of India to the Republic of Mozambique.
- He also met Mozambique's top leadership and co-chaired the 5th Session of the Joint Commission Meeting with Mozambican Foreign Minister Veronica Macamo.

Possible Question: In which country, the 'Tulsi Ghat Restoration Project' has been launched?

17. Election Commission grants national party status to Aam Aadmi Party

- The Election commission of India granted national party status to Arvind Kejriwal-led Aam Aadmi Party (AAP).
- In addition, the commission has revoked the national party status of CPI and TMC. "Nationalist Congress Party loses national party tag," stated EC.
- The Commission said the AAP has been named as a national party based on its electoral performance in four states -- Delhi, Goa, Punjab and Gujarat.

Possible Question: Recently, the Election Commission of India has revoked the national party status of which among the following political parties?

18. IMF cuts India's FY 2023-24 growth forecast to 5.9%

- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) lowered India's economic growth projection for the current financial year to 5.9 per cent from its earlier estimate of 6.1 per cent.
- As per the IMF's bi-annual World Economic Outlook report, India's headline retail inflation is expected to ease to 4.9 per cent in 2023-24 from 6.7 per cent in the previous year.
- The IMF's projection of India's economic growth for the current financial year is the lowest among the forecasts by the multilateral agencies. The World Bank has pegged India's GDP growth for the current fiscal at 6.3 per cent while the ADB has put it at 6.4 per cent.

Possible Question: What is International Monetary Fund's (IMFs) projection for India's economic growth rate in the current financial year?

19. RBI issues detailed norms for outsourcing of IT services by banks, NBFCs

- In its 'Master Direction on Outsourcing of Information Technology Services', RBI said that Regulated Entities (REs) have been extensively leveraging IT and IT-enabled Services (ITeS) to support their business models, products and services offered to their customers.
- With a view to provide REs adequate time, the norms will come into effect from October 1, 2023.
- In February last year, the central bank proposed the issuance of suitable regulatory guidelines on outsourcing of IT services with an aim to ensure effective management of

attendant risks. Later, draft norms were issued.

- According to RBI, the underlying principle of the directions is to ensure that outsourcing arrangements neither diminish REs' ability to fulfil its obligations to customers nor impede effective supervision by the central bank.

Possible Question: In April 2023, The Reserve Bank of India issued directions regarding the outsourcing of IT services by banks and non-banks to ring-fence themselves from any reputational risks. The norms will come into effect from __

20. Indian Navy Partners With Raman Research Institute To Develop Secure Maritime Communications Using Quantum Technology

- The Bengaluru-based Raman Research Institute (RRI), which is an autonomous institute of the Department of Science and Technology (DST), and the Weapons and Electronics Systems Engineering Establishment (WESEE), the R&D establishment of the Indian Navy, recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for a period of five years to work together on this project. Professor Tarun Souradeep, Director, RRI.
- Under this agreement, RRI's Quantum Information and Computing (QuIC) lab will lead the research efforts towards developing quantum key distribution techniques that the Indian Navy could leverage in the nation's efforts towards securing free space communications.

Possible Question: The Indian Navy recently partnered with _____ to develop secure maritime communications using quantum technology.

21. Net Direct tax collection increases by 172.83 percent in the last nine years: Govt data

- Direct Tax collections have witnessed quantum jump in the last nine years. In these years, the gross tax collections have increased by 172.83 percent. According to the provisional data released by the CBDT, more than 19 lakh 68 thousand crore rupees gross direct tax were collected in the last fiscal which was seven lakh 21 thousand crore rupees in 2013-2014.
- CBDT informed that net direct tax collection has witnessed 160 percent growth since 2013-14. More than 16 lakh 61 thousand crore rupees were collected as Direct Tax in the last financial year which was over six lakh 38 thousand crore rupees in financial year 2013-14.
- CBDT informed that direct tax to Gross Domestic Product ratio has increased from

5.62 percent in financial year 2013-14 to 5.97 percent in financial year 2021-22. It said, direct tax buoyancy at 2.52 in the financial year 2021-22 is the highest direct tax buoyancy recorded over the last 15 years.

Possible Question: According to data released by Central Board of Direct Tax in April 2023, In last nine years, the gross direct tax collections have increased by _____.

22. China Stays India's No. 1 Source Of Imports, Russia Gains Ground

- China, the U.A.E., and the U.S. are India's top import source nations in FY23. Russia holds the fourth position among India's top 10 merchandise import destinations, as imports from the country grew five times during the financial year, according to data from the Ministry of Commerce. Imports from Russia grew from \$9.87 billion in FY22 to \$46.33 billion in FY23.
- The Commerce Ministry data revealed that a major chunk of the demand for fertilisers has shifted towards Russia, where the import share has increased from 5.2% in 2021-2022 (April-February) to 17.2% in 2022-2023 (April-February).
- Chinese fertilizer imports fell from 21.9% over the same span in 2021-2022 to 13.9% in 2022-2023, accounting for a decline in imports of around half a billion from China.

Possible Question: According to Ministry of Commerce and Industry, which country retained the top position as India's no.1 source of imports?

23. Sebi issues SOP for dispute resolution under stock exchange arbitration mechanism

- Capital markets regulator Sebi has come out with a new Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for dispute resolution under the stock exchange arbitration mechanism for disputes between a listed firm or Registrars to an Issue and Share Transfer Agents (RTAs) and its shareholders.
- The arbitration mechanism will be initiated post exhausting all actions for resolution of complaints including those received through the SCORES portal. The arbitration reference will be filed with the stock exchange where the initial complaint has been addressed.
- The new framework will come into force with effect from June 1, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi)

Possible Question: SEBI has recently come out with a new Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for dispute resolution under the stock exchange arbitration mechanism for disputes between a listed

firm or Registrars and its shareholders. The new framework will come into force with effect from _____, 2023.

24. 8th India-Thailand Defence Dialogue took place in Bangkok

- At the invitation of the Government of Thailand, Special Secretary, Ministry of Defence Smt Nivedita Shukla Verma paid an official visit to Bangkok.
- During the visit, the Special Secretary co-chaired the 8th meeting of India-Thailand Defence Dialogue with Deputy Permanent Secretary for Defence of the Ministry of Defence, Thailand Nuchit Sribunsong.

Possible Question: In April 2023, which edition of India-Thailand Defence Dialogue took place in Bangkok?

25. RBI allows AU Small Finance Bank, Equitas Bank to deal with foreign exchange

- Reserve Bank of India granted Licence to act as Authorized Dealer Category-I (AD-I) under section 10 of FEMA, 1999 to deal in foreign exchange, AU Small Finance Bank.
- Equitas Small Finance Bank said it has also received Authorized Dealer Category-I (AD-I) License from RBI.
- Recently, RBI approved re-appointment of Sanjay Agarwal as MD and CEO of AU Small Finance Bank.

Possible Question: In April 2023, RBI granted AU Small Finance Bank a licence to act as an Authorized Dealer Category-I (AD-I) under _____ of the FEMA, 1999, to trade in foreign exchange, according to a regulatory filing.

26. Tata Steel Honored With Sustainability Champion Status For 6th Consecutive Time By World Steel Association

- Tata Steel has been declared the 2023 Steel Sustainability Champion by the World Steel Association (WSA).
- This recognition of Tata Steel comes at the Worldsteel Special General Meeting of the Board of Members which was held in Vienna, Austria. Having secured this top-notch honor for six consecutive years since 2018.

Possible Question: Tata Steel has been declared the 2023 Steel Sustainability Champion by the World Steel Association (WSA). This is the _____ consecutive year Tata Steel has won this honor.

27. India Joins 6 Leading Nations In Quantum Tech, Rs 6,000 Crore National Quantum Mission Gets Nod

- The Union Cabinet cleared Rs 6,003 crore National Quantum Mission.

- The eight-year mission involving research institutions and industry will have four verticals ' three on quantum computing, communication and sensing, and a fourth one on developing novel materials and devices that would aid in the three core programmes.
- For a perspective, the Indian achievement so far is limited to developing 2-3 qubits in a super-conducting platform. IBM, on the other hand, developed 430 qubits and promised to come out with 1000 qubits by 2023. There are other big corporations in quantum computing.
- The new mission comes four years after Narendra Modi government in December 2018 announced Rs 3,660 crore National Mission on Cyber-Physical Systems, which is being executed through 25 hubs.
- India will be the *seventh* country to have a dedicated quantum mission after the **US, Austria, Finland, France, Canada and China**, Union Science and Technology Minister Jitendra Singh said.

Possible Question: In April 2023, The Union Cabinet cleared Rs 6,003 crore National Quantum Mission. India will be the _____ country to have a dedicated quantum mission.

28. Centre appoints Arun Sinha as National Technical Research Organisation chairman

- The government has appointed Arun Sinha as the new Chairperson of the National Technical Research Organisation (NTRO).
- The National Technical Research Organisation is a technical intelligence agency under the National Security Advisor in the Prime Minister's Office, India. It was set up in 2004.
- Parent agency of NTRO: Research and Analysis Wing.
- In another appointment, The Fertilizers Secretary in the central government, Arun Singhal, was appointed as the Director General of the National Archives of India.
- The National Archives of India (NAI) is an attached office under the Ministry of Culture.
- ' Mukhmeet Singh Bhatia has been appointed as Chairperson of the National Authority Chemical Weapons Convention.

Possible Question: Recently, who among the following has been appointed as the chairperson of the National Technical Research Organisation (NTRO)?

29. PESB picks Shantanu Roy for BEML's CMD post

- Shantanu Roy is set to be next Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) of BEML Limited, a

Miniratna PSU under the Ministry of Defence. He has been recommended for the post by the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB).

- BEML is Asia's second-largest manufacturer of earth moving equipment.

Possible Question: Who among the following is set to be next Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) of BEML Limited?

30. EAM Jaishankar co-chairs 4th India-CARICOM ministerial meeting with Jamaican counterpart and others

- External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar co-chaired the 4th India-CARICOM ministerial meeting with his Jamaican counterpart Kaminaj Smith in Guyana's capital.
- Jaishankar also had separate bilateral meetings on with counterparts from Trinidad and Tobago, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent and Grenadines, Grenada, and Barbados. Georgetown is the capital of Guyana.
- Sh. Jaishankar also met Secretary-General of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Dr Carla Natalie Barnett and exchanged views on intensifying India-CARICOM ties in traditional as well as new areas of cooperation.
- CARICOM is an intergovernmental organization that is a political and economic union of **15 member states** (14 nation-states and one dependency) throughout the Americas and the Atlantic Ocean.

Possible Question: In April 2023, External Affairs Minister Jaishankar co-chaired 4th India-CARICOM ministerial meeting with Jamaican counterpart and others. CARICOM is an intergovernmental organization that is a political and economic union of _____ member states.

31. India ascends six places to rank 38 on World Bank logistics index

- India climbed up six places in the World Bank's Logistic Performance Index 2023, as investments in soft and hard infrastructure as well as technology helped the country improve its port performance. India is now ranked 38 in the 139 countries index, up from 44 in 2018.
- The average dwell time for containers between May and October 2022 was three days for India and Singapore.
- The dwell time for the US was seven days and for Germany was 10 days.
- The country also climbed four places to rank 48 in logistics competence and equality.
- In terms of timelines, India saw a significant improvement, moving up 17 places in the

rankings. Additionally, India improved three places in tracking and tracing, now ranking at 38.

- In 2023, India's ranking for international shipments improved significantly, moving up from 44 in 2018 to 22. The country also climbed four places to rank 48 in logistics competence and equality. In terms of timelines, India saw a significant improvement, moving up 17 places in the rankings. Additionally, India improved three places in tracking and tracing, now ranking at 38.
- The seventh edition of Connecting to Compete, the Logistics Performance Index (LPI) report, comes after three years due to Covid-19 pandemic-led disruptions.

Possible Question: How many places did India climb on the World Bank's Logistic Performance Index from 2018 to rank 38 in 2023 ?

32. India carries out maiden flight-test of sea-based ballistic missile defence interceptor

- India successfully conducted a maiden flight trial of a sea-based endo-atmospheric interceptor missile off the coast of Odisha.
- The missile test was conducted by the Defence Research and Development Organisation & the Indian Navy.
- BMDs are capable of intercepting incoming long-range nuclear missiles and hostile aircraft including AWACS (airborne warning and control systems).
- The endo-atmospheric missiles are the ones that operate within the earth's atmosphere that covers an altitude below 100 kilometers. The exo-atmospheric missiles are capable of completing missions in the upper-most region of the earth's atmosphere.

Possible Question: Recently, India successfully conducted a maiden flight trial of a sea-based endo-atmospheric interceptor missile off the coast of _____.

33. Canara Bank collaborates with Reserve Bank Innovation Hub to simplify 15 G-15H submission for senior citizens

- Canara Bank, in conjunction with the Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH), announced the launch of "Digitalised Submission of Form 15G/15H" as one of our customer-friendly services, furthering our commitment to "Customer Delight."
- RBIH identified the issue, and then conceptualized and prepared a blueprint to address the aforementioned issue.

- Rajesh Bansal, CEO of RBIH. The Reserve Bank Innovation Hub is a wholly owned subsidiary of the RBI.
- **Form 15G (Individual and HUF) and Form 15H (Individual-Senior Citizen)** are self-declaration forms that an individual submits to the bank to request that TDS on interest income not be deducted because their income is less than the basic exemption limit. It is necessary to provide PAN for this.
- Several residents, particularly elderly citizens, make their 15G & 15H contributions to their banks at the start of each fiscal year, particularly in the first few weeks of April. Our bank currently accepts submission of these forms via online banking/mobile banking, which needs knowledge of and access to Mobile/Internet Banking.
- Many elderly people are unfamiliar with Internet and mobile banking services. They stand in long lines all day in bank offices to submit these tax waiver forms.
- RBIH has been set up as a **Section 8 company under the Companies Act, 2013** with an initial capital **contribution of Rs. 100 crore.**

Possible Question: Canara Bank in April 2023 collaborated with the _____ to simplify 15 G-15H submission for senior citizens.

34. National Panchayati Raj Day | April 24

- National Panchayati Raj Day is observed in India on April 24 every year to mark the constitutional amendment that created the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in India. The PRIs are the third tier of governance in India, after the central and state governments, and are responsible for local level governance in rural areas. Day marks the establishment of the 1st Panchayati Raj system in India on April 24, 1993.
- The constitutional recognition of Panchayati Raj Institutions through the 73rd Amendment in 1992 was a turning point in the decentralization of political power to the grassroots level, with the impact being visible in rural India. In consultation with the states, the Indian government has designated April 24 as National Panchayati Raj Day, commemorated by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj since 2010.

Possible Question: The National Panchayati Raj Day is observed every year on _____.

35. Sydney Cricket Ground Gate Named After Sachin Tendulkar Unveiled On His 50th Birthday

- On the occasion of legendary Indian batsman Sachin Tendulkar's 50th birthday (April 24), a gate named after him was unveiled at the iconic Sydney Cricket Ground (SCG).
- Tendulkar scored 785 runs in five Tests at the SCG at an average of 157, with a highest score of 241 not out. Tendulkar had named SCG as his favorite cricket ground outside India.
- To mark 30 years of Brian Lara's 277 at the SCG, a gate named after the legendary West Indies batsman was also unveiled.

Possible Question: Sydney Cricket Ground has recently unveiled a gate named after which among the following Indian cricketers?

36. World Malaria Day | April 25

- World Malaria Day, which was instituted by WHO Member States during the World Health Assembly of 2007, is an occasion to highlight the need for continued investment and sustained political commitment for malaria prevention and control. Observed on April 25, the theme of the campaign this year is "Time to deliver zero malaria: invest, innovate, implement."
- Ronald Ross discovered malaria parasites in an Anopheles mosquito in 1897.

Possible Question: The World Malaria Day is observed on _____.

37. World Intellectual Property Day -- April 26, 2023

- The theme for this year's World Intellectual Property Day 2023 is "Accelerating Innovation and Creativity: Women and IP".
- World Intellectual Property Day dates back to the year 2000 when the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) designated April 26 as a day to raise awareness about the importance of intellectual property rights.

Possible Question: In which year the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) was founded?

38. Former Punjab Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal Dies At 95

- Former Punjab chief minister and Shiromani Akali Dal patriarch Parkash Singh Badal passed away.
- Parkash Singh Badal served as the Chief Minister of Punjab five times. He was the chief minister from 1970-1971, from 1977-1980, from 1997-2002, and from 2007-2017 (two consecutive terms). He was also

the youngest Chief Minister to have ever hold office in the state of Punjab.

Possible Question: Parkash Singh Badal served as the Chief Minister of Punjab _____ times.

39. State Bank Of India Raises \$750 Million Via Bonds

- State Bank Of India concluded the issue of \$750 million senior unsecured fixed rate notes having maturity of 5 years and coupon of 4.875% payable semiannually under Regulation-S.
- Earlier this month, the bank's board had approved a proposal to raise \$2 billion (about Rs 16,000 crore) from bonds to fund its global operations.

Possible Question: Which public sector bank has recently raised USD 750 through bonds to fund offshore business growth?

40. Vodafone Appoints Finance Chief Margherita Della Valle As CEO

- Vodafone Group Plc appointed Margherita Della Valle as its chief executive officer.
- Della Valle, who was the company's chief financial officer, had been leading the company on an interim basis. She'll continue in her role as CFO until a replacement is found, Newbury, England-based Vodafone said.
- Della Valle's predecessor Nick Read had also been CFO.

Possible Question: Who among the following has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer of Vodafone Group Plc?

41. Siddhartha Mohanty Appointed LIC Chairperson By Government

- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet approved the Department of Financial Services' proposal to appoint Siddhartha Mohanty as the chairperson of India's insurance behemoth up to June 29, 2024.
- After June 2024, Mohanty will continue to hold office as the chief executive officer and managing director up to 62 years of age until June 7, 2025.
- In March, Mohanty was appointed as the interim chairperson for three months after the completion of the term of Mangalam Ramasubramanian Kumar as chairperson on March 13, in addition to his duties as a managing director.
- Siddhartha Mohanty is also the first chief executive of the Life Insurance Corp of India (LIC) (LIFI.NS), the country's biggest insurer.

Possible Question: Who been named as first Chief Executive Officer of Life Insurance Corporation of India till June 7, 2025?

42. Debadatta Chand appointed as new chief of BoB

- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of Debadatta Chand as MD & CEO of Bank of Baroda for three years.
- Chand's appointment as chief of BoB is with effect from the date of assumption of office or after July 1, 2023, or until further orders, whichever is earlier.
- Sanjiv Chadha, MD & CEO, BoB, will retire on June 30, 2023.

Possible Question: The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of who among the

following as MD & CEO of Bank of Baroda for three years?

43. Rajneesh Karnatak selected as MD and Chairman of Bank of India

- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of Rajneesh Karnatak as MD & CEO of Bank of India (BoI) for three years.
- Karnatak's appointment as chief of BoI is with effect from the date of assumption of office until further orders, whichever is earlier. The three-year tenure of AK Das as MD & CEO of BoI ended in January 2023.

Possible Question: In April 2023, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of Rajneesh Karnatak as MD & CEO of which bank?

 oliveboard

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BANKING

Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR)	4.50%
Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR)	18.00%

POLICY/EXCHANGE RATE & RESERVE RATIO	PERCENTAGE
Repo Rate	6.50%
Reverse Repo Rate	3.35%
Marginal Standing Facility Rate (MSF)	6.75%
Bank Rate	6.75%

APPOINTMENTS

APPOINTMENT	POST
Niranjan Gupta	Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Board of Hero MotoCorp
Praveer Sinha	Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Managing Director of Tata Power
Vice Admiral Atul Anand	Director General Naval Operations (DGNO)
Vice Admiral Sanjay Jasjit Singh	Vice Chief of Naval Staff
Neeraj Nigam	Executive Chairman of Reserve Bank of India
Kenichi Umeda	Managing Director of Suzuki Motorcycle India
Sudha Shivkumar	President of FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO)
Aleksander Ceferin	President of UEFA
Anshuman Singhania	Managing Director of JK Tyre & Industries Ltd
Ratnakar Patnaik	Chief Investment Officer of Life Corporation of India
Sanjay Agarwal	Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Managing Director of AU Small Finance Bank
Rajeshwari Srinivasan	Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Fab India
A Madhavarao	Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) of Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL)
Kaizad Bharucha	Deputy Managing director of HDFC Bank
Kumar Mangalam Birla	Additional non-executive director of Vodafone Idea (Vi)
Anant Maheshwari	Chairperson of Nasscom
Upendra Kumar Sinha	Independent Director and Chairman of Nippon India Life Asset Management (NAM India)
N Kamakodi	Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Managing Director of City Union Bank
Hari Hara Mishra	Chief Executive Officer of the Association of Asset Reconstruction Companies
Aravind Maiya	Chief Executive Officer of Embassy Office Parks REIT
Arun Kashyap	Chief Operating Officer of Spice Jet
Sisira Kanta Dash	Chief Technical Officer (Head of Engineering) at Air India
Amit Kshatriya	Head of NASA's 'Moon to Mars' programme
Arun Sinha	Chairperson of the National Technical Research Organisation (NTRO)
Shantanu Roy	Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) of BEML Limited
Siddhartha Mohanty	Chairperson of Life Corporation of India
Debadatta Chand	Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Managing Director of Bank of Baroda
Rajneesh Karnatak	Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Managing Director of Bank of India (BoI)

IMPORTANT DAYS

DATE	DAY	THEME
April 1 st -7 th	Prevention of Blindness Week	
April 2 nd	World Autism Awareness Day	Transforming the narrative: Contributions at home, at work, in the arts and in policymaking
April 4 th	International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action	

April 5th	National Maritime Day	
April 6th	International Day of Sport for Development and Peace	Scoring for people and planet
April 7th	World Health Day	Health for All
April 10th	World Homeopathy Day	
April 12th	International Day of Human Space Flight	
April 13th	Siachen Day	
April 15th	World Art Day	Art is Good for Health
April 17th	World Hemophilia Day	
April 18th	World Heritage Day	
April 19th	World Liver Day	
April 21st	National Civil Services Day	
April 22nd	Earth Day	Invest In Our Planet
April 23rd	World Book Day	Indigenous Languages
April 23rd	English Language Day	
April 24th	National Panchayati Raj Day	
April 24th	International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace	
April 25th	International Delegate's Day	
April 25th	World Malaria Day	Time to deliver zero malaria: invest, innovate, implement
April 26th	World Intellectual Property Day	Accelerating Innovation and Creativity: Women and IP
April 29th	World Dance Day	
April 30th	Ayushman Bharat Diwas	

SPORTS

NAME OF THE SPORTS PERSON	RELATED FIELD
Lashinda Demus	Running
Natalya Antyukh	Running
Zuzana Hejnov	Running
Kaliese Spencer	Running
Sanjita Chanu	Weight Lifting
MS Dhoni	Cricket
Yuvraj Singh	Cricket
Mithali Raj	Cricket
Kim Cotton	Cricket Umpire
Priyanshu Rajawat	Badminton
Chandrakala Ojha	Swimmer
David Warner	Cricket
D Gukesh	Chess
Nisha Dahiya	Wrestling
Priya Malik	Wrestling
Mizuki Nagashima	Wrestling

Antim Panghal	Wrestling
Anshu Malik	Wrestling
Sonam Malik	Wrestling
Manisha	Wrestling
Reetika	Wrestling
Akari Fujinami	Wrestling
Aman Sehrawat	Wrestling
Almaz Smanbekov	Wrestling
Shaili Singh	Long Jump
Suryakumar Yadav	Cricket
Harmanpreet Kaur	Cricket
Jaidip Mukerjea	Tennis

BOOKS and AUTHORS

BOOKS	AUTHORS
War and Women	Dr MA Hasan
Reflection	Narayanan Vaghul
Crosscourt	Jaidip Mukerjea

SCHEMES

NAME OF THE SCHEME	THEME
Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana	Skill Development
Stand Up India Scheme	Entrepreneurship Development
Marketing and Logistics Development for Promotion of Tribal Products from North-Eastern Region	Tribal Artisans Development
Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik (UDAN)	Regional Connectivity
Atal Pension Yojana	Pension
Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana	Health Insurance
State Wide Attention on Grievances by Application of Technology -SWAGAT	Aims to bridge gap between Citizen and Government
PM Mega Integrated Textiles and Apparel (PM Mitra) scheme	Parks for the Textile industry
Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana	Accident Insurance Scheme
Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana	Life Insurance Scheme

AGREEMENTS & MOU'S

ENTITIES INVOLVED	MOU THEME
Information and Broadcasting Ministry and Amazon India	Boost India's creative economy and promote creative talent
South Indian Bank and Cholamandalam MS General Insurance	Offer health and general insurance products
Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and International Energy Agency (IEA)	Enhancing innovation for the clean energy transition
Cipla Ltd and Novartis Pharma AG	Manufacture and market the Galvus range drugs
Unique Identification Authority of India and Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay (IIT-Bombay)	Develop a touchless biometric capture system
IIT Kanpur's technology business incubator, the Startup Incubation and Innovation Centre (SIIC) and Advanced Weapons and Equipment India Limited	Promote Innovation
Nepal and India	Cross-border digital payments using e-wallet
Indian Highways Management Company Limited (IHMCL) and Nagarjunasagar-Srisailem Tiger Reserve	To enable FASTag-based payments at forest entry points
India and World Food Programme	Sending Wheat to Afghanistan
Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Indore and National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)	To develop a low-cost camera setup 'CL-FRAME'
Adani Power Ltd and MPSEZ Utilities Limited (MUL)	Power Supply
Directorate General of Civil Aviation and European Union Aviation Safety Agency	Co-operation for Aviation Safety

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and Moon Village Association (MVA)	Global Outreach of Chandrayaan- 3
Infosys has joined hands with Walmart Commerce Technologies	Harness technology solutions
India and Germany	Improve quality infrastructure
Tesla Power USA and Indian Oil Corporation Ltd.	Sell and service batteries
NPCI International Payments and PPRO	Facilitate global e-commerce payments through UPI
United Kingdom and India	Collaborate Innovations
Indian Oil Corporation and Russia's Rosneft	Raise Oil Imports
India and Romania	Defence Cooperation
Raman Research Institute (RRI) and Indian Navy	To Develop Secure Maritime Communications Using Quantum Technology
Canara Bank and Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH),	Launch of "Digitalised Submission of Form 15G/15H"

DEFENCE

DEFENCE EXERCISE NAME	COUNTRIES INVOLVED
10th SLINEEX-23	India and Sri Lanka
Ex KAVACH	Andaman and Nicobar Command conducted joint military exercise
Exercise Orion	Multilateral International exercise at Mont De Marsan, France
COPE INDIA 2023	India and USA
INIOCHOS-23	Multilateral exercise in Greece
Sagar Kavach	Coastal security exercise held off coast of Kerala and Mahe
7th AJEYA WARRIOR-23	India and UK

INDIA AND WORLD

COUNTRIES INVOLVED	FIELD OF CO-OPERATION
India and Philippines	4th Joint Defence Cooperation Committee meeting
Odisha, India and Tokyo, Japan	Investment intent received
Adani Power Limited Godda plant in Jharkhand and Bangladesh	Power supply to Bangladesh
India, Japan and France	Platform for debt restructuring programme of Sri Lanka
India and Mozambique	Inauguration of Buzi Bridge built by India
India and Romania	Defence cooperation treaty
India and Russia	Bilateral trade crosses target of USD 30 billion
India and Bangladesh	16th Visa Application centre in Kushtia
IndusInd Bank and Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC)	\$100 million long-term loan agreement
India and Sudan	Operation Kaveri to rescue citizens
India and China	The commerce ministry terminates an anti-dumping investigation into the import of Black Sulphur.
India and Korea	Bilateral trade grows 17% in 2022
India and USE	Easier norms for Gold Import
India and UK	Imperial College London scholarships worth GBP 4 lakh for Indian students
IIFL Finance & Export Development Canada and Deutsche Bank.	Long term funding of USD 100mn
India and Uganda	Tulsi Ghat Restoration Project
India and Thailand	8th Defence Dialogue

ACQUISITION AND MERGERS

ENTITY	ACQUIRED BY
Karaikal Port	Adani Port
Mukand Sumi Special Steel Limited	Jamnalal Sons Private Limited
HDFC AMC	HDFC
Emerson Electric Co	BCP Emerald Aggregator LP (Blackstone)
HDFC Investments and HDFC Holdings	HDFC
Raymond Ltd	Godrej Consumer Products Ltd

OBITUARY

OBITUARY	RELATED FIELD
Sara Thomas	Writer
Salim Durani	Cricketer
Keshub Mahindra	Chairman Emeritus of Mahindra & Mahindra
Tarek Fatah	Journalist- Author
Kaur Singh	Boxer
N Gopalakrishnan	Scientist
Parkash Singh Badal	Former Chief Minister of Punjab

COMMITTEE

THEME OF THE COMMITTEE	FORMED BY	CHAIRPERSON
Examine issues related to stalled real estate projects	Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry	Former NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant
To work on a model buyer agreement	Central Government	TBA

AWARDS

AWARDEE	AWARD NAME	RELATED FIELD
Kiran Nadar (for her outstanding contribution in the field of art)	Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur	Highest French civilian award
Dr. Nitya Abraham	Young Urologist of the Year Award	Medicine
Calyampudi Radhakrishna Rao	2023 International Prize in Statistics	Statistics
Bharat Biotech	Best Production /Process Development at the World Vaccine Congress 2023.	Science
Nilesh Bhagwan Sambare	Maratha Udyog Ratna	Entrepreneurship
Kumar Mangalam Birla	Business Leader of the Decade Award at All India Management Association's (AIMA)	Business
Raj Subramaniam	Pravasi Bharatiya Samman	Highest civilian award given by India to persons of Indian origin and Indian diaspora.
Nandini Gupta	Femina Miss India World 2023	Beauty pageant
Santokbaa Humanitarian Award	Sonam Wangchuk	Altruism/humanitarian
Malcolm Adiseshiah Award 2023	Utsa Patnaik	Social scientists
Grand Cross award	Angela Merkel	Germany's highest honour
The Prime Minister's Awards for Excellence in Public Administration 2022 (Innovation, Centre)	National COVID-19 vaccination programme by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and PM GatiShakti National Master Plan by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade	Acknowledge, recognize and reward exemplary work done by civil servants across the country.
The Prime Minister's Awards for Excellence in Public Administration 2022 (Innovation, State)	Mission Youth of Jammu and Kashmir and State Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (SOTTO) of Gujarat	
1959 Ramon Magsaysay	Dalai Lama	Contributions in public service, government service, community leadership etc
68th Hyundai Filmfare Awards	Best film: Gangubai Kathiawadi, Best director: Sanjay Leela Bhansali for Gangubai Kathiawadi, Best Actor(male): Rajkummar Rao for Badhaai Do,	Entertainment

	Best Actor(female): Alia Bhatt for Gangubai Kathiawadi	
Immigrant Achievement Award	Neeli Bendapudi	Given to Immigrants in USA who exhibit a commitment and dedication to America's heritage
2023 Steel Sustainability Champion by World Steel Association	Tata Steel	Steel Industry

RANKS AND REPORTS

NAME OF THE REPORT/INDEX	RELEASED BY	INDIA'S RANK	COUNTRY WHICH TOPPED THE LIST
3rd India Justice Report 2022	Tata Trusts	Top 3 in large states: Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Telangana	
10 Busiest airports for 2022	Airports Council International (ACI)	IGI Airport, Delhi ranked 9th	Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, USA
Best performing power generation company in the country	Central Electricity Authority, Ministry of Power.	West Bengal Power Development Corporation	
World's best public transport survey	London based 'Time Out' media outlet	Mumbai - 19th	Berlin, Germany
Time magazine's poll for its annual TIME100 list	Time Magazine		Shah Rukh Khan topped
State Energy Efficiency Index 2021-22	Ministry of Power and New & Renewable Energy	5 states - Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Rajasthan and Telangana - are in the Front Runner category	
World Economic Outlook report	IMF in April 2023	India growth cut to 5.9% from 6.1%	
Freedom in the World 2023 Report	Freedom House	India was rated Partly Free (Scored 66/100)	Tibet - least free country
World's "most criminal countries" list	World of Statistics	77th	Venezuela
AI Index Report	Stanford University	5th in terms of investments received by startups offering AI-based products and services	
Business Environment Rankings	Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)	10th	
Wealthiest CM in India	Association for Democratic Reforms	Andhra Pradesh's Jagan Mohan Reddy with Rs.510 crore assets.	Least wealthy - West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee with Rs.15 lakh assets.
Biggest trading partner of India	Provisional data by Commerce Ministry	US top trading partner of India in 2022-23; China is the No.1 import source.	
World's foremost narco-state	ANI		Syria
Top contributor to world growth over next 5 years	IMF in April 2023	India - 2nd	China
Total private equity and venture capital (PE-VC) investments in the Asia Pacific	Bain & Company in collaboration with Indian Venture and	India got 20%	

	Alternate Capital Association (IVCA).		
Top digital payment transactions cities	Worldline India	Chennai	
2023 List of Best Places to Work in India	LinkedIn	TCS	
Ease Of Moving Index (EoMI) India report 2022.	Ola Mobility Institute (OMI) foundation	Pune and Pimpri Chinchwad	
Largest Defence Spender in 2022	Swedish think tank Stockholm International Peace Research Institute	4th	USA
Largest Recipient of ADB loans in Asia	ADB		Pakistan
Logistic Performance Index 2023	World Bank	38th	Singapore

SUMMITS AND CONFERENCE

SUMMIT/ CONFERENCE NAME	THEME	LOCATION
Joint Commanders conference	Ready, Resurgent, Relevant	Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh
1st Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group meeting		Gandhinagar, Gujarat
2nd Employment Working Group (EWG) Meeting		Guwahati, Assam
Yoga Mahotsav		Dibrugarh University, Assam
2nd Women 20 (W20) International Meeting	Women-Led Development: Leverage Women's Untapped Potential to Accelerate Inclusive and Sustainable Future.	Jaipur, Rajasthan
Global Conference on Compressed Biogas	Towards Progressive Policy Framework for a Robust CBG Foundation and Growth.	New Delhi
1st Global Buddhist Summit	Responses to Contemporary Challenges: Philosophy to Praxis	New Delhi
Research and Innovation Initiative gathering conference of G-20		Dharamshala, Himachal Pradesh
India Steel 2023		Mumbai, Maharashtra
Meeting of Agricultural Chief Scientists (MACS) of G20	Sustainable Agriculture and Food System for Healthy People and Planet	Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh
'Future of Work' exhibition		Bhubaneswar, Odisha
India MedTech Expo 2023(in August 2023)		Gandhinagar, Gujarat
4th India-Mozambique Joint Defence Working Group meeting		New Delhi
2023 Quad Leaders' Summit (on May 24)		Sydney, Australia
Farm Machinery Technology Summit		New Delhi
4th India-CARICOM meeting		Georgetown, Guyana

BANKING AND FINANCE

RBI in News	LIC in news	SEBI in news	IRDAI in news
RBI issues detailed norms for outsourcing of IT services by banks, NBFCs	Siddhartha Mohanty Appointed LIC Chairperson By Government	Sebi issues SOP for dispute resolution under stock exchange arbitration mechanism	LIC, GIC Re, New India Remain Domestic Systemically Important Insurers: IRDAI
RBI allows AU Small Finance Bank, Equitas Bank to deal with foreign exchange	LIC appoints Ratnakar Patnaik as Chief Investment Officer, PC Paikray as Chief Risk Officer	SEBI Approves Setting Up Rs 33,000-Crore Rescue Facility For Debt Mutual Funds	
Reserve Bank of India (RBI) foundation day April 1		Sebi logo gets a new look on 35th foundation day	
Reserve Bank announces framework for acceptance of Green Deposits		Market regulator Sebi sets up framework for upfront collection of funds	
RBI releases data on India's International Investment Position for the end of December 2022		SEBI bans brokers from creating bank guarantees on clients' funds	
RBI cancels Adoor Co-operative Urban Bank's banking licence, allows to operate as NBFC		SEBI Approves Transfer Of Controlling Stake Of HDFC AMC To HDFC Bank	
RBI launches the May 2023 round of Consumer Confidence Survey			
Banks end FY23 with a robust 15.4 pc credit growth: RBI Data			
RBI to launch centralised portal PRAVAAH for licencing, approval applications			
RBI approves expanding UPI transactions to allow credit payments			
RBI launches Quarterly Order Books, Inventories and Capacity Utilisation Survey: January - March 2023 (Round 61)			

IMPORTANT STATIC & CURRENT INFO

INDIAN STATES, CAPITALS, CHIEF MINISTERS & GOVERNORS

STATE	CAPITAL	CHIEF MINISTER	GOVERNOR
Andhra Pradesh	Amaravati	Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy	Justice (Retd.) S. Abdul Nazeer
Arunachal Pradesh	Itanagar	Pema Khandu	Lt. General Kaiwalya Trivikram Parnaik
Assam	Dispur	Himanta Biswa Sarma	Gulab Chand Kataria
Bihar	Patna	Nitish Kumar	Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar
Chhattisgarh	Raipur	Bhupesh Baghel	Biswa Bhusan Harichandan
Goa	Panaji	Pramod Sawant	P.S. Sreedharan Pillai
Gujarat	Gandhi Nagar	Bhupendra Patel	Acharya Dev Vrat
Haryana	Chandigarh	Manohar Lal Khattar	Bandaru Dattatraya
Himachal Pradesh	Shimla	Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu	Shiv Pratap Shukla
Jharkhand	Ranchi	Hemant Soren	CP Radhakrishnan
Karnataka	Bengaluru	Basavaraj Bommai	Thaawarchand Gehlot
Kerala	Thiruvananthapuram	Pinarayi Vijayan	Arif Mohammed Khan
Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal	Shivraj Singh Chauhan	Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel
Maharashtra	Mumbai	Eknath Shinde	Ramesh Bais
Manipur	Imphal	N Biren Singh	Sushri Anusuiya Uikye
Meghalaya	Shillong	Conrad Kongkal Sangma	Phagu Chauhan
Mizoram	Aizawl	Pu Zoramthanga	Dr Kambhampati Haribabu
Nagaland	Kohima	Neiphiu Rio	La. Ganesan
Odisha	Bhubaneswar	Naveen Patnaik	Ganeshi Lal
Punjab	Chandigarh	Bhagwant Mann	Banwarilal Purohit
Rajasthan	Jaipur	Ashok Gehlot	Kalraj Mishra
Sikkim	Gangtok	PS Golay	Lakshman Prasad Acharya
Tamil Nadu	Chennai	M. K. Stalin	R. N. Ravi
Telangana	Hyderabad	K. Chandrasekhar Rao	Tamilisai Soundararajan
Tripura	Agartala	Dr. Manik Saha	Satyadeo Narain Arya
Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow	Yogi Aditya Nath	Anandiben Patel
Uttarakhand	Dehradun	Pushkar Singh Dhami	Lt. Gen. Gurmit Singh
West Bengal	Kolkata	Mamata Banerjee	C V Ananda Bose

UNION TERRITORIES, LIEUTENANT GOVERNORS & ADMINISTRATORS

UNION TERRITORY	LT. GOVERNOR & ADMINISTRATOR
Andaman and Nicobar Island (UT)	Admiral D K Joshi (Lieutenant Governor)
Chandigarh (UT)	Banwarilal Purohit (Administrator)
Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu (UT)	Praful Patel (Administrator)
Delhi (NCT)	Vinai Kumar Saxena (Lieutenant Governor)
Jammu and Kashmir (UT)	Manoj Sinha (Lieutenant Governor)
Lakshadweep (UT)	Praful Patel (Administrator)
Puducherry (UT)	Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan (Addl. Charge) (Lieutenant Governor)
Ladakh (UT)	Brig. (Dr.) BD Mishra (Retd.) (Lieutenant Governor)

UNION MINISTERS & PORTFOLIO

UNION MINISTER	PORTFOLIO
Narendra Modi	Ministry of personnel, public grievances and pensions Department of Atomic Energy Department of Space
Rajnath Singh	Ministry of Defence
Amit Shah	Ministry of Home Affairs Ministry of Cooperation
Nitin Gadkari	Ministry of Road Transport and Highways
Nirmala Sitharaman	Ministry of Finance Ministry of Corporate Affairs
Piyush Goyal	Ministry of Commerce and Industry Ministry of Textiles Ministry of Consumer affairs, food and public distribution
Narendra Singh Tomar	Ministry of agriculture and Farmers welfare
Dr Subrahmanyam Jaishankar	Ministry of External Affairs
Arjun Munda	Ministry of Tribal Affairs
Smriti Zubin Irani	Ministry of Women and child Development Ministry of Minority Affairs
Dharmendra Pradhan	Ministry of Education Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
Pralhad Joshi	Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs Ministry of coal Ministry of Mines
Narayan Tatu Rane	Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
Sarbananda Sonowal	Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH)
Dr. Virendra Kumar	Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
Giriraj Singh	Ministry of Rural Development Ministry of Panchayati Raj
Jyotiraditya M. Scindia	Ministry of Civil Aviation Ministry of Steel
Ashwini Vaishnaw	Ministry of Railways Ministry of Communications Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
Pashu Pati Kumar Paras	Ministry of Food Processing Industries
Gajendra Singh Shekhawat	Ministry of Jal Shakti
Kiren Rijiju	Ministry of Law and Justice
Raj Kumar Singh	Ministry of Power Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
Hardeep Singh Puri	Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
Mansukh L. Mandaviya	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers
Bhupender Yadav	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Ministry of Labour and Employment
Mahendra Nath Pandey	Ministry of Heavy Industries
Parshottam Rupala	Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
G. Kishan Reddy	Ministry of Culture Ministry of Tourism Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region
Anurag Singh Thakur	Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports

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