

July 2023

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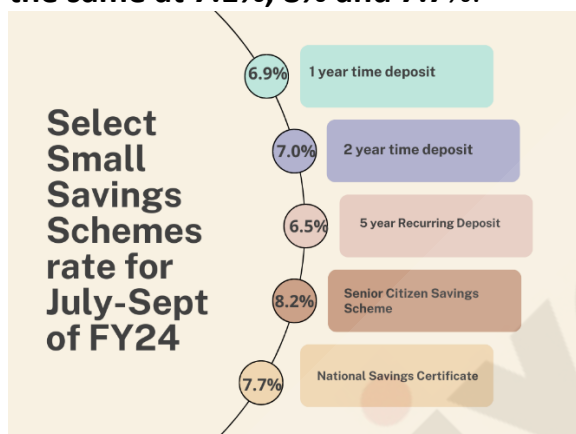
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## Banking & Finance

### 1. Govt raises rates on select small savings schemes for July-Sept quarter of FY24

- The finance ministry on June 30 increased the interest rates for the one-year and two-year deposits were raised by 10 basis points (bps) each to **6.9% and 7%**, respectively, while small savings rate for the **five-year recurring deposit** was raised by 30 bps to 6.5%.
- The interest rates on PPF, Sukanya Samridhi Yojana and NSC were kept the same at 7.1%, 8% and 7.7%.



### 2. RBI imposes '65 lakh penalty on AP Mahesh co-op bank

- Reserve Bank of India imposed a monetary penalty of Rs 65 lakh on AP Mahesh Co-operative Bank after the RBI's thorough cyber audit and the Hyderabad police investigation revealed the bank's significant "lapses" which led to the breach pertaining to the case wherein hackers breached the bank's systems through phishing mails and siphoned off Rs 12.48 crore in January 2022.

### 3. PNB partners Amul for Mudra loans to retailers and dealers

- Punjab National Bank (PNB) has partnered with Gujarat Cooperative

### Milk Marketing Federation

**Ltd.(GCMML),** known as AMUL to provide small-ticket Mudra loans to Amul's dealers.

- Through small-ticket financing under the Mudra Scheme, PNB will also offer financial support to Amul's retailers, wholesale dealers/area milk distributors and exclusive Amul Preferred Outlets.

### 4. State Bank of India launches 'Transaction Banking Hubs' for efficient solutions

- State Bank of India (SBI)** has launched 34 Transaction Banking Hubs in the top 21 district centres across the country to provide customers with quick and efficient transaction banking solutions.
- India's largest bank said its goal is to meet all customer needs and provide comprehensive solutions for their transaction, payment, and collection requirements under one roof.

### 5. Maitreyi', Piramal Finance's first all-women branch opens at Tripunithura near Kochi

- Piramal Finance**, a leading housing finance company, has opened its first all-women branch '**Maitreyi**' in the country at **Tripunithura**, a suburban area in Kochi.
- This is part of strategic expansion and the company has identified four more cities such as Jaipur, Mumbai, Mohali and New Delhi to open branches shortly.

### 6. Indian Overseas Bank unveils RuPay Select Debit card, luxury benefits

- The Indian Overseas Bank's RuPay Select Debit card offers '**luxury, convenience and security**', all in one card. It will offer users with gym

memberships, free health check up, complimentary golf lessons, spa services, and lounge access in selected domestic and international airports.

- **One is required to have a savings bank account or a certificate of deposit (CD) with IOB, maintaining an average daily balance of ' one lakh.**
- Cash withdrawal limit is set to '50,000. Daily limit for usage in merchant establishments (PoS) is set at ' five lakh. An amount of up to '3,50,000 is set for daily usage in e-commerce platforms.

#### 7. RBI cancels licenses of two co-operative banks

- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said it has cancelled the banking licenses of two co-operative banks in Maharashtra and Karnataka.**
- The licenses of **Malkapur Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd, Buldhana and Shushruti Souharda Sahakara Bank Niyamita, Bengaluru** have been cancelled.
- These banks did not have adequate capital and earning prospects, RBI said, adding that with their present financial position, they would be unable to pay their present depositors in full.
- On liquidation, every depositor would be entitled to receive deposit insurance claim amount of his/her **deposits up to '5 lakh from the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC).**

#### 8. SBI gives '22 crore to IIT-Bombay to strengthen its data analytics, AI capabilities

- The State Bank of India (SBI), through its CSR arm SBI Foundation, has pledged a grant of '22.5 crore to establish a Banking Data and Analytics Hub at the

Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay (IIT-B).

- The focus of the Hub will be to address the unique challenges faced by the Indian banking and financial services sector.
- The collaboration aims to leverage SBI's extensive experience in banking and IIT Bombay's research expertise.

#### 9. IBA sets up 5-member group to implement RBI committee's recommendations on ARCs

- The **Indian Banks' Association (IBA)** has constituted a **five-member working group** for implementing the recommendations of the Reserve Bank of India's committee on the 'working of the Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARCs)'.
- In light of the committee's recommendations aimed at enabling ARCs to fulfill the increasing demand of the financial sector.
- The Group comprises Ajit Kumar, MD and CEO, Secondary Loan Market Association (SLMA); Hari Hara Mishra, CEO, Association of ARCs in India; other notable members are Mythili Balasubramanian, Dharmendra Pali Anupama Ranade.

#### 10. Karnataka Bank opens technology and business hub in Bengaluru

- Karnataka Bank opened a state-of-the-art 'Technology & Digital Hub' at Artisane RPS Tech Centre, J.P. Nagar in Bengaluru on July 5.
- The aim is to consolidate all its tech and digital operations under one roof. The hub is expected to spearhead development and innovation as well as execution.



- It will drive the next level of automation and digitisation, harnessing the power of computing and analytics.

#### 11. New Age Banking: PNB launches its virtual branch in the Metaverse

- **Public Sector Bank (PSB) Punjab National Bank (PNB) announced the launch of a virtual branch, PNB Metaverse.**
- It is a virtual branch of the bank, which will deliver a unique experience of banking to existing and new customers who can now explore the bank's products and services.
- It will also offer an immersive 3D experience to the customers while performing traditional banking activities through their digital avatars.

#### 12. SEBI is looking to mandate FPIs to use RFQ platform for 10% of secondary transactions

- **SEBI has proposed mandating Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) to undertake at least 10 percent of their total secondary market trades in corporate bonds by value on the RFQ (Request For Quote) platform of the stock exchanges.**
- It is aimed at increasing liquidity on the RFQ platform and enhancing the transparency and disclosures pertaining to investments in corporate bonds.
- It will encourage investment by FPIs in the corporate bond segment.

#### 13. PNB Launches UPI Payments With IVR-Based UPI 123PAY

- **State-owned Punjab National Bank LTD announced the launch of UPI 123PAY, an IVR-based UPI solution.**
- This offering aligns with the Digital Payment Vision 2025, propelling the

nation towards a cashless and cardless society.

- The Unified Payments Interface has revolutionised the way transactions are conducted in India, providing customers with , real-time payment experience.

#### 14. RBI rejects 3 applications for setting up small finance banks (SFBs)

- Based on the assessment of the applications, the applicants "**not found suitable**" for granting of in-principle approval to set up a small finance bank are Akhil Kumar Gupta, Cosmea Financial Holdings Pvt Ltd and West End Housing Finance Ltd.
- RBI had received about a dozen applications to set up banks under the guidelines for 'on tap' Licensing of Universal Banks and SFBs.

#### 15. Canara Bank to sign '3,000 crore IT transformation deal

- Public sector bank **Canara Bank will be signing a '3,000 crore IT transformation deal to revamp and enhance its tech infrastructure**, according to sources familiar with the development.
- In a highly competitive bidding race, global tech giants IBM and its managed infrastructure services spin-off Kyndryl are the frontrunners, positioning themselves to secure the partnership
- The partnership will aim to modernize and enhance Canara Bank's technological capabilities, enabling it to provide efficient banking solutions to its customers.

#### 16. Citi Commercial Bank launches new digital client platform, CitiDirect Commercial Banking

- Citi has announced the launch of a new platform, **CitiDirect Commercial Banking, specifically to address the needs of Citi Commercial Bank (CCB) clients.**
- This is part of Citi's strategic investment plan to meet these clients' growing global needs to deliver a single entry point digital platform.

#### 17. Aim to increase e-rupee transactions to a million per day: RBI Deputy Governor

- RBI Deputy Governor T Rabi Sankar said the **RBI is aiming to increase the number of Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) to 10 lakh per day by the end of 2023.**
- At present, the number of CBDC or e-rupee transactions stands at about 5,000 to 10,000 a day.
- In November last year, the RBI introduced a wholesale CBDC pilot and followed it up with a retail pilot in December. At present the number of banks in the pilot has gone up to 13 from eight banks initially

#### 18. Bank of India opens GIFT City branch; aims \$1 billion business by March 2024

- State-owned **Bank of India opened its branch in the GIFT City Special Economic Zone in Gandhinagar and expects to achieve a \$1-billion business through it by March 2024.**
- Bank of India also aims to touch a business of \$4 billion with equal distributions of advances and deposits in the subsequent three years by March 2027 through its IFSC banking unit at GIFT City.
- Bank of India already has its presence in 15 foreign countries through 21 branches and four subsidiaries, a joint

venture and a representative office. Through its GIFT City branch it will provide a range of global banking solutions to the clients.

#### 19. HDFC Bank enables CBDC-compatible UPI QR code for seamless payments

- **HDFC Bank launched UPI QR code interoperable with the Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC).**
- The interoperable UPI QR code will allow HDFC Bank merchants, who have been onboarded on the bank's CBDC platform, to accept payments from their customers in the form of Digital Rupee currency, India's largest private sector bank.
- CBDC, is a tokenised digital version of the Indian Rupee issued by the RBI

#### 20. RBI cancels registration of four NBFCs, 11 surrender certificates

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said it has cancelled the certification of registration of four non-banking finance companies (NBFC) two from Telangana and one each from Kerala and Uttar Pradesh.
- And the entities will not transact the business of a shadow bank, as defined under **RBI Act, 1934.**
- Separately, four NBFCs surrendered their registration certificates following a decision to exit from the non-banking finance business. Three NBFCs ceased operations following corporate actions such as amalgamation, dissolution, merger or voluntary strike-off.
- The remaining four NBFCs have surrendered their registration certificates because they do not require registration under the criteria prescribed

for an unregistered core investment company (CIC), the central bank said.

### 21. SBI hikes lending rate by 5 basis points

- State bank of India (SBI), country's largest lender, has raised its **marginal cost of funds based lending rate (MCLR) by 5 basis points (bps) across all tenures, a move that will lead to an increase in EMIs for borrowers.**
- With the increase, EMIs will go up for those borrowers who have availed loans on MCLR, not for those, whose loans are linked to other benchmarks.
- The revised MCLR rate is effective from July 15, as per the information posted on SBI website.

### 22. PSBs to step up one-time settlement in written-off loans to meet 40% recovery target set by FinMin, RBI

- Indian public sector banks (PSBs) are expected to step up their **one-time settlement (OTS) in written-off loans to meet the finance ministry-set target of recovering up to 40 per cent of the loan amount.** This comes after the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) emphasised the importance of improving recovery from these accounts.
- **By March 31, 2022, the PSBs were able to recover only 14 per cent, Rs 1.03 trillion, out of the total written-off loans of Rs 7.34 trillion.**
- **What legal procedures can banks use?**
- Banks can remove bad loans, including those with full provisioning has been made, on completion of four years from their balance sheet using write-offs. This improves the gross non-performing assets ratio.
- Banks can initiate legal recovery proceedings against defaulting

borrowers via four channels – **the National Company Law Tribunal, the Debt Recovery Tribunal, Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002, and Lok Adalats.**

### 23. RBI cancels licence of Uttar Pradesh-based United India Co-operative Bank

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has cancelled the licence of **Uttar Pradesh-based United India Co-operative Bank. Consequently, the bank (Nagina, Bijnor, Uttar Pradesh) will cease to carry on banking business with effect from the close of business on July 19, 2023, according to a RBI statement.**
- On liquidation, every depositor would be entitled to receive deposit insurance claim amount of his/ her deposits up to a monetary ceiling of '5 lakh from the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC) subject to the provisions of the DICGC Act, 1961.

### 24. MCA exempts regional rural banks from CCI's merger control regime

- In what is seen as a prelude to the next round of consolidation among regional rural banks (RRBs), the Centre has exempted such banks from the purview of CCI's merger control regime.
- **The exemption dispensation from prior scrutiny and approval of Competition Commission of India (CCI) would be available for five years,** the Corporate Affairs Ministry (MCA) said.
- This move would pave the way for merger of RRBs without the prior scrutiny and approval of Competition Commission of India (CCI), which has the mandate to examine whether mergers and consolidation will lessen

competition or affect consumer interests.

- **There are about 43 RRBs (as of 2021) in India and these entities are regulated by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).**
- Currently, the Centre owns 50 per cent stake in each RRB, while the Sponsor Bank has 35 per cent and the remaining 15 per cent is with the State government.

#### 25. ICICI Bank Q1 Results: Net profit rises 40% to '9,648 crore

- The gross NPA declines to Rs. 31822 crore. ICICI Bank Limited operates a network of over 540 bank branches, which are located throughout India. The Group specializes in retail and corporate banking, in addition to forex and treasury operations. ICICI Bank also provides a wide variety of investment banking, insurance and financial services to its clients.
- ICICI Bank was founded on 5th January, 1994. Girish Chandra Chaturvedi is its present chairman.

#### 26. RBI Treasury Bill And Bond Auction Update: T-Bill Yield 6.86%; Punjab Offers Highest SDL Rates at 7.41%

- The Indian bond market traded flat this week as US Treasury yields rose amid mixed economic signals after the Labor Department's latest data, prompting investors to stay low. Punjab is offering the highest interest rates at 7.41 per cent for SDLs maturing on July 5, 2034, followed by Rajasthan and West Bengal at 7.40 per cent each.

#### 27. RBI imposes curbs on Bengaluru-based National Co-operative Bank, caps withdrawal at Rs 50,000

- RBI imposed limitations on **The National Cooperative Bank, one of Bengaluru's oldest institutions, due to its deteriorating financial status. The bank can now only pay depositors '50,000 across all accounts.** Furthermore, the RBI has barred the bank from renewing loans, making investments, creating liabilities, making payments, or accepting new deposits.
- The business limits are in effect for six months, beginning on July 24, 2023.
- The Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation will pay depositors up to '5 lakh in deposit insurance claims, according to the RBI.

#### 28. Canara Bank, major lender to State PSUs and corporations for fifth year in a row

- **Canara Bank topped the list of public sector banks with the highest lending to corporations and PSUs of States and Union Territories for the fifth year in a row.** This was revealed in a written statement of the Finance Ministry, in response to questions raised by MP Velusamy P.
- According to government data, **Canara Bank led the lending to government-backed entities, with a total disbursement of '187,813 crore in FY23.**
- Lending in the recently concluded fiscal was 11 per cent higher than the '1,69,532 crore the state-run bank lent to government entities.
- Canara Bank's lending to State-run public sector enterprises and corporations alone accounted for over 45 per cent of the total lending of all public sector banks.



- **Punjab National Bank was the second highest lender in the previous fiscal, with a total loan disbursal of '70,143 crore.** However, the bank's lending to State- and UT-owned entities have come down from '96,396 crore in FY22.
- The country's largest public sector bank, **State Bank of India, lent '66,523 crore to State enterprises in the previous fiscal,** down from '81,735 crore in FY22. Bank of Baroda's lending to corporations and State PSUs also fell to '15,707 crore in the previous fiscal from '42,015 crore in FY22.
- **Punjab & Sind Bank had the lowest exposure to State PSUs and corporations in FY23 at '88 crore, against a lending of '3,570 crore in 2021-22.**

#### 29. SIDBI constitutes advisory committee on NBFCs

- **SIDBI, the Small Industries Development Bank of India, is launching an NBFC Growth Accelerator Programme in partnership with GAME (Global Alliance for Mass Entrepreneurship).** The primary objective of this program is to bolster the lending capacity of smaller and lower-rated NBFCs, empowering them to play a more significant role in the financial ecosystem.
- The first meeting of the advisory committee on NBFCs (ACON), comprising senior industry leaders, representatives from the Finance Industry Development Council (FIDC), and domain experts, was held in July 2023.
- The ACON aims to provide valuable guidance and inputs to SIDBI, allowing the bank to take a more holistic approach to supporting the growth of NBFCs, especially smaller ones. SIDBI

announced the decision to launch the accelerator programme in the meeting.

- **GAME is India's first national-level organization to pioneer mass entrepreneurship.** It aims to build an ecosystem for youth-led mass entrepreneurship at the local level, to create one crore entrepreneurs, half of who will be women, by 2030.

#### 30. M&M acquires 3.53% stake in RBL Bank for Rs 417 cr

- **Mahindra and Mahindra said it had bought a 3.53% stake in RBL Bank for '417 crores.** The company also broached the possibility of additional investments up to a 9.9% stake.
- An approval from the Reserve Bank of India is needed to acquire a 5% stake in any Indian lender.

#### 31. Federal Bank launches NR savings accounts for NRI women

- Federal Bank, on the occasion of the start of the FIFA Women's World Cup, has announced the launch of an exclusive NR savings account scheme, specifically curated for NRI women.
- This scheme, **named NRE Eve+, is designed to cater to the unique financial needs of NRI women offering a range of benefits tailored to enhance the financial journey of NRI women.**
- Shyam Srinivasan, MD & CEO, Federal Bank.

#### 32. Visa Joins Hands With Adani For Co-Branded Cards

- **Payments giant Visa Inc has joined hands with conglomerate Adani Group for co-branded cards.**

- The partnership will give Visa access to customers passing through Adani's airports, and those using online travel booking portal Cleartrip and train booking platform Adani One.
- Adani has eight airports under its fold, seven brownfield and one greenfield coming up in Navi Mumbai.

### 33. Banknotes with a Star (\*) symbol identical to any other legal banknotes: RBI

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has clarified that a banknote with a Star (\*) symbol is identical to any other legal banknote, except that in the number panel a Star (\*) symbol is added between the prefix and the serial number. The central bank said the Star (\*) symbol present on the number panel of a banknote is an identifier that it is a replaced / reprinted banknote.
- In this connection, it is informed that the Star (\*) symbol is inserted in the number panel of a banknote that is used as replacement for defectively printed banknotes in a packet of 100 pieces of serially numbered banknotes,

### 34. Banks recovered bad loans worth Rs 10.16 trillion in 9 years: FinMin

- Comprehensive measures taken by the government and Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to recover and reduce NPAs, including those pertaining to corporate companies, **have enabled an aggregate recovery of Rs 10.16 trillion by Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) during the last nine financial years ending 2022-23**, the finance ministry said.
- Minister of state in the ministry of finance said that the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (IBC) has

fundamentally changed the creditor-borrower relationship, taking away control of the defaulting company from promoters/owners, and debarring wilful defaulters from the resolution process.

### 35. RBI's Digital Payments Index jumps to 395.57 in March from 377.46 in Sept

- **The Reserve Bank of India's Digital Payments Index, a measure of the extent of digitisation of payments across the country, rose to 395.57 in March 2023 from 377.46 in September 2022 and 349.30 in March 2022.**
- **The RBI introduced the composite Digital Payments Index in January 2021 with March 2018 as the base, to capture digitisation of payments.**
- The index has since been steadily rising, crossing the 300-point mark in September 2021.
- **Five parameters**
- The RBI-DPI comprises five parameters to measure the deepening and penetration of digital payments over different time periods. Of these parameters, payment enablers account for 25 per cent of the index, payment infrastructure – demand-side factors for 10 per cent, payment infrastructure – supply-side factors for 15 per cent, payment performance for 45 per cent, whereas consumer centricity holds five per cent weightage.
- **As per the Economic Survey 2022-23, India has the highest fintech adoption rate of 87 per cent among the public compared to the global average of 64 per cent.** Further, India has gained the third place in digital payments, coming only after US and China.
- It also said that UPI (Unified Payments Interface) transactions, have on average, grown 121 per cent in terms of value and

115 per cent in terms of volume between FY19 and FY22. In May 2023, UPI transactions had crossed the benchmark of 900 crore per month, with a record high of 941 crore transactions worth '14.89 lakh crore being processed.

### 36. SEBI reveals framework for the creation of a fund for stressed debt schemes

- In a bid to develop the corporate debt market and instill confidence among investors, market regulator SEBI has put in place a framework for rolling out the Corporate Debt Market Development Fund (CDMDF) under which mutual funds will have to contribute 25 basis points (bps) of the specified debt asset under management to the fund.
- The initial contribution of mutual funds to CDMDF will be based on AUM of the specified MF schemes as of last December-end. The specified schemes include debt-oriented funds excluding overnight and gilt funds. The move will lead to a contribution of '2,242 crore by mutual funds to CDMDF.
- The CDMDF will purchase investment grade corporate bonds from fund houses in distress to help them meet redemption requests. The backstop will also prevent disruption in fund raising in corporate bond markets during such crises.
- CDMDF will be launched as a close ended scheme with an initial tenure of 15 years from the date of the initial closing after contribution from all AMCs.

### 37. UCO Bank has opened four special rupee vostro accounts, received RBI approval for opening 8 more

- UCO Bank has opened four special rupee vostro accounts with Russian banks so

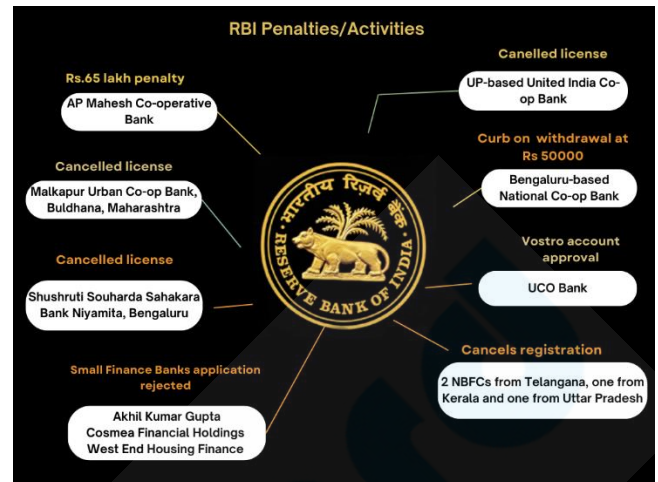
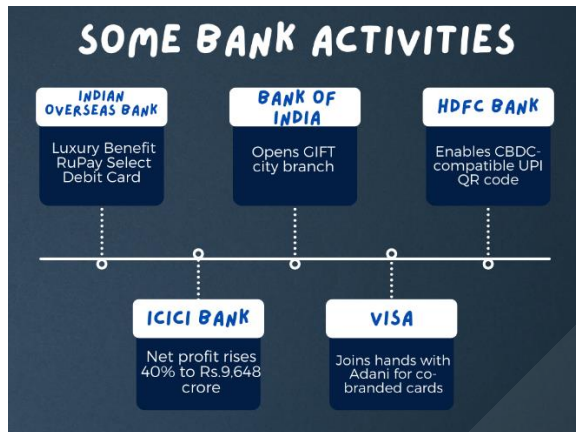
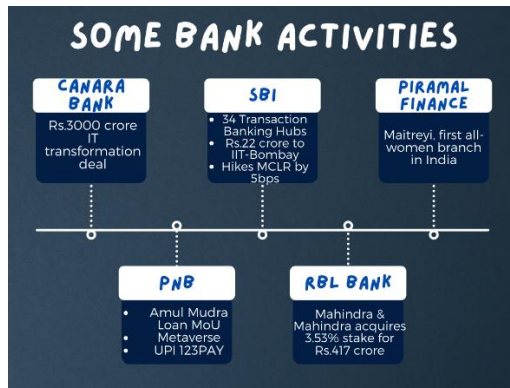
far and has received permission from Reserve Bank of India for opening eight more accounts. **Of these eight, six are with Russian banks and two are with banks in Belarus.** The bank reported net profit of Rs 223.48 crore in Q1FY24, up 80.80 per cent year-on-year.

- Union Bank of India becomes the first bank in the country to open a Special Rupee Vostro Account through its corresponding bank in Malaysia i.e. India International Bank of Malaysia.
- A vostro account is a bank account held by a domestic bank for a foreign bank, denominated in the domestic currency of the former. **The Rupee Vostro Account specifically holds the foreign entity's deposits in Indian rupees at the Indian bank.**

### 38. Banks vote to limit accounting of emissions in bond and stock sales

- Banks working to develop global standards on accounting for carbon emissions in bond or stock sale underwriting have voted to exclude emissions from their own carbon footprint. Majority of banks comprising industry working group backed a plan to exclude 2/3rd of the emissions linked to their capital markets businesses from being attributed to them carbon accounting.
- Banks' accounting of these emissions will impact their targets for becoming carbon-neutral. Major lenders have pledged to bring their emissions down to zero on a net basis by 2050.





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## Economy

### 1. Index of Eight Core Industries (Base: 2011-12=100) for May, 2023

- The Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI), which measures the combined and individual performance of key sectors in the Indian economy, showed a growth of 4.3 percent in May 2023 compared to May 2022.
- Cement production, with a weightage of 5.37 percent, saw the highest growth rate of 15.5 percent. Steel production, accounting for 17.92 percent, increased by 9.2 percent.
- The ICI comprises the production of eight core industries: Coal, Crude Oil, Natural Gas, Refinery Products, Fertilizers, Steel, Cement, and Electricity.
- These industries hold significant weight, accounting for 40.27 percent of the items included in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP).

### 2. '1,61,497 crore gross GST revenue collected for June 2023; records 12% Year-on-Year growth

- The gross GST revenue collected in the month of June, 2023 is '1,61,497 crore of which CGST is '31,013 crore, SGST is '38,292 crore, IGST is '80,292 crore and cess is '11,900 crore (including ' 1,028 crore collected on import of goods).
- The revenues for the month of June 2023 are 12% higher than the GST revenues in the same month last year.

### 3. India's PMI manufacturing index softens to 57.8 in June from 58.7 in May

- India's manufacturing industry expanded at the second-fastest rate this year in June, albeit at a slightly slower pace than

in May, supported by robust demand despite higher inflationary pressures.

- The S&P Global Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index fell to 57.8 in June from May's 58.7.
- That marked two years of the index being above the 50-mark separating expansion from contraction.
- PMI or a Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) is an indicator of business activity - both in the manufacturing and services sectors.

### 4. NHB operationalises Rs 10,000-crore Urban Infrastructure Development Fund(UIDF)

- The National Housing Bank (NHB) has operationalised the Rs 10,000-crore UIDF announced in this year's Budget for creation of urban infrastructure in tier-2 and tier-3 cities.
- As many as 459 tier-2 cities with population of 50,000 to less than a lakh and 580 tier-3 cities with population of one lakh to less than a million as per 2011 census are covered under UIDF as of now.
- Interest rate on UIDF loans has been kept at bank rate minus 1.5%.
- The initial corpus for this fund — managed by NHB— is '10,000 crore.
- UIDF has been launched to supplement efforts of the State governments by providing stable and predictable source of finance for creation of urban infrastructure in tier-2 and tier-3 cities.
- Interest rate on UIDF loans has been kept at bank rate minus 1.5 percent i.e., 5.25 percent at present.
- The loan (principal) will be repayable in five equal annual instalments within seven years from the date of withdrawal,

including a moratorium period of two years while interest will be payable on quarterly basis.

### Eligible projects

- Focus will be on basic services like sewerage and solid waste management, water supply and sanitation, construction and improvement of drains/storm water drains, etc. and impact-oriented projects would be prioritised.
- The minimum size and maximum size of the project proposal shall be '5 crores (' 1 crore for northeast & hilly States) and ' 100 crore respectively.

### 5. India's direct tax mop-up in FY24 rises 16% to Rs 4.75 trillion so far

- **India's direct tax collection soared 16 per cent to touch Rs. 4.75 trillion this financial year**, showing continuity in revenue growth despite external headwinds.
- It said that the numbers so far 'continue to register steady growth.' On a gross basis, collection from direct taxes, which includes income and corporation taxes, grew 14.65 per cent to Rs. 5.17 trillion.
- **The central government expects to collect Rs. 18.2 trillion this financial year, which is 10.5 per cent more than what was collected in FY23**, as per revised estimates.

### 6. GST Council Meeting highlights: 28% GST rate on full value of online gaming

- The 50th GST Council has recently concluded in New Delhi.
- **A 28% GST rate has been levied on the full value of gaming, horse racing, and**

**casinos which comes as a drawback to online gaming companies.**

- Further, the council members exempted GST on key import of pharma products like cancer drug Dinutuximab, and Food for Special Medical Purposes (FSMP).
- The GST Council is a constitutional body headed by the Union Finance Minister

### 7. India's Wholesale Inflation Falls To 8-Year Low Of Minus 4.12% In June

- **The annual rate of inflation based on all India Wholesale Price Index (WPI) is 4.12 percent down for the month of June, 2023.**
- In May, 2023 it was recorded 3.48 percent down. The decline in the rate of inflation in June, 2023 is primarily due to a fall in prices of mineral oils, food products, Basic metals, crude petroleum & natural gas and textiles.
- Prices of Food Articles increased by 2.10 percent in June, 2023 as compared to May, 2023.
- Prices of Non-food Articles are down by 2.40 percent, whereas Crude Petroleum and Natural Gas prices declined 3.01 percent. Minerals prices declined 4.32 percent in June, 2023 as compared to May, 2023.

### 8. ADB retains India's growth forecast at 6.4 percent for current financial year

- **The Asian Development Bank retained India's economic growth forecast at 6.4 percent for the current financial year and 6.7 percent for the next**, The ADB said robust domestic demand will continue to support the region's recovery. In an update to its Asian Development Outlook, the ADB said inflation is expected to continue to fall, approaching pre-pandemic levels.

- It forecast 3.6 percent inflation this year for developing economies in Asia, and 3.4 percent in 2024.
- **The Indian economy grew 7.2 percent in the 2022-23 fiscal ended March 2023.**

#### 9. India Needs Average Annual 7.6% GDP Growth To Become Developed By 2047: RBI

- India could become a developed country by 2047 with an average annual real GDP growth of 7.6 per cent over the next 25 years, said an article published by the Reserve Bank in its July bulletin.
- During 2022-23, India recorded a growth of 7.2 per cent. The RBI's projection for GDP growth for the current fiscal year is 6.5 per cent.

#### 10. HDFC Bank crosses \$100 billion valuation, becomes world's 7th largest bank

- Days after its merger with HDFC Ltd, **HDFC Bank joined the exclusive club of companies with a market capitalisation of \$100 billion.** This makes it the seventh-largest lender globally.
- The bank's market capitalisation crossed **\$150 billion**, making it bigger than Morgan Stanley, Goldman Sachs and Bank of China.
- **JP Morgan is the largest bank, with a market cap of \$438 million. It is followed by Bank of America (\$232 billion) and China's ICBC (\$224 billion).**
- In terms of market value on BSE, HDFC Bank remains the third-largest Indian company behind only Reliance Industries (Rs 18.6 trillion) and TCS (Rs 12.9 trillion).

#### 11. India's forex reserves breach \$600 billion-mark, hover around 15-month high

- **India's forex reserves see the biggest weekly jump in four months, as they went up by \$12.74 billion to \$609.02 billion, as per the Reserve Bank of India's update.**
- Previously, forex reserves had witnessed an uptick of \$1.23 billion for the week ending on July 7.
- Foreign currency assets (FCAs) surged by \$11.19 billion to \$540.17 billion, according to the Weekly Statistical Supplement released by the RBI. Expressed in dollar terms, the FCAs include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound and yen held in the foreign exchange reserves.
- **Gold reserves rose \$1.14 billion to \$45.20 billion, while SDRs increased by \$250 million to \$18.500 billion**

#### 12. IMF raises India's growth forecast to 6.1% for current fiscal

- **International Monetary Fund (IMF) has raised India's growth forecast, projecting a Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth of 6.1 per cent in the current fiscal.** In the **World Economic Outlook** that was released in April, the IMF had projected India's GDP at 5.9 per cent in the current fiscal.
- The IMF in its latest World Economic Outlook report, which was released today said, the upward revision of 0.2 percentage points is reflective of the momentum from stronger-than-expected growth in the fourth quarter of 2022 as a result of stronger domestic investment.
- **The IMF has kept the GDP growth projection for the fiscal year 2024-2025 unchanged at 6.3 per cent.**
- India also retains the tag of the fastest-growing economy with neighbouring



China estimated to grow at 5.2 percent in 2023 and 4.5 percent in 2024.

- The IMF in the latest World Economic Outlook report has also revised upwards the projection for global growth output to 3 per cent in 2023 from its previous forecast of 2.8 per cent. Advanced economies continue to drive the decline in growth from 2022 to 2023, with weaker manufacturing, as well as idiosyncratic factors, offsetting stronger services activity.
- **Global headline inflation is expected to fall to 6.8 per cent in 2023 and further to 5.2 per cent in 2024 from 8.7 per cent in 2022.**

**13. India's per capita income set to grow by 70% to \$4,000 by 2030: Standard Chartered Bank report**

- In a recent research report, **Standard Chartered Bank** has said that it predicts **India's per capita income is poised to experience significant growth, soaring by nearly 70 per cent to reach \$4,000 by fiscal 2030, up from \$2,450 in fiscal 2023.**
- This surge is expected to help the country achieve the status of a middle-income economy, boasting a GDP of \$6 trillion.
- The major driver of the growth will be external trade, estimated to nearly double to \$2.1 trillion by 2030 and household consumption which is forecasted to soar to \$3.4 trillion by fiscal 2030.
- Currently, household consumption constitutes a significant 57 per cent of the country's GDP.



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## National

### 1. Dream11 secures BCCI lead sponsor rights for Rs 358 crore

- **Fantasy gaming platform Dream11 won the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)'s lead sponsor rights for Rs 358 crore.**
- Byju's had an optional agreement with the BCCI until November, but they decided to end the contract in March. Since then, Team India has been without a jersey sponsor and even played the recent World Test Championship final without one.

### 2. Home Minister Amit Shah approves release of Rs 6,194 cr disaster relief fund to 19 states

- **Home Minister Amit Shah today approved the release of over Rs 6,194 crore to 19 State governments under the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF).**
- The amount includes Rs 1,209.60 crore as central share of SDRF to four states -- Chhattisgarh, Meghalaya, Telangana and Uttar Pradesh -- for 2022-23.
- Rs 4,984.80 crore will also be given to 15 states -- Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Goa, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Odisha, Punjab, Tamil Nadu and Tripura -- for 2023-24.
- The central government, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has already approved the release of Rs 3,649.40 crore as central share of SDRF to nine states during 2023-24.
- **Based on the 15th Finance Commission's recommendations, the central government has allocated Rs 1,28,122.40 crore for SDRF for years 2021-22 to 2025-26, the release stated.**

### 3. Centre announces Tomato Grand Challenge hackathon

- The Centre has announced the Tomato Grand Challenge (TGC) hackathon aimed at addressing the availability and affordability of tomatoes for consumers and ensuring fair value for tomato farmers.
- The challenge has invited innovative ideas across the tomato value chain. Winning ideas will be evaluated, developed into prototypes, and implemented on a large scale.

### 4. India's first domestically built 700 MW nuclear reactor starts commercial operation in Gujarat

- **India's first indigenously developed 700 MW nuclear power reactor at the Kakrapar Atomic Power Project (KAPP) in Gujarat started commercial operations.**
- The **Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL)** is building two 700 MW pressurised heavy water reactors (PHWRs) at Kakrapar, which is also home to two 220 MW power plants.

### 5. World Bank approves USD 255.5 million loan to improve technical education in India

- **The World Bank has approved a USD 255.5 million loan to assist India in raising the standard of its technical education and expanding the number of jobs prospects available to students.**
- More than 3,50,000 students will benefit annually from the project's assistance of 275 government-run technical institutes.

## 6. NCUI collaborates with Google Cloud to launch an E-commerce Application to empower Indian cooperatives

- **Cooperative body National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI), partnered with Google Cloud to launch its e-commerce application for Indian cooperatives.**
- The launch took place at the two-day 17th Indian Cooperative Congress (ICC) on July 1-2, 2023 in New Delhi.
- **NCUI is an apex organization of Cooperative movement in India which is responsible for education and training of Cooperatives in India.** NCUI was looking for a scalable platform like Google Cloud to host this e-commerce application for its users.
- The e-commerce platform was built on Google Cloud and will provide a scalable, easy to use and robust technology for economic empowerment of the Cooperatives and their members by providing easy access to currently inaccessible buyers.

## 7. Centre may offer grants to NE states for hydropower projects

- **States in India's north-east holding rich hydropower potential may get central grants to pick equity stakes in hydropower projects under a new policy.**
- The Union power ministry has proposed a new hydropower policy that will facilitate such grants, and the Union cabinet may take up the proposal soon. The Centre may provide grants worth '4,000 crore to states in the north-eastern region so that the state governments can infuse equity in hydropower projects there.
- The hydropower push comes in the backdrop of India's ambitious energy

transition plans and the need to protect its lower riparian rights as China works to dam the upper reaches of the Brahmaputra.

## 8. Prime Minister Modi inaugurates Sai Hira Global Convention Centre in Puttaparthi, Andhra Pradesh

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said that the next 25 years of India's Independence is going to be "Kartavya Kaal" as the country is giving top priority to its "kartavya" (duties). The convention centre will be the centre of spiritual conferences and academic programs
- The Convention Centre, donated by philanthropist Shri Ryuko Hira, is a testament to the vision of promoting cultural exchange, spirituality, and global harmony.

## 9. Shri Sarbananda Sonowal lays down foundation stone of Inland Waterways Transport Terminal at a cost of '46.60 crores at Bogibeel

- The Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways and Ayush, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal laid the foundation stone of **Inland Waterways Transport (IWT) terminal to be developed at Bogibeel in Dibrugarh, by the bank of the River Brahmaputra (National Waterways 2) in Dibrugarh, Assam.**
- The tourist-cum-cargo IWT terminal will be developed at a cost of '46.60 crores and is scheduled to be completed by February, 2024.
- Once developed, this terminal is likely to play a pivotal role in rejuvenating inland waterways transportation in the region for both cargo and passenger movement, paving the way for growth of trade & commerce.

#### 10. IFFCO to procure 2,500 Agri-drones; launches campaign to train 5k rural entrepreneurs

- To promote use of nano fertilisers across the country, leading cooperative IFFCO will procure **2,500 agri-drones and train 5,000-odd rural entrepreneurs** as part of its national campaign. Drones to be used for spraying of its products nano urea and nano di-ammonium phosphate (DAP) in a phased manner.

#### 11. HPE to start manufacturing servers in India under PLI 2.0 scheme

- Cloud computing and data storage solutions company Hewlett Packard Enterprise (HPE) has tied up with Indian company VVDN Technologies to start manufacturing state-of-the-art servers in India.
- The company aims to produce servers worth about \$1 billion over the next five years at its Manesar plant in Haryana.
- HPE is probably the first company to start production in the country with the support of the government. The company will get government support under the recently revised Production Linked Incentive Scheme (PLI 2.0) for IT hardware.

#### 12. HM Amit Shah lays foundation stone of the country's first cooperative-run Sainik School in Gujarat

- Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit shah virtually laid the foundation stone of the **country's first cooperative-run Sainik School near Mehsana in Gujarat**.
- He said that this Sainik School has been started in honor of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's appeal to start 100 new

Sainik Schools on PPP basis in the country.

- The Sainik School will be established at Boriyavi village, 11 kilometers away from Mehsana city by the leading cooperative Dudh Sagar Dairy at the cost of 75 crores rupees.

#### 13. Centre releases draft roadmap for R&D for green hydrogen manufacturing, storage

- The union ministry of new and renewable energy on Wednesday released the draft roadmap for research and development of green hydrogen manufacturing and storage.
- As per the draft roadmap, the plans to develop efficient, safe, and cost-effective hydrogen storage methods that enable high-density storage, reduce leakage, and allow for easy and quick refueling.
- The ministry aims to demonstrate distributed aboveground storage solutions available at a capital cost lower than '30,000 per kg by 2030 along with demonstrating large-scale underground storage at a capital cost less than '3000 per kg by 2030.
- The roadmap outlined examples of storage facilities globally. It mentioned that hydrogen storage in salt caverns is already used in the US, Britain, and Germany.  
The walls of a salt cavern are stable and impervious to gas over the lifespan of the storage facility.
- It noted that hydrogen can be generated from diverse resources, which include fossil fuel resources such as coal, natural gas, and lignite, and renewable resources such as biomass and water splitting using solar, wind, hydroelectric, and geothermal energy.
- Fossil fuels-derived hydrogen production includes coal gasification, along with

hydrocarbon reforming and pyrolysis. Renewable resources-based hydrogen production includes biomass process and water splitting using renewable energy.

#### **15. Centre's Fiscal Deficit At 11.8% Of Full Year Target: CGA Data**

- **The central government's fiscal deficit at the end of May stood at 11.8% of the full-year budget estimates for 2023-24.**
- The fiscal deficit was 12.3% of the 2022-23 budget estimates in the same period of the last year.
- **In the Union Budget, the government aimed to bring down the fiscal deficit during the current financial year 2023-24 to 5.9% of the GDP**

#### **16. ONDC onboards CCIC allowing access to its handloom and handicraft products**

- The Central Cottage Industries Corporation has been on-boarded to Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC), allowing users to purchase handicrafts and handloom products.
- Central Cottage Industries Corporation of India Ltd. (CCIC) is a public sector undertaking under the Ministry of Textiles.

#### **17. Government Approves Draft Notification For Mandating Air-Conditioned Truck Cabins**

- Union Minister Nitin Gadkari said that the draft notification to mandate the installation of air-conditioning systems in the cabins of trucks has been approved.
- This decision marks a significant milestone in providing comfortable working conditions for truck drivers, thereby improving their efficiency and addressing the problem of driver fatigue.

The draft prepared includes trucks under categories N2 and N3.

#### **18. Amit Shah to inaugurate conclave on Primary Agricultural Credit Societies on July 14**

- Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah will inaugurate a day-long conclave to discuss ways to strengthen Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) through Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) in the national capital.
- The PACS have a huge member base of around 13 crore farmers, out of which more than 86 percent of farmers in the country are small and marginal.
- **Currently, there are more than 95000 PACS, of which only about 63,000 PACS are functional**

#### **19. Urban 20 (U20) Mayoral Summit concludes with handover of the Communiqué to G20 Leaders**

- The two-day Urban 20 Mayoral Summit, hosted by the chair city Ahmedabad, in Gandhinagar, concluded with the handover of the Communiqué from the Mayors to G20 leaders.
- The Communiqué was officially endorsed by 105 cities across the world, the highest ever number of endorsements received to date for any U20 Communiqué. The Communiqué is aligned with the G20 theme of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam'

#### **20. Agri Ministry asks banks to promote Rs 1 lakh crore Agriculture Infrastructure Fund**

- **The Agriculture Ministry asked banks to promote Rs 1 lakh crore Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF) for creation of**



### **necessary infrastructure in the farm sector.**

- The AIF is a financing facility launched on July 8, 2020 for creation of post-harvest management infrastructure and community farm assets.
- Under this scheme, **Rs 1 lakh crore is to be disbursed by financial year 2025-26 and the interest subvention and credit guarantee assistance will be given till the year 2032-33.**

### **21. Cabinet approves changes to Jan Vishwas Bill to decriminalise offences in 42 laws**

- The Union Cabinet cleared the **Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2022** that proposes to decriminalise various offences in 42 laws, including minor ones that invite jail term.
- The Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2022 was introduced in the Lok Sabha on December 22, 2022 and its aim is to reduce the compliance burden on individuals and business
- **It will amend almost 113 imprisonment clauses in various pieces of legislation, governing matters pertaining to the environment, air pollution, housing, and money laundering, among others.**

### **22. Centre releases Rs 7,532 crore to states under SDRF**

- The finance ministry on released Rs 7,532 crore to 22 state governments under the **State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF)** amid rain causing havoc in the northern parts of the country.
- The State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) has been constituted in each state under Section 48 (1) (a) of the Disaster Management Act, 2005.
- The fund is the primary fund available to state governments for responses to

notified disasters. The central government contributes 75 per cent to the SDRF in general states and 90 per cent in Northeast and Himalayan states.

### **23. Union Cabinet clears commercial mining of lithium & 5 other critical minerals**

- The Union Cabinet approved amendments to the **Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957**, that will pave the way for commercial mining of six critical minerals 'lithium, beryllium, niobium, tantalum, titanium and zirconium' and deep-seated minerals like gold, silver and copper.
- Currently, commercial mining of these critical minerals by private companies is prohibited. Only government agencies were allowed in exploration and mining operations.
- These minerals are key components of all modern technologies and go into the making of mobile phones, electric vehicles, solar panels, semiconductors, and wind turbines, among others.

### **24. Centre Exempts Satellite Launch Services From GST**

- In order to support new businesses, **the GST Council exempted satellite launch services provided by ISRO, Antrix Corporation Limited, and New Space India Limited (NSIL) from GST.**
- This may also be extended to similar services provided by private sector firms. This decision will enable companies to provide competitive prices to launch satellites.
- According to the Indian Space Association-EY research, the space launch market was anticipated to

increase significantly by 2025 at a rate of 13% annually.

#### **25. G20: Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meeting to be held in Gandhinagar**

- Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Dr Shaktikanta Das will jointly chair a meeting of the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG) to be held on July 17-18 in Gandhinagar where 66 delegations will be in attendance.
- These meetings are being held under India's presidency of Group of Twenty or G20, an influential bloc that comprises 19 countries and the European Union.

#### **26. 3rd Sherpas G20 meeting to begin in Hampi, Karnataka**

- **The third Sherpas meeting under India's G20 Presidency will begin in Hampi in Karnataka.**
- Chaired by India's G20 Sherpa, Amitabh Kant, the three days meeting on the banks of river Tungabhadra near UNESCO World Heritage site Hampi will deliberate and engage in co-authoring the Leaders Declaration to be adopted by the G20 leaders in New Delhi Summit.
- Issues being considered are Green development, climate finance, lifestyle for environment, accelerated, inclusive and resilient growth, accelerating progress on sustainable development goals, technological transformation and digital public infrastructure, multilateral institutions for the 21st century and women-led development.

#### **27. President of India to present the 'Bhoomi Samman' 2023 on 18th July, 2023**

- **The President of India will present the 'Bhoomi Samman' 2023 on 18th July 2023** at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi to 9 State Secretaries and 68 District Collectors along with their teams who have excelled in achieving saturation of the core components of Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP) ' the core of Governance.
- Shri Giriraj Singh, Minister of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj informed that the Department of Land Resources has achieved 94% digitization targets pan-India and is resolutely targeting to achieve 100% saturation of the core components of digitization of land records in all the Districts of the country by 31st March 2024.
- Prime Minister had envisioned in the Post-Budget Webinar on 23rd February 2022 that all public welfare schemes should saturate the scheme components with the objective that no citizen is left behind.
- In the Council of Ministers' meeting on 3rd July 2023, the Prime Minister had reiterated the imminent need for saturation of scheme components.
- As a step in this direction, this Department had initiated performance based grading in six core components of DILRMP. The grading has been done on the basis of performance of Districts as reflected in Management Information System (MIS) of DILRMP and as reported by the State/UT Governments.
- Platinum Grading is given to the Districts which have completed saturation i.e. 100% targets in the respective core components of DILRMP.

### 28. Commerce ministry looking at ways to increase bandwidth to negotiate free trade pacts

- India has signed 13 free trade agreements with countries like Japan, Korea, and the UAE and six preferential pacts so far with its trading partners for ensuring greater market access for domestic goods and promoting exports. With a number of countries approaching India for negotiating bilateral free trade agreements (FTAs) to boost economic ties.
- **MERCOSUR was formed in 1991.**
- South American trade bloc MERCOSUR is also keen to expand the scope of existing preferential trade agreements to an FTA.
- India and the GCC (Gulf Cooperation Council) group is also looking to negotiate a trade pact.
- MERCOSUR comprises Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay with Bolivia and Chile as associate members.

### 29. The NITI Aayog unveils TCRM Matrix Framework to Revolutionize Technology Assessment and drive Innovation in India

- The NITI Aayog, released, under the NITI Working Paper series, **the Techno-Commercial Readiness and Market Maturity Matrix (TCRM Matrix) framework, a pioneering assessment tool designed to revolutionize technology evaluation, foster innovation, and fuel entrepreneurship in India.**
- The release of the TCRM Matrix framework under the NITI Working Paper series offers valuable insights and practical intelligence to stakeholders involved in the technology development cycle.

- The working paper was authored by V.K. Saraswat, along with Neeraj Sinha, Senior Adviser, Naman Agrawal, Specialist, Naba Suroor, Associate, and Siddhey G Shinde, Young Professional, all associated with NITI Aayog.

### 30. Back Surat Diamond Bourse becomes world's largest office building, surpasses US Pentagon

- India has surpassed the US in one significant thing--having the world's largest office building. Gujarat has a record-breaking building to house its mammoth diamond industry. According to a report by CNN, **the newly-opened Surat Diamond Bourse consists of 15-storey complex, built across more than 35 acres of land.**
- It is touted as a "one-stop destination" for over 65,000 diamond professionals, including cutters, polishers, and traders.

### 31. Lavasa, India's first private hill station, sold for Rs 1.8k crore

- In a move that will address claims of hundreds of homebuyers and lenders, the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) has cleared the sale of India's first private hill station, Lavasa, to Darwin Platform Infrastructure.
- The NCLT order approving the resolution plan submitted by Darwin came after the lenders voted in favour of the resolution plan.

### 32. Union Minister For Jal Shakti, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat Released Manual For Disaster Management Plan

- Plan Aims To Enhance Resilience To Reduce Disaster Vulnerability Of Water, Sanitation & Hygiene Assets & Services.

- Plan Developed By Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation Based On NDMA Advisory To All Departments To Make Their Own Plans To Counter & Be Prepared For Any Emergency Arising In Future.

### 33. Vice Prez Jagdeep Dhankhar addresses Centenary Year Convocation of Jamia Millia Islamia in New Delhi

- Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar on 23rd July 2023 said that the youth must empower themselves not by political intoxication but through capacity building and personality development with the ultimate objective of nurturing a healthy environment and society. He was addressing the Centenary Year Convocation of Jamia Millia Islamia at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi.

### 34. Youth Affairs & Sports Minister Anurag Thakur to felicitate State Rounds winners of 2nd Fit India Quiz in Mumbai

- Youth Affairs and Sports Minister Anurag Thakur will felicitate the State Rounds winners of the 2nd Fit India Quiz in Mumbai on 23rd July 2023.
- The State-level winners will be awarded cash prizes and certificates at the event. The competition is a part of the Fit India Movement launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2019.

### 35. Amit Shah lays foundation stone of 108 feet tall statue of Lord Shri Ram in Andhra Pradesh

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah laid the **foundation stone of 108 feet tall statue of Lord Shri Ram in Kurnool**, Andhra Pradesh through video conferencing.

- **The statue will be built at a cost of over 500 crore rupees.**
- The statue to be installed in Mantralayam will give the message of Sanatan Dharma to the entire world, and it will strengthen the Vaishnava tradition.

### 36. Banks get '5,729 crore from 'Depositor Education and Awareness' (DEA) Fund towards refund of settling unclaimed deposits

- **The 'Depositor Education and Awareness Fund Scheme, 2014', was notified by Reserve Bank of India (RBI),** which covers norms related to unclaimed deposits and outlines details of utilisation of fund including, inter alia, promotion of depositors' interests and other purposes as may be specified by the RBI.
- This was stated by Union Minister of State for Finance Dr Bhagwat Kisanrao Karad in a written reply to a question in Lok Sabha.
- **The Minister stated that as a result of various steps undertaken to return the unclaimed deposits to their rightful owners/claimants, total '5,729 crore has been transferred from "Depositor Education and Awareness" (DEA) Fund** to banks towards refund of settling unclaimed deposits, in last five-years.
- The details of unclaimed deposits of public and private sector banks transferred to DEA Fund as on 31st March of last five-years
- Giving more information, Dr Karad stated that RBI has taken various steps to reduce the quantum of unclaimed deposits and return such deposits to rightful claimants. Banks are, *inter-alia*, advised to



- display the list of unclaimed deposits which are inactive/inoperative for ten years or more on the bank's websites;
- find the whereabouts of the customers and their legal heirs to return unclaimed deposits to the rightful claimants;
- formulate board approved policy on classification of unclaimed deposits; and
- put in place a grievance redressal mechanism for quick resolution of complaints, record keeping, and periodic review of unclaimed deposit accounts.

RBI has also launched campaign "100 Days 100 Pays" for banks to trace and settle top 100 unclaimed deposits of every bank in every district of the country within 100 days, commencing from 1.6.2023 to 8.9.2023

### **37. Over 176 Giga Watt of renewable energy capacity installed in the country till June, 2023: Union Minister R.K Singh**

- **A total of over 176 Giga Watt of renewable energy capacity have been installed in the country till last month.** In a written reply in the Rajya Sabha, New and Renewable Energy Minister R.K Singh said renewable energy projects of around 89 Giga Watt capacity are under various stages of implementation.
- He said, over 51 Giga Watt capacities are under various stages of bidding.

### **38. Airtel becomes first ICT provider to link over 20 million IoT devices**

- **Bharti Airtel announced it has become the first Information and Communications Technology service provider in India to connect over 20**

### **million devices through its Internet of Things solutions.**

- IoT describes the network of physical objects embedded with sensors, software, and other technologies for the purpose of connecting and exchanging data with other tech using internet.
- Airtel was the first to deploy a private 5G network for enterprises in India. It currently has 12 large data centres and 120+ edge data centres across the country.

### **39. In-Principle approval to set up 21 new Greenfield Airports in country**

- Government of India has accorded 'In-Principle' approval for setting up of 21 new Greenfield Airports namely- Mopa in Goa, Navi Mumbai, Shirdi and Sindhudurg in Maharashtra, Kalaburagi, Vijayapura, Hassan and Shivamogga in Karnataka, Dabra (Gwalior) in Madhya Pradesh, Kushinagar and Noida (Jewar) in Uttar Pradesh.
- Dholera and Hirasar in Gujarat, Karaikal in Puducherry, Dagadarthi, Bhogapuram and Orvakal (Kurnool) in Andhra Pradesh, Durgapur in West Bengal, Pakyong in Sikkim, Kannur in Kerala and Hollongi (Itanagar) in Arunachal Pradesh across the country.
- Out of these, 11 Greenfield airports viz. Durgapur, Shirdi, Kannur, Pakyong, Kalaburagi, Orvakal (Kurnool), Sindhudurg, Kushinagar, Itanagar, Mopa and Shivamogga have been operationalised.
- State Government of Tamil Nadu has submitted an application to Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) for grant of first stage clearance i.e. 'Site-Clearance' for development of a Greenfield airport at Parandur, Kancheepuram District, Tamil Nadu.

- As per the GFA Policy, 2008, the responsibility of implementation of airport projects including funding of the project, land acquisition, R&R etc rests with the concerned airport developer including the respective State Government (in case the State Government is the project proponent).

#### 40. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will dedicate 1.25 lac PM Kisan Samridhi Kendras to Nation

- In a bid to provide help to farmers in cultivation, **Prime Minister Narendra Modi will dedicate 1.25 lakh centres of 'Pradhanmantri Kisan Samridhi Kendras (PMKSK) at a special function in Rajasthan's Sikar district on 27 July.**
- The launch of PMKSKs will provide solutions to farmers on needs related to agricultural inputs, seeds, fertilisers, and testing facilities.
- He will also launch a new variety of sulphur-coated urea, which will help farmers in resolving the issue of sulphur deficiencies in the soil. Also, the prime minister will launch at least 1,500 farmer-producer organisations (FPOs) on the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC).

#### 41. PM inaugurates International Exhibition-cum-Convention Centre - 'Bharat Mandapam'

- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi dedicated to nation the International Exhibition-cum-Convention Centre (IECC) complex at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi and urged the nation to move ahead with the principle of 'Think Big, Dream Big, Act Big'. **The complex has been named, 'Bharat Mandalam'.**
- He also unveiled the G-20 coin and G-20 stamp at the grand opening ceremony.

- Developed as a national project at a cost of about Rs 2700 crores, the new Convention Complex will help showcase and promote India as a global business destination.

#### 42. Govt to consider PLI scheme for chemicals and petrochemicals industry

- **The government will consider the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for Chemicals and Petrochemicals sector to make India a manufacturing hub for such products.**
- In view of stringent pollution control regulations and rising labour cost, global manufacturers in the chemical industry are looking at diversifying their products and production capability.
- India has set its sights on becoming energy independent by 2047 and achieving net zero by 2070. So net zero cannot be achieved unless each industry and each sector contributes to it.

#### 43. TRAI releases Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Repealing Regulations, 2023

- **The Ministry of Communications underlined TRAI's Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Repealing Regulations, 2023 (02 of 2023) dated 25 July 2023 to repeal the Regulation on quality of service of dial-up and leased line internet access service, 2001 (4 of 2001) with effect from the date of its notification in the official gazette.**
- The TRAI notified this regulation was applicable to all the basic service operators and internet service providers, including the incumbent operators namely, BSNL, MTNL and VSNL.

#### 44. Government Prohibits Export Of Non-Basmati White Rice

- **Government of India has amended the Export Policy of Non Basmati White Rice from 'Free with export duty of 20%' to 'Prohibited'.**
- The step has been taken to ensure adequate availability of Non Basmati White Rice in the Indian market. The domestic prices of Rice are on an increasing trend.
- **The retail prices have increased by 11.5% over a year and 3% over the past month.**
- Export duty of 20% on non-basmati white rice was imposed on 08.09.2022 to lower the price as well ensure availability in the domestic market.
- However, the export of this variety increased from 33.66 LMT (Sept-March 2021-22) to 42.12 LMT (Sept-March 2022-23) even after imposition of 20% export duty.
- In the current FY 2023-24 (April-June), about 15.54 LMT of this variety of rice was exported against only 11.55 LMT during FY 2022-23 (April-June), i.e. an increase by 35%.
- This sharp increase in exports can be ascribed to high international prices due to geo-political scenario, El Nino sentiments and extreme climatic conditions in other rice producing countries, etc.
- Globally, the top rice-producing country is **China, followed by India.**

#### 45. DGCA imposes a fine of Rs. 30 lakhs on Indigo Airlines

- **The Directorate General of Civil Aviation has imposed a fine of Rs.30 lakh on Indigo Airlines for certain systemic deficiencies in documentation**

**pertaining to operations, training procedures, and engineering procedures.**

- It has also directed the airlines to amend their documents and procedures in line with DGCA requirements and OEM (Original Equipment Manufacturer) guidelines

#### 46. Bengaluru becomes first Indian city to join World Cities Culture Forum

- **Bengaluru has become the first Indian city to become part of the World Cities Culture Forum a global network of cities that share research and intelligence, and explore the role of culture in future prosperity.**
- The network currently has 40 cities spanning six continents. Bengaluru being the latest addition is set to join the league of cities like New York, London, Paris.

#### 47. Union Minister for Women and Child Development, Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani to inaugurate the G20 EMPOWER Summit in Gandhinagar

- **The G20 EMPOWER Summit is set to take place on August 1, 2023, at the Mahatma Mandir in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.**
- The summit, organised around the theme- 'Women-Led Development: ensuring a sustainable, inclusive, and equitable global economic growth', will witness the participation of delegates from across G20 nations, invited guest countries and international organisations.
- The Ministry of Women and Child Development is the nodal Ministry for EMPOWER which is the G20 Alliance for Empowerment and Progress of Women's



Economic Progression. It is a private sector led initiative under the Sherpa Track that aims to accelerate women's

leadership and empowerment in the private sector across G20 countries.



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## International

### 1. New Zealand says it's the first to ban thin plastic bags from supermarkets

- **New Zealand will become the first country to ban the thin plastic bags that supermarket customers use to collect their fruit and vegetables.**
- The new ban will also extend to plastic straws and silverware, as the government expands a campaign against single-use plastics it started in 2019 when it banned the thicker plastic shopping bags that customers used to carry home.

### 2. China's Qu-Dongyu re-elected unopposed as head of FAO

- In a significant development at the ongoing FAO Conference in Rome, **Qu Dongyu has been re-elected unopposed as the head of the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) for the period 2023-2027.**
- The Ministerial-level Conference, which takes place every two years, is FAO's supreme governing body and endorses the Programme of Work and Budget of the Organization for the subsequent biennium.
- It also makes recommendations on global food and agriculture matters and reviews global governance policy issues.

### 3. NATO's Jens Stoltenberg to stay on as chief for another year

- NATO members has extended the tenure of the alliance's Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg by one year, following failed efforts to settle on a consensus successor for the role.
- The announcement comes a week before the NATO leaders summit in

Vilnius, Lithuania that is sure to be dominated by the Western military alliance's reponse to the conflict in Ukraine. NATO Headquarter: Brussels, Belgium

### 4. China releases its first open-source computer operating system

- **China has released its first homegrown open-source desktop operating system, named 'OpenKylin'** as the country steps up efforts to cut reliance on U.S. technology.
- It is based on the existing open-source Linux operating system. China's version was built by a community of about 4,000 developers, and is used in its space programme and industries such as finance and energy.

### 5. Latvia: Edgars Rinkevics sworn in as EU's first openly gay president

- **In Latvia**, longest-serving Foreign Minister Edgars Rinkevics became the first openly gay head of state in the European Union(EU). **Rinkevics sworn in as the country's new President who has pledged to fight for inclusion and equality.**
- Rinkevics was foreign minister from 2011 until his official resignation in July 2023. Latvia capital is Riga.

### 7. UAE becomes first Arab country to get observer status at Asia-Pacific Group on Money Laundering

- A delegation from the UAE is participating with observer status in the plenary of the **Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG)**, a **Financial Action Task Force-Style regional body**

(FSRB), taking place this week in Vancouver, Canada.

- The UAE is the first Arab country to be granted observer status at the APG.

#### 8. UN: Global Public Debt Hit \$92 Trillion in 2022

- **Global public debt surged to a record \$92 trillion in 2022** as governments borrowed to counter crises, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, with the burden being felt acutely by developing countries, according to a United Nations report 'A World of Debt'.
- The United Nations secretary-general warned that nearly 40% of the developing world is in serious debt.

#### 9. EIB keen to extend 1 bn euro for green hydrogen, RE projects in India

- **European Investment Bank (EIB) it is keen to extend finance of 1 billion euros for the development of green hydrogen and renewable energy projects in India.**
- EIB Vice-President Kris Peeters will make a four-day business visit to India this week to strengthen cooperation with the Indian public and private sectors and discuss EIB support for clean energy investment. The European Investment Bank (EIB) is the lending institution of the EU member states.

#### 10. India-UAE: Joint Statement on Climate Change

- Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India, and Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) recognized the urgent need to address the global challenge of climate change through global collective action while respecting the foundational principles and obligations under the

United Nations Framework Convention on the Climate Change (UNFCCC) UAE is the host country of COP28 in 2023.

- The leaders committed to enhance cooperation on climate ambition, decarbonization, and clean energy, and work together to have tangible and meaningful outcomes from the 28th Session of the UNFCCC Conference of Parties.

#### 11. Britain signs treaty to join trans-Pacific trade pact

- **Britain on July 16 formally signed the treaty to join a major trans-Pacific trade pact, becoming the first new country to take part since its inception in 2018 and opening the way for members to consider other applications including from China and Taiwan.**
- The signing was part of the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) commission meeting being held in New Zealand.
- Ministers from member countries will meet later on July 16 to discuss a range of topics, including how to move forward with new applications and a review of the agreement itself.

#### 12. BIMSTEC foreign ministers meeting begins in Bangkok

- **The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) Foreign Ministers' Retreat began in Thailand capital city Bangkok.**
- BIMSTEC is an economic and technical initiative which brings together the countries of the Bay of Bengal for multifaceted cooperation.

- The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) is a regional multilateral organisation. Its members lie in the littoral and adjacent areas of the Bay of Bengal constituting a contiguous regional unity.

### 13. Spain fines Apple, Amazon \$218 mn for elbowing out small retailers

- **Amazon and Apple were fined a total of 194 million euros (USD 218 million for colluding to box out competitors by favouring sales of Apple products directly from the online retail giant, Spain's antitrust watchdog said.**
- Apple was fined 143.6 million euros (USD 161 million), while Amazon received a fine of 50.5 million euros (USD 56.7 million).

### 14. Elon Musk rebrands Twitter to 'X,' replaces iconic bird logo

- **Elon Musk has unveiled a new 'X' logo to replace Twitter's famous blue bird** as he follows through with a major rebranding of the social media platform he bought for \$44 billion. The company first began its transition to X in April, when the name of Twitter Inc. changed to X Corp., according to court filings.
- Musk also founded X.com before it merged with Confinity and rebranded to PayPal in 2001. He repurchased the domain from PayPal in 2017.

### 15. Indian-American policy expert Nisha Biswal becomes Deputy Chief Executive Officer of US finance agency

- Indian-American policy expert **Nisha Biswal** is confirmed by the Senate to serve as the Deputy Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of a US finance agency.
- Ms. Biswal will serve as the Deputy CEO of the United States International Development Finance Corporation

### 16. Saudi Arabia to host Ukrainian-organized peace summit in August over Russia's war

- With an aim to find a way to start negotiations over Russia's war on the country, Saudi Arabia will host a Ukrainian-organized peace summit in early August.
- The primary objective of this summit which will be held in the Red Sea port city of Jeddah, is to explore possibilities for initiating negotiations to address the ongoing conflict caused by Russia's war on Ukraine.

### 17. US announces \$345 million military aid package for Taiwan

- **The United States has announced \$345 million in military aid for Taiwan**, in what is the Biden administration's first major package drawing on America's own stockpiles to help Taiwan counter China.
- The package would include defense, education and training for the Taiwanese. The goals are to help it counter China and to deter China from any attack.

## Sports

### 1. India beat Iran to win Asian Kabaddi Championship in Busan, South Korea

- **The Indian men's kabaddi team won the 11th edition of the Asian Kabaddi Championship** beating Iran 42-32 in the final in **Busan, South Korea**.
- This is India's **eighth title in nine editions**.
- Six teams - India, Iran, Japan, Korea, Chinese Taipei and Hong Kong - participated in the Championships. Pawan Sehrawat was the captain of Indian Kabaddi team in this tournament.

### 2. Indian javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra clinches Lausanne Diamond League title.

- **Neeraj Chopra clinched the Lausanne Diamond League 2023 title with the best throw of 87.66 meters in the 5th attempt.** This is his second successive Diamond League victory.
- Germany's Julian Webber secured second place with a best throw of 87.03 meter while Jakub Vadlech of the Czech Republic got third place with an 86.13 meter throw. In September 2022, Neeraj became the first Indian athlete to win the Diamond Trophy.
- In the Diamond League final in Zurich in September 2022, **Neeraj became the first Indian athlete to win the Diamond Trophy** as he finished on the top step of the podium with a best effort of 88.44m.

### 3. Yuki Bhambri wins maiden ATP doubles title in Mallorca, Spain

- In Tennis, **India's Yuki Bhambri** clinched his maiden title on the ATP World Tour, winning the doubles trophy at the Mallorca Championships with South African partner Lloyd Harris, in Spain.

- The 30-year-old Indian Bhambri, who is ranked 75 in the ATP doubles tennis rankings, is all set to jump up to a career-best 58th position in the standings.

### 4. Mirabai Chanu & Bindyarani Devi selected in the selected in the 4-member Indian weightlifting team for the Hangzhou Asian Games

- Tokyo Olympic Silver medalist **Mirabai Chanu headlines the India Weightlifting team for the upcoming Asian Games.**
- The four-member also includes the Commonwealth Gold medalist **Bindyarani Devi**. **Mirabai** will participate in the 49 kg category, while Bindyarani will feature in the 55 kg.
- **Achinta Sheuli and N Ajith** complete the four-member Indian weightlifting team. The duo will compete in the Men's 73 kg category.
- Notably, **Achinta Sheuli** is the current Commonwealth Games Champion and is one of the favorites in the upcoming Asian Games to be played in Hangzhou, China, from September 27 to October 4.

### 5. SAFF Championship final: India wins 5-4 in penalties; Sunil Chhetri wins Golden Boot, Golden Ball

- **The Indian football team beat Kuwait 5-4 in a penalty shootout after the final was tied at 1-1 after regulation time.**
- India, who are 100th in the latest FIFA rankings, won their ninth SAFF Championship 2023 in 14 editions. This was India's second silverware on the trot after clinching the Intercontinental Cup last month.
- Indian Football team head coach- **Igor Stimac**



- Nepal won the **Fair Play Award** for showing the greatest spirit of the game
- **Best goalkeeper of the competition (Golden Glove):** Anisur Rehman - Bangladesh
- **Golden Boot:** Sunil Chhetri
- **Golden Ball:** Sunil Chhetri
- India received a prize money of USD 50,000 which is approximately 41 lakh rupees in INR.

#### 6. World Archery Youth Championships: Indian pair Priyansh & Avneet Kaur win gold in junior mixed team compound event in Ireland

- **Indian archers Priyansh and Avneet Kaur won gold in the junior mixed team compound event**, defeating Israel in the final of the **World Archery Youth Championships in Limerick, Ireland**.
- It was a nail-biting contest wherein the Indian players beat Israel with a close score of 146-144.
- India's Manav Jadhav and Aishwarya Sharma also won a bronze medal defeating Mexico in the cadet mixed compound event. The World Archery Youth Championships event is taking place at the University of Limerick in the west of Ireland from July 3 to 9.

#### 7. In archery, Parth Salunkhe becomes first Indian to win Youth World Championship in recurve category

- **Parth Salunkhe became the first male archer to win a gold in the recurve category at the Youth World Championships** as India finished with their highest-ever tally of 11 medals.
- The 19-year-old from Satara in Maharashtra defeated Korean Song Injun in the Under-21 men's recurve individual final, Limerick, Ireland.

- The medal haul of the 24-member Indian contingent included six gold, one silver and four bronze. Of the 11 medals India won, six were bagged in the U21 category - four gold and two bronze.

#### 8. Canada Open 2023: Lakshya Sen beats Li Shi Feng in straight sets to clinch title

- Indian Badminton player **Lakshya Sen defeated China's Li Shi Feng in straight sets 21-18 and 22-20 to clinch the men's singles title at the Canada Open 2023**.
- 21-year-old Lakshya Sen triumphed over the reigning All England Champion Li Shi Feng by winning the first set by 21-18 and the second set by 22-20.

#### 10. Wanindu Hasaranga, Ashleigh Gardner bag ICC Player of the Month awards for June 2023

- **Sri Lanka spinner Wanindu Hasaranga and Australian women's team all-rounder Ashleigh Gardner were on named ICC's 'Player of the Month'** for their impressive performances in June. Hasaranga clinched the award following his record-breaking feats at the World Cup Qualifier games in Zimbabwe.
- Women's Ashes hero Ashleigh Gardner becomes the first player to win three Player-of-the-Month accolades.

#### 11. Historic Victory for Team India at International Biology Olympiad

- Team India achieved a monumental feat at the 34th International Biology Olympiad held in Al Ain, UAE, from July 2 to July 11, 2023.
- For the first time in the history of the competition, all four students representing Team India clinched gold medals, showcasing their exceptional

talent and knowledge in the field of biology.

- India and Singapore came out on top with four gold medals each, while China, Chinese Taipei and the future Olympic delegation came in second place with three gold medals.
- The Indian contingent in the Olympiad consisted of four students- Dhruv Advani from Bengaluru; Ishan Pednekar from Kota; Megh Chhabda from Jalna, Maharashtra; and Rohit Panda from Risali, Chattisgarh.

#### **12. Praveen Kumar wins bronze in Para Athletics Worlds, books 2024 Paris Paralympics berth**

- India's Praveen Kumar won a bronze in the men's high jump T64 event in the World Para Athletics Championships here to book a 2024 Paris Paralympics quota.
- The 20-year-old Kumar produced a season's best effort of 2.01m to finish third behind Lepiato Maciej (2.05m) of Poland and Broom-Edwards Jonathan (2.05m) of Great Britain. Kumar's medal is the first for India in the championships.

#### **13. Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs Shri Anurag Singh Thakur unveils trophy for Hero Asian Champions Trophy 2023**

- Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports and Minister of Information & Broadcasting, Shri Anurag Thakur unveiled the coveted trophy for Hero Asian Champions Trophy, Chennai 2023 at the Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium in New Delhi.
- Hero Asian Champions Trophy, Chennai 2023 will begin from August 3rd, 2023

India, Korea, Malaysia, Japan, Pakistan, and China will vie for the Title.

#### **14. Asian Athletics Championships: India's Jyothi Yarraji wins historic gold medal in women's 100m hurdles**

- Jyothi Yarraji created history by becoming the first-ever Indian woman athlete to win a gold medal in women's 100m hurdles at the ongoing Asian Athletics Championships in Bangkok.
- The 23-year-old, who, in 2023 itself, ran sub-13 seconds six times, clocked 13.09 seconds at the Asian meet to finish first.

#### **15. Services Sports Control Board boxers dominate 5th Junior Boys National Boxing Championships by claiming 8 of 13 gold medals.**

- Services Sports Control Board (SSCB) boxers dominated the 5th Junior Boys National Boxing Championships by claiming eight of the 13 gold medals on offer even as hosts Arunachal Pradesh ended up with the best-ever finish of one gold, three silver and two bronze medals at the Don Bosco campus.
- The SSCB side was adjudged the "Best Team" of the tournament while Arunachal Pradesh was awarded with the "Best Fair Play" team.
- Arunachal Pradesh hosting its first-ever national tournament. Arunachal's Nenthok Hodong was adjudged the "Best Boxer" of the competition.

#### **16. Asian Athletics Championships: Sports Minister Anurag Thakur hails athlete Parul Chaudhary on gold medal win**

- Youth Affairs and Sports Minister Anurag Thakur hailed athlete Parul Chaudhary for putting up a determined

performance and bagging a Gold medal in Women's 3000 metre Steeplechase Final at the Asian Athletics Championships.

#### **17. India shooter Prithviraj Tondaiman bags Bronze medal at ISSF Shotgun World Cup in Italy**

- In shooting, India shooter **Prithviraj Tondaiman bagged the bronze medal in the men's trap event at the ISSF Shotgun World Cup Lonato 2023 in Italy.**
- Britain's Nathan Hales won the gold medal with 49 points while Qi Ying of the Republic of China bagged the silver medal with 48 points.
- Prithviraj Tondaiman's bronze was India's only medal at the Lonato shooting meet.

#### **18. Indian Shuttler Satwiksairaj Rankireddy sets Guinness world record for fastest badminton shot**

- **Star Indian Shuttler Satwiksairaj Rankireddy has set the Guinness world record for the fastest shot by a male player in badminton, recording a mindboggling 565 kilometres per hour with his smash during the game.**
- Satwik, who along with his partner Chirag Shetty won the Indonesia Open recently, broke a decade-long record set in May 2013 by Malaysian Tan Boon Heong.

#### **19. Indian Surf Team wins bronze medal at Asian Surfing Championship in Maldives**

- **Indian Surf Team won the bronze medal at the Asian Surfing Championship, held at Thulisdhoo Island in Maldives.**
- 18 countries from Asia took part in this championship.

- The Surfing Federation of India sent a team comprising 4 senior Surfers in the men's category and 2 Surfers in the Under 18 category. 5 out of the 6 Surfers were from Tamilnadu.

#### **20. South Zone win Duleep Trophy, beat West Zone by 75 runs in the final**

- **South Zone emerged champions of the Duleep Trophy**, beating West Zone by 75 runs on the concluding day of the final at the Chinnaswamy in Bangalore.
- West were bowled out for 222, resuming at 182/5. Vidwath Kaverappa who made his first-class debut in the 2021-22 Ranji Trophy won the Man-of-the-Match and the Man-of-the-series awards.

#### **21. Virat Kohli equals Sir Don Bradman's record of most test centuries**

- **Virat Kohli equals Sir Don Bradman's record of most test centuries after smashing his 29th ton in second test against West Indies in Trinidad.**
- Skipper Rohit Sharma's 80 runs, Ravindra Jadeja's 61 and Ravichandran Ashwin's 56 helped India to post a massive total in their first innings.
- Indian star batsman Virat Kohli smashed magnificent 121 runs. With this ton, Virat Kohli has reached a milestone of 29 Test centuries in his highly anticipated 500th international game.
- He equalled legendary Sir Don Bradman in the list of most test centuries. Bradman had scored 29 centuries in 52 tests while Kohli achieved this feat in his 111th Test match.
- It was Virat's 76th international ton including 46 centuries in ODI and one in T20 format.

## **22. Satwiksairaj Rankireddy & Chirag Shetty win Korea Open 2023 men's doubles title in Yeosu Korea**

- **Asian Champions Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty defeated world no. 1 Indonesian duo Fajar Alfian and Muhammad Rian Ardianto in a thrilling 3-game men's doubles final 17-21, 21-13, 21-14 to clinch the Korea Open 2023 title in Yeosu, Korea on 23rd July 2023.**
- The duo entered the summit clash after a thrilling straight-game win over the world number two Chinese pair of Liang Wei Keng and Wang Chang. The world number three Indian pair notched up a 21-15, 24-22 win over the second-seeded Chinese in a 40-minute duel at the Jinnam stadium in Yeosu.
- It was Satwik and Chirag's first win over the Chinese pair following two earlier defeats. Satwik and Chirag, who has won the Indonesia Super 1000 and Swiss Open Super 500 titles this year will look to add another feather to their already decorated cap with a win in the Korea Open.

## **23. India finish 2nd on medals tally at ISSF World Championship in South Korea**

- **India finished 2nd on the medals tally at the recently concluded ISSF Junior Shooting World Championships 2023 in Changwon, South Korea.**
- Indian shooters bagged 17 medals, which include 6 Gold, 6 Silver, and 5 Bronze. The championships saw 90 Indian shooters vie for medals in pistol, rifle, and shotgun competitions in the under-21 age category.
- Seven Indians managed to bag more than one medal. Abhinav Shaw and Kamaljeet won two golds each.

- Sainyam won three medals -- gold in the 10m air pistol women, and a bronze each in the 10m air pistol mixed team and women's team events.

## **24. Sports Minister Anurag Singh Thakur inaugurates Asian Youth and Junior Weightlifting Championships 2023 in Greater Noida**

- Sports Minister Anurag Singh Thakur inaugurated the Asian Youth and Junior Weightlifting Championships 2023 in Greater Noida.
- The event is being held in India for the first time. The international event will see the participation of more than 30 Indian weightlifters, including many Khelo India Athletes.

## **26. Shooter Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar clinches Gold medal at FISU World University Games in Chengdu, China**

- **Shooter Aishwarya Pratap Singh Tomar clinched Gold medal for India on the 2nd day of FISU World University Games in Chengdu, China .**
- Olympian Tomar, competing in men's 50 meter rifle three positions, secured the top podium by scoring a total of 461.7 points in the final.
- With this, India have now a gold, silver and bronze each in shooting.
- The mixed compound archery team of Aman Saini and Pragati also clinched a Gold medal.
- Now, Indian archers have a Gold, a Silver and two Bronze medal. India have, so far, won 11 medals with five gold, two silver and four bronze to be at fourth in the medals table



## Agreements & MoUs

### 1. International Tracked Packet Service between India Post and Canada Post

- **India Post entered into an agreement with Canada Post to introduce International Tracked Packet Service (ITPS) between the two countries to facilitate e-commerce exports.**
- The service will be operational with effect from July 01, 2023.
- India Post already provides this service with 38 partner countries and Canada will be the 39th.
- The ITPS is a competitive service for transmission and delivery of packets and has been designed to meet the cross-border shipping requirements of e-commerce exporter including MSMEs, small businesses, merchants, etc to promote exports of their products using local post offices.
- The service was extended from 16 countries to 38 countries by adding 22 new partners including Britain, France, UAE, Egypt, Oman, etc. from June 01, 2023.
- The ITPS rates are kept very economical in comparison to International EMS (Speed Post) and other market products. The postage for first 50 gms would be Rs 400 and Rs 35 for every additional 50 gms.
- This will provide an affordable shipping solution upto 2 kg to exporters along with the pick-up and volume-based discount to contractual customers.

### 2. Defence ministry inks Rs 2,725 cr contract with MDL for refit of submarine

- The **Ministry of Defence** signed a contract on June 30 for medium refit with life certification (MRLC) of sub-

surface killer class of submarine INS Shankush with **M/S Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd**, Mumbai at an overall cost of Rs 2,725 crore.

- Shankush is a Sub-Surface Killer (SSK) class submarine.
- The submarine post MRLC will be delivered in 2026.

### 3. Paytm partners with Shriram Finance to strengthen loan distribution among small businesses

- **One97 Communications Ltd, the parent company of Paytm, entered into a strategic partnership with retail non-banking finance major Shriram Finance to offer financial services to its users, including loan products.**
- In December 2022, Shriram Finance became the largest retail NBFC in India after its merger with Shriram Transport Finance Ltd and Shriram City Union Finance.
- Vijay Shekhar Sharma is Founder and CEO of Paytm.

### 5. NHPC signs MoU with Universal Health Foundation for setting up Gramin Gyan Jyoti Kendras

- **NHPC Limited has signed an memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Universal Health Foundation** for setting up Gramin Gyan Jyoti Kendras under its CSR initiative.
- Under this MoU, NHPC will provide basic infrastructure facilities to Universal Health Foundation for setting up of Gramin Gyan Jyoti Kendras in government schools located in nine villages of Jodhpur district & one village of Nagore district of Rajasthan

#### 6. National Anti-Doping Agency, India signs a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with South Asia Regional Anti-Doping Organisation

- **National Anti-Doping Agency, India signed an MoU with SARADO**, comprising of Anti-Doping Organizations of Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka, at the NADA India ' SARADO Cooperation Meet in New Delhi.
- The MoU aims to increase the Regional Cooperation in anti doping in sport.

#### 7. DGCA inks MoU with EASA on unmanned aircraft systems

- **The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has entered into a pact with European regulator EASA** for cooperation in the areas of unmanned aircraft systems and innovative air mobility.
- This will cover licensing of personnel, training, air traffic management and infrastructure, including Unmanned Aircraft System Traffic Management standards and services,
- The two watchdogs would cooperate in the areas of development of certification standards, environmental standards and related requirements for the certification and use of unmanned aircraft systems and innovative air mobility operations.

#### 8. PFC signs MoU with KGMU for underprivileged cancer patients

- **Power Finance Corporation Limited (PFC) a Maharatna company and India's leading NBFC in the power sector has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with King George's Medical University (KGMU),**

Lucknow to facilitate the procurement of life-saving medical devices specifically aimed at assisting underprivileged cancer patients.

- Under the terms of this MoU, PFC has committed to providing financial assistance amounting to about Rs 10.19 crore to KGMU.
- This substantial funding will be allocated to support the procurement of essential medical devices that are crucial for the effective treatment and care of underprivileged cancer patients.

#### 9. India and Singapore signed a protocol document to extend MoU to co-operate on public administration till 2028

- **The Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Government of India and The Public Service Division, of the Republic of Singapore** signed a Protocol Document on 6th July, 2023, extending for five years the current MoU on Cooperation in the field of Personnel Management and Public Administration till 2028.
- The MoU aims at strengthening the partnership between the two countries through various forms of cooperation between both countries' Public Service officers.

#### 10. NHAI signs pact with power producer THDCIL for technical services

- **THDC India Limited (THDCIL) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)** to provide technical services as the technical consultant. Under this agreement, State-

owned power producer THDCIL will provide technical services to NHA.

#### 11. NRL signs agreement to carry out wind energy potential assessment in North East

- Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL) has signed a memorandum of agreement (MoA) with Kaziranga University (KU) and Institute of Frontier Science and Application (IFSA) to carry out a research project titled 'Assessment of Wind Energy Potential in North East India.'
- As per the MoA, they will implement the project which aims to develop bankable wind energy assessment over Assam in riverine environment using mobile Lidar observations for a period of three years.

#### 12. Taiwanese EV Giant Gogoro Signs \$1.5 Billion Mega Deal With Maharashtra To Manufacture Vehicles, Smart Battery Packs

- Gogoro, a Taiwanese-based battery-swapping service provider and two-wheeler manufacturer, has entered in to an agreement with Maharashtra government to invest \$1.5 billion in the cities of Pune and Aurangabad over the next eight years to manufacture electric vehicles, smart battery packs, and battery swap stations.

#### 13. Max Life, DCB Bank join hands to offer insurance products

- Max Life Insurance has partnered with DCB Bank to provide a variety of life insurance products to the latter's customers.
- Term, savings, and retirement plans will be offered under this partnership.
- DCB Bank is a private sector bank. It has 427 branches across India

#### 14. International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) inks MoU with IIML -EIC

- International Financial Services Centers Authority (IFSCA) and IIML-EIC, have signed a MoU at IIM (Indian Institute of Management) Lucknow EIC, Noida campus in Uttar Pradesh.
- This MoU aims to put in place a framework for cooperation and understanding between IFSCA and IIML-EIC to collaborate in supporting and facilitating FinTech and TechFin entities.
- The IFSCA is responsible for development and regulation of international financial services, including that of insurance sector, in the IFSC, which is treated as a separate international financial jurisdiction, distinct from rest of India.
- IFSCA aims to develop a strong global connect and focus on the needs of the Indian economy as well as to serve as an international financial platform at regional/ global level.
- The IIML EIC is focused on providing speed and faster growth to new ventures for successful commercialization of technology / product through a combination of accelerator programme, seed capital, corporate venture capital funds, smart co-working space, corporate market access, mentoring and training programmes.

#### 15. L&T signs Master Ship Repair Agreement with US Navy

- Larsen & Toubro said it has signed the Master Shipyard Repair Agreement with the US Navy to further strengthen the partnership between the two countries in the defence sector.

- This agreement will serve to strengthen two nations' strategic partnership and contribute to a free and open Indo-Pacific.
- This MSRA is yet another milestone in our ever-expanding US-India partnership. This historic agreement is a direct outcome of the 2022 US-India 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue and demonstrates US commitment to utilise repair facilities on a regular basis at the L&T shipyard in Kattupalli.

#### **16. International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) inks MoU with BITS Pilani PIEDS Finxcelerator**

- **International Financial Services Centers Authority (IFSCA) and PIEDS BITS Pilani, have today signed a MoU at BITS Pilani PIEDS Finxcelerator, Pilani Campus in Rajasthan**
- This MoU aims to put in place a framework for cooperation and understanding between IFSCA and BITS Pilani PIEDS Finxcelerator to collaborate in supporting and facilitating FinTech and TechFin entities.
- This MoU will enable cooperation and collaboration on diverse initiatives regarding FinTech. FinTechs registered with BITS Pilani PIEDS may be facilitated to access IFSCA's Regulatory and Innovation Sandbox and apply to the IFSCA (FinTech Incentive) Scheme, 2022.
- The IFSCA is responsible for development and regulation of international financial services, including that of insurance sector, in the IFSC, which is treated as a separate international financial jurisdiction, distinct from rest of India.
- IFSCA aims to develop a strong global connect and focus on the needs of the Indian economy as well as to serve as an

international financial platform at regional/ global level.

#### **17. National Medical Commission To Partner With QCI To Rate India's Medical Colleges**

- Indian medical colleges will now receive government ratings based on the quality of education they provide to student
- The National Medical Commission, the apex medical education regulator in India, has partnered with the Quality Council of India (QCI) to initiate this rating assessment.
- The assessment process is set to begin in the next academic session.
- The assessment and rating of medical colleges will be conducted under the "Establishment of Medical Institutions, Assessment and Rating Regulations, 2023.

#### **18. MoRTH develops guidelines with technical assistance of JICA to enhance Mountainous Road Infrastructure in India**

- The **Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH), with the technical assistance of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)**, has developed five guidelines aimed at enhancing mountainous road infrastructure.
- These guidelines are designed to ensure high-quality and sustainable road projects in hilly regions which will improve road networks and promote economic growth.
- The guidelines provide technical specifications and best practices for road construction in mountainous regions, covering the following topics:
  1. Planning of Hilly Roads
  2. Slope Protection and Embankment with Advanced Technology



3. Tunnel on Arterial Roads in Hilly Area
4. Mountain Bridge with Advance Technology
5. Operation and Maintenance of Mountainous Highways

#### **19. MoU signed to establish 1st campus of IIT Delhi in Abu Dhabi**

- **A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between the Ministry of Education and Abu Dhabi Department of Education and Knowledge (ADEK), and the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IIT Delhi) to establish 1st campus of IIT Delhi in Abu Dhabi. IIT Delhi ranked among the world's top 50 institutions for engineering and technology.**
- The ongoing UAE-India Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), the MoU reflects the shared vision of both nations to prioritize educational excellence, innovation, knowledge exchange, and investments in human capital as the foundations for future prosperity and enablers of long-term economic growth and sustainable development.
- Abu Dhabi will complement the academic, research and innovation ecosystem in Abu Dhabi through collaboration with key players such as Mohamed bin Zayed University of Artificial Intelligence, Khalifa University, New York University Abu Dhabi, Technology Innovation Institute, and Hub71 to offer complimentary programs, conduct cutting edge research, and advance the local startup ecosystem.
- **IIT- Delhi also scored a top 30 rank for global employability in the 2022 QS World University Rankings.**

#### **20. Union Minister of Earth Sciences Kiren Rijiju visits the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune**

- The Union Minister of Earth Sciences Kiren Rijiju visited the **Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune.**
- The Union Minister went around all the laboratories and gathered detailed information about all the research projects going on in the institute, which is an autonomous body under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES).
- On this occasion, signing of two MoUs between IITM Pune and Tezpur University and ARIES, Nainital took place in front of the union Earth Sciences minister. The partnerships aims to pool expertise, resources and research capabilities to address environmental challenges and develop effective solutions.
- The MoU between Director, Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune and Registrar, Tezpur University, Tezpur, Assam is for promotion of collaborative research on biosphere-atmosphere exchange of Greenhouse Gases and Energy Fluxes being monitored at the Kaziranga National Park, Assam.
- The MoU between Director, Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune and Registrar, Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES), Nainital, Uttarakhand, for promotion of collaborative research on biosphere-atmosphere exchange of Greenhouse Gases and Energy Fluxes being initiated at Devasthal, near Nainital, Uttarakhand.

#### **21. India, UAE sign MoU on linking of India's Unified Payments Interface with Instant Payment Platform of UAE**

- **India and the UAE has signed three MoUs in banking and education sectors.**
- The MoUs in the **banking sector** pertain to the use of local currencies for cross-border transactions and cooperation for interlinking their payment and messaging systems. Under the MOU in the education sector, the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi will set up an IIT campus in Abu Dhabi.
- The MoU signed by the Governor of the Reserve Bank of India, Shaktikanta Das and the Governor of the Central Bank of UAE, Khaled Mohamed Balama for the use of local currencies for cross-border transactions covers all current account transactions and permitted capital account transactions.

## **22. India and UAE signed historic Memorandum of Understanding on LCS system**

- In a significant move to strengthen economic ties, **India and the United Arab Emirates have signed a historic Memorandum of Understanding on the Local Currency Settlement (LCS) system.**
- This groundbreaking agreement, signed between the Reserve Bank of India and the Central Bank of the UAE, aims to revolutionize cross-border transactions between the two nations.
- The **LCS system allows for the use of the Indian Rupee and UAE Dirham in bilateral trade, marking India's first-ever LCS arrangement.** This innovative system is expected to have a transformative impact on transaction costs and processing time while also increasing reliance on local currencies.
- The agreement comes as a significant milestone in the rapidly evolving India-UAE relationship, in line with the Vision Statement unveiled by the two leaders

during their virtual summit in February 2022.

## **23. Indian Oil inks LNG deals with UAE's Adnoc, France's TotalEnergies**

- **India's top oil firm IOC has signed deals to import liquefied natural gas (LNG) from UAE's Abu Dhabi Gas Liquefaction Co Ltd and TotalEnergies of France on a long-term basis.**
- IOC signed a deal to import 1.2 million tonnes per annum of LNG from Adnoc-LNG for 14 years starting in 2026. This is the first long-term deal TotalEnergies has signed with an Indian company
- TotalEnergies is the third largest LNG supplier in the world and would be supplying LNG to IOC from their diversified portfolio across the world.

## **24. India and the United States today jointly launched a call for proposals on Critical and Emerging Technology**

- **India and the United States also jointly launched a call for proposals on Critical and Emerging Technology: Quantum Technologies and Artificial Intelligence for Transforming Lives.** The Indo-U.S. Science and Technology Forum (IUSSTF) and the Secretariat for USISTEF have designed the program.
- India has recently approved the National Quantum Mission (NQM) with an aim to seed, nurture and scale up scientific and industrial R&D and create a vibrant & innovative ecosystem in Quantum Technology (QT).

## 25. GAIL, LanzaTech join hands to explore biorecycling carbon waste into fuels and chemicals

- **GAIL (India) Limited and LanzaTech Global, Inc., USA** have entered a partnership to explore innovative technology solutions that advance GAIL's net-zero 2040 goals and have the potential to support wider decarbonization applications globally.
- The partnership between GAIL and LanzaTech Global Inc. is a milestone achievement in GAIL's broader energy transition to reach Net Zero

## 26. Cognizant and Max Life Insurance collaborate to launch an innovation and development centre

- **Cognizant Technology Solutions** announced that it has launched an innovation and development centre in collaboration with **Max Life Insurance Co. Ltd (Max Life)** in Chennai.
- The facility aims to bring together teams from both companies to accelerate Max Life's digital transformation efforts.
- The centre aims to drive product innovations, enhance customer experiences, and lead operational excellence for Max Life. Cognizant will utilise its expertise in consulting and emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence, automation, and cloud transformation to further enhance the digital experience for customers, as per a release.

## 27. Meta, Microsoft Team Up to Offer New AI Software for Businesses

- **Microsoft** will release a new version of **Meta Platforms' artificial-intelligence language model** in a partnership

between the tech giants that will make the software available to companies for the first time. The **Meta AI model, dubbed Llama 2**, will be free and available to developers building software on Microsoft's Azure cloud-computing platform.

- Meta previously released an earlier version of Llama to academics, and it was subsequently leaked in an online forum, but the social-media company hadn't made it available for commercial use.
- Microsoft also announced plans to charge businesses \$30 a month per person for access to an AI-powered assistant for Microsoft 365, its popular workplace software that includes Word and Excel, setting up a test of how much consumers will pay for AI tools.
- **Meta is releasing Llama 2 as "open source" software**, which typically is made widely available for use, modification and sharing by the public. The earlier leak put the company at the center of a vibrant, if uncontrolled, surge in AI software development.
- The release of Llama 2 is set to intensify competition for private, commercial models such as the GPT-4 system developed by OpenAI, the startup that released popular chatbot ChatGPT.

## 28. UNDP India joins hands with Absolute to further sustainable agriculture practices under PMFBY

- **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** and **Absolute**, a bioscience company signed a MoU to strengthen the government of India's flagship **Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima**

**Yojana** and enhance the resilience of the farmers.

- The partnership between UNDP India and Absolute aims to enhance the implementation of the PMFBY and the Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme.

### 29. Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation sets up JJM Digital Academy

- On the occasion of a two-day national conference on 21st and 22nd July at Vigyan Bhawan New Delhi, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was exchanged between the Department of Drinking water and sanitation and Echo India to establish JJM Digital Academy to build the capacity of various stakeholders associated with water supply programme.
- The Academy will be using digital technology in delivering training through innovative approach. It will also build a repository through recording of all sessions for knowledge sharing and future reference of prospective learners.

### 30. CAIT and WhatsApp to digitally train and upskill 10 million local traders

- Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) and Meta announced that they are expanding their '**WhatsApp Se Wyapaar**' programme to digitally train and upskill 10 million local traders on the WhatsApp Business App. Earlier the target was to train 1 million local traders. The partnership's goal is to localize digitisation efforts to unleash growth opportunities for businesses.
- The partnership will also accelerate CAIT's digital skilling charter for the

trading community by giving 25,000 traders access to the Meta Small Business Academy.

### 31. HCLTech joins XR Startup Programme with MeitY, Meta

- Noida-based **HCL Technology (HCLTech)** said it has joined the **XR Startup Programme**, an initiative between Meta and the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) Startup Hub to discover, nurture, and accelerate extended reality (XR) technology start-ups in India.
- MeitY Startup Hub's focus on innovation and entrepreneurship has made India the third largest start-up ecosystem in the world.
- As announced in **September 2022**, XR Startup Program is a collaboration between MSH and Meta to discover, nurture, and accelerate Extended Reality (XR) technology startups and innovators across India.

### 32. 'India AI' and Meta, India sign MoU to foster advancements in AI & Emerging Technologies

- In order to foster collaboration in the field of AI and Emerging Technologies, '**India AI**' an IBD under **Digital India Corporation and Meta**, India have signed an MoU.
- The objective of the MoU is to establish a framework for collaboration and cooperation between 'India AI' and Meta in the field of Artificial Intelligence & Emerging Technologies.
- It aims to make Meta's open-source AI models available for use by Indian AI ecosystem. The joint research and development endeavours will tackle large-scale challenges by leveraging



cutting-edge AI technologies like Llama and other open-source solutions.”

### 33. Hero Future Energies Signs Rs 6,200-Crore MoUs With PFC, REC

- **Hero Future Energies said it has signed two agreements with REC and PFC to develop green energy projects.** The agreements were signed on the sidelines of the 4th G20 Energy Transition Working Group meeting, which concluded in Goa, Hero Future Energies said in a statement.
- Hero Future Energies (HFE) has signed two memorandums of understanding (MoUs) with REC Ltd and PFC Ltd for infusion of **Rs 3,100 crore each** into HFE over the next five years

### 34. IOC signs \$7-9 billion LNG import deal with UAE's ADNOC Gas

- **Indian Oil Corporation Ltd's recently signed long-term liquefied natural gas purchase deal with Abu Dhabi's ADNOC Gas** is valued at \$7-9 billion, the United Arab Emirate -based gas major. The agreement, which was inked during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent visit to France and the UAE, is for supply of up to 1.2 million tonnes per annum of LNG for 14 years from 2024.
- During Modi's visit, IOC inked another agreement with France's TotalEnergies for purchase of 0.8 mtpa of LNG for 10 years, starting 2026. IOC and the government, however, have not disclosed the value of the deals.
- These are the first-ever LNG term deals that an Indian company has signed with ADNOC Gas and TotalEnergies.

### 35. ADB, India sign \$200 million loan for expanding urban services in Rajasthan

- The **Government of India and Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a \$200 million loan as additional financing for the ongoing Rajasthan Secondary Towns Development Sector Project** to expand water supply and sanitation systems and enhance urban resilience and heritage living in selected towns.

### 36. India, ADB sign 295 million dollar loan agreement to upgrade around 265 Km State highways in Bihar

- **The Government of India and Asian Development Bank signed a 295 million dollar loan agreement to upgrade around 265 kilometer State highways in Bihar.** It supports the government of Bihar's programme to upgrade all State highways to standard two-lane widths and improve road safety. The improved roads will enhance connectivity in some of Bihar's poorest rural districts.
- Since 2008, ADB has provided five loans totaling 1.63 billion dollars to the State of Bihar, for the upgradation of about one thousand 696 kilometer State highways and construction of a new bridge over the Ganga River.

### 37. India signs MoU with Papua New Guinea on sharing INDIA STACK

- As a follow-up to the first Global DPI Summit was organised by Ministry of Electronics and IT on June 12-13, 2023 in Pune.
- **Meity of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology (MICT) of the Papua New Guinea signed a Memorandum of Understanding on sharing INDIA STACK** i.e., successful digital solutions implemented at population scale.

- **India Stack** is the name used to describe a collection of disparate technology products and frameworks. The components of this collection are owned and maintained by different agencies. Aadhaar products such as e-auth and e-KYC are owned by the Unique ID Authority of India.
- eSign is a technology specification which is maintained by the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology. Digilocker is owned by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology. UPI is owned by the National Payments Corporation of India. The Account Aggregator framework is regulated by RBI and its technology standards and owned by ReBIT.
- **Indradhanush Gas Grid Ltd. and GAIL India Ltd.** have signed an interconnection agreement to connect the **North East Gas Grid of IGGL with the Barauni Guwahati Pipeline of GAIL.**
- The pipeline for interconnection will be laid by GAIL at an estimated cost of Rs 15.16 crore. The amount will be reimbursed by IGGL to GAIL. IGGL is laying the 1,656km-long NEGG at an estimated project cost of Rs 9,265 crore.
- The interconnection agreement will facilitate connection of the NEGG with the BGPL at three locations - Jalpaiguri in West Bengal and Baihata and Panikhaiti in Assam.
- The interconnection agreement will pave the way for making the NEGG a part of the National Gas Grid.

### 38. Swiggy launches co-branded card with HDFC Bank

- **HDFC Bank and Swiggy** have jointly launched a co-branded credit card, the lender said in a release. The move marks Swiggy's entry into the credit card space, and the card will operate on Mastercard's payment network.
- With this new credit card, users will get benefits like 10 percent cashback on their Swiggy spends, covering food delivery, grocery delivery and dining out.

### 39. IGGL, GAIL Sign Interconnection Agreement

### 41. India And Singapore In Talks To Link Grid To Facilitate Renewable Energy Trade

- **India and Singapore** are reportedly expediting plans to connect their power grids through an undersea cable via **Andaman & Nicobar Islands**. This grid connectivity will enable India to sell renewable energy to Singapore and an agreement on the same is expected to be signed soon.
- The landed cost of the renewable energy that will be exported through this arrangement to Singapore is projected to be cheaper than their gas-based electricity,

## Schemes

### 1. Government notifies draft framework for formation of India's first carbon market

- **The Union ministry of power has notified the much-anticipated carbon credit trading scheme, 2023.**
- The notification said the Centre will constitute a '**National Steering Committee for the Indian carbon market**' to govern and oversee the functions of the market.
- **The secretary, ministry of power will be the ex-officio chairperson of the committee.** Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) has been mandated to regulate the market
- The union government, through a gazette notification, approved the formation of India's first domestic regulated carbon market.
- The 'Carbon Credit Trading Scheme, 2023' first announced under the **Energy Conservation Act**, aims to set up a carbon credit trading market in the country.
- Drafted by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency, a wholly owned subsidiary of the ministry of power, the scheme would entail formation of a "National Steering Committee, a technical committee, an Accredited Carbon Verification Agency and the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) as the carbon market regulator. The Grid Controller of India will be the registry for the Indian carbon market.
- **Carbon credit means a value assigned to a reduction or removal or avoidance of greenhouse gas emissions achieved, and is equivalent to one ton of carbon dioxide equivalent.**
- The "Indian carbon market framework" means a national framework established

with an objective to reduce or remove or avoid greenhouse gas emissions from the Indian economy by pricing the greenhouse gases emission through trading of carbon credit certificates.

### 2. Bank of India rolls out Mahila Samman Savings Certificate scheme

- **Bank of India (BoI) has rolled out Mahila Samman Savings Certificate scheme.** The scheme was announced in the **Union Budget 2023-24**. The scheme offers an interest rate of 7.5 per cent per annum, compounded quarterly.
- Under the scheme, individual girls or women can open a Mahila Samman Savings Certificate, or a guardian can open an account on behalf of a minor girl.
- **The account will mature after two years from the date of opening. Accounts under this scheme can be opened until March 31, 2025.**
- As per the scheme, minimum investment is '1,000, any sum in multiples of '100 can be deposited, up to a **maximum limit of '2 lakh**.
- Moreover, partial withdrawals, up to 40 per cent of the eligible balance, after one year from the date of opening the account. TDS (Tax Deducted at Source) will not be deducted under the Bank of India is the first bank to operationalise this scheme.

### 3. Ministry of Home Affairs, launches 'Scheme for Expansion and Modernization of Fire Services in the States'

- The Union Ministry of Home Affairs, has launched a '**Scheme for Expansion and Modernization of Fire Services in the States**' from the earmarked allocation of

Preparedness and Capacity Building Funding Window under the **National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) for strengthening fire services in the States with a total outlay of Rs. 5,000 crore.**

- For seeking funds for the projects/proposals under the Scheme, the concerned State Governments shall have to contribute 25% (except for the North-Eastern and Himalayan (NEH) States which shall contribute 10%) of total cost of such projects / proposals from their budgetary resources
- The **Scheme finds its origin from the recommendation of the Fifteenth Finance Commission (XV-FC) which allows an allocation of 12.5 percent of each of the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) and State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF)** [10% of the total corpus of the National Disaster Risk Management Fund (NDRMF) and the State Disaster Risk Management Fund (SDRMF)] for the Funding Window of Preparedness and Capacity Building.

#### 4. Carl Zeiss To Invest 250 Million Euros In India To Build Its Largest Lens Factory

- **Carl Zeiss India is set to construct its largest spectacle lens production facility in Bengaluru, with an investment of over 250 million euros.**
- The construction of the facility will commence next month on the land acquired two years ago. The expected completion date for the project is October 2024.
- Zeiss aims to achieve sales of Rs 1,800 crore by the end of the current financial year and expects to double sales in less than six years

#### 5. Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurates National Mega Conclave on FPO in Cooperative Sector

- Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah inaugurated the National Mega Conclave on Farmers Producer Organisation, FPO in the cooperative sector and released the action plan for formation of 1,100 new FPOs by Primary Agricultural Credit Societies in New Delhi.
- The government has announced to set up ten thousand FPOs and the target is to achieve this by the year 2027.
- The Central government has allocated 6 thousand 900 crore rupees to achieve this goal.

#### 6. DGFT implements the Advance Authorisation Scheme, allows duty-free import of inputs for export purposes

- Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) implements the **Advance Authorisation Scheme under the Foreign Trade Policy**, which allows duty-free import of inputs for export purposes.
- The eligibility of inputs is determined by Sector-specific Norms Committees based on input-output norms.

#### 7. First ever 'Credit Guarantee Scheme' for Livestock Sector launched for rebooting rural economy by leveraging MSMEs

- Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying is implementing the **Credit Guarantee Scheme** under **Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF)** to strengthen credit delivery system and facilitate smooth flow of credit to the MSME.



- For operationalizing the scheme, DAHD has established a Credit Guarantee fund Trust of **Rs. 750.00 crores**, which will provide credit guarantee coverage up to **25%** of the credit facilities extended to the MSMEs by the eligible lending institutions.
- Key Features of AHIDF scheme:**
  - Interest Subvention of 3%
  - loan up to 90% of the total project cost from any Scheduled Bank, National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC).
- The establishment of credit guarantee fund trust was approved under the Prime Minister's AtmaNirbhar Bharat Abhiyan stimulus package of **Rs.15000 crores** "Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund" (AHIDF) for incentivizing investments by individual entrepreneurs, private companies, MSMEs, Farmers Producers Organizations (FPOs) and Section 8 companies to establish (i) the dairy processing and value addition infrastructure, (ii) meat processing and value addition infrastructure, (iii) Animal Feed Plant, (iv) Breed Improvement technology and Breed Multiplication Farm (v) Animal Waste to Wealth Management (Agri Waste Management) and (vi) Setting up of Veterinary Vaccine and Drugs Manufacturing facilities.

#### 8. One crore 19 lakh houses sanctioned under PMAY-U so far: Govt in RS

- The government informed the Rajya Sabha that around **one crore 19 lakh houses have been sanctioned under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana- Urban**, PMAY-U so far. In a written reply in the Rajya Sabha, Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs, Kaushal Kishore said that of the sanctioned

houses, around one crore 12 lakh houses have been grounded for construction.

- Out of which 75.31 lakh have been completed. He said, during the last three years, 39.63 lakh houses have been completed.
- The **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs is implementing PMAY-U since 2015** to provide pucca houses with basic amenities to all eligible urban beneficiaries across the country.

#### 9. Product basket of Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana increases to 1,800 medicines & 285 Surgical Equipment

- The **product basket of Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana has increased to 1,800 medicines and 285 Surgical equipment**. These products are available at 50 to 90 percent lower prices compared to the market. The Chemicals and Fertilisers Ministry said, the Government has decided to open 10,000 Jan Aushadhi Kendras by the 31st of December this year in the country.
- A total of over 9,500 Jan Aushadhi Kendras have been opened across the country till last month**. The Ministry said, in the last nine years, the number of Kendras has increased by 100 times and the sales have increased more than 170 times.

#### 10. Punjab top beneficiary list under Atmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana

- Punjab is the leading beneficiary among states under the Atmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana (ABRY)**, a scheme initiated by the Centre during the pandemic to give a fillip to formal employment.
- According to data, **one in every five active Employees' Provident Fund (EPF)**

subscribers in the state joined the workforce.

- They were followed by beneficiaries in Himachal Pradesh (19.1 per cent), Rajasthan (18.9 per cent), Gujarat (15.4 per cent), and Madhya Pradesh (14.2 per cent).
- However, Maharashtra (978,308), Tamil Nadu (817,315), Gujarat (643,573), and Karnataka (486,278) topped the list in terms of total number of beneficiaries under the scheme.
- Launched in October 2020, ABRY aimed to incentivise employers for the creation of new jobs and the reinstatement of retrenched workers during Covid.

#### 11. FAME III corpus may jump to '30,000 cr

- The central government may triple subsidy allocation for electric vehicle(EV) purchases in the third edition of the Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid and) Electric Vehicles in India (FAME) programme amid the rising popularity of EVs in India.
- Allocation for the FAME III scheme may jump to around '30,000 crore from '10,000 crore earmarked for the current FAME II



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## Appointments & Resignations

### 1. State Bank of India announces appointment of Kameshwar Rao Kodavanti, as CFO

- **Kameshwar Rao Kodavanti has taken over charge of chief financial officer (CFO) of State Bank of India (SBI)** with effect from 1 July 2023.
- Kodavanti, a qualified Chartered Accountant (CA) has been working with SBI Since 1 August 1991 and has more than 31 years of experience in banking. Mr. Kodavanti replaces Charanjit Surinder Singh Attra.

### 2. Debadatta Chand assumes charge as chief of Bank of Baroda

- **Debadatta Chand assumed charge as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Bank of Baroda (BoB)** with effect from July 1, 2023.
- His appointment follows superannuation of Sanjiv Chadha from the service of the Bank on 30th June 2023 on completion of his tenor as Managing Director and CEO.

### 3. Lt Gen M U Nair appointed as new National Cybersecurity Coordinator

- The government has appointed **Lt Gen M U Nair as the new National Cybersecurity Coordinator (NCSC)**.
- Lt Gen Nair, who assumed the role of the 28th Signal Officer-in-Chief in July 2022, brings with him experience and expertise in the field of cyber warfare, signal intelligence, and communication and information technology.
- He is the third cyber security chief after Lt Gen Rajesh Pant and 1st chief Gulshan Rai.
- Currently, **the NCSC is actively engaged in updating and replacing the 2013**

**National Cyber Security Strategy.** The upcoming National Cyber Security Reference Framework (NCRF), which will replace the outdated strategy, will adopt a common but differentiated approach (CBDR).

### 4. Deepak Parekh, the chairman of HDFC, announces his retirement

- After a tenure spanning over 45 years that witnessed the creation of India's biggest financial services conglomerates, Deepak Parekh, the chairman of HDFC, announced his retirement on the eve of HDFC's monumental merger with HDFC Bank.
- He was the first non-British recipient of the Outstanding Achievement Award by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.

### 5. Audi appoints Gernot Dollner as its new CEO

- **German luxury carmaker has named Gernot Dollner, who heads Volkswagen Group's Product and Group Strategy, as its new CEO.** He will take over from Markus Duesmann as Chairman of the Board of Management of Audi AG, effective September 1, 2023.
- Since 2021, he has overseen the Volkswagen Group's Product and Group Strategy and the General Secretariat.

### 6. Google To Appoint Former Apple Executive As India Policy Head

- Google is set to appoint Sreenivasa Reddy as its top government affairs executive in India with an eye on tackling legal challenges and expanding hardware assembly in the country.

### 7. BCCI appoints Ajit Agarkar as chairman of Indian senior men's selection committee

- Former India fast bowler **Ajit Agarkar has been named chairman of selectors for the Indian men's team by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).**
- The Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC), consisting of Sulakshana Naik, Ashok Malhotra, and Jatin Paranjape, unanimously recommended Ajit Agarkar.
- Agarkar will be the fifth member of the India men's selection panel, which already includes **Shiv Sunder Das, Salil Ankola, Subroto Banerjee and Sridharan Sharath.**

### 8. FPSB India appoints Krishan Mishra as CEO

- The **Financial Planning Standards Board of India (FPSB India) has appointed Krishan Mishra as Chief Executive Officer.**
- FPSB India is the Indian subsidiary of FPSB, the global standards-setting body for the financial planning profession and owner of the international Certified Financial Planner (CFP) certification program

### 9. RBI appoints P. Vasudevan as new executive director

- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) appointed P. Vasudevan as executive director. His appointment is effective from July 03, 2023.**
- He will look after Department of Currency Management, Corporate Strategy and Budget Department (Areas other than that of Budget & Funds) and Enforcement Department.

### 10. Govind Kottis Satish becomes 1st Indian to be appointed on Russian oil giant Rosneft's board

- Rosneft, the Russian energy giant, has made a significant move towards enhancing trade ties with India by appointing a former Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) director to its board. GK Satish, who retired as IOC's director for business development in 2021, is one of 3 new members joining Rosneft's 11-member board of directors.
- Igor I Sechin, CEO & chairman of Rosneft's board.

### 11. Justice AP Sahi Gets Appointed As The New Chairman Of NCDRC

- **Justice AP Sahi, the Former Chief Justice of Madras and Haryana High Courts has been appointed as the new Chairman of the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC) for a period of four-year term.**
- NCDRC is a **quasi-judicial body created in 1988** under the **Consumer Protection Act of 1986.**
- Its head office is in New Delhi.

### 12. SJVN CMD Assumes Additional Charge Of BBMB Chairman

- Chairman and Managing Director of Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Ltd., **Nand Lal Sharma has assumed the additional charge of chairman of Bhakra Beas Management Board.**
- He has been heading SJVN as Chairman and Managing Director since December 2017.
- Sharma has played a key role in expanding the project portfolio of SJVN from around 5,200 MW in 2017 to 54,327 MW at present.



### 13. K. Rajaraman appointed as new chairperson of IFSCA

- The government announced the appointment of **K Rajaraman as the next Chairperson of the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA)**.
- His appointment is for a period of three years. **He succeeds the first IFSCA Chairperson Injeti Srinivas who led the authority since 2020.**
- At present, the GIFT IFSC is the maiden international financial services centre in India.
- IFSCA was set up in April 2020 under the International Financial Services Centres Authority Act, 2019, at GIFT City, Gandhinagar in Gujarat. IFSCA is a unified authority for the development and regulation of financial products, financial services and financial institutions in the International Financial Services Centre (IFSC). Prior to the establishment of IFSCA, RBI, SEBI, PFRDA and IRDAI regulated the business in IFSC.

### 14. SBI appoints Abhijit Chakravorty as SBI Card's CEO

- **SBI Card said its parent State Bank of India (SBI) has appointed Abhijit Chakravorty as Managing Director and CEO.**
- He will replace Rama Mohan Rao Amara, who will cease to be MD from August 11.
- Chakravorty's appointment would be effective from August 12 for a period of two years.

### 15. ITC board reappoints Sanjiv Puri as chairman & managing director

- **ITC Ltd's board has recommended the re-appointment of Sanjiv Puri as the**

**company's chairman & managing director for a period of five years, effective 22 July, 2024.**

- Puri, 60, was appointed as chief executive officer in February 2017 and re-designated as the managing director in May 2018.

### 16. Ritesh Chauhan (IAS) gets additional charge as MD of NAFED

- **Ritesh Chauhan (IAS) has been appointed as Managing Director (MD) of the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited (NAFED).**
- NAFED an apex organisation of marketing cooperatives for agricultural produce in India, National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd.

### 17. Central government clears appointment of Justices Ujjal Bhuyan, SV Bhatti as Supreme Court judges

- **The Central government cleared the appointment of Justices Ujjal Bhuyan and SV Bhatti as judges of the Supreme Court.**
- The Supreme Court Collegium had recommended their elevation to the top court on July 5.
- Justice Bhuyan is currently serving as the Chief Justice of the Telangana High Court while Justice Bhatti is the Chief Justice of Kerala High Court.

### 18. SBI Capital Markets Ltd. (SBICAPS) appoints Shri Rajay Kumar Sinha as its new managing director and CEO

- **SBI Capital Markets (SBICAPS) announced the appointment of Rajay Kumar Sinha as the Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer of its wholly**

owned subsidiary and investment banking arm. Sinha takes over from Amitava Chatterjee, who will now serve as Deputy Managing Director in charge of Commercial Clients Group at SBI's Corporate Centre.

- SBI Capital Markets is a wholly owned investment banking subsidiary of State Bank of India. Headquartered in Mumbai.

#### **19. Ms. Nivruti Rai appointed as Managing Director & CEO of Invest India**

- **Ms. Nivruti Rai joined as the Managing Director & CEO of Invest India on July 12, 2023.**
- She has taken over the charge from Ms. Manmeet K Nanda, Joint Secretary, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) who had assumed this additional charge of MD & CEO ad-interim in March 2023.
- Invest India is the National Investment Promotion and Facilitation Agency of India, set up as a non-profit venture under the aegis of Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India.

#### **20. Rakesh Pal appointed as 25th Director General of Indian Coast Guard**

- **Rakesh Pal has been appointed as the 25th Director General of the Indian Coast Guard.**
- The Indian Coast Guard came into being on 01st Feb 1977 with a fleet strength of just seven ships for surveillance in the Indian waters and the Exclusive Economic Zone,
- The Indian Coast Guard was formally inaugurated by the then Prime Minister Shri Morarji Desai on 19th Aug 1978.

- **V.A.Kamath, the first Director General of Indian Coast Guard.**

#### **21. Admiral Lisa Franchetti becomes first woman to lead US Navy**

- **Admiral Lisa Franchetti has become first woman in history to serve as the Chief of Naval Operations and member of Joint Chiefs of Staff.**
- Franchetti, who is currently serving as the vice chief of naval operations, was commissioned in 1985 and has served as the commander of US Naval Forces Korea. She is the second woman ever to achieve the rank of four-star admiral in the United State
- In a statement on Friday, US President Joe Biden said Lisa Franchetti will bring dedicated service to the nation as a commissioned officer, including her current role of Vice Chief of Naval Operations.

#### **22. Justice Alok Aradhe takes oath as Chief Justice of Telangana High Court in Hyderabad**

- **Justice Alok Aradhe has taken oath as the Chief Justice of Telangana High Court** at a ceremonial programme held at Raj Bhavan in Hyderabad this morning.
- State Governor Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan has administered the oath of office to the new Chief Justice in the presence of Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao. Earlier, Justice Alok Aradhe served as Judge in Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh High Courts.

#### **23. Tata Steel reappoints TV Narendran as MD and CEO for 5 years**

- **T.V. Narendran has been appointed again as the Tata Steel's Chief Executive Officer & Managing Director for a**

**period of five years effective September 19, 2023.**

- His present tenure as CEO & MD will conclude on September 18, 2023, Tata Steel said in a regulatory filing.
- Tata Steel, Founded: 25 August 1907, Jamshedpur.

#### **24. Rajesh Kannan appointed President and CDIO of Tata Motors with effect from August 1**

- **Automobile major Tata Motors has announced the appointment of Rajesh Kannan as the President and Chief Digital and Information Officer (CDIO).** Kannan is presently working with Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) Limited.
- He will be moving from TCS to Tata Motors, to take up his new role as President and CDIO from August 1st.

#### **25. Asian Paints appoints former Ashok Leyland MD R Seshasayee as chairman**

- **Asian Paints announced that its board approved the appointment of R Seshasayee, as the chairman of the board and the company,** with effect from October 1, 2023. He will continue to hold the position till January 22, 2027.
- Seshasayee will replace Deepak Satwalekar, whose term ends on September 30
- Seshasayee was the managing director of Ashok Leyland Limited from 1998 to 2011, the Executive Vice Chairman from 2011 to 2013 and the Non-Executive Vice Chairman from 2013 to 2016.

#### **26. TCS Names Harrick Vin Its CTO As K Ananth Krishnan Retires**

- Tata Consultancy Services Ltd. has appointed Harrick Vin as its new chief technology officer, replacing K Ananth Krishnan who retires from India's largest IT services firm in October.
- Vin, a TCS fellow and chief services innovation officer, has been with the Tata Group company since July 2005, when he joined as a vice president and chief scientist.
- K. Krithivasan is the Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of TCS.

#### **27. BSNL's Shivendra Nath set to be next CMD of EPIL**

- **Shivendra Nath is set to be next Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) of Engineering Projects (India) Ltd.** a PSU under the Ministry of Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises. He has been recommended for the post by the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) panel.
- Presently, Nath is serving as Senior General Manager in Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL).

#### **28. G. Kannabiran, founding director of IIIT Sri City, takes over as NAAC director**

- Former director-in-charge of the National Institute of Technology - Tiruchi G. Kannabiran has been appointed as the new director of the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC). He will hold the post for five years.

## Awards

### 1. Boxing champion Mary Kom named Global Indian Icon at U.K.-India Awards

- Sporting legend and India's first-ever Olympic medallist in women's boxing, **MC Mary Kom, has been honoured with the Global Indian Icon of the Year award** at the **annual U.K.-India Awards** in Windsor, south-eastern England.
- The awards, now in their fifth year, honours leaders who strengthen bilateral ties in various sectors.
- She has won six women's world championship titles. She clinched bronze medal at the London 2012 Olympic Games.

### 2. CMD EIL conferred with Business Leader of the Year Award

- **Engineers India Limited's (EIL) C&MD Vartika Shukla EIL was donned with the Business Leader of the Year Award at the Donwards Downstream India Awards** at the Global Refining and Petrochemicals Congress 2023 in New Delhi.
- This award is conferred in recognition of C&MDs extensive contributions to the evolution and development of the hydrocarbons sector.

### 3. NMDC wins ASSOCHAM Awards for Mineral Development and Employer Brand

- **NMDC Limited won the 'Mineral Development Award' and the 'Employer Brand of the Year Award' at ASSOCHAM Business Excellence Awards 2023 in Kolkata.**
- Recognising NMDC's immense contribution to the mining sector, Industry, Commerce and Enterprise Department, Government of West

Bengal presented the ASSOCHAM Awards to NMDC at the Indian Mining and Minerals Conclave 2023.

- As iron ore's largest producer in the country and the sixth largest producer in the world, NMDC is a key player in the mineral's development.
- The company's state-of-the-art R&D Centre is dedicated to improve productivity, ensure zero-waste mining, and develop cutting-edge beneficiation technology.

### 4. Coal India receives 'The Rising Star Award' by GeM

- **Coal India Limited (CIL) is the recipient of the Rising Star Award** in appreciation of its outstanding efforts to enhance procurement through the **Government e-Marketplace (GeM) portal** in FY 2022'23. GeM CEO is PK Singh

### 5. Belgian tennis great Justine Henin receives the Philippe Chatrier Award

- **The International Tennis Federation has awarded Justine Henin its highest honor, the Philippe Chatrier Award.**
- Henin won seven Grand Slam singles titles, an Olympic gold medal, and was part of Belgium's team that won the Fed Cup now called the Billie Jean King Cup in 2001.
- The award, named after the former ITF president, was introduced in 1996.
- The award, named after the former ITF president, was introduced in 1996 and recognizes people who have made significant contributions to the sport on and off the court. Henin won the French Open four times, the U.S. Open twice and the Australian Open once. She was a two-time runner-up at Wimbledon. She



won Olympic gold at the 2004 Athens Games.

#### **6. ONGC becomes India's first PSU to get certified for Anti-Bribery Management System**

- **Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has become the first Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) in India to get certified for Anti-Bribery Management System (ABMS)** by an international accredited certification body InterCert USA.
- Earlier in 2005, ONGC was the first organization in India that adopted the Integrity Pact (IP) by Transparency International.

#### **7. PM Modi conferred with France's highest award Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour**

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi has become the first Indian Prime Minister to have been conferred with the Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour, France's highest civilian and military honour, by French President Emmanuel Macro.**
- The Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour given by France is another in a series of top international award bestowed by various countries on PM Modi.
- Mr. Modi received the honour at the Elysee Palace here on July 13, 2023, and joined the ranks of other prominent world leaders such as the former president of South Africa Nelson Mandela, King Charles - the then Prince of Wales, former Chancellor of Germany Angela Merkel, Boutros Boutros-Ghali, former Secretary General of the United Nations, among others.

#### **8. Adani Transmission Wins Golden Peacock Environment Management Award 2023**

- **Adani Transmission Limited (ATL), the largest private sector transmission and distribution company listed in India** and part of the globally diversified Adani portfolio, has won the 'Golden Peacock Environment Management Award (GPEMA)' in the 'Power Transmission' sector from 'Institute of Directors (IOD)'.
- The 'Golden Peacock Environment Management Award' acknowledges ATL's steadfast dedication to minimizing its ecological footprint through programmes like zero waste to land fill, single-use plastic free, water-positive operations, promotion of renewable energy integration, and implementation of best-in-class environmental management strategies going beyond compliances.

#### **9. SJVN bags 1st Prize in Swachhta Pakhwada Awards 2023 by MoP**

- **SJVN Limited has been conferred with 1st Prize in Swachhta Pakhwada Awards 2023 by Ministry of Power.** SJVN's Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) NL Sharma received the prize from Ministry of Power's Secretary Pankaj Agarwal in a ceremony at New Delhi.
- The PSUs are evaluated on number of parameters for the initiatives undertaken to create awareness for Swachh Bharat Abhiyan. Last year also, SJVN has won the first prize.

#### **10. NTPC Wins ET HR World Future Skills Awards 2023**

- **NTPC has received the prestigious Economic Times (ET) HR World Future Skills Awards 2023 for 'Best use of AI/AR/VR in Learning and Upskilling' and 'Best Advance in Creating an**

### Extended Enterprise Learning Programme'.

- These awards bear testimony to NTPC's focus on the adoption of cutting-edge technologies such as virtual reality (VR) in Learning and Development (L&D).

### 11. IIT professor wins global recognition with Eni Award for clean water innovations

- **Professor Thalappil Pradeep from IIT Madras has been honored with the esteemed Eni Award for his groundbreaking research in energy and environment.** The award recognises his innovative work in providing affordable clean water using advanced nanoscale materials.
- The Eni Award is highly regarded globally, with previous recipients including renowned Nobel laureates and distinguished scientists. The selection committee, which includes Nobel laureates, ensures that only exceptional individuals receive this prestigious recognition.
- **Established in 2007, the award aims to foster radical breakthroughs in energy efficiency, renewables, decarbonisation, and environmental preservation.**

### 12. JKRLM wins SKOCH Gold Award for Marketing Avenues to SHGs

- **Jammu and Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKRLM) has bagged the SKOCH Award under the theme "State of Governance India 2047" in Gold category** for its outstanding efforts in creating marketing avenues for Self-Help Groups in the UT of Jammu & Kashmir. SKOCH award marks a significant milestone for JKRLM, being the first award received since the inception of the scheme.

### 13. Italy Honours Indian Army contribution in 2nd World War

- Remembering the supreme sacrifices of the Indian Soldiers, the Commune of Montone (in Italy) and **Italian Military historians have unveiled 'V.C Yeshwant Ghadge Sundial Memorial' at Montone (Perugia, Italy) as a tribute to the Indian troops who fought during Italian Campaign during the Second World War.**
- Indian Soldiers played a central role in the Italian Campaign during the Second World War, wherein more than 50,000 Indian Army soldiers from the 4th, 8th and 10th Divisions took part. Out of the 20 Victoria Crosses awarded in Italy, six were won by Indian soldiers.
- Indian soldiers suffered 23,722 casualties, of which 5,782 Indian soldiers made the supreme sacrifice, and are commemorated in the 40 Commonwealth War Graves spread all over Italy.
- To make this memorial a participative endeavour, an Indian Army plaque has been placed at the memorial commemorating the gallant sacrifice of all ranks of the Indian Army who fought in the Italian Campaign.

### 14. Union Minister Shri Anurag Thakur confers 8th and 9th Community Radio Awards;

### 15. Union Minister Shri Anurag Thakur confers 8th and 9th Community Radio Awards; inaugurates Regional Community Radio Sammelan

- The Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting conferred the 8th and 9th National Community Radio Awards, inaugurated at the Indian Institute of Mass Communication in New Delhi.

- The award-winning Community Radio Stations are situated in the States of Haryana, Bihar, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, and Tripura.
- The Government of India instituted the National Community Radio Awards to promote better programming in Community Radio and encourage Community Radio Stations to generate programmes in the interest of local community.

#### 16. President of India confers National Geoscience Awards- 2022

- **The President of India Smt. Droupadi Murmu has conferred the prestigious National Geoscience Awards- 2022 (NGA) of the Ministry of Mines** in a glittering function organized at Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre. The National Geoscience Award for Lifetime Achievement was conferred upon Dr. Om Narain Bhargava.
- Instituted in 1966, the National Geoscience Awards (NGA) is a symbol of recognition and appreciation for exceptional individuals and organizations that have demonstrated excellence, dedication and innovation in the realm of Geosciences.
- The awards are presented in the field of Mineral Discovery and Exploration, Basic Geosciences, Applied Geosciences and Mining, Mineral Beneficiation and Sustainable Mineral Development.

#### 17. Shankari Chandran, novelist of Sri Lankan descent, wins Australia's Miles Franklin Literary Award

- **Shankari Chandran won the 2023 Miles Franklin Literary Award for her novel Chai Time at Cinnamon Gardens.**

- The novel is set in the Cinnamon Gardens Nursing Home in the suburb of Westgrove, Sydney ' populated with residents with colourful histories.

#### 18. Ratan Tata to get Maharashtra govt's first 'Udyog Ratna' award

- The **Maharashtra government has decided to confer the first 'Udyog Ratna' award on veteran industrialist and chairman emeritus of Tata Sons, Ratan Tata**, state Industries minister Uday Samant has said. Awards for young entrepreneur, woman entrepreneur and Marathi entrepreneur will also be given, Samant announced in the state legislative council.

#### 19. Byculla railway station gets UNESCO's Asia Pacific Cultural Heritage award

- **The historic Byculla Railway Station in Mumbai has been awarded the prestigious UNESCO Asia Pacific Cultural Heritage award in recognition of its extensive restoration efforts.**
- The award, declared in November of the previous year, celebrates the station's significant contribution to cultural heritage conservation.
- Byculla Railway Station, standing for **169 years**, holds the distinction of being one of India's oldest operational railway stations, reflecting the country's rich railway heritage.
- Byculla Railway Station is designated as a Grade-I heritage structure, underscoring its architectural and historical significance, emphasizing the need for preservation.
- The **UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation, established in 2000**, aim to acknowledge exceptional efforts in conserving or

restoring heritage structures, places, and properties in the region, recognizing both private sector entities and public-private collaborations.

## 20. PM Narendra Modi to be conferred Lokmanya Tilak National Award in Pune

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be on a day's Pune tour. During this, the **Prime**

**Minister will be honored with the Lokmanya Tilak National Award.**

- PM will be the **41st recipient of this award.**
- The award was instituted in 1983 by the Tilak Smarak Mandir Trust. This award is given every year on 1st August, the death anniversary of Lokmanya Tilak.



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## Ranks & Reports

### 1. Union Minister of State for Panchayati Raj Shri Kapil Moreshwar Patil releases Report on Panchayat Development Index

- Panchayat Development Index (PDI) Report has come with **144 local targets, 577 local indicators and 688 data points on 9 themes of LSDGs.**
- PDI will act as a baseline for Panchayat for setting local targets & local action points with measurable indicators in preparation of **thematic Gram Panchayat Development Plan.**
- The PDI ranks panchayats on the basis of scores, and categorises them into **four grades.**
- Those with score under 40 per cent fall in grade D, 40-60 per cent in grade C, 60-75 per cent in grade B, 75 to 90 per cent in category A, while those scoring above 90 per cent will be categorised as A+.
- The pilot study showed 70 per cent of the panchayats in the four districts of Maharashtra are in category C, while 27 per cent are in category B. Around 53 per cent of the gram panchayats in the state fall in grade D when it comes to water sufficiency, and 36 per cent fall in grade D.

### 2. Tamil Nadu emerges as India's top electronics exporter, triples exports to \$5.37 bn in FY23

- **Tamil Nadu's electronics exports nearly tripled in one year to \$5.37 billion in FY23 from \$1.86 billion in the previous year.**
- From the fourth spot in FY22, Tamil Nadu moved to the top spot in FY23.
- **Uttar Pradesh was second with \$4.90 billion and Karnataka third with \$4.52 billion.**

- Tamil Nadu is now home to over 15 leading electronics manufacturers, including Foxconn.

### 3. New Mangalore Port sets record with largest container parcel vessel

- **The New Mangalore Port (NMP) achieved a milestone of vessel call by the highest ever parcel size of 2,689 TEUs (Twenty Equipment Units).**
- The record was set with the arrival of MSC Makoto II, a Panama-flagged container vessel, at NMP Berth No.14 today, carrying 1,210 TEUs of import containers and 1,479 TEUs of export containers.
- Operations had commenced on Berth No.14 at the port, mechanised under PPP model with JSW Mangalore Container Terminal Private Limited, in March 2022. The latest achievement highlights the port's strategic vision and flawless execution, demonstrating its efficiency, capacity, and commitment to enhancing trade operations.

### 4. S&P says Indian companies in 'good credit shape'

- S&P Global Ratings said that Indian companies were in "good credit shape" due to strong growth in the country's economy and accommodative corporate balance sheets.
- **Aggregate EBITDA in fiscal 2024 will be about 50% higher than five years back for rated corporate and infrastructure entities in India.**
- India's economic growth is the highest in the region at 6.0% for 2023 and 6.9% in 2024, per S&P forecasts.

## 5. India Doubled Share Of Global Commercial Services Exports Between 2005 And 2022

- **India has doubled its share of global commercial services exports to 4.4% in 2022 from 2% in 2005, according to a World Bank and World Trade Organization report.**
- "China and India doubled their share of global commercial services exports from 2005 to 2022, from 3.0% to 5.4%, and from 2% to 4.4%, respectively," it said.
- The report titled 'Trade in services for development' also said that in India, South Africa and Turkey, jobs directly linked to cross-border services exports account for more than 10% of total services sector jobs.
- It added that India and the Philippines will need to upskill and reskill their workforces and invest in the development of their domestic services sectors—particularly in terms of R&D to keep pace with rapidly changing technology and still remain competitive and progress up the value chain.

## 6. Education Ministry releases Performance Grading Index for Districts combined report for 2020-21 & 2021-22

- **Education Ministry on 9th July 2023 released the PGI-D combined report for 2020-21 and 2021-22.**
- The PGI-D structure comprises of total weight age of 600 points across 83 indicators, which are grouped under **6 categories**. These categories are further divided into 12 domains.
- PGI-D grades the **districts into ten grades**.
- **Highest achievable Grade is Daksh & lowest is Akanshi-3. PGI-D report for**

**2018-19 and 2019-20 has been released before this.**

- The Indian Education System is one of the largest in the world with about 14.9 lakh schools, 95 lakh teachers, and nearly 26.5 crore students from varied socio-economic backgrounds.
- DoSE&L devised Performance Grading Index (PGI) for States and released report for the reference years 2017-18 to 2020-21.
- **Based on the success of State PGI, 83-indicator based PGI for District (PGI-D) has been designed to grade the performance of all districts in school education.**
- The data is filled by districts through online portal. The PGI-D is expected to help the state education departments to identify gaps at the district level and improve their performance in a decentralized manner. The indicator-wise PGI score shows the areas where a district needs to improve.
- PGI-D report for 2018-19 and 2019-20 has been released so far the current one is combined report for 2020-21 & 2021-22.
- **The PGI-D structure comprises of total weight age of 600 points across 83 indicators, which are grouped under 6 categories viz., Outcomes, Effective Classroom Transaction, Infrastructure Facilities & Student's Entitlements, School Safety & Child Protection, Digital Learning and Governance Process.**
- **These categories are further divided into 12 domains, viz., Learning Outcomes and Quality (LO), Access Outcomes (AO), Teacher Availability and Professional Development Outcomes (TAPDO), Learning Management (LM), Learning Enrichment Activities (LEA), Infrastructure, Facilities, Student Entitlements (IF&SE), School Safety and**

Child Protection (SS&CP), Digital Learning (DL), Funds convergence and utilization (FCV), Enhancing CRCs Performance (CRCP), Attendance Monitoring Systems (AMS) and School Leadership Development (SLD).

- **PGI-D grades the districts into ten grades** viz., Highest achievable Grade is Daksh, which is for Districts scoring more than 90% of the total points in that category or overall.
- The lowest grade in PGI-D is called Akanshi-3 which is for scores upto 10% of the total points. Ultimate objective of PGI-D is to help the Districts to priorities areas for intervention in school education and thus improve to reach the highest grade.

#### 7. India to surpass US to become world's 2nd largest economy by 2075: Goldman Sachs

- **Goldman Sachs said India, the fifth-largest economy, will become the second largest economy in the world by 2075** surpassing not only Japan and Germany but also the United States.
- According to the investment bank report the innovation and technology, higher capital investment and rising worker productivity to increase drastically due to the burgeoning population.
- Currently India is the world's fifth-largest economy, behind Germany, Japan, China and US

#### 8. India registers remarkable reduction in poverty; 415 million people out of poverty level in just 15 years: UN

- **A total of 415 million people moved out of poverty in India within just 15 years from 2005/2006 to 2019/2021, the UN said**

- It said that 25 countries, including India, successfully halved their global MPI values within 15 years, showing that rapid progress is attainable. These countries include Cambodia, China, Congo, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Morocco, Serbia, and Vietnam.
- The latest update of the global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) was released by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) at the University of Oxford.

#### 9. 21% unorganised workers exit PM pension scheme

- The government's pension scheme for unorganised workers, **Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-dhan (PM-SYM)**, saw the exit of about 21% subscribers in less than six months.
- The total number of subscribers under the scheme fell to 4.43 million on July 11, down 1.19 million from an all-time high of 5.62 million on January 31, as per government data.

#### 10. Sikkim tops northeast, UP among bigger states in grievance redressal

- **Sikkim has topped the northeastern states in addressing public complaints, followed by Assam and Arunachal Pradesh.** The ranking was made in the Centralised Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS) monthly report, released by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) under the Personnel Ministry, for states for June 2023.
- **Lakshadweep has topped the ranking among the Union Territories** with a score of 70.41 per cent, followed by the

Andaman & Nicobar Islands with a score of 64.55 per cent, and Ladakh with a score of 55.25 per cent, said the statement issued by the Personnel Ministry.

- **Uttar Pradesh topped the ranking among states** with more than 17,500 grievances with a score of 63.90 per cent, followed by Jharkhand with 48.95 per cent and Madhya Pradesh with 43.53 per cent.
- **The DARPG initiated the process of rankings states/UTs from May 2023 onwards on the basis of their performance on the CPGRAMS portal.**

#### 11. 13.5 crore Indians escape Multidimensional Poverty in 5 years.

- **A record 13.5 crore people moved out of multidimensional poverty between 2015-16 and 2019-21 as per NITI Aayog's Report 'National Multidimensional Poverty Index: A Progress Review 2023'.**
- National MPI measures simultaneous deprivations across the three equally weighted dimensions of health, education, and standard of living that are represented by 12 SDG-aligned indicators. Uttar Pradesh registered the largest decline in number of poor with 3.43 crore people.
- According to the Report, **India has registered a significant decline of 9.89 percentage points in number of India's multidimensionally poor from 24.85% in 2015-16 to 14.96% in 2019-2021.**
- The rural areas witnessed the fastest decline in poverty from 32.59% to 19.28%. During the same period, the urban areas saw a reduction in poverty from 8.65% to 5.27%.
- **Uttar Pradesh registered the largest decline in number of poor with 3.43**

crore people escaping multidimensional poverty.

- Providing multidimensional poverty estimates for the 36 States and Union Territories and 707 Administrative Districts, the Report states that the fastest reduction in the proportion of multidimensional poor was observed in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, and Rajasthan.

#### 12. IEA launches Oil 2023 (Analysis & forecast to 2028) medium-term market report.

- The International Energy Agency (IEA) in collaboration with Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell (PPAC) under the aegis of MoP&NG launched the Oil 2023 medium-term market report, titled: **IEA Oil 2023 ' Supply and demand dynamics to 2028**, in Delhi at an event that saw participation from the captains from the Indian oil and gas industry.
- The launch report of IEA finds that growth of global oil demand is set to slow down, almost coming to a halt by 2028.
- This is due to hastened shift towards cleaner energy technologies for energy security concerns.
- Despite robust demand from the petchem and aviation, annual demand growth is expected to decline from 2.4 mb/d in 2023 to just 0.4 mb/d in 2028, putting a peak in demand in sight.
- In particular, the use of oil for transport is set to decline after 2026 as the expansion of electric vehicles, the growth of biofuels and improving fuel economy reduce consumption. However, some economies, notably China and India, will continue to register growth throughout the forecast.



### 13. The Paths to Equality: Twin Indices on Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality

- Only an abysmal 1 per cent of women across the world live in countries that have managed to achieve both high women empowerment and gender parity, according to a new report by the United Nations.
- The bodies collated data from 114 countries and analysed them based on the twin indices of Women's Empowerment Index (WEI) and the Global Gender Parity Index (GGPI).
- Leadership roles and decision-making still mostly lie with men and are unavailable to women, the report released July 18, 2023 at the Women Deliver Conference being held in Kigali, Rwanda noted.
- The first-of-its-kind report that presents a comprehensive analysis of the progress made in human development of women and girls was jointly created by two UN agencies – UN Women and UN Development Programme.
- None of the 114 countries analysed achieved full women's empowerment or complete gender parity, they found.
- More than 90 per cent of the global population of women live in countries with low or middle women's empowerment and low or middle performance in achieving gender parity, the authors wrote in the report.

### 14. HDFC Bank overtakes SBI in CRISIL's corporate banking ranking for 2023

- India's largest private lender HDFC Bank has overtaken State Bank of India (SBI) to earn top spot on the list of 2023 CRISIL's Greenwich market share Leaders in Large Corporate Banking. For middle market corporates, HDFC Bank

again topped the list of 2023 Leaders among local banks, and joined ICICI Bank as the year's joint Greenwich Quality Leaders.

### 15. India likely to get the 3rd largest economy tag in 2027: SBI report

- India is likely to get the 3rd largest economy tag in 2027 (2027-28) if it maintains the current rate of growth, and in the process, will surpass both Japan and Germany, said SBI Research in its 'Ecowrap' report.
- Earlier, SBI Research had expected India to become the third-largest economy in the world by 2029.
- India is currently ranked third, a movement of seven places upwards of what it was in 2014.
- Interestingly, the incremental increase by India between 2022-2027, is expected to be more than the current size of Australia's economy at USD 1.8 trillion, the report said.
- India is likely to add USD 0.75 trillion in every two years, implying that India is all set to touch USD 20 trillion by 2047, at least on current numbers, the report said, adding that India's global share in GDP will cross 4 per cent by 2027.
- State-wise, SBI Research said estimates indicate that at least two Indian states, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh, will break the USD 500 billion mark in 2027 in terms of economy -- when India achieves the 3rd place in global economy.

### 16. India's tiger population estimates to 3,925 with an annual growth rate of 6.1% per annum reveals a report released

- India's tiger population is estimated to be 3,925 with an annual growth rate of

**6.1%per annum.** This was revealed in a report released by Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Ashwini Kumar on the occasion of Global Tiger Day.

- Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change said that now the further analysis of data done by the Wildlife Institute of India, from both camera-trapped and non-camera-trapped tiger presence areas, suggested that **the upper limit of the tiger population is estimated to be 3,925 and the average number is 3,682 tigers,**

**reflecting a commendable annual growth rate of 6.1 percent per annum**

- India currently harbors almost 75 percent of the world's wild tiger population.** The largest population of tigers is found to be in Madhya Pradesh with 785 in numbers followed by 563 in Karnataka, 560 in Uttarakhand, and 444 tigers in Maharashtra.
- As per the report, the tiger abundance within the Tiger Reserves is the highest of 260 tigers in Corbett followed by 150 in Bandipur and 141 tigers in Nagarhole.**



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## Important Days

### 1. National Doctors Day | July 1

- **Government of India designated July 1st as National Doctor's Day in 1991** to commemorate the birth and death anniversary of Dr Bidhan Chandra Roy, one of India's most renowned physicians and the second Chief Minister of West Bengal.
- Roy was awarded the Bharat Ratna in 1961.
- **This year's theme for National Doctor's Day is 'Celebrating Resilience and Healing Hands'.**

### 2. National Chartered Accountants Day or CA Day | July 1

- **CA Day is observed every year on July 1 to mark the establishment of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) in 1949 by an Act of Parliament in India.**
- ICAI is the second-largest professional body of Chartered Accountants in the world.
- To commemorate the start of its 75th-year celebrations, **ICAI unveiled a new logo with the tagline: '75 Years of Trust'.**
- ICAI functions under the administrative control of the ministry of corporate affairs.

### 3. State Bank of India (SBI) Celebrates 68th Foundation Day

- **SBI Foundation Day is celebrated on July 1 every year** to commemorate the day of the establishment of India's oldest commercial bank and SBI celebrates its 68th Foundation Day this year.
- The origin of the State Bank of India goes back to the first decade of the

nineteenth century with the establishment of the Bank of Calcutta in Calcutta on 2 June 180

- Three years later the bank received its charter and was re-designed as the Bank of Bengal (2 January 1809). A unique institution, it was the first joint-stock bank of British India sponsored by the Government of Bengal. The Bank of Bombay (15 April 1840) and the Bank of Madras (1 July 1843) followed the Bank of Bengal. These three banks remained at the apex of modern banking in India till their amalgamation as the Imperial Bank of India on 27 January 1921.
- State Bank of India Chairperson: **Dinesh Kumar Khara**
- State Bank of India Founded: **1 July 1955**
- State Bank of India Managing Directors: **Shri C.S. Setty; Shri Ashwini Kumar Tewari; Shri Alok Kumar Choudhary.**
- State Bank of India Headquarters: **Mumbai.**

### 4. National Fish Farmers Day | July 10

- **National Fish Farmer's Day is celebrated on 10th July** every year to recognize and appreciate the invaluable contributions of fish farmers, aquaculture industry professionals and other stakeholders.
- NFFD honours Professor Dr. Hiralal Chaudhury and his colleague Dr. K. H. Alikunhi who had guided the induced breeding and reproduction in Indian Major Carps in 1957 on this day.
- NFFD is celebrated to honour and commemorate the contribution of Professor Dr. Hiralal Chaudhury and his colleague Dr. K. H. Alikunhi, in Indian fisheries sector who had guided the induced breeding and reproduction in



Indian Major Carps by Hypophysation technique, on this day 1957, which eventually lead to a revolution in Inland Aquaculture.

### 5. World Population Day | 11 JULY

- **World Population Day is observed on July 11 each year.**
- World Population Day serves as a reminder to work towards addressing these issues and striving for a better future for everyone on the planet.
- The annual observance aims to raise awareness and educate people about the global population and its associated challenges. The United Nations established World Population Day in 1989
- **The United Nations has designated the theme for this year's event as "Unleashing the power of gender Equality: Uplifting the voices of women and girls to unlock our world's infinite possibilities."**

### 6. All-India Institute of Ayurveda organises a three days seminar on the occasion of Sushruta Jayanti

- The All-India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) is organizing a three-day seminar from 13-15th July 2023 on the auspicious occasion of Sushruta Jayanti-2023. **Sushruta Jayanti is celebrated every year on 15th July to honour the legendary Sushruta, hailed as the father of surgery.**
- During the seminar live surgical demonstration was performed on 13 and 14th July. On the first day of the session, nine live surgical demonstrations were performed including Laparoscopic surgery and General surgical procedures. This allowed participants to witness and

learn from live surgical demonstrations. Additionally, a Scientific Session provided a platform for researchers and experts to share their knowledge and insights followed by a cultural programme. On the second day of the session 13 live surgeries were performed.

- The National Seminar on Shalya Tantra and Sangyahan, organized in association with AAIM (Bharatiya Sangyaharak Association, Varanasi), commenced on July 13, 2023 and will continue till July 15, 2023. The seminar aims to promote the wisdom and practices of Sushruta and facilitate insightful discussions on the advancements in the field of surgery where 180 participants registered across India.

### 7. World Emoji Day | 17 July

- **World Emoji Day, celebrated on July 17,** recognizes the influential role emojis play in digital communication.
- The date was selected due to its significance in the world of emojis as the "Calendar" emoji displayed on platforms like Apple and Google features the date July 17.

### 8. Nelson Mandela International Day | 18 July

- **Every year the Nelson Mandela International Day is celebrated on July 18 to mark the birth anniversary of the legendary South African leader.**
- The day is celebrated to highlight the legacy of the anti-apartheid revolutionary, political leader, and philanthropist, whose values continue to inspire generations and shape the world.



- **This year's theme is 'The Legacy Lives on Through You: : Climate, Food, and Solidarity.'**
- In November 2009, the UN General Assembly declared July 18 as 'Nelson Mandela International Day' in recognition of his contribution to the 'culture of peace and freedom'. The day was first observed in 2010. The UN resolution recognised his values and dedication to the service of humanity. In 2008, Mandela gave a speech where he urged the younger generation to lead the world against global social injustices and said, 'It is in your hands now.'

## 9. International Moon Day | 20 July

- **The General Assembly declared International Moon Day, a United Nations-designated international day to be observed annually on 20 July**, in its resolution 76/76 on 'International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space' in 2021. International Moon Day marks the anniversary of the first landing by humans on the Moon as part of the Apollo 11 lunar mission. **The theme for 2023 is 'Lunar Exploration Coordination & Sustainability.'**
- The United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) is the United Nations office responsible for promoting international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space.
- **Lunar Missions of India:**
- India's first moon mission, Chandrayaan-1, was launched in October 2008
- Chandrayaan-2, the second mission, was launched on July 22, 2019, entering lunar orbit on August 20, 2019.
- Chandrayaan 3 was launched on 12th July 2023.

## 10. World Chess Day | 20 July

- **International Chess Day is celebrated on July 20 every year** with the aim to raise awareness about the game of chess and appreciate chess players across the world. Chess is known as the "game of kings" and is popular for its intellectual depth. UNESCO established International Chess Day in 1996 with the aim to honor the founding of the International Chess Federation, FIDE.
- The headquarters of FIDE were established in Paris, France, and are now located in Switzerland.

## 11. PM Modi pays tributes to Bal Gangadhar Tilak and Chandra Shekhar Azad on their birth anniversary

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid his tributes to legendary freedom fighters Bal Gangadhar Tilak and Chandra Shekhar Azad on their birth anniversaries.
- Saluting Indian nationalist and freedom fighter Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Prime Minister Modi said in a tweet, Lokmanya Tilak shook the foundation of British rule by demanding complete Independence.
- While remembering revolutionary freedom fighter Chand Shekhar Azad fondly, the Prime Minister called him a gallant son of 'Bharat Mata' and a remarkable man. In a tweet, Mr Modi said the story of his sacrifice to protect the motherland will always inspire the countrymen. He was also a futuristic thinker, and dreamt of a strong and just India, said the Prime Minister.

## 12. National Broadcasting Day | 23 July

- On this day in 1927, the first ever radio broadcast in the country went on air from the Bombay Station under a private

company, the Indian Broadcasting Company.

- On the 8th of June, 1936, the Indian State Broadcasting Service became All India Radio (AIR). The Central News Organisation (CNO) came into existence in August 1937. The Vividh Bharati Service was launched in 1957.

### 13. World Drowning Prevention Day | 25 July

- **World Drowning Prevention Day, declared in April 2021 by General Assembly resolution is held annually on 25 July.** This global advocacy event serves as an opportunity to highlight the tragic and profound impact of drowning on families and communities and to offer life-saving solutions to prevent it.
- In 2023, the 76th World Health Assembly adopted its first ever resolution on drowning prevention.
- Drowning has caused over 2.5 million deaths in the last decade.
- The overwhelming majority of these deaths (90%) happen in low- and middle-income countries.
- Globally, the highest drowning rates occur among children aged 1–4 years, followed by children aged 5–9 years.

### 14. Kargil Vijay Diwas | 26 July

- **Kargil Vijay Divas or Kargil Diwas is observed every year on 26 July to honour India's victory over Pakistan in the Kargil War in 1999.**
- As part of "Operation Vijay," the Indian Army drove out intruders from Pakistan during this conflict and reclaimed Tiger Hill and other outposts. At Kargil in Ladakh, the conflict lasted for more than 60 days.

### 15. World Hepatitis Day [WHO] | 28 July

- **World Hepatitis Day is observed each year on 28 July** to raise awareness of viral hepatitis, which causes inflammation of the liver that leads to severe disease and liver care.
- Hepatitis Day, initially observed on May 19, was later moved to July 28 in 2010. The World Hepatitis Alliance, established in 2007, organized the first community-driven World Hepatitis Day in 2008.
- **The theme for World Hepatitis Day 2023 is "One life, one liver."**

### 16. World Nature Conservation Day | 28 July

- World Nature Conservation Day is recognised annually on 28 July. The main purpose of celebrating this day is to create awareness among people about the importance of the natural environment and its resources.
- NGOs and educational institutions organise several events to raise awareness about the importance of the conversation of nature.

### 17. International Tiger Day | 29 July

- Global Tiger Day, commonly referred to as International Tiger Day, was first established in 2010 during the Saint Petersburg Tiger Summit by nations that are home to tigers.
- The Global Tiger Initiative, a grouping of nations, international organisations, and conservation organisations committed to tiger conservation, organised the summit, which took place in St. Petersburg.
- The government of India released a tiger census report containing some remarkable findings. The report revealed that the tiger population in India had reached **3,167**, showing a notable

increase of about 6.7 per cent compared to the last census in 2018, which had reported 2,967 tigers.

- There are 13 Tiger Range Countries (TRC): **India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Lao PDR (People's Democratic Republic), Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Russia, Thailand, Viet Nam, China and Indonesia.**

### 18. International Day of Friendship | 30 July

- The International Day of Friendship was proclaimed in 2011 by the UN General Assembly with the idea that friendship between peoples, countries, cultures and individuals can inspire peace efforts and build bridges between communities.
- The International Day of Friendship is an initiative that follows on the proposal made by UNESCO defining the Culture of Peace.
- **'Sharing the human spirit through friendship' is the theme of World Friendship Day.**

### 19. World Day against Trafficking in Persons | 30 July

- **World Day Against Trafficking in Persons is observed on 30 July** was adopted at a high-level meeting of the UNGA. The resolution reaffirms the commitment of the United Nations to end trafficking in persons, especially women and children, and states that trafficking in persons is a serious threat to "human dignity and physical integrity, human rights and development"
- **2023 Theme: Reach every victim of trafficking, leave no one behind**

### 20. World Ranger Day | 31 May

- **World Ranger Day is celebrated worldwide on July 31st** to commemorate Rangers killed or injured in the line of duty and to celebrate the work Rangers do to protect the planet's natural treasures and cultural heritage.
- **The 2023 World Ranger Day theme is '30 by 30'** based on the 2022 United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (COP15). It is an International Ranger Federation initiative promoted together with The Thin Green




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## Summit & Conferences

### 1. Union WCD Minister inaugurates Regional Symposium on Child Protection, Safety and Child Welfare

- The **Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD), Government of India** organized a one day **Regional Symposium on Child Protection, Safety and Child Welfare** today at **Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi**.
- There were nine participating states of Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and UTs of Delhi, Chandigarh, Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.
- The Symposium was attended by more than 2000 representatives from Child Welfare Committees (CWCs), Juvenile Justice Boards (JJBs), Members of Village Child Protection Committee (VCPC) and Anganwadi Workers.
- The programme is the start of a series of regional symposiums to be held across the country to raise awareness and outreach about child protection, safety and welfare issues.

### 2. Mumbai to host the G20 Research and Innovation Initiative Gathering (RIIG) Summit and Research Ministers' Meeting from July 4-5

- **Mumbai will host the G-20 Research and Innovation Initiative Gathering (RIIG) Summit and Research Ministers' Meeting** during 4th to 5th July, 2023.
- A total of about 107 foreign delegates including Research Ministers from 29 G-20 members, invited guest countries and international organizations are likely to participate in the meeting.
- India has taken forward the Research and Innovation Initiative (RIIG) during its Presidency in 2023 under the theme

“Research and Innovation for Equitable Society”. A total of 5 RIIG meetings were hosted by India this year under the theme “Research and Innovation for Equitable Society”.

- The RIIG Inception Meeting was held at Kolkata, **followed by four thematic conferences in:** i) Ranchi on the theme: ‘Materials for Sustainable Energy’; ii) Dibrugarh on the theme: ‘Circular Bioeconomy’, iii) Dharamshala, on the theme: ‘Eco-Innovations for Energy Transition’; and in iv) Diu, on the theme ‘Sustainable Blue-economy’.

### 3. India to host SCO summit in virtual format

- **India is set to host the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit in the virtual format on July 4.**
- The summit will be chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The three main issues that are anticipated to be on the agenda of the summit are terrorism, regional security and prosperity.
- The acronym "SECURE," coined by Prime Minister Modi at the 2018 SCO Qingdao Summit, inspired India's SCO chairship theme. Its initials stand for S: Security, E: Economic development, C: Connectivity, U: Unity, R: Respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, E: Environmental protection.

### 4. Startup20 Shikhar summit under India's G20 presidency begins in Gurugram, Haryana

- **The Startup20 Shikhar summit under India's G20 presidency began in Gurugram, Haryana.**
- The Startup20 Engagement Group is hosting the two day Startup20 Shikhar summit. During the summit, startup 20 communique was released, which urged



G20 leaders to raise the joint investment in the global startup ecosystem to one trillion US dollar by 2030.

#### **5. Power and New & Renewable Energy Minister to inaugurate International Conference on Green Hydrogen (ICGH 2023) in New Delhi**

- The Government of India is organizing an International Conference on Green Hydrogen (ICGH-2023) during 5th ' 7th July 2023 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, to bring together the global scientific, policy, academic and industrial leaders to discuss recent advances and emerging technologies in the entire green hydrogen value chain.
- The conference will enable the sector stakeholders to explore the evolving green hydrogen landscape and innovation-driven solutions in the sector, thus strengthening the sustainability ecosystem of the sector.
- The conference is being organized by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, in partnership with the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research and Office of Principal Scientific Advisor to Government of India in collaboration with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).

#### **7. Gov. of India and Govt. of Kenya will be co-hosting 'India-Africa International Millet Conference' in Kenya on August 2023**

- To celebrate the International Year of Millets, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India and the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development, Government of Kenya will be co-hosting the 'India-Africa International Millet Conference' in Kenya

with support of International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT).

- Through the international conference, the Government of India and Kenya aim to raise public awareness about millets as the 'world's emerging smart food'.

#### **8. Third G20 Culture Working Group meeting in Hampi, Karnataka**

- The 3rd G20 Culture Group (CWG) meeting began in Hampi, Karnataka on July 9.
- An exhibition titled 'Woven Narratives' is being organized as part of the 3rd G20 CWG Meeting. The exhibition's theme focuses on the third priority outlined by the CWG - 'Promotion of Cultural and Creative Industries and Creative Economy'.
- The first two CWG meetings were held at Khajuraho and Bhubaneswar.
- As part of the meeting, four expert-driven Global Thematic Webinars were organized. According to Secretary, Ministry of Culture, Govind Mohan, the 3rd CWG meeting will try to achieve a consensus on the recommendations and best practices shared pertaining to the 4 priorities of the CWG.
- The 4 priority areas are: Protection and Restitution of Cultural Property; Harnessing Living Heritage for a Sustainable Future; Promotion of Cultural and Creative Industries and Creative Economy; and Leveraging Digital Technologies for the Protection and Promotion of Culture.
- Secretary Mohan informed that around 150 Artifacts are expected to return from US in the next three to six months. He said that the UNESCO convention of 1970 enjoins on the signatory parties to voluntarily return those artifacts

belonging to other countries which have been taken there because of colonial plunder, or because of post colonial misappropriation like smuggling, theft etc.

- An exhibition titled “Woven Narratives” is being organized as part of the 3rd G20 CWG Meeting at Hampi. The exhibition’s theme focuses on the third priority outlined by the CWG - ‘Promotion of Cultural and Creative Industries and Creative Economy’.

### **9. 3rd Trade and Investment Working Group Meeting begins in Kevadia, Gujarat**

- After the successful completion of two TIWG meetings, the 3rd meeting will take place from July 10th'12th in Kevadia, Gujarat.
- The three-day meeting will be attended by more than 75 delegates from G20 member countries, invitee countries, regional groupings and international organisations.

### **10. India-ASEAN conference on traditional medicines on 20th July 2023**

- India is going to hold an ASEAN countries conference on traditional medicines on July 20, 2023.
- Ten ASEAN countries including Cambodia, Vietnam will be participating in the conference.
- The Ministry of Ayush with support from the Ministry of External Affairs, Indian Mission to ASEAN and the ASEAN Secretariat is gearing up to host the conference.

### **11. Union Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya to inaugurate Swasthya Chintan Shivir at Dehradun, Uttarakhand**

- **Union Health Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya will inaugurate the Swasthya Chintan Shivir at Dehradun in Uttarakhand.**
- The two-day Chintan Shivir will be organised by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare along with the Central Council of Health and Family Welfare.
- The two-day event will begin with the tabling of the Action Taken Report of the 14th Convention of the Central Council of Health and Family Welfare. It will be followed by sessions focusing on various facets of healthcare in the country.

### **12. G20 Conference on Crime and Security in the Age of NFTs, AI & Metaverse held in Gurugram successfully concludes**

- The G20 Conference on Crime and Security in the Age of NFTs, AI and Metaverse held in Gurugram successfully concluded with the release of the Chair's Summary. The conference aimed to address the challenges posed by cybercrime and security in the era of new technologies like NFTs, AI, and Metaverse.
- During the conference, delegates from G20 countries, invitee countries, international organizations, and other participants discussed various subjects including Internet Governance - Digital Public Infrastructure, Extended Reality, Metaverse, Artificial Intelligence, the Dark Net and Cryptocurrency Challenges, and Criminal Use of Information and Communication Technologies.

### **13. Prime Minister's address at the CEO Forum in Paris**

- **Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and H.E. Mr. Emmanuel Macron, President of the Republic of France, jointly**

**addressed a group of leading Indian and French CEOs at Quai d'Orsay in Paris on 14 July 2023.**

- The Forum consisted of CEOs from diverse sectors including aviation, manufacturing, defence, technology, energy, among others.
- Prime Minister acknowledged the role played by these industry leaders in strengthening bilateral relations and promoting economic cooperation between India and France.
- He highlighted India's progress in renewables, startups, pharma, IT, digital payments and infrastructure and the various initiatives undertaken to foster business.

#### **14. 23rd PM-STIAC meeting discussed high performance Biomanufacturing, ETG, and NRF**

- **Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA) to the Government of India, Professor Ajay Kumar Sood convened the 23rd Prime Minister Science, Technology & Innovation Advisory Council (PM-STIAC) meeting on 14 July 2023) at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi.**
- The meeting brought together PM-STIAC members, key government officials, and experts to discuss the contemporary priorities of science and technology ecosystem in India including high performance Biomanufacturing, the role of Empowered Technology Group (ETG), and the recently introduced National Research Foundation (NRF) Bill.

#### **15. Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh addresses G20 Young Entrepreneurs Alliance Summit in New Delhi**

- Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances,

Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh said successful launch of Chandrayaan-3 will boost Space StartUps and Space entrepreneurs.

- Addressing the **G20 Young Entrepreneurs Alliance Summit in New Delhi**, Dr Jitendra Singh said, after Prime Minister unlocked the Space Sector in 2020 for private participation, Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) had made history in November last year by launching successfully India's maiden private Vikram-suborbital (VKS) rocket.

#### **16. G20 Global Food Regulators Summit being held in New Delhi on 20th and 21st July**

- **The Global Food Regulators Summit 2023 is being organized in Delhi for the first time, as a G20 event.** The summit is being organized by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) under the aegis of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on 20th and 21st July, 2023 at Manekshaw Auditorium, New Delhi.
- This is the first time the summit is being held outside Rome.
- The Global Food Regulators Summit will bring focus on the crucial aspect of food safety, which needs as much attention as food security

#### **17. Ayush Ministry organizes Conference of India and ASEAN on traditional medicines in New Delhi**

- The Ministry of Ayush today organized a Conference of India and the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) on traditional medicines in New Delhi. A total of 75 delegates from India and ASEAN participated in the Conference.

### **18. PM calls on G20 nations to ensure 'affordable, inclusive clean energy transition'**

- 'The world looks up to this group to advance sustainable, just, affordable, inclusive, and clean energy transitions. While doing this, our brothers and sisters in the Global South mustn't be left behind. We must ensure low-cost finance for developing countries,' PM Modi said via a video message addressing the G20 Clean Energy Ministerial meeting, which is underway in Goa.
- **The PM further invited the members to join the 'Green Grids Initiative ' One Sun, One World, One Grid of the International Solar Alliance'.**
- Speaking at the inaugural of the G20 energy ministers' meeting, Union minister for power and renewable energy R K Singh called on developed nations to help poorer nations make the transition.

### **19. Women-led Sustainable Development through Dairy Cooperatives - W20 Janbhagidari Event**

- Shri Parshottam Rupala, who addressed virtually, emphasized the role and importance of women in the dairy sector, mentioning their contribution to value-added product manufacturing, and highlighted that 18 dairy cooperatives are currently operated by women.
- Smt. Alka Upadhyaya, Secretary of AHD, emphasized the significant contribution of women to the white revolution. 70 percent of the workforce in the dairy sector are women.

### **20. 5th Helicopter & Small Aircraft Summit to be held on July 25 in Madhya Pradesh**

- The 5th Helicopter & Small Aircraft Summit will be held on the 25th of July 2023 at Khajuraho in Madhya Pradesh.
- The event will be jointly organised by the Ministry of Civil Aviation, the Government of Madhya Pradesh, Pawan Hans Ltd., and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).

### **23. Third and final meeting of G20 Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group begins in Chennai**

- **The inaugural session of the 3rd G20 Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group, under the Indian Presidency, started in Chennai.**
- The establishment of this Working Group is a testament to the commitment of all G20 countries to finally change from reacting to disasters to proactively addressing their root causes.
- The commitments have been made to strengthen collaboration with the private sector, capital market actors, technology providers, and civil society organisations, and to better leverage their expertise.

### **24. PM Modi inaugurates Semicon India 2023 conclave in Gujarat; says, semiconductor industry has faith in India because of massive**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said that India has emerged as a powerful energy conductor for the semiconductor industry of the world on July 28. Inaugurating the **Semicon India 2023 conclave in Gandhinagar**, he urged global private players to grab the right opportunity to invest in the Indian semiconductor industry.



- The theme of the Conference is 'Catalysing India's Semiconductor Ecosystem'.
- It showcases India's semiconductor strategy and policy which envisions making India a global hub for semiconductor design, manufacturing and technology development.

**25. Think20 Summit under India's G20 Presidency to begin today in Mysuru, Karnataka**

- **Observer Research Foundation (ORF), as the Think20 Secretariat under India's G20 Presidency, will host the Think20 Summit in Mysuru till August 2.** Think20 is the G20's official engagement group that serves as an 'ideas bank' for the multilateral grouping by bringing together think tanks and high-level experts to discuss policy issues relevant to the G20.
- Observer Research Foundation is an independent global think tank based in Delhi, India.



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## Science & Technology

### 1. Chandrayaan 3 spacecraft integrated with GSLV Mark III launch vehicle

- Chandrayaan Three spacecraft has been integrated with GSLV Mark III launch vehicle at Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota spaceport
- The launch is planned between 12 and 19th of this month. The Propulsion module will carry the lander and rover configuration till 100kms lunar orbit.
- The Propulsion module will orbit the Moon as was done in Chandrayaan I and II.
- ISRO is making a second attempt to gently drop the lander on the surface of the Moon and the rover to move around the lunar surface.

### 2. IISc Researchers, Collaborators Crack Structure Of Crucial Neural Transport Protein

- Using 'Cryo-EM', a powerful microscopy technique, researchers at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) and collaborators have decoded the molecular architecture of a transporter protein controlling the movement of a key neurotransmitter.
- Neurons or nerve cells communicate by releasing chemical signals called neurotransmitters.
- Each neurotransmitter can activate specific sets of proteins called receptors that in turn either excite or inhibit neural communication.
- A balance between excitation and inhibition is vital for the neural circuitry to maintain normal structure and function. Imbalances in excitatory or inhibitory inputs can result in disorders like seizures, anxiety, and schizophrenia.

- The inhibitory neurotransmitter Gamma-aminobutyric acid or GABA balances out the excitatory inputs from glutamate, another neurotransmitter. GABA-driven signaling at the neural synapses (junctions between neurons) is modulated by GABA receptor proteins that interact with GABA released from the preceding neurons in the circuit.
- GABA transporters (GATs) are the primary molecules involved in this step – they employ sodium and chloride ions to move excess GABA back into the neurons. GATs are therefore vital molecules that orchestrate GABA signaling and function. They are, therefore, an important target for the treatment of conditions like seizures.

### 3. Lupin Gets U.S. FDA Nod For Cyanocobalamin Nasal Spray

- **Pharma major Lupin Ltd. has received approval from the U.S. health regulator for its generic version of Cyanocobalamin nasal spray.**
- The approval granted by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration is for the abbreviated new drug application for Cyanocobalamin nasal spray of strength 500 mcg/spray (one spray per device).
- Cyanocobalamin nasal spray is used to maintain normal vitamin B12 blood levels in patients with pernicious anaemia. Cyanocobalamin nasal spray had estimated annual sales of \$69 million in the U.S., Lupin said, citing IQVIA MAT March 2023 data.

#### 4. Chinese rocket becomes 1st methane-fueled launcher to reach orbit

- **A private Chinese company has launched the world's first methane-liquid oxygen space rocket into orbit.**
- The Zhuque-2 carrier rocket blasted from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in northwest China. The first launch attempt of the Zhuqu-2 in December had failed.

#### 5. MoU signed between OneWeb India and Gujarat Government to set up India's first private satellite network

- **The Gujarat government has signed an MoU with London-based company OneWeb and the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India to set up two 'Satellite Network Portal Sites'.**
- One of the sites is to be launched in **Jotana, Mehsana, Gujarat**. The project is intended to provide high-speed, affordable, and secure satellite internet access across the country.
- This is a prestigious and of its kind project for providing internet in an affordable manner to villages, district panchayats, local administrative bodies, government departments, among other, across India under the Digital India initiative.
- Under this, two Satellite Network Portals (SMPs) are being set up in India, one in Gujarat and the other in Tamil Nadu through OneWeb.

#### 6. CERTIn cautions against ransomware 'Akira' attack

- **An Internet ransomware virus 'Akira' that steals vital personal information and encrypts data leading to extortion of money from people has been**

**reported in cyberspace**, the country's federal cybersecurity agency said in the latest advisory. This computer malware is targeting Windows and Linuxbased systems.

- 'Akira is reportedly active in cyberspace.
- This group first steals the information, then encrypts data on their systems and conducts double extortion to force the victim into paying.

#### 7. Jupiter-3, world's largest private satellite, set for launch by SpaceX's Falcon Heavy

- **SpaceX Falcon Heavy rocket will launch Maxar Technologies' largest ever satellite, the Jupiter 3.** The communications platform will join others in the Hughes Jupiter satellite fleet already in orbit, which provides broadband internet services to North and South America.
- The satellite will be the world's largest commercial communications satellite once it's fully deployed.
- The Falcon Heavy slated to carry JUPITER 3 to orbit will liftoff from Launch Complex-39A, at NASA's Kennedy Space Center, in Florida. This will be the seventh launch for SpaceX's triple-booster rocket, which first debuted to much fan-fare in 2018.

#### 8. ISRO rocket carrying seven Singaporean satellites lifts off from Sriharikota

- **ISRO launched its proven PSLV rocket carrying seven Singaporean satellites from Satish Dhawan Space Centre.**
- ISRO's trusted workhorse Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle is the DS-SAR Radar Imaging Earth Observation satellite, which has been developed under a

partnership between DSTA (representing the Government of Singapore) and ST Engineering, Singapore.



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## Defence

### 1. Japan, India Maritime Exercise- JIMEX23 commences in Visakhapatnam

- The seventh edition of the bilateral **Japan-India Maritime Exercise 2023 (JIMEX 23) hosted by the Indian Navy**, is being conducted at/ off **Visakhapatnam from 05 -10 July 2023**.
- This edition marks the **11th anniversary of JIMEX**, since its inception in 2012
- The exercise will be conducted over six days in two phases - a Harbour Phase at Visakhapatnam comprising professional, sports and social interactions, after which, the two navies will jointly hone their warfighting skills at sea and enhance their interoperability through complex multi-discipline operations in the surface, sub-surface and air domains.

### 2. Indian Navy and US Navy Conduct Seventh Edition of SALVEX Exercise in Kochi

- **The Seventh edition of Indian Navy ' US Navy (IN ' USN) Salvage and Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) exercise, SALVEX was conducted from 26 Jun ' 06 Jul 23 at Kochi.**
- IN and USN have been participating in joint Salvage and EOD exercises since 2005. India's INS Nireekshak and United States USNS Salvor participated in this exercise.

### 3. Defence Acquisition Council approves procurement of 26 Rafale Marine aircraft from France

- The Defence Acquisition Council has approved proposals for the procurement of **26 Rafale Marine aircraft from France** to boost the Indian Navy's operational capabilities.

- It has granted Acceptance of Necessity for procurement of 26 Rafale Marine aircraft along with associated ancillary equipment, weapons, and logistic support for the Indian Navy from the French government.

### 4. India-Mongolia joint military exercise 'Nomadic Elephant ' 2023' to commence at Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

- Indian Army contingent comprising of 43 personnel left for Mongolia. The contingent will participate in the **15th edition of bilateral joint military exercise 'NOMADIC ELEPHANT-23'**. India and Mongolia have a shared commitment to regional security and cooperation.
- Exercise NOMADIC ELEPHANT is an annual training event with Mongolia which is conducted alternatively in Mongolia and India, **the last edition was held at Special Forces Training School, Bakloh in October 2019.**
- Soldiers of the Mongolian Armed Forces Unit 084 from Mongolia and Indian Army soldiers from the JAMMU AND KASHMIR LIGHT INFANTRY Regiment will be participating in the exercise.
- The aim of this exercise is to build positive military relations, exchange best practices, develop inter-operability, bonhomie, camaraderie and friendship between the two armies. The primary theme of the exercise will focus on counter-terrorism operations in mountainous terrain under United Nations mandate.
- The scope of this exercise involves Platoon level Field Training Exercise (FTX). During the exercise, Indian and Mongolian troops will engage in various

training activities designed to enhance their skills and capabilities. These activities include endurance training, reflex firing, room intervention, small team tactics and rock craft training.

#### 5. Indian, Indonesian naval ships to conduct joint exercise in Jakarta

- Two frontline **Indian Naval ships INS Sahyadri and INS Kolkata** arrived in **Indonesia's Jakarta** to participate in the **Maritime Partnership Exercise (MPX) with the Indonesian Navy**. INS Sahyadri is the third indigenously designed and built Project-17 class stealth frigate and INS Kolkata is the first indigenously designed and built stealth destroyer of the Project-15A class. Both the ships have been built at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd, Mumbai.
- **Recently, Indo-Indonesia concluded its bilateral Exercise Samudra Shakti-23 in the South China Sea.**

#### 6. Ashok Leyland bags major orders worth Rs 800 crore from Indian Army

- **Ashok Leyland, the Indian flagship of the Hinduja Group and the largest supplier of logistics vehicles to the Indian military, announced on that it had won major orders for defence vehicles, valued at Rs 800 crore.**
- The contracts awarded to Ashok Leyland include for the production of 'field artillery tractors' (FAT 4x4) and 'gun towing vehicles' (GTV 6x6).

#### 7. Back India hands over INS Kirpan to Vietnam in landmark move

- 'On completing 32 years of illustrious service to the nation, **Indian Naval Ship Kirpan has been decommissioned from the Indian Navy and handed over to**

#### **Vietnam People's Navy (VPN) at Cam Ranh, Vietnam.**

- According to the Indian Navy chief, this marks the first time India has handed over a full operational corvette to a foreign country.

#### 8. 8th India-Australia Defence Policy Talks held in Canberra

- **The 8th India-Australia Defence Policy Talks (DPT) was held at Canberra in Australia on 24-25 July 2023.**
- The Defence policy talks were co-chaired by Special Secretary in Ministry of Defence Smt. Nivedita Shukla Verma, and Mr Steven Moore. The focus was to strengthen partnership in co-development and co-production of defence equipment.
- India – Australia share a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership since June 2020 and defence is a key pillar of this partnership. India and Australia's partnership is based on a shared vision of a free, open, inclusive and prosperous Indo-Pacific region.

#### 9. Pixxel Wins Defence Ministry Grant To Build Satellites For IAF

- **Space startup Pixxel said it has won a multi-crore rupee grant from the government to build miniaturised multi-payload satellites for the Indian Air Force, marking its entry into the defence sector.**
- Under the grant from Innovations for Defence Excellence of the Defence Ministry, Pixxel will develop small satellites of up to 150 kgs for electro-optical, infrared purposes.

## 10. Indian Naval Ship 'Khanjar,' an indigenous Khukri class Missile Corvette to visit Trincomalee from 29th July

- Indian Naval Ship 'Khanjar,' an indigenous Khukri class Missile Corvette will visit Trincomalee from the 29th of July.
- During the ship's three-day visit, the Commanding Officer, will meet with the Commander of the Eastern Naval Area to enhance professional ties. The ship will conduct interactions on special operations such as Visit-Board-Search and Seizure, Gunnery.



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## Books & Authors

### 1. Abhishek Choudhary's Vajpayee: The Ascent of the Hindu Right 1924-1977

- The early years of late Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee are captured in a new biography, **Vajpayee: The Ascent of the Hindu Right 1924-77, by Abhishek Choudhary.**
- The book published by Picador India was released in May 2023.
- This first volume lays out 53 years of Vajpayee's life, spanning from 1924 to 1977.

### 2. 'Through the Broken Glass: An Autobiography' by TN Seshan

Unveiling the life and legacy of **T.N. Seshan, 'Through The Broken Glass: An Autobiography'** chronicles the captivating journey of the former Chief Election Commissioner of India, who left an indelible mark on the nation's process. Published by Rupa Publications India, the autobiography provides an insightful glimpse into Seshan's pivotal term as the CEC from 1990-1995.

## Obituary

### 1. Former Kerala CM Oommen Chandy passes away at 79

- Former Chief Minister Oommen Chandy has passed away. He was 79.
- He led the Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF) ministries in Kerala from August 31, 2004, to May 12, 2006, and from May 18, 2011, to May 20, 2016.
- He was elected to the Kerala Legislative Assembly for the first time in 1970.

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## Person in news

### 1. Lallianzuala Chhangte, Manisha Kalyan Named Footballers of the Year for 2022-23

- India and Mumbai City FC winger **Lallianzuala Chhangte and forward Manisha Kalyan were named the AIFF Men's and Women's Footballer of the Year for 2022-23** season for their impressive performances throughout the season.
- The 26-year-old Chhangte becomes only the second player from Mizoram, following Jeje Lalpekhlua in 2016, to be bestowed with the men's Player of the Year award.

### 2. Shah Rukh Khan appointed brand ambassador of ICC World Cup 2023

- Shah Rukh Khan has been appointed as the brand ambassador of ICC World Cup 2023.**
- India will host the ODI World Cup in 2023 between October 5 and November 19 with ten teams taking part in the prestigious competition.
- CEO of The International Cricket Council (ICC) : Geoff Allardice;
- Chairman of ICC: Greg Barclay.

### 3. Odisha's Naveen Patnaik Is Now 2nd Longest-Serving Chief Minister In India

- Odisha's Naveen Patnaik became the second longest-serving chief minister** in the country, replacing West Bengal's Jyoti Basu. Former Sikkim Chief Minister Pawan Kumar Chamling still holds the record of being the longest-serving Chief Minister in the country. He was the Chief Minister of the Himalayan state from December 12, 1994 till May 27, 2019 more than 24 years.

- Mr Patnaik, the five-time chief minister of Odisha, took charge on March 5, 2000, and holds the post for 23 years and 138 days.
- Mr Basu served as the chief minister of West Bengal from June 21, 1977 to November 5, 2000, which was 23 years and 137 days.

### 4. S. Phangnon Konyak becomes first woman member from Nagaland to Preside over Rajya Sabha

- Marking a significant moment in history, **the first woman member from Nagaland in the Rajya Sabha, Smt. Phangnon Konyak presided over the House.** Earlier she had created history by becoming the first ever women member to be appointed to the panel of Vice-Chairpersons on July 17, 2023.
- Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar last week had nominated four women members (50% of the total number) to the panel of Vice-Chairpersons.

### 5. Aditya Samant becomes India's 83rd chess Grandmaster

- Aditya S Samant became India's 83rd chess Grandmaster.**
- The 17-year-old Maharashtra player Samant, an International Master, became a GM when he started his ninth-round game against compatriot Aryan Chopra at the BielChess MTO 2023 tournament.
- He earned his first GM norm at the Abu Dhabi Masters in August last year.
- To become a GM, a player has to secure three GM norms and cross the live rating of 2,500 Elo points.

## Insurance

### 1. LIC pares stake in Exide Industries to 3.51%

- Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has pared its stake in Exide Industries to 3.51% by divesting more than 1.70 crore shares.
- From 5.51% on December 17, 2020, the holding in the battery maker has been reduced by two percentage points through open market sale at an average price of '179.84 per share, the insurer.

### 2. PFRDA to allow funds to invest in sovereign green bonds

- Pension Fund Regulatory & Development Authority (PFRDA) chairman Deepak Mohanty said that the regulator will allow pension funds to invest in sovereign green bonds when issued. The government is expected to issue sovereign green bonds in the second half of the current financial year (H2FY24) as part of overall market borrowing programme.
- Currently, there are 10 pension fund managers which manage funds under the National Pension System (NPS).
- In the last fiscal year (FY23), the government raised Rs. 16,000 crore through the issuance of maiden sovereign green bonds with the objective to utilise the proceeds for funding public sector projects seeking to reduce carbon emissions.



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## India & World

### 1. France offers aircraft engine tech transfer

- France has offered full transfer of technology (ToT) for the co-development of a new 110KN high-thrust jet engine to power the AMCA Mk-2 fifth generation stealth jet. This comes after India signed an historic deal for the co-manufacture of General Electric GE F-414 jet engines in India with eighty percent ToT.

### 2. India-UK Electric Propulsion Technical Workshop held in New Delhi

- An India-UK Electric Propulsion Technical Workshop to foster collaboration, exchange knowledge, and explore the exciting possibilities in the field of electric propulsion was organized in New Delhi
- The workshop served as a crucial platform for experts, researchers, and industry professionals from both countries to come together, share insights, and engage in meaningful discussions on the development of electric propulsion for ships.

### 3. MoU for setting up of campus of IIT Madras in Zanzibar - First ever IIT campus to be set up outside India

- The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for setting up of campus of IIT Madras in Zanzibar- Tanzania was signed between the Ministry of Education (MoE), Govt. of India, IIT Madras and Ministry of Education and Vocational Training (MoEVT) Zanzibar- Tanzania. This is the first ever IIT campus to be set up outside India.
- National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 focuses on Internationalization and recommends that "High performing

Indian universities will be encouraged to set up campuses in other countries".

### 4. The 67th convention of Travel Agents Association of India kick-starts in Colombo

- The 67th convention of the Travel Agents Association of India (TAAI) has kick-started in Colombo. The convention aims to promote regional tourism and strengthen bilateral relations between India and Sri Lanka.
- With the theme "Transcending Borders, Transforming Lives," the event positions Sri Lanka as a preferred destination for Indian outbound travellers.

### 5. Indian tri-services contingent leaves for French Bastille Day Parade

- The tri-services contingent of the Indian armed forces left for France on 6 July for the Bastille Day parade.
- The Fete Nationale Francaise is celebrated on 15 July, the National Day in France. Bastille Day is celebrated as the anniversary of Storming of the Bastille in 1789 during the French Revolution. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been invited as the guest of honour.

### 6. Multilateral development banks pledge upto \$27 bn for India's green growth

- European Investment Bank has pledged one billion euros to develop a large-scale hydrogen industry hub, while the ADB intends to provide \$20-\$25 billion over five years to support India's green growth during International Conference on Green Hydrogen (ICGH-2023), held between July 5-7 in India.

- The World Bank also approved \$1.5 billion to aid India's low-carbon transition. ICGH-2023 held in New Delhi
- India commits to green hydrogen development, encourages collaboration with private sector as global demand for hydrogen is expected to reach 200 million tons by 2030.

### 7. India Permits Potato Imports From Bhutan Without License Till June 2024

- **India permitted imports of potatoes from Bhutan without any license for one more year till June 2024.** Earlier, it was allowed till June 30 this year.
- The DGFT said that the import of 17,000 metric tonnes of fresh (green) areca nut without a minimum import price condition from Bhutan will also be allowed through land customs station Chamurchi. Imports of fresh or chilled potatoes stood at \$1.02 million in 2022-23.
- Chamurchi is a small village in the Jalpaiguri district. It is close to the Bhutan border. INCHMB is a location code.

### 8. India, Tanzania begin trade settlements in local currencies

- External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on July 8 said that India and Tanzania have started trade settlements in local currencies and this new initiative will help in promoting commerce between the two countries.
- Addressing industry leaders at a function, the Minister said India-Tanzania bilateral trade has seen very strong growth, and stood at \$6.4 billion in 2022-23.
- Tanzania: Capital: Dodoma; Currency: Tanzanian shilling.

### 9. India and Bangladesh start bilateral trade in rupees

- **India and Bangladesh have started bilateral trade in rupees. It was launched at an event jointly organised by Bangladesh Bank and High Commission of India in Dhaka.**
- Trade settlement through Indian rupee will only apply to export amount from Bangladesh while the rest of imports from India will be settled in US dollars
- From Bangladesh side trade and transactions with India will be done by its Eastern Bank and Sonali Bank Ltd, while from Indian side operations will be done by **State Bank of India and ICICI Bank**

### 10. Adani group announces full-load commencement of power supply to Bangladesh from 1600 mw thermal plant

- The **Adani Group announced the commissioning of India's first transnational project at Godda in Jharkhand to supply power to the Bangladesh electricity grid.**
- Chairman Gautam Adani called on Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in Dhaka following the full load commencement of power supply to Bangladesh from the Group's Ultra Super-Critical Thermal Power Plant.
- The Godda USCTPP, marks the the port-to-power conglomerate's entry into transnational power projects.
- Adani PowerJharkhand Ltd (APJL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Adani Power Ltd, will supply 100 per cent of the generated electricity from the plant to another nation.



### 11. India's Razorpay launches first international payment gateway in Malaysia

- **India's home-grown fintech and payments solutions provider Razorpay has announced the launch of its first international payment gateway services in the Malaysian market with Curlec.**
- In Feb 2022, Bengaluru-headquartered Razorpay which was established in 2014, announced its first international expansion into South-East Asia with the acquisition of a majority stake in Curlec.

### 12. Back '500 million in EU's first phase funding for India green energy

- **European Investment Bank (EIB), the lending arm of the European Union, plans to invest about '1 billion in India's renewable energy sector.**
- The investment will be made in renewable sectors involving green hydrogen and solar panels.
- India is the largest investment destination of EIB outside Europe.
- So far EIB has made about €4 billion investment in India. Of this, about €3 billion is in the infrastructure sector, particularly in public transport infrastructure like metro rail projects.

### 13. India contributes \$1 million to the United Nations to promote the Hindi language

- **Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj, India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations announced that India has made a voluntary contribution of \$1 million to the UN.** This contribution aims to support the promotion of the Hindi language within the organization and

foster inclusive dialogue and understanding.

- The Hindi@UN initiative, launched in 2018 through a partnership with the UN Department of Public Information, aimed to enhance the United Nations' communication efforts in the Hindi language.

### 14. Admiral R Hari Kumar on an official visit to Vietnam

- Admiral R Hari Kumar, Chief of the Naval Staff, on an official visit to Vietnam will preside the Decommissioning followed by Handing Over Ceremony of Indian Naval Ship Kirpan to Vietnam People's Navy (VPN), scheduled on 22 July 2023 at Cam Ranh, Vietnam.
- This is the maiden occasion of gifting a fully operational corvette by India to any Friendly Foreign Country.

### 15. India, Argentina agrees for bilateral exchange of young researchers and Startups in Biotechnology and Agriculture field

- **India and Argentina have agreed to a bilateral exchange of young researchers and Startups, particularly in the field of Biotechnology and Agriculture.** The countries held comprehensive talks between delegations comprising academia, Research, and Development Institutes, and Industry in the field of Science and Technology and Biotechnology.
- India is the 4th largest trading partner of Argentina, with bilateral trade touching a historic peak of 6.4 billion US dollar in the year 2022, recording a growth rate of 12 percent over 2021.

## Apps & Portals

### 1. SBI launches improved version YONO app

- **State Bank of India (SBI)** released its improved digital banking software, 'YONO for Every Indian,' as well as **Interoperable Cardless Cash Withdrawal (ICCW)** services.
- According to SBI, YONO has over 6 crore registered users. In FY23, YONO was used to obtain 64 per cent of all savings accounts, or 78.60 lakh accounts.
- Customers of **SBI** and other banks can now withdraw cash from ICCW-enabled ATMs of any bank utilising the 'UPI QR Cash' functionality, thanks to the implementation of the Interoperable Cardless Cash Withdrawal service.
- "The transaction will be facilitated through a single-use dynamic QR code displayed on the ATM screen. Users can conveniently withdraw cash by employing the scan and pay feature available on their UPI application.
- The ICCW facility reduces the hazards associated with shoulder surfing and card cloning by eliminating the need to enter a PIN or physically handle a debit card.

### 2. Government launches CRCS-Sahara Refund Portal to help Sahara depositors get refund

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah launched the **CRCS' Sahara Refund portal** in New Delhi following a Supreme Court order to refund the money to the depositors of the Sahara Group's cooperative societies.
- On March 29, 2023, **the apex court directed the transfer of Rs 5,000 crores from the Sahara-SEBI Refund Account to the Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies (CRCS).**

### 3. Online portal launched to report violation of ban on e-cigarettes

- Electronic cigarettes continue to be sold on e-commerce sites, even to children below 18, warn experts working in the area of tobacco control. The portal, [www.violation-reporting.in](http://www.violation-reporting.in), will allow faster action against any reported violations, the government said.
- The Union government, considering the harmful effects of electronic cigarette and the alarming rise in its prevalence among youth, prohibited the production, manufacture, import, export, transport, sale, distribution, storage and advertisement, of electronic cigarettes, which include all forms of electronic nicotine delivery systems, heat not burn Products, e-hookah and the like devices, by whatever name called and whatever shape, size or form it may have, vides the **Prohibition of Electronic Cigarettes (Production, Manufacture, Import, Export, Transport, Sale, Distribution, Storage and Advertisement) Act, 2019**, which was introduced as an Ordinance and later formalised into an Act in 2019.

## Acquisitions & Mergers

### 1. Visa acquires Brazilian payments platform Pismo for \$1 billion

- Payments giant Visa Inc agreed to acquire Brazilian fintech platform Pismo for \$1 billion in cash to expand its footprint in Latin America. The Pismo deal is the largest fintech exit in Latin America since Nubank went public in late 2021 and the largest disclosed startup exit so far this year.
- For Visa its first major takeover since 2021 when it bought European open banking platform Tink for \$2.2 billion as well as British cross-border payments provider Currencycloud.

### 2. IDFC First Bank to merge with IDFC Limited

- The IDFC First Bank's board of directors approved the merger of IDFC Limited and IDFC First Bank. The planned merger will combine the two organisations into a single entity, simplifying the organisational structure.
- IDFC Chairman Anil Singhvi

### 3. Back GIC to buy 74% stake in Genus Power's smart metering venture for \$2 billion

- Singapore's sovereign wealth fund GIC will acquire a 74% stake in Genus Power & Infrastructure's new smart metering solutions venture for \$2 billion.

### 4. Tata Steel's NINL Plant Reaches 100% Capacity Utilisation Within One Year Of Acquisition

- NINL, a 1.1-million tonne steel manufacturing unit in Odisha, has reached 100% capacity utilisation within one year of its acquisition by Tata Steel.

- On July 4 2022, the steel major completed the acquisition of Neelachal Ispat Nigam Ltd., through subsidiary company Tata Steel Long Products Ltd., for a consideration of Rs 12,000 crore.
- The acquisition was efficiently implemented even though the NINL plant had been mothballed for nearly three years. In August 2023, the company will complete the commissioning of its last major facility, a coke oven unit at NINL.

### 5. CarTrade Tech to acquire OLX India's auto business for '537 cr

- CarTrade Tech, a marketplace for buying and selling vehicles, will acquire OLX India's automotive business, Sobek Auto India Private Ltd for '537 crore.
- In the filing, CarTrade Tech said it will acquire 100 per cent stake in Sobek Auto, the automotive business of OLX India, for a cash consideration. OLX is the classified unit of Dutch investment firm Prosus.

### 6. Samil to acquire Germany-based Dr Schneider Group for over Rs 1,000 crore

- Samvardhana Motherson International (Samil) said it has signed an agreement to acquire Germany-based Dr Schneider Group for Rs 1,073.5 crore as part of its diversification strategy.
- This deal is expected to close in the third quarter of 2023-24 (FY24).
- This is Samil's third major global acquisition in 2023. It had in February announced it was buying SAS Autosystemtechnik, which manufactures auto cockpit modules, from French company Faurecia for Rs 4,790 crore.

- Samil had said it was purchasing 81 per cent stake in Honda Motor's component making subsidiary Yachiyo for Rs 1,059 crore.

#### 7. Bandhan Financial Holdings set to acquire Aegon Life Insurance Company

- Bandhan Financial Holdings (BFHL) has entered into a 'definitive agreement'

with Aegon India Holding and Bennett, Coleman & Company for the acquisition of the entire shareholding of Aegon and BCCL in Aegon Life Insurance Company.

- Aegon Life, a digitally focused life insurance company, had a competitive bidding process that witnessed participation from various investors.



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## Agri-Business

### 1. India's share in world foodgrain exports increase from 3.38% in 2010 to 7.79% in 2022: Commerce Ministry

- Commerce and Industry Ministry said that as per **UN COMTRADE statistics**, India's exports of foodgrains have registered a steady growth in the last few years which is reflected in the increase in India's share in world foodgrain exports from 3.38 percent in 2010 to 7.79 percent in 2022.
- The government has taken several steps to promote exports of agricultural products.
- State-specific Action Plans have been prepared and State Level Monitoring Committees, Nodal Agencies for agricultural exports, and Cluster Level Committees have been formed in a number of States. Country and product-specific action plans have also been formulated to promote exports.

## FinTech

### 1. Fintech giant PhonePe launches Point-of-Sale (POS) solution for merchant partners

- PhonePe announced the launch of its Point-of-sale (POS) device that enables merchants to accept payments via Debit Cards, Credit Cards and UPI, providing them with a simple and seamless settlement experience.
- The device comes preloaded with the PhonePe POS App and supports transactions through tap/swipe/dip and interoperable QR codes.
- The POS device, built on the Android platform, claims to revolutionize the checkout experience for businesses.

### 2. Google Pay introduces UPI LITE

- Google Pay has rolled out UPI LITE on its platform with the aim of making digital payments simple, fast and reliable.
- UPI LITE enables users to make fast, one-click UPI transactions without the need to enter the UPI PIN.
- Behind the scenes, the LITE account is linked to the user's bank account, but does not rely real-time on the issuing bank's core banking system.

### 3. Fintech major PhonePe to enable users to pay tax directly on app

- Fintech major PhonePe has launched the 'Income Tax Payment' feature on its application to enable taxpayers such as individuals and businesses to pay self-assessment and advance tax directly from within the PhonePe app.
- The company has partnered with a B2B payments and service provider, PayMate, to make this feature available.

## PSUs

### 1. SAIL selects mjPRO for project procurements

- SAIL has selected **mjPRO (mjunction)** through an open tender for the implementation of an e-tendering solution for its project buys on a digital platform providing easy access to its global vendors to quote.
- mjPRO is a cloud-based platform that comes with wide configurability and addresses key concerns of organisations such as access to new and credible suppliers, analytics and insights for decision-making, convenience of usage and integration with ERP systems.

### 2. Indian Oil & Praj Industries Limited to form JV for building biofuels production capacities

- **Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) and Praj Industries Limited have signed a term sheet to advance plans to strengthen biofuels production capacities in India.**
- Various biofuels covered under this MoU include Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF), Ethanol, Compressed Bio-Gas (CBG), Biodiesel and Bio-bitumen among others. Indian Oil is a Maharatna CPSE

### 3. Indian Oil commits to investing Rs 54,000 crore in projects including a refinery in Tamil Nadu

- **The Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL), Chennai, has committed to invest Rs 54,000 crore in various projects in Tamil Nadu** in the next few years, including a 9 MMTPA (million metric tonnes per annum) grass-root refinery at an estimated cost of Rs 35,580 crore. This new refinery will produce petrol and diesel for BS-VI specifications and also polypropylene.

### 4. NLC bags GeM award in "Timely Payments (CPSEs)" category for 2023

- **NLC India Limited (NLCIL), a Navratna company under the Ministry of Coal, bagged Government e-Marketplace (GeM) award in the category "Timely Payments (CPSEs)" for the year 2023** for its outstanding contribution in improving the reliability of e-market practices in line with the vision of GeM. NLC India Limited registered and on-boarded in the GeM portal in the year 2017.
- GeM is a dedicated e-Market service platform, a National public procurement portal, governed by Government of India for marketing different goods and services.

### 5. Numaligarh Refinery (NRL) gets an upgrade. Now a 'Schedule A' CPSE

- Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL) has been upgraded from Schedule B to Schedule A CPSE by the Ministry of Power and Natural Gas, Government of India.
- This upgradation to Schedule A recognises NRL's strong financial performance and operational efficiency and contribution to the economic development of the Northeast region.
- It now make NRL eligible to achieve 'Navratna' status which in turn will give higher financial autonomy and allow the company to undertake larger and more complex projects, take speedy decision in creating joint ventures, strategic partnerships, etc.

### 6. Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) to raise Rs 22,000 crore via rights issue of equity shares

- **IOCL plans to raise Rs 22,000 crore capital through a rights issue of equity shares as part of a government's plan to infuse capital** into three state-owned fuel retailers to fund their net zero carbon emission projects. The government is the majority owner of the company, is likely to subscribe to the rights issue and infuse equity in the company.
- In the Union Budget 2023-24, the government announced Rs 30,000 crore of capital support to state-run fuel retailers - BPCL, IOCL, HPCL, to support their energy transition and net zero initiatives.

#### 7. Numaligarh Refinery in Assam upgraded to 'Schedule A' category enterprise; to have more autonomy

- **The Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL) in Assam has been upgraded from 'Schedule B' to 'Schedule A' category Central Public Sector Enterprises by the Centre.**
- The upgradation to Schedule A will now make NRL eligible to achieve the status of Navratna which in turn will give higher financial autonomy. The upgradation to 'Schedule A' was notified by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas
- This will allow the company to undertake larger and more complex projects, and take speedy decisions in creating joint ventures, strategic partnerships, and special-purpose vehicles for strategic growth.
- **The Navratna companies have the autonomy to invest up to Rs 1,000 crore without seeking approval from the central government.**
- The Assam government has a 26 per cent stake in NRL.

- NRL ranks among the top 20 CPSEs in India, both in terms of sales revenue and profitability. Among the Indian PSU refineries, NRL in Assam is considered a high-performing refinery.

#### 8. TPSODL inaugurates all-Women Meter Testing Laboratory in Odisha's Berhampur

- In a bid to empower local women of Odisha in the field of STEM (Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics), Tata Power Southern Odisha Distribution Limited (TPSODL) has set up a state-of-the-art All-Women Meter Testing Laboratory in Odisha's Berhampur.
- The Meter Testing operations at this Laboratory will be managed by Women. TPSODL is a joint venture of Tata Power and the Government of Odisha.

#### 9. PFC becomes 1st member from India to join Asia Transition Finance Study Group

- **Maharatna Power PSU Power Finance Corporation (PFC) has announced joining 'Asia Transition Finance Study Group' (ATFSG)** during the Bilateral Ministerial Meeting between Union Minister of Power and New and Renewable Energy RK Singh and His Excellency Yasutoshi Nishimura, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry, Government of Japan on the side lines of G20 summit at Goa.
- This is an initiative by Japanese Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) for promoting sustainable transition finance for Asian Countries. Other members and observers of the ATFSG include Japanese banks, major Asian and global financial institutions, development banks, export credit agencies, and government agencies. PFC

as a member of ATFSG will voice India perspective, while developing policy considerations for effective energy transition financing.

#### 10. BPCL unveils MAK ADJOL Banana in Tamil Nadu

- Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) through their MAK Lubricants division introduced a revolutionary product in Agri Spray segment with the launch of MAK ADJOL Banana, an adjuvant for the fungicides used in Banana cultivation, in association in National Research Centre for Banana (NRCB).

#### 11. MRPL becomes largest single-location refinery in India

- The Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited (MRPL), a Miniratna PSU refinery based in coastal Karnataka and a subsidiary of ONGC, has become the single largest PSU-refinery (single location) in the country for the year 2022-23. MRPL achieved this feat by processing 17.14 Million Metric (MT) tonnes of crude oil during the past financial year.
- MRPL processes 10 percent of the total crude oil refined by the PSU petroleum refineries in the country. MRPL was set up as a joint venture refinery in 1988.



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## States

### Arunachal Pradesh

#### 1. Chachin Grazing Festival celebrated with great zeal in Arunachal Pradesh

- **Chachin Grazing Festival** was celebrated with great fervour by the local graziers of Tawang region near Bumla Pass, Arunachal Pradesh.
- The two-day event held at Chachin saw enthusiastic participation from Graziers from all over Tawang region.

### Assam

#### 1. Project Gajah Kotha Launched To Control Human-Elephant Conflict In Assam

- Assam has launched the **"Gajah Kotha"** campaign to address the growing human-elephant conflict (HEC) issue by engaging more than 1,200 individuals and promoting coexistence.
- This initiative specifically targets villages in eastern Assam affected by human-elephant conflict, aiming to educate residents about elephant behaviour, ecology, and the cultural significance.

### Kerala

#### 1. OPPO India sets up first PPP-model Atal Tinkering Lab in Kerala

- **OPPO India** in collaboration with **NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)** as its knowledge partner has announced the establishment of an **Atal Tinkering Lab (ATL)** in Kerala.
- This collaboration marks the establishment of the **first-ever Atal Tinkering Lab, based on the PPP (Public-Private Partnership) model.**

- This collaboration between the AIM and OPPO—with Learning Links Foundation as the implementation partner—adapts the 'Hub n Spoke' strategy to create an innovative learning environment through practical experiences and regular training sessions.

### Rajasthan

#### 1. REC extends Rs 4,785 crore for HPCL Rajasthan Refinery's project in Barmer

- **REC Limited** has extended a loan of **Rs 4,785 crores** to **HPCL Rajasthan Refinery Limited (HRRL)** for setting up a green field refinery-cum-petrochemical complex in **Barmer district, Rajasthan.**
- **HRRL** is a Joint Venture company of **Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL)** and the **government of Rajasthan**, incorporated on September 18, 2013.
- The project involves setting up a pipeline for the transportation of both Rajasthan crude and imported crude. The project aims to produce clean fuels such as **BS-VI grade Motor Spirit (MS or Petrol) & BS-VI grade High-Speed Diesel (HSD or Diesel)** and Petrochemical products such as **Polypropylene, Butadiene, LLDPE, HDPE, Benzene and Toluene.**
- **REC Limited**, a Maharatna CPSU under the Ministry of Power, is an NBFC focusing on Power Sector Financing and Development across India.

#### 2. Rajasthan govt tables country's first gig workers bill

- The Rajasthan government tabled the **Rajasthan Platform-Based GIG Workers (registration and welfare) Bill, 2023 - the country's first such -** which seeks to

guarantee social security to gig workers. The bill provisions for monetary penalties if an aggregator fails to comply with the Act.

- **The state government may impose a fine of Rs. 5 Lakh to Rs. 50 lakh for its violation.**
- Under the bill, the state will constitute a 'The Rajasthan Platform Based Gig Workers Welfare Board' which will ensure registration of gig workers and aggregators operating in the state.

### 3. Rajasthan Assembly passes Minimum Guaranteed Income Bill

- The Rajasthan Assembly passed **The Rajasthan Minimum Guaranteed Income Bill, 2023**, which seeks to cover the entire adult population of the state with a guarantee of wages or pension.
- **As per the Bill, all families of the state, whether urban or rural, will be able to get employment guarantee of 125 days every year.**
- **It also provides a minimum pension of Rs 1,000 per month in case of aged/disabled/single women, etc.**
- **Importantly, the pension will also be automatically increased at the rate of 15 per cent each year.**
- The bill brings the rural employment guarantee scheme, the urban employment guarantee scheme and the pension scheme under one umbrella legislation. These will be implemented under the Mahatma Gandhi Minimum Income Guarantee Scheme.
- The bill guarantees to provide work for at least 25 days under the Mukhyamantri Gramin Rozgar Guarantee Yojana in addition to the 100 days of employment given under the Mahatma Gandhi

National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA).

### Tamil Nadu

#### 1. India's first 'Police Drone Unit' launched in Chennai

- **The Greater Chennai City Police (GCP) launched 'Police Drone Unit' for aerial surveillance over vast areas and quick detection of criminal activities.**
- All drones are equipped with built-in Artificial Intelligence (AI) capabilities and can be operated up to a distance of 5-10 Kms from the ground station (i.e.) the Drone Police Unit.
- The Drone Police Unit will comprise a total of 9 drones under three categories - Quick Response Surveillance Drones (6 numbers), Heavy Lift multirotor Drone and Long Range Survey wing plane (2 numbers).

#### 2. India gets its 36th and Tamil Nadu its first flying training school

- **India now has 36 DGCA-approved flying schools.**
- The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) recently gave its nod to EKVI Air Training Organization Pvt. Ltd. will be based at Salem Airport. This will be the first flying training organization (FTO) in Tamil Nadu.

#### 3. Foxconn to invest Rs 1,600 crore in Tamil Nadu for component manufacturing

- **Taiwan's Foxconn Technology Group, a key supplier to Apple Inc, pledged to invest Rs 1,600 crore to set up a high-end electronics component manufacturing unit in Tamil Nadu's Kanchipuram district generating jobs for about 6,000 people.**

- The investment to be made by Foxconn Industrial Internet (Fii), the largest subsidiary of Foxconn Technology Group.

## Uttar Pradesh

### 1. UP govt approves two thermal power projects a 50:50 partnership with NTPC

- The Uttar Pradesh government approved two 'Obra D' thermal power projects of 800 MW each to be built at the cost of Rs 18,000 crore in Sonbhadra's Obra, a move aimed at providing cheaper electricity to the people of the state.
- The projects will be executed by the government with a 50:50 partnership with central government-owned power generator NTPC. 'Obra D' thermal power plants will be the first ultra super critical unit in the state.

## Jammu and Kashmir

### 1. J&K launches India's first chatbot for people in mental distress

- India's first Tele-MANAS chatbot, which will start an instant conversation with people in distress, was launched in J&K. This year Kashmir saw the highest number of distress calls to the Tele-Manas centre. The initiative will ensure the availability of health counsellors, clinical psychologists and consultants round-the-clock.

### 2. Srinagar bans sale of 'sharp-edged weapons' amid rise in stabbing incidents

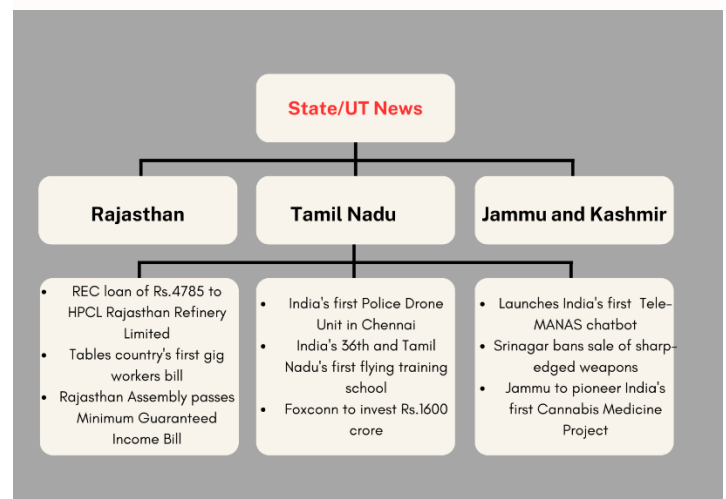
- Srinagar authorities banned the sale, purchase, and carrying of 'sharp-edged weapons' in public places in view of several stabbing incidents in the city. The decision was taken apparently as a result

of several recent incidents of stabbings reported several places in the district.

### 3. Jammu to pioneer India's first Cannabis Medicine Project

- Jammu is going to pioneer India's first Cannabis Medicine Project. 'Cannabis Research Project' of CSIR-IIIM Jammu is a first of its kind in India initiated the project in Private Public Partnership with a Canadian firm, which has great potential to put the substance of abuse for the good of mankind, especially for patients suffering from neuropathies, cancer, and epilepsy.
- CSIR-IIIM is the oldest scientific research institute in India with the history of discovering mint way back in 1960s, the centre of purple revolution.

## State News



## Important CA

### 1. Tushar Mehta re-appointed as Solicitor General for India, six ASGs for Supreme Court re-appointed

- The Appointments Committee of the Union Cabinet approved the re-appointment of Tushar Mehta as Solicitor General for India, for a period of three years.
- Vikramjit Banerjee, KM Nataraj, Balbir Singh, SV Raju, N Venkataraman and Aishwarya Bhati have been re-appointed as Additional Solicitors General (ASGs).
- Solicitor General is the second most senior law officer after Attorney General.
- Pertinently, Madhavi Diwan, Sanjay Jain and Jayant K Sud will not be continuing as ASGs.

**Possible Question:** The Appointments Committee of the Union Cabinet on June 30, 2023 approved the re-appointment of \_\_\_\_\_ as Solicitor General for India, for a period of three years.

### 2. Back Offshore Nifty returns home as trading in Gift City starts

- After more than two decades, India has managed to bring home the **offshore-traded Nifty from Singapore, with the erstwhile SGX Nifty, rechristened Gift Nifty, to be traded for the first time on Monday at Gift City in Gujarat.**
- Singapore Exchange Ltd (SGX) will transfer the order book of SGX Nifty to NSE IX effective 3 July, under a September 2020 agreement for a so-called liquidity switch from Singapore to Gift City.
- This will facilitate the offer of Gift Nifty derivatives to foreign investors. NSE

International Exchange IFSC Ltd (NSE IX), a fully owned subsidiary of the National Stock Exchange (NSE) of India Ltd.

**Possible Question:** After more than two decades, India has managed to bring home the offshore-traded Nifty from \_\_\_\_\_, which is to be traded for the first time on 3 July, 2023 at Gift City in Gujarat.

### 3. RBI panel suggests host of steps to accelerate internationalisation of Indian rupee

- An RBI-appointed committee has suggested various measures, like allowing Indian banks to offer services in rupee overseas, permitting non-residents to open INR accounts, and withdrawing withholding tax on masala bonds, to accelerate the pace of internationalisation of the domestic currency.
- **The committee was headed by RBI executive director R S Ratho.**
- The report of the Inter-Departmental Group (IDG) on Internationalisation of INR also suggested that in the process of attaining the objective of **INR as a "Vehicle Currency"**, the Reserve Bank may target the inclusion of the INR in the IMF's Special Drawing Rights (SDR) basket.
- An international currency is used and held beyond the borders of the issuing country for transactions between residents and non-residents, and between residents of two countries other than the issuing country. The internationalisation of a currency is also closely interlinked with the nation's



economic progress especially its prominence in global trade.

**Possible Question:** Which measures have been suggested by an RBI-appointed committee to accelerate the internationalization of the Indian rupee?

#### 4. Justice Sheo Kumar Singh appointed Acting Chairperson of NGT

- The Central government notified the appointment of Justice Sheo Kumar Singh as Acting Chairperson of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) till a new Chairperson is appointed.
- The appointment was made in light of the retirement of Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel as Chairperson.
- He was appointed as Judicial Member of the NGT on March 11, 2020. Notification was issued by Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC).

**Possible Question:** The Central government notified the appointment of \_\_\_\_\_ as Acting Chairperson of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) till a new Chairperson is appointed.

#### 5. GACL flags Off the first dispatch of import substitute Hydrazine Hydrate and Purified Phosphoric Acid

- Gujarat Alkalies and Chemicals Limited (GACL) flagged off the first lot of Hydrazine Hydrate (80%) and Purified Phosphoric Acid (85%).
- Hydrazine Hydrate as an import substitute product with world-class quality will help in reducing the country's dependency on imports, thereby saving valuable foreign exchange. Currently, India is importing Hydrazine Hydrate from Europe and other countries.

- Hydrazine Hydrate has applications in various industries such as Pesticides, Agrochemicals, Water Treatment, Pharmaceuticals, blowing agent in Polymer Industry, Fine Chemicals etc.

**Possible Question:** Hydrazine Hydrate, an inorganic compound extensively used in which among the following industries? I. Agrochemicals industry II. Polymer industry III. Pharmaceutical industry IV. Pesticide industry Select the correct answer using the code given below:

#### 6. India's third moon mission, Chandrayaan-3 launched successfully from Sathish Dhawan Space Centre Sriharikota

- The Indian Space Research Organization successfully launched LVM3 M 4 rocket carrying Chandrayaan 3 at 2.35 PM from the second launch pad of India's spaceport at Sriharikota.
- Chandrayaan-3 will be inserted into the Lunar Transfer Trajectory after the orbit raising maneuvers.
- Covering over 300,000 km, it will reach the Moon in the coming weeks. Scientific instruments onboard will study the Moon's surface and enhance our knowledge.

**Possible Question:** The Indian Space Research Organization successfully launched which rocket carrying Chandrayaan 3 from the second launch pad of India's spaceport at Sriharikota in July 2023?

#### 7. Carlos Alcaraz ends Novak Djokovic's reign to win maiden Wimbledon title

- Carlos Alcaraz marked a pivotal moment in men's tennis by ending Novak Djokovic's illustrious Wimbledon reign

with an electrifying 1-6, 7-6(6), 6-1, 3-6, 6-4 victory claiming his first-ever title at the All England Club. At just 20 years old, Alcaraz became Wimbledon's third youngest men's champion, adding to his previous major victory at the US Open last year.

- Carlos Alcaraz Garfia is a Spanish professional tennis player.
- Novak Djokovic is a Serbian professional tennis player.
- **About Wimbledon:**
- **Wimbledon Championships**, byname of **All-England Championships**, internationally known tennis championships played annually in London at Wimbledon.
- The tournament, held in late June and early July, is one of the four annual "Grand Slam" tennis events—along with the Australian, French, and U.S. Opens—and is the only one still played on natural grass.
- The first Wimbledon championship was held in 1877 on one of the croquet lawns of the All England Croquet and Lawn Tennis Club (since 1882 the All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club).
- In 1884 a women's championship was introduced at Wimbledon, and the national men's doubles was transferred there from Oxford.
- Mixed doubles and women's doubles were inaugurated in 1913.
- **Roger Federer has won the most Wimbledon titles in men's singles - eight. Martina Navratilova, with nine titles, is the most successful women's singles player in Wimbledon history.**

**Possible Question:** July 2023, Carlos Alcaraz marked a pivotal moment in men's tennis by ending Novak Djokovic's illustrious Wimbledon reign with an electrifying 1-6, 7-6(6), 6-1, 3-

6, 6-4 victory claiming his first-ever title at the All England Club. Carlos Alcaraz Garfia is a \_\_\_\_\_ professional tennis player.'

## 8. Marketa Vondrousova defeats Ons Jabeur 6-4, 6-4 to clinch women's title at Wimbledon

- Marketa Vondrousova became the lowest-ranked woman to win Wimbledon, defeating 2022 runner-up Ons Jabeur 6-4, 6-4 in the final. Vondrousova is a 24-year-old left-hander from the Czech Republic who is ranked 42nd and was the first unseeded woman to play for the title at the All England Club in 60 years.

**Possible Question:** Marketa Vondrousova, 24-year-old left-hander from the Czech Republic who is ranked 42nd and was the first unseeded woman to play for the title at the All England Club in 60 years won the women's singles title in Wimbledon after defeating who among the following?

## 9. Government forms new panel to review all NSO data

- The government has constituted a new internal oversight mechanism for official data, revamping a Standing Committee on Economic Statistics (SCES) set up in late 2019, soon after the findings from the last round of household surveys on consumption expenditure and employment were junked, citing 'data quality issues'.
- **Pronab Sen**, India's first chief statistician and the former chairman of the National Statistical Commission (NSC), has been named the chair of the new committee.
- The Statistics Ministry said that the SCES — which was tasked with

examining economic indicators only — will now be replaced by a **Standing Committee on Statistics (SCoS)** which has a broader mandate to review the framework and results of all surveys conducted under the aegis of the National Statistical Office (NSO).

- The SCoS — with “enhanced terms of reference” vis-à-vis the SCES, “to ensure more coverage” — has **10 official members, and four non-official members** who are eminent academics.
- The panel can have up to 16 members, as per the order issued by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI).
- The SCES, which had 28 members, including 10 non-official members, was also chaired by Mr. Sen.

**Possible Question:** In July 2023, The government has constituted a new internal oversight mechanism for official data, revamping a Standing Committee on Economic Statistics (SCES) set up in late 2019, who among the following has been named the chair of the new committee?

## 10. Tamil Nadu tops NITI Aayog's Export Preparedness Index 2022

- **Tamil Nadu has pipped Maharashtra and Gujarat to emerge as the top state among coastal states in the Niti Aayog's Export Preparedness Index 2022.**
- Tamil Nadu is followed by Maharashtra, Karnataka, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, West Bengal and Kerala in that order in the ranking of coastal states.
- **Among hilly/Himalayan states, Uttarakhand has ranked at the top position.** It is followed by Himachal Pradesh, Manipur, Tripura, Sikkim,

Nagaland, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram in that order.

- **Haryana topped the chart among the landlocked regions.** It was followed by Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan.
- **In the category of union territories/small states, Goa was ranked first.** Jammu and Kashmir, Delhi, Andaman and Nicobar and Ladakh were ranked second, third, fourth and fifth, respectively.
- The index can be used by the regions to benchmark their performance against their peers and analyse potential challenges to develop better policy mechanisms to foster export-led growth at the sub-national level.
- **The ranking is based on four main pillars: policy, business ecosystem, export ecosystem and export performance.**
- The index is also aimed at promoting competition among all states (coastal, landlocked, Himalayan and UTs) to bring about favourable policies, ease the regulatory framework, create necessary infrastructure and assist in identifying strategic recommendations for improving export competitiveness.

**Possible Question:** In July 2023, Tamil Nadu has pipped Maharashtra and Gujarat to emerge as the top state among coastal states in the Niti Aayog's Export Preparedness Index 2022. The ranking is based on which of the following broad parameters? I. policy II. Infrastructure III. business ecosystem IV. export ecosystem V. export performance.

### 11. Henley Passport Index 2023: Singapore replaces Japan as world's strongest passport

- The updated 2023 Henley Passport Index placed **Singapore as the world's most powerful passport with visa-free access to 192 travel destinations out of 227 around the world**. Three European countries Germany, Italy, and Spain move up one slot with 190 visa-free destinations and shared the second place. Japan was placed 3rd.
- The Indian passport improved by five places and is now ranked **80th in the latest Henley Passport Index**, and it provides visa-free access to 57 destinations.
- Indian passport holders have visa-free access and visas on arrival in countries like Indonesia, Thailand, and Rwanda. However, Indian citizens need a visa to enter 177 destinations across the world in countries like China, Japan, Russia, the United States, and the entire European Union.
- **Afghanistan** stands at the bottom of the ranking, its passport holders can visit just 27 destinations without a visa. Just above sit Iraq with a score of 29 and Syria with 30, rounding out the three weakest passports in the world.

**Possible Question:** The updated 2023 Henley Passport Index placed Singapore as the world's most powerful passport with visa-free access to 192 travel destinations out of 227 around the world. Which of the following country's passport was ranked the least?

### 12. Govt appoints Sat Pal Bhanoo as Managing Director of Life Insurance Corp

- The government has appointed Sat Pal Bhanoo as one of the managing directors of Life Insurance Corporation (LIC).
- He has been appointed in place of Siddhartha Mohanty who has been appointed as chairman of LIC in April.
- Bhanoo's appointment is effective from the date of assumption of charge and up to the date of his superannuation on December 31, 2025 or until further orders

**Possible Question:** In July 2023, The government has appointed Sat Pal Bhanoo as one of the managing directors of Life Insurance Corporation (LIC). He has been appointed in place of \_\_\_\_\_.

### 13. EPFO declares 8.15% as EPF interest rate for FY 2022-23

- The declared interest rate stands at **8.15 per cent, as notified by the retirement body Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) in a circular dated July 24, 2023**.
- The EPFO has directed all field offices to credit the interest at a rate of 8.15 per cent on EPF for the financial year 2022-23 into the respective accounts of its members.
- The Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India, has conveyed the approval of the Central Government under para 60(1) of **Employees' Provident Fund Scheme, 1952 to credit interest@ 8.15 % for the year 2022-23** to the account of each member of the EPF Scheme as per the provisions under Para 60 of EPF Scheme, 1952.
- In March 2022, the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) lowered the interest rate on EPF



deposits for the financial year 2021-22 to 8.10 per cent, marking the lowest rate in four decades, down from 8.5 per cent in 2020-21.

- **This was the lowest interest rate recorded since 1977-78 when the EPF interest rate was at 8 per cent.**
- The EPF scheme, managed by the EPFO, is an essential social security and retirement benefit program that aims to provide financial security to employees after their retirement.
- Each month, an employee contributes 12 per cent of their earnings to their EPF account, with the entire contribution directed towards the EPF account. On the employer's part, only 3.67 per cent is deposited into the EPF account, while the remaining 8.33 per cent is allocated to the Employees Pension Scheme (EPS).

**Possible Question:** In July 2023, Retirement fund body EPFO had marginally raised the interest rate on employees' provident fund (EPF) deposits to 8.15% for 2022-23 for its over six crore subscribers. In March 2022, the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) lowered the interest rate on EPF deposits for the financial year 2021-22 to \_\_\_\_\_.

#### 14. 3rd Edition Of Summit On "Global Chemicals And Petrochemicals Manufacturing Hubs In India" Held At New Delhi

- The Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers in association with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) organized the **3rd edition of the Summit on "Global Chemicals and Petrochemicals Manufacturing Hubs in India" (GCPMH 2023) on 27th ' 28th July 2023 at New Delhi.**

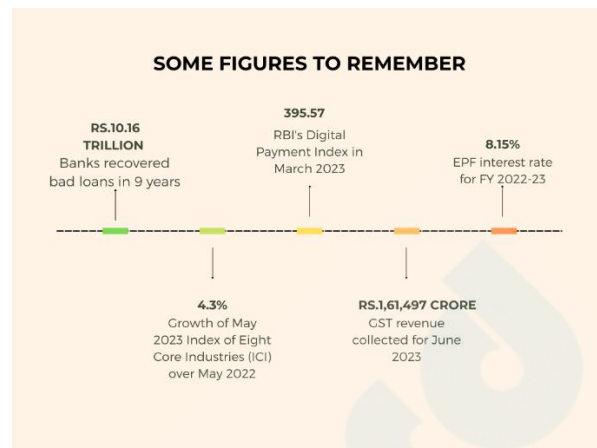
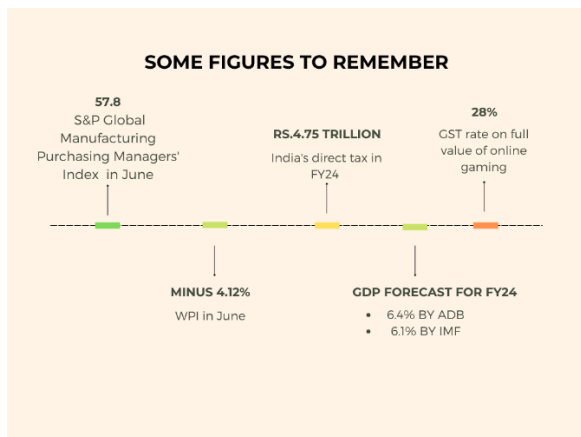
- Union Minister of Finance Smt. Nirmala Sitaraman inaugurated the two days Summit.

**Possible Question:** The 3rd edition of the Summit on "Global Chemicals and Petrochemicals Manufacturing Hubs in India" (GCPMH 2023) was held on 27th ' 28th July 2023 in \_\_\_\_\_.

#### 15. Jio Financial joins BlackRock to launch asset management firm

- **Jio Financial Services Ltd, the demerged financial lending arm of Reliance Industries Ltd, and BlackRock, the world's largest asset manager, have joined hands to set up an asset management company with a combined investment of \$300 million.**
- The 2 partners plan to invest \$150 million each in the JV, making it the 44th player in the Indian mutual fund industry
- Incidentally, this is BlackRock's second outing in the Indian MF industry. It quit a venture with DSP, called DSP BlackRock Investment Managers, in 2018 on the ground that, being a minority stakeholder with 40% equity, it was not able to integrate the business onto its operating platform.
- BlackRock, Inc. is an American multinational investment company based in New York City. Founded in 1988.

**Possible Question:** Jio Financial Services Ltd, the demerged financial lending arm of Reliance Industries Ltd, and BlackRock, the world's largest asset manager, have joined hands to set up an asset management company with a combined investment of \_\_\_\_\_.



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July 2022 - June 2023

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## QUICK LEARNERS

### 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
Kameshwar Rao Kodavanti	Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of State Bank of India (SBI)
Debadatta Chand	Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Bank of Baroda (BoB)
Lt Gen M U Nair	National Cybersecurity Coordinator (NCSC)
Gernot Dollner	Chief Executive Officer of Bank of Audi
Sreenivasa Reddy	Google's Government affairs executive for India
Ajit Agarkar	Chairman of selectors for the Indian men's team by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)
Krishan Mishra	Chief Executive Officer of Financial Planning Standards Board of India (FPSB India)
P. Vasudevan	Executive Director of Reserve Bank of India
GK Satish	Board Member of Rosneft
Justice AP Sahi	Chairman of the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC)
Nand Lal Sharma	Chairman of Bhakra Beas Management Board
K Rajaraman	Chairperson of the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA)
Abhijit Chakravorty	Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Bank of SBI Card
Sanjiv Puri	Chairman and Managing Director of ITC Ltd.
Ritesh Chauhan	Managing Director (MD) of the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited (NAFED)
Justice Ujjal Bhuyan	Judge of Supreme Court
Justice SV Bhatti	Judge of Supreme Court
Rajay Kumar Sinha	Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Bank of SBI Capital Markets
Nivruti Rai	Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Bank of Invest India
Rakesh Pal	Director General of the Indian Coast Guard

<b>Admiral Lisa Franchetti</b>	Chief of Naval Operations USA
<b>Justice Alok Aradhe</b>	Chief Justice of Telangana High Court
<b>T.V. Narendran</b>	Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Tata Steel
<b>Rajesh Kannan</b>	President and Chief Digital and Information Officer (CDIO) of Tata Motors
<b>R Seshasayee</b>	Chairman of the board of Asian Paints
<b>Harrick Vin</b>	Chief Technology Officer of Tata Consultancy Services
<b>Shivendra Nath</b>	Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) of Engineering Projects (India) Ltd.
<b>G. Kannabiran</b>	Director of the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC)
<b>Tushar Mehta</b>	Solicitor General for India
<b>Justice Sheo Kumar Singh</b>	Acting Chairperson of the National Green Tribunal (NGT)

## IMPORTANT DAYS

DATE	DAY	THEME
<b>July 1<sup>st</sup></b>	National Doctor's Day	Celebrating Resilience and Healing Hands
<b>July 1<sup>st</sup></b>	National Chartered Accountants Day	
<b>July 10<sup>th</sup></b>	National Fish Farmer's Day	
<b>July 11<sup>th</sup></b>	World Population Day	Unleashing the power of gender Equality: Uplifting the voices of women and girls to unlock our world's infinite possibilities
<b>July 15<sup>th</sup></b>	World Youth Skill Day	Skilling teachers, trainers and youth for a transformative future.
<b>July 15<sup>th</sup></b>	Sushruta Jayanti	
<b>July 17<sup>th</sup></b>	World Emoji Day	
<b>July 18<sup>th</sup></b>	Nelson Mandela International Day	The Legacy Lives on Through You: : Climate, Food, and Solidarity
<b>July 20<sup>th</sup></b>	International Moon Day	Lunar Exploration Coordination & Sustainability
<b>July 20<sup>th</sup></b>	International Chess Day	
<b>July 23<sup>rd</sup></b>	National Broadcasting day	
<b>July 25<sup>th</sup></b>	World Drowning Prevention Day	
<b>July 26<sup>th</sup></b>	Kargil Vijay Divas	



July 28 <sup>th</sup>	World Hepatitis Day	One life, one liver
July 28 <sup>th</sup>	World Nature Conservation Day	
July 29 <sup>th</sup>	Global Tiger Day	
July 30 <sup>th</sup>	International Friendship Day	Sharing the human spirit through friendship
July 30 <sup>th</sup>	World Day Against Trafficking in Persons	Reach every victim of trafficking, leave no one behind
July 31 <sup>st</sup>	World Ranger Day	

## SPORTS

NAME OF THE SPORTS PERSON	RELATED FIELD
Neeraj Chopra	Javelin
Yuki Bhambri	Tennis
Lloyd Harris	Tennis
Mirabai Chanu	Weightlifting
Achinta Sheuli	Weightlifting
N Ajith	Weightlifting
Bindyarani Devi	Weightlifting
Sunil Chhetri	Football
Priyansh	Archery
Avneet Kaur	Archery
Parth Salunkhe	Archery
Manav Jadhav	Archery
Aishwarya Sharma	Archery
Lakshya Sen	Badminton
Li Shi Feng	Badminton
Wanindu Hasaranga	Cricket
Ashleigh Gardner	Cricket
Praveen Kumar	High Jump
Jyothi Yarraji	Hurdles
Prithviraj Tondaiman	Shooting
Satwiksairaj Rankireddy	Badminton
Chirag Shetty	Badminton
Vidwath Kaverappa	Cricket
Virat Kohli	Cricket
Don Bradman	Cricket
Rohit Sharma	Cricket
Aishwarya Pratap Singh Tomar	Shooting
Lallianzuala Chhangte	Football

Manisha Kalyan	Football
Aditya S Samant	Chess
Carlos Alcaraz	Tennis
Novak Djokovic	Tennis
Marketa Vondrousova	Tennis
Ons Jabeur	Tennis

## SCHEMES

NAME OF THE SCHEME	THEME
Carbon credit trading scheme	To set up a carbon credit trading market in the country.
Mahila Samman Savings Certificate scheme	Credit Saving Scheme.
Scheme for Expansion and Modernization of Fire Services in the States	Strengthening fire services in the States
Advance Authorisation Scheme	To allow duty-free import of inputs for export purposes
'Credit Guarantee Scheme' for Livestock Sector	To strengthen credit delivery system and facilitate smooth flow of credit to the MSME.
Atmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana (ABRY)	To give a fillip to formal employment during pandemic
Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid and) Electric Vehicles in India	Subsidy scheme to promote electric vehicles
Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana	To provide quality medicines at affordable prices to the masses through special kendras
Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana- Urban	To provide pucca houses with basic amenities to all eligible urban beneficiaries across the country

## AGREEMENTS & MOU'S

ENTITIES INVOLVED	MOU THEME
India Post and Canada Post	Introduce International Tracked Packet Service (ITPS) between the two countries to facilitate e-commerce exports
Ministry of Defence and M/S Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd, Mumbai	For medium refit with life certification (MRLC) of sub-surface killer class of submarine INS Shankush
Paytm and Shriram Finance	To offer financial services to its users, including loan products
NHPC Limited and Universal Health Foundation	Setting up Gramin Gyan Jyoti Kendras under its CSR initiative

<b>National Anti-Doping Agency and SARADO</b>	To increase the Regional Cooperation in anti-doping in sport
<b>Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) and European regulator EASA</b>	Cooperation in the areas of unmanned aircraft systems and innovative air mobility.
<b>India AI and Meta India</b>	Foster collaboration in the field of AI and emerging technologies
<b>Indradhanush Gas Grid Ltd. and GAIL India Ltd.</b>	Interconnection agreement to connect the North East Gas Grid of IGGL with the Barauni Guwahati Pipeline of GAIL
<b>HDFC Bank and Swiggy</b>	Co- Branded Credit Cards
<b>India and Papua New Guinea</b>	Sharing INDIA STACK i.e., successful digital solutions implemented at population scale
<b>Government of India and Asian Development Bank</b>	To upgrade around 265 kilometer State highways in Bihar.
<b>The Government of India and Asian Development Bank (ADB)</b>	Financing for the ongoing Rajasthan Secondary Towns Development Sector Project to expand water supply and sanitation systems
<b>Indian Oil Corporation and ADNOC Gas</b>	Long-term liquefied natural gas purchase deal
<b>Hero Future Energies with REC and PFC</b>	Develop green energy projects
<b>Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) and Meta</b>	'WhatsApp Se Wyapaar' programme to digitally train and upskill 10 million local traders
<b>Department of Drinking water and sanitation and Echo India</b>	Establish JJM Digital Academy to build the capacity of various stakeholders associated with water supply programme
<b>United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Absolute</b>	To strengthen the government of India's flagship Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana
<b>Microsoft and Meta</b>	Artificial-intelligence language model
<b>Cognizant Technology Solutions and Max Life Insurance Co. Ltd</b>	Innovation and development centre
<b>GAIL (India)Limited and LanzaTech Global, Inc.,</b>	Explore innovative technology solutions that advance GAIL's net-zero 2040 goals
<b>India and the United States</b>	Call for proposals on Critical and Emerging Technology: Quantum Technologies and Artificial Intelligence for Transforming Lives
<b>India and the United Arab Emirates</b>	Local Currency Settlement System
<b>Abu Dhabi Department of Education and Knowledge (ADEK) and the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IIT Delhi)</b>	Establish 1st campus of IIT Delhi in Abu Dhabi.
<b>Ministry of Road Transport &amp; Highways (MoRTH) and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)</b>	Guidelines aimed at enhancing mountainous road infrastructure.
<b>International Financial Services Centers Authority (IFSCA) and PIEDS BITS Pilani</b>	Framework to collaborate in supporting and facilitating FinTech and TechFin entities

<b>Larsen &amp; Toubro and US Navy</b>	Strengthen the partnership between the two countries in the defence sector.
<b>International Financial Services Centers Authority (IFSCA) and IIML-EIC</b>	Framework to collaborate in supporting and facilitating FinTech and TechFin entities
<b>Gogoro and Maharashtra government</b>	Manufacture electric vehicles, smart battery packs, and battery swap stations
<b>Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL) with Kaziranga University (KU) and Institute of Frontier Science and Application (IFSA)</b>	'Assessment of Wind Energy Potential in North East India.'
<b>THDC India Limited (THDCIL) and National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)</b>	Provide technical services as the technical consultant
<b>Power Finance Corporation Limited and King George's Medical University (KGMU)</b>	Facilitate the procurement of life-saving medical devices specifically aimed at assisting underprivileged cancer patients.
<b>Government of India and Republic of Singapore</b>	Strengthening the partnership between the two countries through various forms of cooperation between both countries' Public Service officers

## OBITUARY

OBITUARY	RELATED FIELD
<b>Oommen Chandy</b>	Former CM of Kerala

## BOOKS and AUTHORS

BOOK	AUTHOR
<b>Vajpayee: The Ascent of the Hindu Right 1924-77</b>	Abhishek Choudhary
<b>Through The Broken Glass: An Autobiography</b>	T.N. Seshan

## DEFENCE

DEFENCE EXERCISE NAME	COUNTRIES INVOLVED
<b>JIMEX 23</b>	Japan and India
<b>SALVEX</b>	India and USA
<b>Nomadic Elephant-23</b>	India and Mongolia



## INDIA AND WORLD

COUNTRIES INVOLVED	FIELD OF CO-OPERATION
India and France	Transfer of Technology for jet engine
India and UK	Electric Propulsion Technical Workshop
India and Zanzibar-Tanzania	IIT Madras campus
India and Multilateral Banks (European Investment Bank)	Pledge upto \$27 bn for India's green growth
India and Bhutan	Potato imports without license
India and Tanzania	Trade settlements in local currencies
India and Bangladesh	Bilateral trade in rupees
Adani Group and Bangladesh	Power supply
India and Malaysia	Razorpay international payment gateway
India and UN	\$1 million to promote Hindi language
India and Vietnam	Gifting of INS Kirpan
India and Argentina	Bilateral exchange of young researchers and startups in Biotechnology and Agriculture field.
India and Italy	VC Yeshwant Ghadge Sundial Memorial

## ACQUISITION AND MERGERS

ENTITY	ACQUIRED BY/MERGED WITH
Pismo	Visa
IDFC First Bank	IDFC Limited
Genus Power & Infrastructure	GIC
Sobek Auto India Private Ltd	CarTrade Tech
Dr Schneider Group	Samvardhan Motherson International(Samil)
Aegon Life Insurance Company	Bandhan Financial Holdings

## AWARDS

AWARDEE	AWARD NAME	RELATED FIELD
Mary Kom	Global Indian Icon of the Year at UK-India Awards	
Vartika Shukla, CMD, Engineers India Limited (EIL)	Business Leader of the Year Award at downwards Downstream India Awards	Hydrocarbons
NMDC Limited	'Mineral Development Award' and the 'Employer Brand of the Year Award' at ASSOCHAM Business Excellence Awards 2023	Mining sector

<b>Coal India Limited</b>	Rising Star Award by Government e-Marketplace	
<b>Justine Henin</b>	Philippe Chatrier Award	Tennis
<b>ONGC</b>	Anti-Bribery Management System by InterCert USA	
<b>Narendra Modi</b>	Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour	France's highest civilian and military honour
<b>Adani Transmission Limited</b>	Golden Peacock Environment Management Award 2023	
<b>SJVN Limited</b>	1st prize in Swachhta Pakhwada Awards 2023	Swachh Bharat Abhiyan
<b>NTPC</b>	Economic Times HR World Future Skills Award for Best Use of AI/AR/VR in Learning and Upskilling and Best Advance in Creating an Extended Enterprise Learning Programme	Adoption of cutting-edge technology
<b>Professor Thalappil Pradeep</b>	Eni award	Affordable clean water
<b>Jammu and Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission(JKRLM)</b>	SKOCH Gold Award for marketing avenues for SHGs	
<b>12 awards in 4 categories. Under Thematic Awards category: First Prize: Radio MindTree,Ambala, Haryana;Name of Programme: Hope Jeene Ki Rah</b>	9th Community Radio Awards	Community Radio Stations
<b>Dr Om Narain Bhargava</b>	National Geoscience Award for Lifetime Achievement	Geoscience Awards
<b>Shankari Chandran</b>	2023 Miles Franklin Literary Award	Literature
<b>Ratan Tata</b>	Udyog Ratna of Maharashtra	Entrepreneurship
<b>Byculla Railway Station</b>	UNESCO's Asia Pacific Cultural Heritage Award	Cultural Heritage Conservation
<b>Narendra Modi</b>	Lokmanya Tilak National Award	

## SUMMITS AND CONFERENCE

SUMMIT/ CONFERENCE NAME	THEME	LOCATION
67th Travel Agents Association of India(TAAI) Convention	Transcending Borders, Transforming Lives	Colombo
Regional Symposium on Child Protection, Safety and Child Welfare		New Delhi
G20 Research and Innovation Initiative Gathering (RIIG) Summit and Research Ministers' Meeting		Mumbai
StartUp20 Shikhar Summit		Gurugram, Haryana
International Conference on Green Hydrogen(ICGH 2023)		New Delhi
India-Africa International Millet Conference		Kenya
3rd G20 Culture Working Group	Promotion of Cultural and Creative Industries and Creative Economy	Hampi, Karnataka
3rd Trade and Investment Working Group Meeting		Kevadia, Gujarat
India-ASEAN conference on traditional medicines		New Delhi
Swasthya Chintan Shivir		Dehradun, Uttarakhand
CEO Forum		Paris
23rd Prime Minister Science, Technology & Innovation Advisory Council (PM-STIAC) meeting		New Delhi
G20 Young Entrepreneurs Alliance Summit		New Delhi
G20 Global Food Regulators Summit		New Delhi
4th G20 Energy Transitions Ministerial and Working Group Meeting		Goa
14th Clean Energy Ministerial and 8th Mission Innovation Meeting(CEM14/MI-8)	Advancing Clean Energy Together	Goa
3rd 'Global Chemicals and Petrochemicals Manufacturing Hubs in India' Summit		New Delhi
W20 Janbhagidari Event	Women-led Sustainable Development through Dairy Cooperatives	Goa

<b>5th Helicopter &amp; Small Aircraft Summit</b>	Reaching the Last Mile:Regional Connectivity through Helicopters & Small Aircraft	Khajuraho, Madhya Pradesh
<b>Semicon India 2023</b>		Gandhinagar, Gujarat
<b>3rd G20 Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group</b>		Chennai, Tamil Nadu
<b>Think20 Summit</b>		Mysuru, Karnataka

## COMMITTEE

THEME OF THE COMMITTEE	FORMED BY	CHAIRPERSON
<b>Standing Committee on Statistics</b>	Union Government	Pronab Sen
<b>Panchayat Development Index(PDI) Committee</b>	Ministry of Panchayati Raj	Jayashree Raghunandan

## RANKS AND REPORTS

NAME OF THE REPORT/INDEX	RELEASED BY	RANKING OF INDIA/STATE/COMPANY ETC	COUNTRY WHICH TOPPED THE LIST
<b>Henley Passport Index 2023</b>	Tracks data from International Air Transport Association	India - 80th with visa-free access to 57 countries	Singapore - 1st; Germany, Italy and Spain - 2nd; Japan - 3rd.
<b>3rd Export Preparedness Index 2022</b>	NITI Aayog	Top 3 in coastal states - Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Karnataka. Top 3 in hilly/Himalayan states - Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Manipur. Top 3 in landlocked regions - Haryana, Telangana and Uttar Pradesh. Top 3 in UTs/small states - Goa, Jammu and Kashmir, Delhi.	



<b>Panchayat Development Index</b>	Ministry of Panchayati Raj		
<b>Top Electronics Exporter in FY23</b>	National Import-Export for Yearly Analysis of Trade (NIRYAT)	Top 3 - Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka	
<b>Largest Container Parcel Vessel</b>		New Mangalore Port	
<b>Trade in Services for Development</b>	World Bank and World Trade Organisation	India doubled its global share of commercial services exports - 4.4% in 2022 from 2% in 2005	
<b>Performance Grading Index for Districts</b>	Education Ministry		
<b>Multidimensional Poverty Index</b>	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI)	415 million people moved out of poverty in India from 2005/06 to 2019/2021	
<b>Grievance Redressal</b>	CPGRAMS monthly report	Sikkim in northeast; Uttar Pradesh among bigger states	
<b>National Multidimensional Poverty Index: A Progress Review 2023</b>	NITI Aayog	Fastest reduction in Uttar Pradesh(3.43 crore people), Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and Rajasthan	
<b>Oil 2023 (Analysis &amp; forecast to 2028) medium-term market report</b>	International Energy Agency		
<b>The Paths to Equal - Twin Indices on Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality</b>	UNDP and UN Women		
<b>Corporate Banking Ranking for 2023</b>	CRISIL's Greenwich	Leaders in Large Corporate Banking - HDFC Bank; Leaders among local banks - HDFC Bank; Greenwich Quality Leaders - HDFC Bank and ICICI Bank	

<b>Tiger Population Data</b>	Ministry of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change	India's tiger population - estimated to be 3,925 with an annual growth rate of 6.1% per annum.	
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## BANKING AND FINANCE

RBI in News	SEBI in news	SIDBI in news
RBI panel suggests host of steps to accelerate internationalisation of Indian rupee	SEBI is looking to mandate FPIs to use RFQ platform for 10% of secondary transactions	SIDBI, the Small Industries Development Bank of India, is launching an NBFC Growth Accelerator Programme in partnership with GAME (Global Alliance for Mass Entrepreneurship).
RBI's Digital Payments Index jumps to 395.57 in March from 377.46 in Sept	SEBI reveals framework for the creation of a fund for stressed debt schemes	
RBI panel suggests host of steps to accelerate internationalisation of Indian rupee		

## 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	Siddaramaiah	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
<b>Narendra Modi</b>	Ministry of personnel, public grievances and pensions Department of Atomic Energy Department of Space
<b>Rajnath Singh</b>	Ministry of Defence
<b>Amit Shah</b>	Ministry of Home Affairs Ministry of Cooperation
<b>Nitin Gadkari</b>	Ministry of Road Transport and Highways
<b>Nirmala Sitharaman</b>	Ministry of Finance Ministry of Corporate Affairs
<b>Piyush Goyal</b>	Ministry of Commerce and Industry

	Ministry of Textiles
	Ministry of Consumer affairs, food and public distribution
<b>Narendra Singh Tomar</b>	Ministry of agriculture and Farmers welfare
<b>Dr Subrahmanyam Jaishankar</b>	Ministry of External Affairs
<b>Arjun Munda</b>	Ministry of Tribal Affairs
<b>Smriti Zubin Irani</b>	Ministry of Women and child Development Ministry of Minority Affairs
<b>Dharmendra Pradhan</b>	Ministry of Education Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
<b>Pralhad Joshi</b>	Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs Ministry of coal Ministry of Mines
<b>Narayan Tatu Rane</b>	Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
<b>SarbanandaSonowal</b>	Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH)
<b>Dr. Virendra Kumar</b>	Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
<b>Giriraj Singh</b>	Ministry of Rural Development Ministry of Panchayati Raj
<b>Jyotiraditya M. Scindia</b>	Ministry of Civil Aviation Ministry of Steel
<b>Ashwini Vaishnaw</b>	Ministry of Railways Ministry of Communications Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
<b>Pashu Pati Kumar Paras</b>	Ministry of Food Processing Industries
<b>Gajendra Singh Shekhawat</b>	Ministry of Jal Shakti
<b>Kiren Rijiju</b>	Ministry of Earth Sciences
<b>Raj Kumar Singh</b>	Ministry of Power Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
<b>Hardeep Singh Puri</b>	Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
<b>Mansukh L. Mandaviya</b>	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers
<b>Bhupender Yadav</b>	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Ministry of Labour and Employment
<b>Mahendra Nath Pandey</b>	Ministry of Heavy Industries
<b>ParshottamRupala</b>	Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
<b>G. Kishan Reddy</b>	Ministry of Culture Ministry of Tourism Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region
<b>Anurag Singh Thakur</b>	Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports
<b>Arjun Meghwal</b>	Ministry of Law and Justice



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